



## 71st Student Senate

### Internal Affairs Committee

September 10, 2019 in Thagard 401

**Call to Order:** 6:05 pm

**Members Present:** Durham, Alvarez, Sandoval, Baxter, Villacorta

**Members Tardy:** Garau, Rlos

**Members Absent:** none

**Guests:** Alexander Harmon, Quentin England

**Announcements:** none

**Committee Business:** confirmation of candidates

**Old Business:** Discussion of Bureau Review Process Rules of Procedure

- **Villacorta-** motion to approve Bureau Review Process Rules of Procedure
  - **Sandoval-** second
- **Call to Question**
  - **Yes- (4) Alvarez, Baxter, Sandoval, Villacorta**
  - **No- (0)**
  - **Abs.- (0)**

**New Business:**

- **Interview One-** Maya Harris – Asian American Student Union Treasure
  - **Opening Statement-** sophomore, accounting major, adopted from China at 1 year old, struggled with cultural identity, found AASU in college and found community, empowered by strong Asian-American leaders, enjoys volunteering, cares deeply for the Asian-American community at FSU, wants to give back to the group, also involved in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, enjoys accounting
  - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
    - **Alvarez-** currently financially certified?
      - **Answer-Yes**
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Sandoval-** experiences that could contribute to position?

- **Answer-** took advanced excel courses, interned at a law firm specializing in estate distributions
    - **Alvarez-** involvement history with AASU
      - **Answer-**joined after involvement fair, went to all affiliate GBMs, worked with homecoming committee, community service, and leadership exploration and development
  - **Questions of Character-**
    - **Alvarez-** how do you handle conflict
      - **Answer-** step back from the problem and look at big picture, empathize with others, get consensus
    - **Sandoval-** What made you join AASU, how has it made you feel?
      - **Answer-** didn't want to engage with my Chinese culture, AASU opened my mind to the beauty of the Asian-American culture
  - **Other Questions-** None
  - **Closing-** very grateful for this opportunity, never thought I would be in a leadership position, wants to grow as a leader
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
  - **Call to Question**
    - **Baxter**
      - **Sandoval** seconds
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes-** (4) **Baxter, Sandoval, Alvarez, Villacorta**
    - **No-** (0)
    - **Abs.-** (0)
- **Interview Two-** Deborah Maldonado- HLSU Secretary
  - **Opening Statement-** junior transfer from UNF, didn't have HLSU at UNF, wants student body to know HLSU is for everyone
  - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
    - **Alvarez-** financially certified?
      - **Answer-** no
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Sandoval-** Goals for role as secretary?
      - **Answer-** make sure events are planned and meetings are taken care of, fluent in Office programs, tie loose ends
    - **Alvarez-** relevant work experience at FSU?
      - **Answer-** no, first semester at FSU

- **Villacorta-** tell us about the role
        - **Answer-** making sure events are planned for and everyone knows the event is happening, organization
  - **Questions of Character-**
    - **Alvarez-** how do you plan on balancing your first semester and your potential position?
      - **Answer-** keeps a planner, allocating time to the role, academics first
    - **Alvarez-** how do you handle conflict?
      - **Answer-** team captain of lacrosse team in high school for 4 years, listens to everyone, making sure they feel heard and that their feelings are considered
  - **Other Questions-** none
  - **Closing-** passion for children, worked at nature camp over the summer, ensuring everything runs smoothly and taken care of
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
  - **Call to Question**
    - **Sandoval-** move to call the question
      - **Baxter-** seconds
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes-** (4) Sandoval, Baxter, Alvarez, Villacorta
    - **No-** (0)
    - **Abs.-** (1) Gurau
- **Interview Three-** Mercedes Poole- OGA Deputy Director
  - **Opening Statement-** senior, was a legislative aide freshman year, senator-2 terms, chair of finance committee, interned in Congress, Noles Engaged in Politics, interned with Bank of America
  - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-** none
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Alvarez-** strengths in current process for determining legislative agenda and ways to improve it?
      - **Answer-** OGA is committed to mentoring freshmen, admires the work ethic of those who are in OGA, was unaware of change in process determining legislative agenda
    - **Sandoval-** how will you make sure the legislative agenda reflects the views of the student body?
      - **Answer-** has been in SGA, Panhellenic, studied abroad, can communicate with others well, convey message well, has heard different opinions in SGA and Panhellenic

Association, can interact in those environments, likes to be voice for others

- Villacorta- Concrete goals?
  - Answer- improve the Noles Engaged In Politics organization, lobby for funding for the new business school
- Questions of Character-
  - Baxter- soft skill you have learned at FSU and how you will apply it to the position?
    - Answer- likes to exhibit leadership qualities, does not back down from a challenge
  - Garau- Academic passions?
    - Answer- finance, banking, and the stock market
  - Follow-up- how can FSU improve the school of business?
    - Answer- advertise Bloomberg certification opportunity
  - Villacorta- why do you want to advocate for the student body?
    - Answer- came from small schools, knew everyone, wanted to make FSU more close - knit, wants to help others find their place
- Other Questions- None
- Closing- doesn't apply to anything without being prepared to give 110%, wants to mentor incoming students
- Deliberations
  - Roundtable
- Call to Question
  - Baxter- moves to call to question
    - Gurau- seconds
- Voting Results
  - Yes- (3) Baxter, Gurau, Villacorta
  - No- (1) Sandoval
  - Abs.- (1) Alvarez
- Interview Four- Alexander Smith- OGA Internal Assistant Director
  - Opening Statement- sophomore, in student boosters, FLI, Student foundation, mayoral intern, passionate about government, wants to work with Noles Engaged in Politics, wants to mirror it on FLI
  - Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-
    - Alvarez- what positions applied for
      - Answer- board of directors
  - Questions Related to Position-

