



**72nd Student Senate**  
**Internal Affairs Committee**  
**Date: 07/07/20, via zoom**

**Call to Order:** 6:03pm

**Members Present:** Chair Adams, Vice Chair Gonzalez, Senator(s) Gabadage, Murcia, Palacio, Rudd, Waters

**Members Absent:** Senator Medley-Neyra

**Members Came Late:** Senator Waters

**Members Left Early:** Murcia

**Guests:** Senator(s) Sam, Bogle, Secretary of Internal Affairs Rawan Abhari, Jack Rowan

**Announcements:**

- Chair Adams: We have some legislation so we will be going through that and then conducting interviews.

**Committee Business:**

- Bill 94, Resolution 52, Interviews for Attorney General, Mental Health Council Director, and Office of Governmental Affairs Director

**New Business:**

- **Bill 94:**
  - **Opening:** Senator Alvarez- In my 2 years previously served, I was in the IA Committee, and I've worked with 4 admins. One of the most consistent issues was forwarding letters and the time they were received and heard, interviewed and confirmed by committees and the Senate. I think the best way is to set a specific deadline. This pushes the 2 business day deadline to 5 business days. The President has 5 days to sign bills and things that are sent to him and they get a chance to take some time and correctly send the letter to the appropriate committee. I hope you like this idea.

- **Motion to enter Roundtable**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez
  - Senator Gabadage seconds
- **Round Table**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez: This puts a lot of more work on the Senate President.
  - Senator Alvarez: This is just putting the precedent that's already been set in place regarding the Senate President redistributing the forwarding letter to the proper committee into paper.
  - President Daraldik: So does this keep the same deadline for the executive branch to submit the forwarding letters? Or does that change?
  - Senator Alvarez: Gives 2 extra days for the committee and Senate to review and get ready for the interview.
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez: I move to amend the bill by adding 'forwarded' to Statute 307.3 D Subsection 1 between the words "copies of each" and "candidates".
    - Senator Murcia seconds
    - Sponsor finds it friendly
- **Motion to exit Roundtable:**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez
  - Senator Murcia seconds
- **Closing:** It's been a pleasure to serve in the Senate and I'm really looking forward to putting the standards of which we hold the Executive Branch to into Senate and holding us accountable as well.
- **Motion to Call the Question:**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez
  - Senator Gabadage seconds
- **Vote:**
  - **Yes:** (5)
    - Gonzalez, Gabadage, Palacio, Murcia, Rudd
  - **No:** (0)
  - **Abstention:** (0)
- **Bill 94 passes**
- **Resolution 52:**
  - **Move to add Alvarez as a Primary Sponsor**
    - Vice Chair Gonzalez
    - Senator Gabadage
  - **Opening:** Resolution 52 has the goal of renaming the Internal Affairs committee to the Oversight Committee. This came from examining our current standing committees to the committees within the Florida Legislature and the United States Legislature. This comes from the precedent of mimicking the government of Florida State to those of the state and country.
  - **Motion to enter Roundtable**
    - Senator Murcia
    - Vice Chair Gonzalez seconds
  - **Round Table**

- Senator Alvarez: This was discussed by members of the 71<sup>st</sup> Senate Internal Affairs Committee but they never brought pen to paper.
  - **Motion to exit Roundtable:**
    - Vice Chair Gonzalez
    - Senator Palacio seconds
  - **Closing:** I'm glad we could attempt to model our government over that of the state and federal level and I hope we can continue with that same precedent.
  - **Motion to Call the Question:**
    - Senator Murcia
    - Vice Chair Gonzalez seconds
  - **Vote:**
    - **Yes:** (3)
      - Gabadage, Murcia, Palacio,
    - **No:** (1)
      - Gonzalez
    - **Abstention:** (1)
      - Rudd
- **Interview #1:** Kristian Diaz for Office of Governmental Affairs Director
  - **Opening:** My name is Kristian Diaz, a rising senior from FSU. I have a Cuban Puerto Rican background. I previously served as HLSU Director and I also served on FLHASU. It showed me how to handle legislation and that other side of the work so that's where my interest for OGA comes from.
  - **Technical, non-debatable:**
  - **Questions related to position, experience, or future goals:**
    - Senator Gabadage: In terms of increasing student engagement, what are your tangible goals?
      - I want to increase engagement by targeting different groups on campus, firstly starting with the agencies. I would like to find paid internship opportunities for marginalized communities. I would also like to find ways for undocumented students to get involved in the process without fear of deportation or the like.
  - **Questions related to character or any other questions:**
    - Senator Bogle: What was a time in either being HLSU Director or with other leadership experiences, that you experienced a set back? How did you overcome it?
      - My role with HLSU Director had a lot of setbacks, both with creating the leadership institute, the alumni network, and the changing from Latino to Latinx in our name. But we had set goals and having determination and passion to accomplish those goals was crucial in allowing things to come to fruition. It's really about hard work and determination.
    - Senator Rudd: Do you have any ideas or plans for the OGA legislative agenda?
      - Yes, I do have my own thoughts but I want to listen to students and the public and what they have to say. It comes with a lot of legwork but reaching out locally and to different

