

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
February 12th, 2019

The Senate President 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 73 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Adler
- Carroll
- Cuffe
- Emmett
- Evans
- Girschick
- Harris
- Herman
- Jameson
- Kaur
- Martin
- El Masry
- Nguyen
- Dilan Patel
- Shaan Patel
- Pellet
- Randhawa
- Rosen
- Sangha
- Shan
- Zlatanoff

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairwoman Dunson moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1022: Line Item Transfer for Volunteers for International Student Affairs by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer moves to table Student Senate Bill 2019-1023: Resolution Supporting Striking Faculty at Wright State University by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer moves to table Student Senate Bill 2019-1024: Resolution Supporting the Alachua County Labor Coalition's Renters' Rights Campaign by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1025: Student Senate Resolution Celebrating Black History Month by unanimous consent. Approved.

- Chairman Sandifer moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1026: Resolution Memorializing the Marjory Stoneman-Douglas Shooting Victims One Year Later by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1027: Resolution Honoring Patrick Wanninkhof and Urging the Florida Legislature to Enact Legislation Prohibiting All Drivers from Using Hand-held Electronic Communication Devices While Driving by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1028: Resolution Recognizing Rising Textbook Affordability Issues in Higher Education by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer Moves to amend Student Senate Bill 2019-1029: Resolution Supporting Those Affected By the 2019 Polar Vortex to read, “Student Senate Bill 2019-1029: Resolution Supporting Those Affected By the 2019 Extreme Cold Air Outbreak of January of 2019” by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1029: Resolution Supporting Those Affected By the 2019 Extreme Cold Air Outbreak of January of 2019 by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Sandifer Moves to approve Student Senate Bill 2019-1030: Resolution Respectfully Urging the University of Florida to Support Legislation Providing State Financial Aid to DACA/TPS Recipients.
- Chairman Hurdle moves to hear the approved absence petitions as a block by unanimous consent. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the aforementioned block by unanimous consent. Approved.
- Chairman Hurdle moves to approve the failed absence petitions by unanimous consent. Approved.

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Senator Boone:
 - Senator Boone gives his goodbye speech.
- Senator Jenkins:
 - Represents the students of District D.
 - Regarding the UF endowment, the investment of fossil fuels companies is wrong.
 - We have drafted a resolution to divest from the endowment and invest it in socially and environmentally conscious companies instead.
 - Wants to thank Divest UF for their help on this resolution.
 - Have heard from many constituents in the District D listerv.
 - UF has a “checkered leadership past,” but a promising history of environmental leadership.
 - This body has also advocated for solar energy instalments on campus, as well as other initiatives.
 - Hopes to continue work with Chairman Sandifer in order to move this initiative through the senate.
 - From there, a task force will be created with UF faculty.
 - See Senator Jenkins after the meeting for any questions.
- Aggie Argeros:
 - 4th year sustainability studies student.

- Co-author of the resolution asking the university to divest their endowment.
- Believes in a world that is livable to all.
- UF is not following this belief, as it is investing their endowment into fossil fuel companies.
- This knowledge has been made more important after a report saying that the US has 12 years to cut emissions, or else face cataclysmic climate effects.
- States that science makes it clear that investing in fossil fuel companies is directly correlated with the destruction of the earth and its climate.
- The entire state of New York and entire country of Ireland have already divested from fossil fuels, along with over 1,000 different institutions
- UF could become part of more than 150 universities that already taken action.
- “As a proud Gator, I would like my university to take part in this initiative and not jeopardize my future.”
- Falisha Kurji:
 - Last week, I spoke her to explain how the UF endowment works.
 - Asks the chamber to listen with an open mind and reflect on the impact ofUF’s investments.
 - Explains what is included in fossil fuels.
 - 3% of our endowment is invested in oil.
 - Our endowment consist of \$2 billion
 - 3% of \$2 billion is 60 \$million
 - In 2010, 200 million gallons of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico as a result of BP’s Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
 - The oil spill began to deplete the state of Louisiana’s wetlands that were already being affected by sea levels rising.
 - Shares the effects of this spill both during and after.
 - More than half of the landfills receiving BP oil from the spill were located in communities of color, where they were in close proximity to the landfills.
 - States that toxic exposures during pregnancies are linked to birth defects.
 - We cannot ignore the fact that the industries that UF is involved in are linked to being main the main contributors to these terrible things happening in the environment.
 - Asking all of you to reflect on the privileges that you hold.
 - Asks the chamber to hold the University of Florida accountable for its actions, and live up to its mission statement.
 - Many of Floridians grew up close to a body of water.
 - The Deepwater Horizon spill did not affect us, but another spill could.
 - Right now, South Florida officials are discussing drilling into the Everglades for oil.
- Marcella Mullholland
 - Asks how many in the chamber are from/love someone from south Florida.
 - Born and raised in South Florida.
 - “Throughout my childhood, I remember dealing with hurricanes frequently.”
 - Was not until high school that she truly experienced the effects of sea level rise and natural disasters.
 - Fort Lauderdale is considered the “Venice of America.”

