

THE SEVENTY-SECOND STUDENT SENATE

Journal: Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Call to order: 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Senator Sojos

Moment of Silent Reflection:

Roll Call: Adamyk, Murcia, Weber, Rowan, Gerdtz, Cohen, Villacorta, Selva, ahey, Schaler, Donnelly, Primoizic, England, Haslett, Jungers, Ryan, Jacobsen, Harmon, Leckie, Parker, Durham, Denton, Adams, Pendleton, Absten, Sojos, Diaz, Ferguson, Maymon, Dean, Silvia, Ascanio, Daraldik, Mougey, Morales, Levin, Slimak, Fink, Fray, Porter, Culver, Fernsel, Kill, Blackthorne

Absent: Recht, Baxter, Lafontant, Warren, Macmillan, Acanda, Toussaint, Long, Ready, Pedroso, Lavender, Fisher, Jungers

Late: Uddin, Gnanam, Rudolph,

Left Early: Culver, Fernsel, Gnanam, Kill, Blackthorne, Gnanam

Verification of Quorum: Verified

Corrections and Approval of the Journal: November 20, 2019, Porter motions, Villacorta seconds.

Student and Non-Budgeted RSO Comments: none.

Special Introductions and Announcements: none.

Messages from the Executive Branch: none.

Messages from Agency and Bureau Directors, SGA Organizations Officers and Employees: none.

Messages from the Executive Cabinet: none.

Messages from the Class Councils:

- Senior Council partnered with Market Wednesday for Last Week, Best Week and will provide snacks on Monday to kick off finals week

Messages from the Congress of Graduate Students: none.

Messages from the Judicial Branch: none.

Messages from the Union Board and SOAR Board:

- Union Board: Next meeting is January 8. Moving into Finance week for events at 8 P.M. every night Monday-Friday. A crafting event is happening on Friday on Landis. SLC is showing IT Chapter 2 and How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Check out facebook pages for CDU and other groups.

Messages from the Campus Recreation Board: none.

Report of the SGA Accounting Office: PAC - \$31,694; RTAC - \$21,675; Senate Projects \$14,797, Organizational Fund \$1,243

Report of Senate Liaisons:

Report of Committees: Sweepings, SLAA, Budget, Judiciary, IA posted online. Finance and Rules met prior to Senate.

Senate Confirmations: Tori Bourdeau, Homecoming Overall Director **39-0-1, PASSED**; Stephanie Vetrano, Homecoming Overall Assistant Director **35-1-4, PASSED**.

Consent Calendar:

- Resolution 6 Sponsored by Senator Murcia
RTAC request(s) for FSU Flying High Circus, Black Excellence, College Republicans.
APPROVED IN FINANCE. Porter motions, Leckie seconds. PASSED BY ACCLIMATION.
- Resolution 7 Sponsored by Senator Gnanam
PAC request(s) for Seminole Alliance for World Health **APPROVED IN FINANCE.**
Murcia motions, Villacorta seconds. PASSED BY ACCLIMATION.

Bills First Reading:

- Bill 3 Sponsored by Senator Sojos (P)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 702 regarding public availability of campaign documents. **TABLED IN JUDICIARY 11.18, 12.3.**
- Bill 6 Sponsored by Senator Sojos (P)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 413.8, changing the Senate Hall of Fame process. **TABLED IN JUDICIARY 12.3.**
- Bill 8 Sponsored by Senator England (P)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 807.4 regarding funding boards.
REFERRED TO FINANCE THEN JUDICIARY. TABLED IN JUDICIARY 12.4.
- Bill 11 Sponsored by Senator Lavender (P)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 205 regarding the code of the ethics.
TABLED IN JUDICIARY 12.3.
- Bill 12 Sponsored by Senators Leckie & Absten (P)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 401.1A regarding denouncing individuals or organizations. **REFERRED TO JUDICIARY THEN RULES, 12.4.**
- Bill 13 Sponsored by Senator Adamyk (P)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 805.4 regarding freezing RSO funds.
REFERRED TO FINANCE THEN JUDICIARY, 12.4.
- Bill 14 Sponsored by Senators Gerdts & Blackthorne (P), Dean & Diaz (Co)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 705.5 regarding graduate student Senate seats. **REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, 12.4.**
- Bill 15 Sponsored by Senators Gerdts & Blackthorne (P), Dean & Diaz (Co)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 607.1 D regarding graduate students and COGS legislation. **REFERRED TO JUDICIARY THEN RULES, 12.4.**
- Bill 16 Sponsored by Senator Porter (P)
An allocation of \$725 from Senate Projects to the Academic Center for Excellence to fund highlighters. **REFERRED TO SLAA THEN BUDGET, 12.4.**
- Bill 17 Sponsored by Senator Slimak (P)
Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 400.2, 405.2, and 413.2 regarding Senate Officers. **REFERRED TO JUDICIARY THEN RULES, 12.4.**

