

**STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**  
**December 4th, 2018**

The Senate President Pro-Tempore called the Senate meeting to order at 7:30pm and announced that the meeting may be filmed or audio recorded and may be available to the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll was called and quorum was established with 81 senators present.

**Not there for roll call:**

- Adler
- Batten
- Berrocal
- Dubois
- Emmett
- Harris
- Kendrick
- Nguyen
- Sneh Patel
- Pepple
- Prieto
- Rangel
- Witte
- Yoss

**AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:**

- There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Majority Party Leader Brown moves to hear the Replacement and Agenda Committee recommendation for the Assistant Supervision of Elections as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Dunson moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1105: Allocation of Reserves for Construction Projects within the J. Wayne Reitz Union by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1106: Resolution to Authorize Student Government Spring 2019 Election Dates by unanimous consent. Motion Objected. Bill will be heard in First Reading
- Chairman Sandifer moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1107: Resolution Honoring Fallen Gators by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairwoman Hernandez moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2018-1108: Funding For Gator Billiards Club by unanimous consent. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved
- Chairman Hurdle moves to hear the approve absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.

### **PUBLIC DEBATE:**

- **Minority Party Leader Gatos**
  - Last week the Supervisor of Elections, Henry Fair, submitted a bill to change Election Week.
  - Talks about why the Inspire Party believes the bill to be unconstitutional and explains why they have objected to it.
  - States Article 6 of the Constitution as it relates to student elections.
  - Interprets the Constitution as Senate is only allowed to move the election if there is a conflict, that election being the general election, not the runoff election.
  - States that the runoff election is the only election that interferes with Spring Break.
  - Met with various individuals to discuss the constitutionality of the bill.
  - Believes the Legislative Branch has the duty to hold up the constitution as it is written.
  - States that the Judiciary Committee should have reviewed the legislation further and had a more in-depth talk about the constitutionality.
  - Worries Minority Party Leader Gatos that this problem is a reoccurring problem and it also concerned that this legislation was brought up in the last week of the semester.
  - Hopes that the chamber can work together to hold up the constitution of the University of Florida.
  - If there are any questions, feel free to talk to Minority Party Leader Gatos after the meeting.
- **Senator Scurry**
  - Introduces herself as a District D Senator.
  - Talks about the lack of effort that the Student Government Executive Branch puts forth to combat sexual assault on campus.
  - States that three weeks ago, the Executive Branch met to discuss putting together a task force “to better combat sexual assault”, but explains that there has not been any initiatives brought forth to the student body.
  - Claims that the Dean of Students, Office of Sexual Assault resources page is extremely outdated and contains a broken link that is supposed to guide students to the Office of Victim Services website.
  - Nobody should have to go through such a hassle to obtain valuable information and resources.
  - Various members of the Inspire Caucus has gathered information that they believe will best help sexual assault victims.
  - Displays the resource page put together that will be sent to Student Body President and Student Government’s Internal Affairs Director.
  - Believes that the resources page should be updated in order for victims to access it easier.
- **Senator Diaz**
  - Supervisor of Elections, Henry Fair submitted a bill last week to move up election week by one week.

- Believes the legislation to be unconstitutional.
- Members of Inspire spoke with Judiciary Chairman Will Sandifer, along with others.
- Thinks that there needs to be a discussion on the constitutionality of the resolution.
- Thinks that we should draft legislation to correct this.

***\*\*If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from [senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu)\*\****