- Whenever a storm would hit, “my street would flood.”
 - On really bad days, the exit to her building would be completely blocked off.
 - These hurricanes were only an indicator of what will happen in the coming years.
 - Scientists have predicted that within the next century, 1 in 8 homes will be covered in water.
 - “This is why I am working with Divest UF.”
 - Asks the chamber to endorse Divest UF and protect her home by voting yes on this resolution.
 - Didn’t UF already fulfill this duty by teaching me?
 - Is it extreme to ask UF to do more?
 - States that by asking UF to divest from these industries is simply asking them to uphold the mission of the University.
 - Reads the University of Florida mission statement.
 - Emphasizes the portion regarding creating a better future.
 - UF must divest from fossil fuels for “our future.”
 - States that the future matter.
 - Asks the board of trustees and those present, “Do you care?”
- Mark Merwitzer:
 - Freshman at UF studying Political Science
 - Would like to recognize Chairman Sandifer and Senator Calvin for their help with drafting Student Senate Bill Resolution Honoring Patrick Wanninkhof and Urging the Florida Legislature to Enact Legislation Prohibiting All Drivers from Using Hand-held Electronic Communication Devices While Driving.
 - States that our generation is very technologically attached, and it translates onto the road when we drive.
 - Had no clue how much distracted driving has affected families until receiving a phone call.
 - Tells a story of a phone call received by a mother in tears after losing her son to a distracted driving accident.
 - The call made him realize that distracted driving is not about numbers or safety, but about families.
 - Expresses that he is humbled to call Debbie Wanninkhof a friend.
 - Is glad that she shared her story.
 - Has traveled to Tallahassee multiple times with Debbie Wanninkhof in support of the distracted driving legislation.
 - Is asking for the chamber’s help to go forth with this resolution.
 - This should only be the beginning.
 - Let this be the year that the state of Florida bans distracted driving.
- Senator Goren:
 - Holds a leaflet handed to him from the funeral of Alyssa Alhadeef, one of Senator Goren’s campers, a high school student that was killed in the Marjory Stoneman-Douglas shooting.
 - Since the Stoneman-Douglas Shooting, there has been constant efforts to end gun violence and deal with mental health.
 - Wrote this resolution in dedication to the seventeen victims and Alyssa.
 - Thanks Chairwoman Hernandez for her guidance on the drafting on this bill.