Bills Second Reading:

- Bill 5 Sponsored by Senator Levin (P)
 An allocation of Sweepings of approximately \$400,000 to various organizations.
PASSED IN SWEEPINGS 11/22, POSTED ONLINE 11/25.
 Pro: Vice-Chair Villacorta, Senator Gerdts
 Con: N/A
 Call to Question: Vice-Chair Porter
 Seconded: Vice-Chair Villacorta
Roll call vote, 40-1-0. PASSED.
- Bill 7 Sponsored by Senator Jacobsen (P) and Harmon (CS)
 An allocation from Senate Projects to purchase food for an SGA informational event.
PASSED IN SLAA 12.2. PASSED IN BUDGET 12.3.
 Pro: Senator Durham, Vice-Chair Slimak
 Con:
 Call to Question: Chair Dean
 Seconded: Senator Adamyk
PASSED 36-4-0
- Bill 9 Sponsored by Senator Weber (P)
 Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 700 regarding elections code enforcement.
AMENDED AND PASSED IN JUDICIARY 12.3.
 Pro: Leckie moves to amend, friendly.
 Con: Senator Gerdts
 Call to Question: Vice-Chair Porter
 Seconded: Vice-Chair England
PASSED 33-4-2.
- Bill 10 Sponsored by Senator Weber (P)
 Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 710.4A regarding campaign contributions.
PASSED IN JUDICIARY 12.3. 37Y-2N-1A.
 Pro: Vice-Chair Villacorta
 Con:
 Call to Question: Vice-Chair Porter
 Seconded: Vice-Chair Villacorta
PASSED 37-2-0

Constitutional Amendments:

- Amend 1 Sponsored by Senator Gerdts (P)
 Amending the Student Body Constitution to be gender neutral. **REFERRED TO JUDICIARY 12.4.**
- Amend 2 Sponsored by Senator Gerdts (P)
 Amending the Student Body Constitution so future amendments are gender neutral. .
REFERRED TO JUDICIARY 12.4.

Resolutions:

- Resolution 2 Sponsored by Senator Sojos (P)
 Regarding HIIPA Consent Forms. **TABLED IN SLAA 12.2.**
- Resolution 3 Sponsored by Senator Leckie (P), and Villacorta (CS)
 Regarding vendors at Market Wednesday. **Leckie moves to add Villacorta as a Primary Sponsor, England seconds. AMENDED AND PASSED IN SLAA 12.2.**
 Pro: Senator Gerdts, Chair Levin, Senator Morales, Chair Cohen, Darardik,
 Con: N/A
 Call to Question: Chair Dean moves to pass by acclamation.
 Seconded: Vice-Chair Porter, no objections.

PASSED BY ACCLIMATION.

- Resolution 4 Sponsored by Senator Sojos (P)
Regarding maintenance of accessible doors. **TABLED IN SLAA 12.2.**
- Resolution 5 Sponsored by Senator Sojos (P)
Amending Senate Rules of Procedure regarding the Elections of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. **REFERRED TO RULES.**
- Resolution 6 Sponsored by Senator Harmon (P)
Setting the date of the Spring election as Wednesday, February 19, 2020.
REFERRED TO RULES. PASSED IN RULES 12.4.
Pro: Chair Murcia
Con:
Call to Question (by Acclimation): Vice-Chair Porter moves to pass by acclimation..
Seconded: Vice-Chair England, no objections.
PASSED BY ACCLIMATION.
- Resolution 7 Sponsored by Senator Gerdts (P)
Condemning the discriminatory beliefs of the Freedom Speaks Coalition. **AMENDED AND PASSED IN SLAA 12.2.**
Pro: Chair Daraldik, Vice-Chair Porter, Senator Maymon, Vice-Chair Villacorta
Con: Senator Adamyk, Vice-Chair England, Senator Weber
Amendment Proposed by Chair Levin to exclude Bowdens. (Unfriendly)
Pro: Vice-Chair England, Senator Jacobson,
Con: Senator Gerdts, Vice-Chair Porter
Amendment Withdrawn.
Motion for 2-Minute Recess by Vice-Chair England.
Seconded by Vice-Chair Villaorta.
New Amendment by Chair Levin (Unfriendly)
Pro: Vice-Chair England, Senator Weber, Senator Fink, Vice-Chair Slimak.
Con: Senator Gerdts,
Pro: Senator Slimak,
Con: Vice-Chair Porter, Senator Morales, Vice-Chair Villacorta,
Pro:
Con: Senator Maymon,
Call to Question: Senator Donnelly
Seconded: Vice-Chair England
AMENDMENT PASSED 23-15-2
Call to Question as Amended: Senator Absten
Seconded: Senator Donnelly
PASSED AS AMENDED ON THE FLOOR 19-18-3
- Resolution 8 Sponsored by Senator Ready (P)
Supporting the Local Fee Committee's recommendations for a fee increase. **TABLED IN SLAA 12.2.**
- Resolution 9 Sponsored by Senator Sojos (P)
Amending Senate Rules of Procedures 10.12 regarding amendments. **REFERRED TO RULES, 12.4.**
- Resolution 10 Sponsored by Senator Slimak (P)
Amending Senate Rules of Procedure 15.3 regarding Senate Officers. **REFERRED TO RULES, 12.4.**
- Resolution 11 Sponsored by Senator Villacorta (P)