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

### **OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT:**

- Action SG Agency Head Andrew Lo:
  - Action has been able to put on a few events, such as the Back to School Bash as well as meet and greet events with the Student Body President, Ian Green with “Goals with Green” and the Student Body Treasurer, Stefan Sanguyo with “Snowcones with Stefan”.
  - On social media, we have been active with posting multiple times a week to update the student body what SG is up to.
  - On Instagram, there have been 13 posts comprised of various accomplishments as well as recapping trips and SG Spotlight posts, recognizing the great Agency Heads on campus.
  - On Twitter, had a conversation with Gators football coach Dan Mullen to have a “Blue Out” during the football game against LSU. Was happy to see Coach Mullen mention SG in the press conference after.
  - As far as the spring semester, Action hopes to plan a meet and greet with the Student Body Vice President, David Enriquez.
  - Hopes to increase partnership with the Florida Museum of Natural History, providing more tabling and outreach events to inform the student body with what the museum has to offer.
  - Action will assist the Supervisor of Elections as well as livestream the debate during the spring election cycle.
- Bridges Agency Head Omarley Spence:
  - Hear to report on the Bridges program so far, as well as future initiatives.
  - Gives a description of the agency:
    - Currently working with 6 different high schools in 4 different districts across Florida.
    - Main focus is to not only “bridge the gap,” but to impact the lives of these students through college readiness curriculum.
    - Helps to be successful in college application process as well as helping them with how to be successful once in college.
    - Wants students to think about the major decisions that can affect the students for the better when in college.
    - Provoking this thought in high school is very important for success in the future.
    - Mentorship is an effective way to reach the students.

- Curriculum through their Canvas page to assist with college readiness.
  - Hopes to help students visit the University of Florida campus to help them visualize what type of college they would like to attend.
- Application process was over the last four weeks. Students will receive decisions between December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Events to be finalized include art orientation days and mentor shadowing days.
- Still working with Conference Services to find a place to house students for the summer visitation program.
- Completed two successful fundraisers this semester.
- Will be rolling out a list of many more fundraisers that will happen during the spring semester. Will be posted on Facebook.
- Have selected the 25 student mentors, and they have completed all training and orientation.
- Will be working through technical difficulties with the website and it will be up before the New Year.
- Curriculum and online Canvas platform is going to be completed in the next two week and will be ready for students in January.
- This is first year of the program's existence.
- There is a lot of room for change; program is still "malleable."
- Asks the senators to come to Spence with any ideas or interest in involvement in Bridges.
- If there are any questions, Spence can be reached at bridges@sg.ufl.edu.
- Wishes the chamber luck on finals and a safe holiday season.
- Gator Innovators Agency Head Ali Gardezi:
  - Gator Tank Innovation Competition is here. Wants to push innovation into possibly a real business.
  - This past semester, Gator Innovators has been working hard to structure the actual competition.
  - The competition will be held in the spring semester. The first round will take place in February and the final round in April.
  - Gator Tank events will allow students to get information on different areas of innovation.
- Gators Going Green Agency Head Lexi Miller:
  - Many tabling opportunities at the Harn, the Office of Sustainability Transportation Fair, and the Gator Dining Sustainable Food Fair.
  - Green Cord Challenge for graduating seniors. If all requirements are met, seniors will receive a green cord to wear at graduation.
  - Tabling event tomorrow at Turlington. Giving out free reusable water bottles and straws.
  - For the spring semester, will be doing more tabling as well as a pledge program with a company that produces reusable straws.
- Nightlife Navigators Agency Head Eddy King:
  - Gives a summary of things that have happened over the last semester.
  - Kicked off the year with Alcohol Awareness Week. Had a table at Plaza of the Americas and partnered up with UFPD.
  - Dispelled myths about Fake I.D.s, alcohol, and M.I.P.s.

- Wanted to raise awareness of the agency, in order to spread the message of safety.
- Improving social media presence on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.
- Started a “Snap Driver of the Month” program.
- Improved relationship with UFPD through Alcohol Awareness Week and “My Costume is not My Consent.”
- Scooter Safety Week will be during the first two weeks of school in spring semester.
- Gator Safe App has a lot of information and phone numbers for important student resources. Encourages chamber to download the app.
- Wishes the chamber a safe break.
- Big Event Chairwoman Veronica Pereira
  - The Big Event is in its third year.
  - 3rd Big Event will be March 16th this upcoming semester.
  - Moved up a month to encourage more volunteers to show up before finals season.
  - Has advanced the delegate program.
  - Registration is set to open up on January 14th, 2019.
  - Registration will start with a spirit week, with fundraisers and tabling events.
  - Have been busy updating the Volunteer Registration Site.
  - Excited to implement the 3rd Big Event, hopes to see everyone in attendance.