- Expresses that it means a lot to him for this resolution to have been passed.
- Alfredo Ortiz:
 - When Ortiz was last here, I opposed the resolution regarding Student Senate Bill 2019-1020: Resolution Recognizing the Installment of Juan Guaidó as Interim President of Venezuela.
 - Is disappointed that “Words have been put into my mouth.”
 - Expresses that the only people who reached out to him in support of his decision to oppose was Senator Beltran and Chairwoman Hernandez.
 - Mentions the Reagan administration scandal involving Iran.
 - Elliot Abrahams, who pled guilty to attempting to cover the scandal, is the United States special envoy to Venezuela.
 - Mentions humanitarian support packages contain supplies that included weapons of war.
 - Considering the pattern of American intervention in leaders being removed in foreign countries, Ortiz understands, understands why many are suspicious of the United States involvement in Venezuela.
 - “If there were natural resources on Mars, we would have already colonized it just as the Europeans did the new world.”
 - Due to the lack of resolutions on other issues in China, Korea, and others for example, Ortiz believes that Venezuela should not be an exception.
 - The Student Body Constitution prohibits discrimination based on political opinion or affiliation.
 - Has respected the resolution, and expects respect towards himself.
 - An authorization that would have requested a report on what happened in the board of trustees meeting regarding waivers for Puerto Rican freshmen was recently tabled.
 - I will be sure to ask UEPA for their sponsorship for the next round of considerations for this authorization.
 - Hopes that any report will be focused on what happened at the Board of Trustees meeting.
 - “What is the purpose of Student Government if only acted on specific matters when it is asked to be?”
- Senator Zelin:
 - Would like to raise attention to a time sensitive issue that many freshman students at the University of Florida are facing.
 - Freshmen students devastated by Hurricane Maria have still not been deemed in-state students and given financial aid, the same grants given to their upperclassmen.
 - Stands here confused as to why there has been no action regarding this matter.
 - Alfredo Ortiz has reached out to relevant actors on this issues, but to no prevail.
 - Understands that representatives, both in Student Government and UF Administration, are very busy.
 - Still stands here disappointed with the passing of this resolution, but no action taken.
 - We are three days away from the deadline where these students have to pay their tuition as out-of-state students.

- These individuals are considered “out of state,” which disqualifies them for certain financial aid grants and raises their tuition much higher.
- Respectfully asks for the leaders in the judicial branch and show leniency and compassion with these students.
- Can still extend this waiver deadline. It is not too late.
- Thanks various people and senators for their contribution on the solution of this issue.
- Believes it is important to take swift action to “help our friends in need”
- Senator Sneh Patel:
 - 363 days ago, our state was struck with one of the worst tragedies in our nation’s history.
 - On Valentine’s Day 2017, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was involved in a fatal shooting, resulting in the ending of 17 lives.
 - Will be working with the “March for Our Lives” chapter at UF, and will be working with the Student Body President’s Chief of Staff to authorize the building of a bench in the Plaza of the Americas to commemorate those who lost their lives in this terrible tragedy.
 - Lists the names of the 17 victims of the MSD shooting:
 - Alyssa Alhadeff, 14
 - Scott Beigel, 35
 - Martin Duque, 14
 - Nicholas Dworet, 17
 - Aaron Feis, 37
 - Jaime Guttenberg, 14
 - Chris Hixon, 49
 - Luke Hoyer, 15
 - Cara Loughran, 14
 - Gina Montalto, 14
 - Joaquin Oliver, 17
 - Alaina Petty, 14
 - Meadow Pollack, 18
 - Helena Ramsay, 17
 - Alex Schachter, 14
 - Carmen Schentrup, 16
 - Peter Wang, 15
 - Asks for a moment of silence in honor of those affected by this tragedy.
- Senator Calvin:
 - While discussing the resolution regarding the current state of Venezuela, Senator Calvin spoke about Polish Soldier, Witold Pilecki.
 - Speaks about Pilecki and his heroic journey during World War II, including his infiltration in Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz.
 - “He was just a soldier.”
 - Notes that there still oppression in today’s world.
 - Asks those to remember this story as not only a history lesson.

*****If you wish to hear any speeches given during public debate please request the recordings from senatesecretary@sg.ufl.edu*****

PRESIDENTS REPORT

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Senate President Murphy welcomes the senators.
- There will be no Senate meeting next week.
- Please refrain from wearing any party affiliated gear in the SG offices.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPLACEMENT & AGENDA:

- Senate President Pro-Tempore Shaw welcomes the senators.
- No interviews will be conducted.
- Clarifies how the voter record should look when turned in.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS:

- Chairwoman Dunson welcomes the senators.
- Wishes the senators luck on upcoming midterms.
- There is a lot of contact happening with all student organizations on campus regarding budget.
- Asks senators to contact her with any questions.
- Invites the Indian Student Association President, Senator Abraham:
 - Notes the magnitude of the line item transfer.
 - Explains that there were lots of money left over from programming, and decided to allocate that to the travel line, to accommodate the dancers that compete across the country.
- The purpose of Senator Abraham explaining the Line Item Transfer was to convey the motive behind it.

