

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
April 18th, 2019

The Senate President called the Senate meeting to order at 9:00pm 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 65 senators present.

Not there for roll call:

- Alexander
- Calvin
- Cornair
- Dhaliwal
- Diaz
- Dormeus
- Dubois
- Espinoza
- Freedman
- Glover
- Goel
- Haffey
- Iyamu
- Jenkins
- Jesurajan
- Kaufman
- Levy
- Li
- Longland
- Maniti
- Orban
- Patel, Sneh
- Rodriguez
- Scurry
- Shan
- Shaw
- Smith
- Stein
- Stephens

- Weninger

PUBLIC DEBATE:

- Alfredo Ortiz:
 - Minority Party Leader Grabowski motions for a suspension of the special rules.
 - Motions for a standing vote to perform roll call vote. That motion passes.
 - In a roll call vote of 47 to 20, motion fails.
 - Appreciates trying to extend speaking time.
 - Will try to be quick since it is already late.
 - Came to express concerns about the nature of the special meeting.
 - Not saying that the meeting is not legitimate.
 - Some concerns amongst the Puerto Rican community when they tried to appeal a special meeting there in-state tuition status and other financial status.
 - Please do not use this argument to try to invalidate this current special meeting.
 - If Puerto Rican community has a problem with the special meeting they would come themselves.
 - Will address chamber on their own if they are concerns.
 - Do not try to smear this special meeting.
 - Wants Puerto Rican tuition argument to remain non-partisan and not used for political gain.
 - Urges that no one please bring up the Puerto Rican community in the nature of special meetings, pleads to leave Puerto Rican community out and that they will bring any concerns they may have on their own.
- Senator Amrose:
 - Will talk briefly about comprehensive Ad-Hoc Code Revision Committees.
 - There have been quite a few during his time at UF.
 - These committees are designed to ensure that a certain section of codes are being revised comprehensively, incorporating multiple perspectives.
 - Believes that these committees have been put together to prevent some students from writing legislation.
 - Tried writing a piece of legislation titled “Respect Students’ Identity Act.”
 - It was introduced previously and failed.
 - There were changes to incorporate changes regarding sponsorships
 - Was told they would table the legislation due to an upcoming 700 code revision committee coming.
 - Felt he was left waiting.
 - Met with Chairman Sandifer regarding changes to drafting referendums. Said that there will be a 700 Code Ad-Hoc committee coming.
 - Does not see this as an appropriate reason not to write legislation.
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- Does not believe it is fair that he has to wait
- Senator Barocas:
 - Knows that everyone is here tonight to consider bill Student Senate Bill 2019-1046: 200 Comprehensive Code Revision, which is more of a step backward than forward.
 - In history, chaos has resulted from executives gaining power for their own.
 - Provides examples of this throughout history.
 - “Vigilance is the price of eternal freedom”
 - 1,030 students purposefully chose to elect someone with a different opinion than the majority party.
 - A vote for this legislation is a vote to silence constituents.
- Senator Lima:
 - Student Senate Bill 2019-1046: 200 Comprehensive Code Revision
 - Believes that majority party is just trying to “push bill through” and feels that is why they are trying to rush the process of passing this bill.
 - Says that the Impact Caucus is attempting to pass legislation that will unilaterally approve Student Body President Elect Michael Murphy’s executive nominations.
 - Believes that the piece of legislation is partisan.
 - This bill would remove the threshold for passing an executive agency nominations from $\frac{2}{3}$ to majority.
 - This threshold was same throughout the years until now.
 - This is a somber time for a democracy that has stood for decades.
 - There has been very little conversation on this issue between parties.
 - It is clear there is not agreement, but there must be conversation before passing this legislation.
- Joe Andreoli:
 - Rises against having this meeting tonight.
 - This period being the most stressful time of the year, this meeting should not be happening, especially since a holiday is tomorrow.
 - Believes that this meeting was held for majority to ram through unfair and dangerous legislation.
 - Mentions “tells” of the majority getting desperate after losing a super majority after the spring election.
 - “It doesn’t matter if you are more qualified.”
 - Believes that standards will be lowered if this legislation passes.
- Senator Lai:
 - All students that have spoken to the chamber in the past few weeks have faced some degree of marginalization.
 - Here to clarify one thing: As Student Government, each of us are responsible to stand up for misrepresented and minority voices on campus.

- Every single Tuesday she feels that she hears a voice saying that we do not care about our students, and believes this voice only gets louder.
- States that special meetings were not held for blue lights, LGBTQ communities, and other marginalized communities on the University of Florida campus.
- Believes this legislation blatantly removes the check and balances needed in this institution to provide transparency and fairness.
- Asks the chamber if they have done enough to represent their constituents and if they have done their job.
- Urges everyone to not let down their constituents.
- Felipe Gatos:
 - Asks, “Why are we doing this?”
 - Is truly disappointed.
 - States that it was said that this legislation was time sensitive, but it is not.
 - Says that it was said that this legislation was comprehensive, but believes it is not.
 - Does not believe it makes sense to write this legislation by one person and sponsored by one person.
 - Believes that this legislation was just written with no function other than to lower the threshold to pass executive offices from 2/3 majority to simple majority.
 - Believes that there could’ve been other more important reasons for the special meeting.
 - States that it is conventional wisdom that “Student Government” is corrupt and it breaks his heart because he has seen what a corrupt government can do.
 - Asks the senators why they are doing something inherently corrupt.
 - Often times have worked with Impact party, and often times it backfired.
- Sofia Gangotena:
 - As a political science major, is very knowledgeable about government and checks & balance.
 - The senators have the power to make a difference, especially the majority party.
 - Believes that the 200 code revision is undemocratic.
 - Believes that 200 code revisions represent how far the majority party would go to silence the voice of the minority caucus which in turn silences the voices of minorities on campus.
- Dylan Attlesey:
 - The purpose of the SG 200 Codes is to prevent unqualified candidates from occupying offices that do not have to campaign, and are not selected by the student body.
 - Believes the revisions to 200 codes would be a dangerous precedent.
 - Believes that the code revisions would be green-lighting less qualified nominees.

