



**71<sup>st</sup> Student Senate  
Internal Affairs Committee  
April 23, 2019 in Innovation Hub 127 and Thagard 401**

**Call to Order:** 7:23 pm

**Members Present:** Baxter, Durham, Glanton, Gurau, Mella, Villacorta,

**Members Tardy:** Alvarez (7:25pm),

**Members Absent:** Deliz-Unexcused, Rios-Excused, Sandoval-Excused

**Guests:**

**Announcements:**

- Highs and Lows

**Committee Business:**

There are 8 candidates for interview:

- Executive Branch – Jayne McLaughlin – Chief of Staff
- Executive Branch – Max Dou – Deputy Chief of Staff
- Executive Branch – Omar Urbina – Deputy Treasurer
- Executive Cabinet – Odalyz Guzman – Secretary of Health and Wellness
- Executive Cabinet – Demetrius Winn – Secretary of Accessibility
- Executive Cabinet – Khamare Garner – Secretary of Fulfillment & Strategic Initiatives
- Executive Cabinet – Kayla Rose Francis – Press Secretary
- Executive Cabinet - Essence Duncan – Secretary of Student Engagement

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- **Interview One:** Executive Branch – Jayne McLaughlin – Chief of Staff
  - **Opening Notes:** Rising Senior, Information Science major, former deputy Chief of Staff, summer Chief of Staff, high integrity of the position appealed to her, wants to reorganize it and make it more accessible to students
  - **Non-debatable Questions:**
    - N/A
    - N/A
  - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
    - Alvarez: What are some ways you want interviews to improve?
      - No strategy right now that may be a faculty issue. We should have set application due dates and publicize that information. We should also explain the process on the SGA website. I also want to create a Google Doc that makes it accessible on the people so people know who applied.
    - Alvarez: What ideas do you have to address the criticism of nepotism or title chasing in SGA?
      - I think we should have a stronger presence on social media to publicize positions and to encourage people to apply. We need a to do a better job of advertising agencies and bureaus and not just RSOs. That way we can break the stereotype of who is involved in SGA.
    - N/A



- N/A
  - N/A
  - **Questions of Character:**
    - Glanton: How do you handle confrontation?
      - One of my weaknesses that I sometimes struggle with taking criticism, but I am improving this area of my character. SGA requires you to work with others so I have learned in my roles how to move forward in a positive way.
    - Alvarez: What have you learned in the past year?
      - I have really improved my public speaking and interviewing skills. I have learned about people from looking at their resumes and application. I have learned how to have confidence and how to deal with confrontation.
    - N/A
  - **Other Questions:** None
  - **Closing Notes:** Thank you
  - **Deliberations:**
    - Roundtable
      - Call to Question – Baxter , Second - Mella
  - **Voting Results**
    - Yay: (4)** Baxter, Glanton, Gurau, Mella
    - Nay: (2)** Alvarez, Villacorta
    - ABS: (0)**
- **Interview Two:** Executive Branch – Max Dou – Deputy Chief of Staff
  - **Opening Notes:** From Miami, rising senior, International Affairs major, GGK
  - **Non-debatable Questions:**
    - Villacorta: Which position did you apply for?
      - Deputy Chief of Staff
    - N/A
  - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
    - Alvarez: What ways will you ensure that nepotism is not a factor in staffing?
      - In GGK, there are a lot of people that apply but I must be objective. Any time I look at positions it is merit based and not personal.
    - Mella: What inspired you to apply for the Deputy Chief of Staff?
      - The executive branch believed in me and I believe that I can do it well
    - Baxter: What does this role mean to you?
      - I want to serve FSU through this role making sure the platform points are completed and making sure the people in that role are qualified to get it done.
    - Villacorta: What were your roles on campus?
      - GGK, finance roles in Unite Party, I have learned how SGA worked. I did not enjoy being a senator but I enjoy staffing. I know the struggle of agencies and smaller RSOs.
    - Glanton: Why deputy of chief of staff and not deputy treasurer?