JUDICIARY:

- Chairman Sandifer welcomes the senators.
- The committee is excited about the volume of legislation they have seen.
- Encourages the chamber and any authors of legislation to proofread legislation before it is sent into the Judiciary committee.
- If interested in writing legislation, please contact Chairman Sandifer.
- There will be no Judiciary Committee meeting this weekend due to Senate not meeting next week.

ALLOCATIONS:

- Chairwoman Hernandez welcomes the senators.
- Not allowed to meet, per the 800 codes.
- Office hours are tomorrow: 10:30am-12:00pm.

RULES & ETHICS:

- Chairman Hurdles welcomes the senators.
- Rules and Ethics will be meeting this Friday at 3pm in the SG Conference Room.
- “Keep up the work” regarding constituency.
- Absences will reset after the elections at the second meeting in two weeks.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION:

- Chairwoman Jones welcomes senators.
- Forgot SG polos this week, but will be handing them out in the near future.
- Big Event will be March 16th: delegate will be Andrew Goren.
 - Will be sending out the code to join the team soon.
- Expresses that she has been working to improve live streaming within the chamber since October.
- Installations of cameras in the chamber will be a long term solution for everyone who uses this chamber. Will be providing updates on the final decision.

SECOND READING

There were none.

FIRST READING:

There were none.

BILLS PENDING SIGNATURES:

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Ragan:
 - “Harn Museum Nights” will be this Thursday, February 14th at 6:00pm at the Harn Museum.
- Minority Party Leader Gatos:
 - SAI Involvement awards applications are open. Details will be in the senate listserv.
- Senator Beltran:
 - February 21st: UEPA will be having its first general body meeting event in partnership with CASA in McCarty A.
- Senator Rangel:
 - Gamma Eta Sorority will be hosting their Lupus Awareness Fashion Show.
 - See Senator Rangel for modeling or emceeing in the show.
 - April 7th from 7-8pm in the Rion Ballroom.
- Senator Sneh Patel:
 - UF Stands with MSD will be having Marjory Stoneman Douglas 1 Year Candlelight Vigil on February 14th at 6:30pm in Plaza of the Americas.
- Senator Pearson:
 - After Dark will be at the Phillips Center next Tuesday at 8:00pm.
 - An event that will be a great way to learn about Jesus and God’s Kingdom
- Senator Wilson:

- Florida Players are having a show on February 15th, 16th, and 17th at the Phillips Center.
- Chairwoman Hernandez:
 - CALS Philanthropy Council will be having a fundraising event at Sweet Berries Wednesday, February 13th from 6:00-8:00pm
- Senator Perez:
 - CASA is having “Singles Domino Event” on Valentine’s Day at Plaza of the Americas during Krishna Lunch on February 14th.
- Senator Calzon:
 - SWEA is making Valentine’s Day cards in the Engineering College offices.
- Chairwoman Jones:
 - Delta Desserts being held at Kappa Delta sorority house on February 21st from 7:00-9:00pm. Tickets are \$5 for presale, and are \$7 at the door.
- Senator Brandies:
 - “Sex in the Swamp” event will be February 20th in the Florida Gym from 7:00-9:00pm.
- Senator Pepple:
 - Next Tuesday: Delta Gamma Late Cakes held at the Theta Chi Fraternity house 10:00pm-3:00am.
- Senator Lima:
 - Next Tuesday is the deadline to register to vote. In the upcoming county election.
- Senator Calvin:
 - Asks to share SG graphics on social media platforms.
- Chairwoman Dusnon:
 - Sweet Berries fundraiser after the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

- A motion to use voting records for final roll call by unanimous consent. Approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.