

Madame Senate President, Mr. Vice President,  
Members of student Senate, and my fellow  
Seminoles;

As I begin, I want us to stop and appreciate the great things that happen on our campus every day. We truly are at a special place. FSU helps develop students and educates our community inside and outside the classroom. We have students who grow into leaders through various involvements - who grow intellectually and discover knowledge through research - and - we have graduate students teaching classes, helping our undergraduate members learn while developing themselves into our future professors. Florida State truly is a place where our students grow into impactful citizens for the State of Florida.

I come to you today to report on the state of our Student body. Florida State is a University composed of students who are dedicated to making positive and sustainable change within their university community, and it gives me great pleasure to report their past, present, and future achievements.

The past and present achievements of our Student Body as well as the members of our student government do not come short in number. These successes represent the hard work and determination that our students embody.

The woman's student union helped FSU launch our Know More campaign to end sexual assault on campuses. Sexual assault is wrong, it is a crime, and it is something that will take all of our efforts to end.

Over 60 new to campus students are engaged in FLI and TLI this year.

The Panhellenic Association completed its largest recruitment of all time with over 1400 women receiving bids.

SGA and Student Boosters returned the Seminole uprising tradition back to FSU, energizing our fans before our first home game.

Our law school's moot court team advanced to the world final four for space law competition.

Our Asian- American student leaders helped developed the new FSU Asian-American alumni association.

Our Interfraternity council raised over 12 thousand dollars at their IFC Gives Back Charity event.

And our best buddies chapter was recognized as the best in the state.

These are just a few of the great things being accomplished here at FSU. Our Administration is continuing to work on our goals and have several in progress. We will not rest as we work to better the student experience here at FSU.

A lot of my personal views of the world came from the upbringing I received from my parents. My dad is a teacher at Sarasota High School where he chooses to work with special degree program and second chance students, helping them earn their HS diplomas. My mom is a labor and delivery nurse at the local public hospital. The one thing they always taught me was to "do the right thing, when it has to be done, how it has to be done, do it to the best of your ability, and do it that way all the time".

Yesterday when I voted on our next President, I did just that. The citizens of Florida have created—through their constitution—a very unique system of higher education governance, which keeps the Legislature very close to our universities. Having an individual who can lead FSU through that environment and who understands how we can succeed in it will help us propel our university to our goals. With the performance-funding model tying state metrics to our base budget, I believe having someone who can help us succeed in the state was critical. John Thrasher will be a friend to students and will appreciate every aspect of our student body.

After the vote, I asked Senator Thrasher to resign his role in the Governor's campaign by 5pm today. I am happy to announce that he did, which I believe is a good faith effort on his part to show his apolitical commitment to FSU.

Our student body was very divided on this issue. I heard many good reasons on both sides. However I believe this is the best decision for FSU and I stand behind my vote. John Thrasher is a dynamic Floridian that will allow FSU to

excel in our State University System and in the nation.

I ask that you support my decision, however I understand those who disagree. What is most important is that we give our new president a fair shake and we greet him with an open mind. And I urge that we remain civil to one another.

As your student body President, I will make it a priority that there will be interactions with soon to be President Thrasher and the Student Body. I will make it my duty to make him an accessible leader to students.

I will bring him to Senate, to the SGA offices, and to the Union to interact with our student leaders.

I will work to encourage President Thrasher to create new and innovative ways to engage the student body and to make sure that the students of Florida State know that their University President cares about what they want and need from him.

And I will ensure that FSU remains as student-centered as ever.

Here at Florida State, the undying feeling of passion for improvement that our SGA and student body members have and demonstrate, fuels our future plans.

I make the call today to direct the Office of Governmental Affairs to add to its legislative agenda, which will ultimately be approved by the Senate, to go after getting the \$2 million needed from the state for a new BSU house. It is time we help our agency secure a permanent home and a permanent commitment to our diverse campus.

I believe through working with new President Thrasher, we will also be able to prioritize the efforts for a new Student Union and get the necessary state funding to begin this project, to unite the diverse elements of our community under one roof.

I believe that through SGA supporting various student research conferences and symposium, such as the Undergraduate Research Showcase, we can continue our student first focus.

And I believe we can have a second year in a row of no tuition increases.

Accomplishing all of our goals, however, cannot be done without the continual cooperation with one another. And for that reason, I say, let's do it together.

Lets work together to make our campus transportation more efficient and reliable,

Let's work together to improve SGA's campus engagement efforts.

Let's work together to strengthen our RSO funding processes.

And let's work together to build a better SGA and a better environment for students across campus.

As FSU students we have both the potential and the resources to continue to make amazing things happen on this campus, and I have no doubt, that we will.

God Bless you and God Bless Florida State University.