- I have worked with finance but I have also worked with people. The executive branch believed in me and I believe my experience working with people in other roles on campus.
    - **Questions of Character:**
      - Glanton: How do you handle confrontation?
        - I am direct. I believe through conversation addressing the problem, the feelings about the problem and how to avoid having the problem again. I am not afraid of it, I know how to deal with it.
      - N/A
      - N/A
    - **Other Questions:** None
    - **Closing Notes:** I believe in servant leadership and I want to impact people.
    - **Deliberations:**
      - Roundtable
        - Call to Question – Baxter, Second - Alvarez
    - **Voting Results**
      - Yay: (3)** Baxter, Glanton, Mella
      - Nay: (2)** Alvarez, Villacorta
      - ABS: (0)**
- **Interview Three:** Executive Branch – Omar Urbina – Deputy Treasurer
  - **Opening Notes:** Rising Senior, from Tampa, come from a family of two immigrants, parents taught to take opportunities, started a shoe business in high school, Beta Theta Pi brother, campaign treasurer for local election, e-board in the IFC, Finance major
  - **Non-debatable Questions:**
    - Alvarez: Are you financially certified?
      - I took the test last night but I think I passed
    - N/A
  - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
    - Alvarez: What are some ideas you have that newer RSOs have access to funding?
      - I want to instill a budgeting excel sheet so the RSOs know how to get funding. I also want to open up direct conversation between me and RSOs to assist them.
    - Alvarez: How do you plan to work with the agencies and bureaus to make sure they spend their money wisely and benefiting the student body?
      - I think that is something to look at individually. I believe that my leadership style is learning how to understand what they need and helping them obtain it.
    - Baxter: What are some goals you have to fund newer RSOs?
      - I want to look at how RSOs are being funding year to year and address and discrepancies.
    - Mella: Why are you the most qualified for this position?
      - I think my experience with the campaign funds for the city commissioner elections have prepared me for this position.
    - Villacorta: What experience have you had on campus funding?



- I read the statutes and financial manual and I am familiar with PAC and RTAC
  - **Questions of Character:**
    - Alvarez: What legacy do you want to leave here on campus?
      - I want students to know that they can give back to their community.
    - N/A
    - N/A
  - **Other Questions:** None
  - **Closing Notes:** I want to serve as best as I can, I am a hands on leader and I will bring that into this role.
  - **Deliberations:**
    - Roundtable
      - Call to Question – Baxter , Second - Alvarez
  - **Voting Results**
    - Yay: (3)** Baxter, Glanton, Gurau
    - Nay: (2)** Alvarez, Villacorta
    - ABS: (1)** Mella
- **Interview Four:** Executive Cabinet – Odalyz Guzman – Secretary of Health and Wellness
  - **Opening Notes: Former AD HSLU, wants to serve the student body as a whole, wants to address mental health on campus**
  - **Non-debatable Questions:**
    - Villacorta: What other positions have you had in SGA?
      - Programming board for HLSU and AD HSLU
    - Baxter: Are you in communication with any health and wellness entities on campus?
      - Yes
  - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
    - Alvarez: How will you address alcoholism on campus?
      - I think we should have overlapping programming. I think we should have Market Wednesday after dark to encourage students to stay on campus instead of going out to drink. I also want to work with CHAW.
    - Mella: What inspired you to prepare for this position?
      - Applied for deputy chief of staff but when offered the secretary position and I was interested and happy to take it.
    - Villacorta: How do you plan to address the struggles of lower income students and health and wellness
      - Well most of the programs and services are free but that may be a conversation to have with the Student Body Treasurer to see how we can support these students.
    - Baxter: What are your concrete goals to address inclusion?
      - I think we need to work with the university's counseling center and encourage cultural competency in advisors.
    - Alvarez: How do you see your position expanding the cservices of the counseling center?