groups of students, Senators, and who this agenda can impact, before I put my own thought to it.

- Senator Rudd: Have you considered placing in the legislative agenda the renaming of B.K Roberts?
  - Yes, I have considered. But I know that a lot of work is being done by faculty and staff as well as the Board and the SBP. I'd have to ask where they are with that before I move forward but I have considered it.
- **Closing:** Thank you for meeting with me again. I look forward to working with you all, hopefully, as the OGA Director. I hope we have a close relationship with Senate in the future.
- **Deliberations**
  - Roundtable
- **Motion to Call the Question**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez
  - Senator Waters seconds
- **Voting Results**
  - Yes- 5
    - Gonzalez, Gabadage, Palacio, Rudd, Waters
  - No- 0
  - Abstention- 0

Candidate passes

- **Interview #2: Kelvin Ready for Attorney General**
  - **Opening:** I wanted to start off tonight talking about the Attorney General position, coming in from someone that's a Senator. I think its important for a law school students to fill this position and I'll explain that through Elections code. When it came to reforming elections it was something tedious and often get shut down from the Court. Something I would want to start if you see me fit is to create a task force of law schools for Elections Code and Finance Code. It would be a nice pairing between law students and senators. That's my main goal. There's several other duties the Attorney General does in regards to aiding and addressing the Supervisor of Elections. My family is all lawyers and this is something I'm passionate about. I hope to bring what I learned in Senate and in law for this position.
  - **Technical, non-debatable:**
    - Vice Chair Gonzalez: To clarify, you served 3 ½ years in Student Senate?
      - Yes, 3 to 3 ½ years.
  - **Questions related to position, experience, or future goals:**
    - Senator Gabadage: You mentioned a task force for law students, can you elaborate?
      - Yes, I would definitely consult with the Student Body President and assemble individuals that can review Election and Finance Code. It would mirror meetings of a committee where we would read through it and pause when something is unclear or should be changed. I would also want to fix statues

through statutory review and maybe codify things into one section. Thank you for the question

- Vice Chair Gonzalez: What would you like to accomplish at the end of your tenure?
  - I would want to establish a foundation. When I was Chair of Budget and Finance, there was no ROP. That's the first thing I would want to do. Establish procedures. People can go in and look to see Attorney General's jobs but how does that actually work? How will that process look like? And how do I trust my rights are being fairly protected? I would establish those rules of procedure and put them on the SGA website so anyone can look and know what to expect and hold me accountable for my processes. How is their accountability if there's no rules? Making sure there's checks and balances as well. When it comes to statutory reviews, making sure everyone is a part of the process. It's to establish a foundation and be able to look at the next Attorney General and tell them this is the standard, this is what you have to do. It will establish accountability and transparency.
- **Questions related to character or any other questions:**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez: Did you go through any type of training like NCBI, Green Dot, Allies and Safe Zones?
    - No, I was definitely very involved and busy. But there was always talks to implement those in statutes.
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez: To clarify, you would be supportive of trainings being implemented on statutes?
    - Yes, I definitely would.
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez: Would you be open to attending trainings?
    - Yes, absolutely.
- **Closing:** I appreciate the questions and hope I've laid out how I would work in the office of Attorney General. Thank you for the question on trainings. I hope to have a working relationship with Senators and build on suggestions.
- **Deliberations**
  - Roundtable
- **Motion to Call the Question**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez
  - Senator Gabadage seconds
- **Voting Results**
  - Yes- 5
    - Gonzalez, Gabadage, Palacio, Rudd, Waters
  - No- 0
  - Abstention- 0