- **Alvarez- level of proficiency in how the legislative agenda is made**
      - None, wants more input from students for legislative agenda
    - **Sandoval- how to improve communication and goals**
      - Answer- advertising info sessions to hear from students, using social media
    - **Villacorta- what will your duties be?**
      - Answer- unsure, wants to improve Noles Engaged in Politics
    - **Gurau- something you can improve through lobbying?**
      - Answer- lobbying for appropriate funding-
    - **Alvarez- working with Office of Gov. Relations, how can you best let elected officials know that that there is a gap between what the students and university want?**
      - Answer- textbook costs
    - **Baxter- why this position?**
      - Answer- it's important for students to have a voice, engage students, foster political awareness
  - **Questions of Character-**
    - **Sandoval- what qualities will you bring to the position?**
      - Answer- respect and understanding despite disagreement
  - **Other Questions- None**
  - **Closing- Thank you, wants to engage student body outside of SGA**
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
  - **Call to Question**
    - **Alvarez- moves to call to question**
      - Sandoval- seconds
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes- (4) Baxter, Sandoval, Alvarez, Villacorta**
    - **No- (1) Gurau**
    - **Abs.- (0)**
- **Interview Five- David Stephenson- OGA Board of Directors**
  - **Opening Statement-** thanks for the opportunity, sophomore, passion for local government, has not seen a lot of work done to connect Tallahassee community and FSU students, wants to have students educated about how the law applies to them, wants to sponsor event to question police

officers about issues between officers and the community, involved with SAA and Presidential Ambassadors, CARE student

- **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Alvarez- do you know the rules and procedure for the legislative agenda creation and how to improve?**
      - **Answer- wants student involvement on legislative agenda creation, isn't familiar with process**
    - **Sandoval- Why OGA?**
      - **Answer- mentor encourage applying, worked with Noles Engaged in Politics**
    - **Alvarez- Do you think OGA should improve relations with local government?**
      - **Answer- yes, community service and building relationships with the people**
  - **Questions of Character- none**
  - **Other Questions- None**
  - **Closing-** thanks for the opportunity, wants to work with senate to better FSU
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
    - **Call to Question**
      - **Sandoval- moves to call to question**
        - **Baxter- seconds**
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes- (5) Baxter, Sandoval, Gurau, Alvarez, Villacorta**
    - **No- (0)**
    - **Abs.- (0)**
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- **Interview Six- Jonathan Levin**
    - **Opening Statement-** ROTC cadet, making sure the Legacy Project is funded, new building for ROTC, museum, and STEM Lab. Has worked on political campaigns, is in senate
    - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
      - **Villacorta- fin cert**
        - **Answer-yes**
    - **Questions Related to Position-**
      - **Villacorta- how will you maintain transparency in your role and within OGA as a whole?**
        - **Answer- host town hall event, use SGA to perform outreach, raise awareness of OGA among Social Science students**
      - **Rios- elaborate on goal of Greek life involvement**

- Being in Greek life, stigma is that OGA is unimportant, OGA is a good path to future political work, wants to change perception of Greek life in SGA
  - **Questions of Character-**
    - **Sandoval- greatest asset you bring to OGA**
      - **Answer- confidence that comes from ROTC and political experience**
    - **Sandoval- if confirmed, will you continue involvement with senate and stay impartial?**
      - **Answer- yes, both work for betterment of FSU**
  - **Other Questions- None**
  - **Closing- excited for role**
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
  - **Call to Question**
    - **Sandoval- moves to call to question**
      - **Rios- second**
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes- (3) Sandoval, Gurau, Villacorta**
    - **No- (0)**
    - **Abs.- (2) Baxter, Rios**
- **Interview Seven- Noah Bartfield- SCURC Treasurer**
  - **Opening Statement- junior, has done research for 3 years, has done financial work in the past, passionate about research**
  - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
    - **Villacorta- financially certified?**
      - **Answer- yes**
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Baxter- prior roles that led to you applying?**
      - **Previous financial work with the Academic Recruitment Org, that is similar to SCURC**
    - **Rios- what are the financial barriers you want SCURC to overcome?**
      - **Answer- wants to be conduit for success**
    - **Baxter- goals?**
      - **Answer- keep things running smoothly, SCURC has not emphasized voice of undergraduate STEM students**
  - **Questions of Character- none**
  - **Other Questions- None**
  - **Closing- believes he would be good for the job**
  - **Deliberations**