- We want to partner UCC and agencies to have group therapy that aligns with identities. I also want to expand the hours of the UCC from 8-4 to 8-5.
  - **Questions of Character:**
    - N/A
    - N/A
    - N/A
  - **Other Questions:** None
  - **Closing Notes:** Thank you and if given the position I encourage your feedback
  - **Deliberations:**
    - Roundtable
      - Call to Question – Baxter , Second - Villacorta
  - **Voting Results**
    - Yay: (4)** Baxter, Glanton, Mella, Villacorta
    - Nay: (0)**
    - ABS: (1)** Alvarez
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- **Interview Five:** Executive Cabinet – Demetrius Winn – Secretary of Accessibility
    - **Opening Notes:** Junior, Editing, Writing, and Media, Pride director, passionate about Trans rights, wants to advocate for accessibility
    - **Non-debatable Questions:**
      - Villacorta: What positions have you held in SGA?
        - FLI, Peace Center, Director of Pride Student Union
      - N/A
    - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
      - Alvarez: How do you plan to overcome the separation of SGA and University regarding ADA?
        - I have personally used a lot of the resources on the campus, I think student voice will be critical. I hope through my position I can unify student voice to advocate for accessibility.
      - Mella: What inspired you to apply for this position?
        - I have been involved in activism and as a student with disabilities I want to improve the experience of students with disabilities
      - Alvarez: How will you differentiate from this position to the Secretary of Health and Wellness?
        - I think it's a matter of access to information so I hope in this role I can direct students to resources
      - Villacorta: How do you want to change the stigma around mental disabilities and attendance?
        - I think that there needs to be a conversation with the university to have a policy that respects student's mental health.
      - N/A
    - **Questions of Character:**
      - Baxter: Can you talk about your experience as a student with disabilities?



- It has made me feel othered. I feel like I have not had the opportunity to have a space to voice my concerns so I want to facilitate a space that students feel like they can live all of their identities at once.
  - Alvarez: How do you handle confrontation?
    - I was an RA and it has taught me how to mediate and sit down and talk about the conflict, rationally without jumping to conclusions.
  - N/A
  - **Other Questions:** None
  - **Closing Notes:** Thank you
  - **Deliberations:**
    - Roundtable
      - Call to Question – Baxter, Second - Villacorta
  - **Voting Results**
    - Yay: (5)** Alvarez, Baxter, Glanton, Mella, Villacorta
    - Nay: (0)**
    - ABS: (0)**
- **Interview Six:** Executive Cabinet – Khamare Garner – Secretary of Fulfillment & Strategic Initiatives
  - **Opening Notes:** Music and Political Science, Marching Chief, Junior, FSU legacy, found family in FSU
  - **Non-debatable Questions:**
    - Alvarez: Have you been involved in SGA?
      - No
    - N/A
  - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
    - Baxter: What does this role mean to you?
      - I think it is the most important. I am going to be helping the Executive branch achieve its platform points. I will keep a tracker and promote transparency.
    - Alvarez: How will you differentiate this position from this Attorney General?
      - I have the ability to work directly with the rest of the cabinet and I would like to work with the College Leadership Councils. I can work with all three branches which is important.
    - Villacorta: What expectations do you have for this position in SGA?
      - I think this position has the potential to be the man in the middle and encourage transparency and checks and balances.
    - Alvarez: How will the executive branch check and balance the legislative branch?
      - The platform was well received by the student body so I think it isn't about individuals but about improvement.
    - Villacorta: What are some goals you have?
      - The platform tracker to really improve transparency in SGA.
  - **Questions of Character:**
    - Glanton: How do you handle confrontation?



- I tend to be level headed and a passivist. I have tried different tactics to diffuse situations. I found that people are open to conversation.
    - Glanton: What is the biggest challenge you anticipate?
      - I want to give an overarching message so I think I will just have to really work to collaborate with others.
    - N/A
  - **Other Questions:** None
  - **Closing Notes:**
  - **Deliberations:**
    - Roundtable
      - Call to Question – Baxter, Second - Alvarez
  - **Voting Results**
    - Yay: (4)** Alvarez, Baxter, Glanton, Villacorta
    - Nay: (0)**
    - ABS: (1)** Mella
- **Interview Seven:** Executive Cabinet – Kayla Francis – Press Secretary
  - **Opening Notes:** Sophomore, Political Science, from South Florida, passion for PR and media communication
  - **Non-debatable Questions:**
    - Villacorta: Do you have SGA experience?
      - Deputy PR for Amplify movement, CSA, Orientation leader, BSU (community service)
    - N/A
  - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
    - Alvarez: What are some long-term goals you have to have consistency?
      - I want to continue the newsletter, there has not been one since 2014, it is not an excuse to say that no one looks at it because it hurts our credibility concerning transparency. Monthly newsletter, Voices of FSU initiative (like People of New York) once a week
    - Baxter: How will you time manage this position?
      - I would want to create a team to play to people's strengths like graphics and videography so we can put out the best content.
    - Mella: What inspired you to apply for this position?
      - The Executive branch are very close friends of mine and I have seen their passion for this campus. I have been pushed out of my comfort zone and I really feed off their energy.
    - Villacorta: Do you have any plans to address the general apathy the student body has for SGA?
      - I think that stems from a lack of awareness on our representation. I hope to use social media to really highlight student leaders so people know that the positions are available. I think we can really use our social media platforms to break down the barriers around SGA.