Urging the University to commit to using clean, renewable energy. **REFERRED TO SLAA THEN RULES, 12.4.**

Unfinished Business:

Statements of Dissent: Senator Gerdts, Vice-Chair Villacorta, Senator Morales, Senator Haslett, Senator Maymon.

New Business: Senator of the Month: Leckie. End of Semester Photo

Closing Announcements:

- Chair Leckie: Reminder of the difference between sponsors and cosponsors.
- Vice-Chair England: Tabled today at Market Wednesday, and the Senate Shirts are still available.
- Senator Gerdts: Submitted apportionment and wants everyone to read them. Please come to Judiciary. Apportionment committee officially closed. Thanks to Chair Dean, Blackthorn, and Harris. Have a wonderful holiday! (Let's bring more controversy)
- Senator Maymon: First announcement. Two major projects; reintroducing a bill regarding election candidates having a statement introduced last February, and we have six existing agencies yet there should be a mixed student agency.
- Senator Durham: Huge mental health advocate, and she wants to remind everyone to take care of yourselves this winter break.
- Vice-Chair Villacorta: Invites Gerdts back to sustainability. A lot of work will be on first reading next semester. Make sure you read minutes before interviewing candidates up for confirmation. Contact agencies or organizations if you're making legislation regarding them.
- Clerk Roy – Good Evening Senate, I wanted to take this moment to thank you all for coming to this last Senate meeting of 2019 even despite all of the tests and assignments being due this week and next. As of today, the SGA Senate Instagram has officially been transferred to our control as Pro Temp Harmon kicked it off with a new story post. I hope everyone follows and shares our Instagram as there are great plans for it. In regards to my weekly leadership quote, I looked for one that encompassed the spirit of discovery and change we all may be making over this next month through finals and our new years resolutions and I found this one by author John C. Maxwell, "A pessimist complains about the wind, an optimist expects it to change. A leader adjusts the sails" I hope you all have an Amazing Holiday Break!
- Parliamentarian Alvarez: Ad-hoc attendance is mandatory and enforceable, refrain from overlapping statements of dissent, if you ever need help with legislation or understanding how to propose bills then contact me. (I am impartial as parliamentarian and here to support you and your work).
- Senator Parker: Shout-out to first responders and military servicemen. Contact if interested in women's caucus.
- Dr. Acosta: Friendly reminder, election code cannot be changed as election date has already been set. Ms. Carolyn Harris is getting a new job in Baltimore, so she is leaving FSU after 8 years here and 6.5 with the SGA. We are celebrating her this Friday; information has been sent to everyone. We have a six week break from Senate. Good luck on your studying and safe travels! We will meet second week of next semester. Sleep a lot!
- Pro-Temp Harmon: Attendance has been updated; make sure to check it out, especially if you're close to or above amount that sends you to rules. Social media is being picked up again.
- President Denton: Thank you for a great Fall semester. Thank you for wearing holiday sweaters. Merry Christmas and happy holidays! (Election ad-hoc committee will be started first Senate meeting of January)

Final Roll Call: Adamyk, Murcia, Weber, Rowan, Gerdts, Cohen, Villacorta, Selva, ahey, Schaler, Donnelly, Primozic, England, Haslett, Jungers, Ryan, Jacobsen, Harmon, Leckie, Parker, Durham, Denton, Adams, Pendleton, Absten, Sojos, Diaz, Ferguson, Maymon, Dean, Silvia, Ascanio, Daraldik, Mougey, Morales, Levin, Slimak, Fink, Fray, Porter, Rudolph

Leckie moves to adjourn at 9:54pm, England seconds.

Statement of Dissent:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 10.15 we, Senators Brendan Gerdts, Juan Ascanio, Jason Maymon, Amy Morales, Vice-Chair Ryan Villacorta, and Chair Shayna Cohen, dissent from the decision made by the 72nd Senate on December 4th to pass Resolution 7 as amended on the floor.