- Roundtable
  - **Call to Question**
    - **Villacorta- moves to call to question**
      - **Sandoval- seconds**
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes- (5) Baxter, Sandoval, Rios, Gurau, Villacorta**
    - **No- (0)**
    - **Abs.- (0)**
- **Interview Eight- Meredith Harris- Internal Assistant Director of OGA**
  - **Opening Statement- wants more involvement in OGA from students**
  - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
    - **Villacorta- are you aware this is a major position and you will have to vacate you senate seat?**
      - **Answer- yes**
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Baxter- what do you plan on improving?**
      - **Answer- more focused on campus as a whole, informing students**
    - **Villacorta- how will you ensure that the legislative agenda is made based around student input and not the opinion of a select few?**
      - **Answer- wants to include students, doesn't know what that would look like, maybe a qualtrix**
    - **Sandoval- goals?**
      - **Answer- roundtable for student input**
    - **Rios- why this position?**
      - **Answer- it was offered**
    - **Rios- when did you decide to take this?**
      - **Answer- this weekend**
  - **Questions of Character- none**
  - **Other Questions- None**
  - **Closing- sad to leave senate, hopes to continue connections made in senate**
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
      - **Villacorta- motion for non-senator to speak**
        - **Sandoval- second**
    - **Call to Question**
      - **Gurau- moves to call to question**
        - **Rios -second**
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes- (3) Sandoval, Gurau, Villacorta**
    - **No- (1) Rios**



- Abs.- (1) Baxter
- **Interview Nine- Stephen Marante- OGA Board of Directors**
  - **Opening Statement-** second year, from Parkland, FL, polisci major, loves government and politics, interned for House Rep.
  - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Villacorta- goals?**
      - **Answer-** advocate for the university by lobbying, advancing the cause of higher education, has connections
    - **Sandoval- goals for the legislative agenda to make sure it's representative of the student body?**
      - **Answer-** everything comes down to money, more money makes the school better, wants to reach out to students
  - **Questions of Character-**
    - **Sandoval- tell us about your experience with the school safety task force?**
      - **Answer-** worked with local high school SGA leaders to create platform
  - **Other Questions-** None
  - **Closing-**
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
  - **Call to Question**
    - **Rios -moves to call to question**
      - Sandoval-second
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes- (5) Baxter, Sandoval, Rios, Gurau, Villacorta**
    - **No- (0)**
    - **Abs.- (1) Alvarez**
- **Interview Ten- Emily Durham- OGA Board of Directors**
  - **Opening Statement-** Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee, previous OGA liaison, Interned with a higher-ed lobbying firm
  - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
    - **Alvarez: Are you currently financially certified?**
  - **Questions Related to Position-**
    - **Alvarez: In regards to the legislative agenda, do you think that anything should be changed?**

- Yes, the statutes governing the presentation and confirmation of the legislative agenda should be changed, it should have a different process form a normal bill in SGA
    - **Baxter: How did your role as OGA liaison inform your decision and prepare you to apply for this position?**
      - Seeing last years process of choosing the legislative agenda made me feel like the student body's input was not heard or accounted for
    - **Alvarez: Is there precedent for members of the senate being on the board of directors for OGA?**
    - **Alvarez: should there be conflict between the senate and OGA, how will you be impartial and attentive to both sides?**
  - **Questions of Character-**
    - **Gurau- What is your biggest weakness?**
    - **Sandoval: How do you handle conflict, especially navigating personal relationships with coworkers**
  - **Other Questions-** None
  - **Closing-** Really passionate about politics and Florida State, want to represent higher education in government
  - **Deliberations**
    - Roundtable
  - **Call to Question- Alvarez**
    - **Second: Sandoval**
  - **Voting Results**
    - **Yes- (4) Baxter, Rios, Gurau, Sandoval**
    - **No- (1) Alvarez**
    - **Abs.- (0)**
- **Interview Eleven- Samantha Jacobsen- OGA Board of Directors**
    - **Opening Statement-** junior, involved in SGA and Panhellenic, passion for government, likes legislation
    - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
      - **Alvarez-** financial certification?
        - **Answer-** yes
    - **Questions Related to Position-**
      - **Sandoval-** how do you intend to resolve conflicts of interest between senate position and OGA position?
        - **Answer-** will set aside personal biases towards senate and agree with OGA

- **Questions of Character-**
  - **Villacorta-** how do you handle conflict?
    - **Answer-** by talking it out
  - **Baxter-** weaknesses?
    - **Answer-** delegating
- **Other Questions-** None
- **Closing-** thanks
- **Deliberations**
  - Roundtable
- **Call to Question**
  - **Sandoval-**move to call to question
    - **Alvarez-** second
- **Voting Results**
  - **Yes- (5) Baxter, Sandoval, Rios, Gurau, Villacorta**
  - **No- (1) Alvarez**
  - **Abs.- (0)**
- **Unfinished Business-** none
- **Final Announcements-** none
- **Date and Time of Next Meeting-** 6:00 pm, 9/17/19
- **Adjourned-** 9:40 pm