#### **SENATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

- Senate President Murphy welcomes the senators.
- Wishes the chamber good luck on finals.
- Encourages chamber to check up on friends. States mental health is especially important to pay attention to during this time of the year.
- Next meeting will be January 8th.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:**

- Senator President Pro-Tempore Shaw welcomes the senators.
- Open Seats:
  - Graduate
  - Medicine
  - CLAS
  - Veterinary Medicine
  - Nursing
  - Fine Arts
- All seats will be due January 11th, 2019 at 12pm.

#### **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Thanks the chamber for passing Student Senate Bill 2018-1105: Allocation of Reserves for Construction Projects within the J. Wayne Reitz Union.
- When we return from break, the Budget Calls will be sent out.
- Wishes everyone luck on exams.
- Wishes a happy holiday season and safe travels.

### **ALLOCATIONS:**

- Chairwoman Hernandez welcomes the senators.
- Thanks chamber for approving Student Senate Bill 2018-1108: Funding for Gator Billiards Club.
- Office Hours will be tomorrow from 9:00-11:00am in the SG Offices.
- Encourage friends in organizations to reach out for allocations requests.
- If there are any questions, feel free to reach out by email.
- Asks committee to meet after the meeting.

### **JUDICIARY:**

- Chairman Sandifer welcomes senators.
- Thanks everyone for the first term.
- Thanks chamber for approving Student Senate Bill 2018-1107: Resolution Honoring Fallen Gators.
- Announces the winner of the legislation writing contest.
- Wishes the chamber a Happy Holidays.

### **RULES & ETHICS:**

- Chairman Hurdle welcomes the senators.
- Constituency was due tonight at 7:30pm.
- Committee will be meeting this Thursday at 11:00am.
- If you are on probation, you will hear from Rules and Ethics by Friday.
- Reminder that absences do not reset for spring semester, senators are allowed 3 absences per term.
- Wishes everyone happy holidays.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:**

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes senators.
- SG polo shirts will arrive during the break. Will be passed out next semester.
- Wishes everyone good luck on exams.
- Wishes happy holidays.

### **SECOND READING**

There were none.

### **FIRST READING:**

#### **Student Senate Bill 2018-1106: Resolution to Authorize Student Government Spring 2019 Election Dates**

- 5 minutes of presentation. Supervisor of Elections Henry Fair:
  - Proposes to move the election dates up one week due to Spring Break.
  - Felt the decision was in the best interest of all student at the University of Florida.
- 5 Minutes of non-debatable technical questions.

- Majority Party Leader Brown: Per the constitution, when will the runoff occur after the election dates?
- SOE Fair: Runoff will take place a week after elections.
- Chairman Sandifer: What will happen if this resolution is passed?
- SOE Fair: Everything will be set in the same timeline, election will just be moved up a week earlier.
- Senator Zelin: Why was this not addressed earlier?
- SOE Fair: It is important to get this information out.
- Chairwoman Dunson: What problems will arise if we keep the dates as is?
- SOE Fair: The biggest problem is that the runoff election occurs during Spring Break.
- Chairwoman Hernandez: Can you clarify whether or not the election and the runoff election are specified as the same election or separate of each other?
- SOE Fair: The election is everything including runoffs.
- Senator Calvin: Are you aware that the Spring General Election and runoff election mentioned separately and do you think they are one entire election?
- SOE Fair: Believes that “the election is the election.” Believes it is to the benefit of both students and candidates.
- Senator Boone: Do you think that there is a realistic possibility of a runoff election?
- SOE Fair: Yes. If there is more than two political parties, there can be a runoff.

#### First Round of Con:

- Senator Chou: Using the word indicates two separate beings. We know that the election and runoff election are two different things. We had three parties and still did not have a runoff election.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos: Believes it is too much of a stretch to consider the election to be side by side with the runoff election. If this was made to help the students, it would have been suggested and implemented earlier on. There has not been a runoff in over 10 years.
- Senator Zelin: The constitution regards a parallel structure. Grammatically, this is unconstitutional. Hopes we can amend the constitution instead.
- Senator Wilson: Has a problem with when the senate is attempting to pass this resolution.