Candidate passes

- **Interview #3:** Kyle DiMatteo for Mental Health Council Director

- **Opening:** My name is Kyle DiMatteo. The big thing I want to get out there is that I was Director of Outreach for the Mental Health Council. I believe I'm the most qualified candidate for the job. I think I want to continue a lot of the things we did last year. My main thing is normalizing conversations of mental health in everyday conversations. Last year we did something called Seize the Awkward where we tried to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health and bringing up an awkward moment or conversation to ask people how they're really doing and feeling. I really want to continue that campaign. I would also like to go to IFC chapters and talk about how we can advance this normalization. I hope to begin a model to attempt to change the culture at FSU even though it takes multiple years.
- **Technical, non-debatable:**
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez: Are you financially certified?
    - No
  - Vice Chair Gonzalez: For clarification, did you only serve once on the board as Director of Outreach?
    - Yes, I was appointed by Tony Luna
  - Senator Waters: Have you done any of the following: NCBI, Green Dot, Allies and Safe Zones?
    - Yes, I actually did green dot at the beginning of my time here at FSU.
- **Questions related to position, experience, or future goals:**
  - Senator Gonzalez: What are goals you have for your position?
    - I have short and long term goals, I want to rebrand the Council in general. We didn't have funding but we now do. Something as simple as shirts and stickers. In spring I'd like to continue that campaign and respond to how Seize the Awkward did.
  - Senator Gonzalez: How do you plan on changing the culture?
    - I want to expand the example of going to IFC to campus wide. For example agencies and Pride Week, I'd want to attend the events and expand the outreach of the bureau. I also think bringing someone from the Counseling Center out as a licensed professional to have conversations is something I'd want to do as well.
  - Senator Gonzalez: Considering prior issues with UCC, what do you plan on doing to address it?
    - For my understanding, the ratio for counselors to students its 1 to 1900 which is a very big gap. Something we want to do that is more a learning experience in terms of implementation is expanding the amount of counselors and bringing more counselors to students and even training students to be of help when it concerns non-emergency situations.
- **Questions related to character or any other questions:**
  - Senator Palacio: What were challenges you faced in your prior position?
    - We had a healthy 1300 dollars in our bank account and we had to figure out how to do events and function without the

money and resources to do so. That's how we came across the Seize the Awkward campaign.

- Senator Waters: Describe your strengths and weaknesses.
  - My biggest strength is time management. I've always been a student athlete and waking up at 4 am and 6 am for practice and just the general things we do as that. My biggest weakness is probably having a lot on my plate but that's where my strength kicks in. I would have to organize my days and structure things as both in a fraternity, a student-athlete, and then possibly a director but with a planner and calendars, I can very much do so.
- Senator Rudd: If selected, how would you work to better represent survivors of sexual violence at FSU?
  - One of the biggest thing is the mental trauma that comes with it. I think we have to press the fact that it is okay to talk to people. I think it's important to have students that are licensed to talk to, a non-emergent hotline for people to talk to, and push that there are always mental trauma that comes with experiences like sexual assault.
- Senator Gonzalez: Did you ever attend trainings specifically regarding mental health or were you ever exposed to that community?
  - Green Dot covered an array of things. I do know how to talk to people who are going through things. Knowing the difference between sympathy and empathy. Separate the difference and address it afterwards.
- Senator Sam: What is an event or project you had to do to fill in for another board member?
  - There was issues with a shirt campaign for a scholarship, they weren't selling well. I took over and had the shirts put in the front and promoted better and after stepping in, it did skyrocket. It ultimately helped the scholarship opportunity happen and consequently awarded.
- Senator Sam: I know you addressed this already but can you reiterate short and long term goals?
  - I would want to put out shirts and campaigns and begin to get recognized on campus. I would also like to take the Boosters model and modify it for the bureau, in terms of gala, champions forum, etc. I would also like to get people to learn how to speak and address certain situations and attend trainings that address various situations.
- **Closing:** No time remaining.
- **Deliberations**
  - Roundtable
- **Motion to Call the Question**
  - Senator Gonzalez
  - Senator Gabadage seconds
- **Voting Results**

- Yes- 4
  - Gonzalez, Gabadage, Palacio, Waters
- No- 1
  - Rudd
- Abstention- 0

Candidate passes

**Unfinished Business:**

**Final Announcements:**

- Senator Sam: I'd like to welcome people for suggestions for the ad hoc committee or even a conversation if you need to have it. My door is always open.
- Senator Waters: This is how Senate should be. With us interviewing and reviewing bills and legislation and getting work done. With a good environment and respect all around. I love each and every one of you and working together is a pleasure. I'm really glad to be a part of this committee.
- Chair Adams: It's always a pleasure to work with you all. We are literally the best committee. I will look into whether we need to have a meeting next week. Thank you all for everything.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

**Adjourned:** 8:12pm