- Believes that this legislation was written because nominees are not qualified enough for their positions and majority party knows they wouldn't pass by a 2/3 vote.
- Do not put the principles on which this institution was founded on, in jeopardy.
- Senator Bindi:
 - Wants to be here in order to talk about what he loves and cares for.
 - Speaks about John Locke, and the question of, "where does our power derive from?" The answer is that it comes from our constituents.
 - 80% of this student body says that the students representing them are so unqualified to serve that they would rather not vote in the first place.
 - Is presenting on this for a course tomorrow.
 - Believes if this piece of legislation is passed, they will cause even lower voter turnout rates.
 - If this legislation is passed, the constituents will be let down.
 - "You are letting everyone down."

Per special rules on the agenda for the special meeting, all public debate speeches beginning 30 minutes after the start of the meeting will only be given 1 minute of speaking time.

Point of order, Minority Party Leader asks if this is in the Senate Rules and Procedures.

Because of the special meeting, there are rules that have been placed on the agenda by Senate President Shaw.

- Colin Solomon:
 - Legislation for honoring the Notre Dame in Paris has seven more sponsors and thanks everyone who sponsored it.
 - Reminds everyone that this meeting is happening on a religious holiday, Maundy Thursday.
 - Passing the legislation on the agenda would be the "death of democracy."
- Macey Wilson:
 - States definition of the word "comprehensive" off Merriam Webster Dictionary.
 - Does not think one single person should be writing a comprehensive code revision.
 - These positions regarding the code changes are very important.
 - Asks how "insecure" one might be to not think that the senate will pass a nomination by a 2/3 majority.
- Gouthami Gadamsetty:
 - States she loves this country.
 - We are jeopardizing democracy today.

- States she feels that democracy is being thrown away with this legislation.
- Compares student tuition to taxes.
- States chamber is “screwing people over.”
- Claudia Tio:
 - Reads a statement from Nicole Smith.
 - Wants her voice to matter.
 - Feels no one cares to hear her voice.
 - States that Student Body President Elect Michael Murphy “laugh reacted” at a piece of legislation concerning sexual assault.
 - States that she does not trust Murphy or anyone who is affiliated with him.

Senator Amrose moves to suspend the Senate Rules and Procedures to allow more to speak for public debate.

Parliamentarian Jones declares that public debate is unable to be suspended. Senate President Pro-Tempore Dunson upholds this.

There is a motion to appeal the decision of the chair.

Parliamentarian Jones explains Rule IX of the Senate Rules and Procedures, which says that only those who wrote their name on the public debate sheet may speak in public debate.

In a roll call vote of 49 to 21, that motion to appeal the decision of the chair fails.

Senator Lima moves to reconsider.

There was motion for a roll call vote. That motion passes.

Roll Call Vote of 21 to 49, that motion fails.

Point of order. Senator Amrose states that there are additional names to speak on the public debate sheet.

Parliamentarian Jones recommends that this point of order be ruled dilatory, as the public debate sheet was taken from the front during the meeting, and public debate has been concluded. The chair upholds this decision.

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

Quorum Check:

Not there for roll call:

- Calvin
- Diaz
- Dormeus
- Espinoza
- Freedman
- Glover
- Goel
- Haffey
- Iyamu
- Jenkins
- Jesurajan
- Kaufman
- Levy
- Li
- Longland
- Maniti
- Orban
- Patel, Sneh
- Rodriguez
- Shan
- Shaw
- Smith
- Stein
- Stephens
- Weninger

SECOND READING:

5 Minutes of Presentation by author of bill:

- Feels that on Tuesday he explained himself well on the 200 codes.
- There is a motion to call previous order into question.
 - Roll Call Vote: 48 to 21.
- Motion to appeal Chairwoman Dunson's decision to recognize Senator Pearson's motion:
 - Roll Call vote: 48 to 21.
- There is a motion to call previous motion into question:

- Roll Call vote: 48 to 21.
- Roll Call Vote for Student Senate Bill 2019-1046:
- There is a motion to adjourn meeting.
 - Roll Call vote: 48 to 21.
- Senator Lima makes a motion to reconsider motion to adjourn meeting.
 - Roll Call vote: 48 to 21.
- There is a motion to approve Student-Senate Bill 2019-1046: 200 Comprehensive Code Revision.
 - Roll Call Vote: 48 to 21.
- There is a motion to adjourn meeting.
 - Roll Call Vote: 48 to 21.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 PM.