Per Florida State University Strategic Plan Goal III of Diversity and Inclusion and the foundational values of the SGA, it is the duty of the Senate to advance unity and diversity across campus. It is with this in mind that I, Senator Gerdts, submitted Resolution 7 with an explicit condemnation of the beliefs expressed by Bobby and Anne Bowden at the Freedom Speaks Coalition conference held in Tallahassee on November 12th, 2019. It is with great regret that I saw this language stripped from the resolution and the resolution passed. I do not fault, nor do I wish to impugn the votes of any members of the Senate. The individual members who cast those votes will, I hope, continue to remember the choice they made and think on the consequences.

One of the primary concerns I have with the actions the Senate took on the 4th was that the Senate fundamentally changed the resolution's meaning. Instead of a specific condemnation of Bobby and Anne Bowden's beliefs expressed at this conference and offering of support to the students of FSU affected by those beliefs, the resolution as amended was stripped of its spine. It addressed only blanket issues with the beliefs expressed at this conference and provided privacy and protection to the Bowden's due to their status as "heroes" to the FSU community. This presents an unfortunate precedent of the meaning of resolutions being amended without the consent of their sponsor on the floor. It would be in the best interest of the Senate to not follow this precedent so that the sponsor of legislation may maintain control of what is said under their name.

Below, I have listed the opinions of other signed senators who wished to make specific statements:
Chair of the Finance Committee, Shayna Cohen:

Ahead of any other responsibility, elected officials are honor-bound to represent the interests and opinions of those who elected them. The student body that all senators were selected to represent made their view quite clear: The things discussed at the Freedom Speaks Coalition were problematic to certain members of the student body because of who was in attendance. Removing the names of those in attendance and then passing the resolution directly goes against the original spirit of the resolution, and in our opinion misrepresents the views of the student body for the sake of avoiding controversy. On behalf of the student body, especially the PRIDE Student Union and other members of the LGBTQ+ community that would have liked to see the resolution pass in its original form, please know that a minority of your elected senators heard your voices and stand behind you.

Vice-Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee, Ryan Villacorta:

It is with great disappointment that I saw my colleagues vote by a very slim margin to strip this legislation of its primary purpose. What is a greater disappointment, however, are the reasons my colleagues presented in their arguments for doing so. The history that the Bowden's have with Florida State and Bobby Bowden's impact on the football program should in no way immunize him from direct criticism for how he chooses to espouse these abhorrent beliefs. Additionally, I found it shameful that some senators chose to harbor greater concern for the effect this resolution could have on the public relations of the University rather than for how the harmful and dangerous beliefs expressed by the Bowden's and the Freedom Speaks Coalition impacted the students they took an oath to represent. As senators, we are elected to represent and advocate for the students- not protect the University from bad press. I urge the senators who decided that a potential news article was of greater concern than expressing to the University on behalf of our constituents their disapproval with the actions of the Bowden's to reflect on their reasoning. It is our duty to ensure that we advocate for all of our students, but especially those in marginalized communities. We cannot allow those who represent this University, who have parts of campus bearing their name, and who are invited to this campus by the University to attack members of our student body and advocate for ideas that directly place these marginalized communities in danger to go unchallenged and unaddressed. To those students affected, I apologize sincerely for the outcome and wish I could have done more and promise that myself and the senators included in this statement of dissent will not stop advocating for you.

As a conclusion to this statement of dissent, I can only offer a summary of the pain felt by the LGBT+ community. For decades, we have been ignored, derided, discriminated against, battered, bruised, beaten, murdered, forgotten, and erased.

I, and the undersigned senators, had hoped the Senate capable of taking a strong stand against that. We had hoped the Senate might provide a greater fight to protect the victims than the perpetrators. We had hoped that controversy might make people think on the abuse LGBT+ people go through daily. We had hoped to find an ally in the Senate meant to represent that community. Unfortunately, we must go on hoping, fighting, organizing, and rallying, because we found no such stand, protection or controversy. We did not even find an ally in the face of the powerful. We only found more protection for Bobby Bowden than the LGBT+ members of the FSU student body. I, and the undersigned senators, feel nothing but regret for that, but we have a newfound determination to fight to right this wrong.

For these reasons, we dissent.

Herein signed,

Brendan Gerdtz, Senator for Arts and Sciences: Seat 4
Shayna Cohen, Senator for Arts and Sciences: Seat 6
Ryan Villacorta, Senator for Arts and Sciences: Seat 10
Jason Maymon, Senator for Undergraduate Studies: Seat 13
Juan Ascanio, Senator for Undergraduate Studies: Seat 21
Amy Morales, Senator for Undergraduate Studies: Seat 10
Kundhavi P. Gnanam, Senator for Engineering: Seat 1
Musammat Uddin, Senator for Arts and Sciences: Seat 8