#### First Round of Pro:

- Chairwoman Dunson: Highlights that runoff elections will occur during spring break.
- Senator Pearson: Highlights that this is a common practice of moving election dates when conflicting with Spring Break. States that the Constitution is a living document that does change with the needs of the campus and its students. Explains that turnout will be decreased due to the fact that it would take place after Spring Break. States that one of Senate’s responsibilities is to ensure every student has an opportunity to vote in the election. States that if this resolution is failed tonight, Senate will be outside the nine week window to change the dates of the election and runoff election. Believes not approving this piece of legislation is a direct form of voter suppression.

#### Second Round of Con:

- Senator Lima: It is clear to me that the writers made this election seem separate, and therefore cannot vote for something unconstitutional.
- Senator Wilson: Has a problem with the timeframe in which this resolution is trying to be approved. Gives students one less week to learn about Student Government and what the elections mean.
- Senator Calvin: If we pass this, and the Supreme Court rules this unconstitutional, we will be in the same boat. We can suspend the rules and during this meeting and change the dates in the legislation.

#### Second Round of Pro:

- Chairwoman Hernandez: “Runoffs are unlikely,” is a poor way of thinking. The inconvenience of the legislation is not something that should be considered because of the fact that things will be stalled if we cannot change these election dates.
- Chairman Sandifer: Believes if the wording within the Constitution states “elections” with an “s” the election and the runoff election are grouped together. Gives his interpretation of the Constitution regarding this matter.

#### Third Round of Con:

- Senator Calvin: I don’t think that this bill is constitutional, which is why I cannot support this. We cannot in good faith support things unconstitutional.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos: Does not believe runoff elections should be ignored, simply believes it is unlikely. States that moving the elections up a week would impose several disadvantages on students.
- Senator Chou: Cites section five of article VI in the Constitution, that general and runoff elections are considered separate entities.
- Senator Saint: Refers to a proposed amendment in 2001 that was not passed.

#### Third Round of Pro:

- Majority Party Leader Brown: Points that these elections are tied together because one cannot occur without the other. It is also not allowed to campaign outside of campaigning season as well.
- Senator Boone: Believes that this piece of legislation will allow elections to be more efficient for the entire student body.
- Senator Pearson: States that Senate does have the right to change election dates as long as it is more than 9 weeks ahead of the scheduled dates.
- Chairwoman Hernandez: If this is passed, there will be plenty of notice. Our interpretation is not something that is practical in deciding what is right logistically.

#### Final Round of Con:

- Senator Zelin: Saying that voting regarding logistics and not constitutionality is not okay.
- Senator Diaz: Understands that the campaign time will remain the same, however the length of time that students will have been at the University of Florida will have been shorter.
- Senator Wilson: This is about students having the correct amount of time to learn Student Government. We should not be having this discussion so late, we must be better prepared.



- Senator Calvin: I believe that this sets a bad precedent of passing bills regardless of it being constitutional. We serve as a filter for something unconstitutional. We would hope that a United States Senator would do the same thing.

#### Final Round of Pro:

- Senator Pearson: Believes that this bill does fall in line with the interpretation of the Constitution. States that this piece of legislation is ultimately for the benefit of the students.
- Senator Matei: These changes have been made in the past. None of these changes have seen any negative impact, and the Supreme Court has never seen a problem with the constitutionality of the legislation. Changing this in the past has alleviated the logistical issues in the past.
- Chairman Sandifer: States he was not in Senate last year when it happened, but a bill very similar to this one was passed unanimously.
- Chairwoman Hernandez: Wanted to reiterate that this bill does have the merit, and it is the best way we ensure a good voter turnout.

#### Final Privilege:

- Supervisor of Elections Henry Fair:
  - Interpretation of the Constitution is that elections is one whole election process.
  - Having a runoff election during spring break simply will not work.

Minority Party Leader Gatos motions to hear this motion by roll call vote.

In a rising vote of 17 to 58, in which a 1/5 vote in favor is needed, that motion passes.

In a roll call vote of 60 to 17, Student Senate Bill 2018-1106: Resolution to Authorize Student Government Spring 2019 Election Date will be adopted.

#### **BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:**

There were none.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Senator Pearson
  - Asks senators to stay after meeting to take a picture in festive holiday gear.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

- There was a motion to use voting records for final roll call by unanimous consent. Approved.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.