- Alvarez: How will you communicate with the student body about SGA as a whole?
  - I think that my own identities will help me in this role by using my intersectionality. I am involved with a lot of entities on campus. I also am really interested in the student experience and I hope I can best serve them and point them in the right direction.
- **Questions of Character:**
  - Glanton: How do you handle confrontation?
    - Conflict style is collaborative and I am very direct and respectful.
  - Glanton: What is your biggest weakness and how will this position turn it into a strength?
    - Biggest weakness is underestimating my abilities and having the lack of confidence
  - N/A
- **Other Questions:** None
- **Closing Notes:** Thank you and what would you want to see?
- **Deliberations:**
  - Roundtable
    - Call to Question – Baxter, Second - Alvarez
- **Voting Results**
  - Yay: (4)** Alvarez, Baxter, Mella, Villacorta
  - Nay: (0)**
  - ABS: (1)** Glanton
- **Interview Eight:** Executive Cabinet - Essence Duncan – Secretary of Student Engagement
  - **Opening Notes:** Junior, Psychology, first time being involved with SGA
  - **Non-debatable Questions:**
    - Villacorta: What involvement have you had on campus?
      - BSU, RA, Orientation leader, Care Ambassador, VP and Pres of W.E.B. DuBois Honor society
    - Alvarez: Are you involved in the ROTC?
      - No
  - **Questions related to desired position, experience, and/or future goals:**
    - Alvarez: What 3 goals do you want to see implemented this coming year?
      - Nole60- first 60 days and last 60 days for student engagement and increase student activity increasing freshman engagement
    - Alvarez: What programs do you have for freshman engagement?
      - An all agency week which each agency can have a fair or event per day. And then have a relay at the end of the week.
    - Villacorta: How would address elitism in SGA?
      - We need to humanize SGA and make people realize that these are just students so maybe having blooper reels and being hands on in my roles to talk to students individually.
    - Villacorta: How would you change the attitude within the cabinet?
      - I am personally hands on and pushing for attendance at engagement events in casual attire and talk about their experience in SGA.



- Baxter: What ideas do you have for professional development for students?
  - Partnering with dean of students and the career center. It is important that students know what resources that already exist.
- **Questions of Character:**
  - Alvarez: How will you avoid burn out in this role?
    - I try to find moments to myself and not planning or answering emails. I also strive to be transparent and asking for help and being honest with my cabinet.
  - N/A
  - N/A
- **Other Questions:** None
- **Closing Notes:** Thank you
- **Deliberations:**
  - Roundtable
    - Call to Question –Baxter , Second - Alvarez
- **Voting Results**
  - Yay: (5)** Alvarez, Baxter, Glanton, Mella, Villacorta
  - Nay: (0)**
  - ABS: (0)**

**Unfinished Business:** Remaining 7 candidates: OGA - Anna Grace Lewis- Director, IRHC – Kayley Cox – Director, IRHC – Chaston Pfingston- Assistant Director, SCURC- Drew Parker – Director, SCURC – Lauren Moran – Assistant Director, SCURC – Grace Castillo – Assistant Director, VSU – Aaliyah Abarzua – Assistant Director

**Final Announcements:** Tomorrow Senate Meeting

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** N/A

**Adjourned:** 10:00pm