



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

April 27, 2022

To: FSU Student Senate

From: Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

CC: Dr. Felicia Williams, Director, Student Engagement  
Dr. Brandon Bowden, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs  
Nimna Gabadage, Student Body President

Date: April 22, 2022

Subject: Bills 25, 30, 44

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The purpose of this memo is to follow up on Bills 25, 30, and 44.

By the authority vested in me as Vice President of Student Affairs of Florida State University, under the provisions of Section 402.2 of the Student Body Statutes, I do hereby veto and transmit my objections to these three Senate Bills, enacted during the 74<sup>th</sup> Senate of the Student Senate of the Florida State University Student Government Association, during 2022:

**Senate Bill 25: Transfer Power of Homecoming Chief and Princess Selection**

The purpose of this Bill is to transfer the power over the University's Homecoming Chief and Princess program to a Student Government Committee. The function of Homecoming Chief and Princess resides with a Direct Support Organization (DSO). A DSO is an organization that the University President has designated to operate within the University's structure under Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and specific responsibilities. This DSO, the Florida State Alumni Association, has duties and responsibilities assigned to their office that Senate does not have the authority to delegate to other entities.

I understand that members of the Student Senate have expressed concern over the lack of diversity in the Chief candidates in the 2021 Homecoming Court. I would encourage the Senate to look holistically at the results of the selection process over the past 5-10 years to determine whether changes are necessary. And if changes are identified after the process is understood, then the student leaders of SGA should work with the Alumni Association staff to make those suggestions.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Senate Bill 25 and do hereby veto the Bill.

### **Senate Bill 30: Sanctions for Finance Code Violations**

It is my view, and the view of the Executive Branch of this Student Government, that Senate Bill 30 enforces unduly punitive measures that negatively affect the funding process for registered student organizations on campus. These proposed changes may restrict an organization's ability to receive funding for up to a period of one year. This could prove fatal to the success of an organization that relies on funding from the Student Government Association.

Additionally, as student-led organizations, I find it likely that there may be entirely new leadership within an organization within a one year period, possibly punishing an organization that has no members responsible for the actions leading to the enforced punishment. As student-led organizations, we must ensure that we are conducive to a learning lab environment where mistakes are able to be rectified, and organizations are not disparaged from applying for funding in fear of retributive action. In the State of Florida, Student Governments are granted some of the highest autonomy and independence from institutional influence and control. This allows us to aspire and achieve amazing results and success as student leaders. However, with these responsibilities and freedoms given to us, we must respect and recognize the importance of having a fair system that is accessible to all, and does not discriminate against those who may be new to the intricate processes we are familiar with. Therefore, it is my determination that this legislation would be detrimental to our Student Government and the many registered student organizations on campus.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Senate Bill 30 and do hereby veto the Bill.

### **Senate Bill 44: Homecoming Planning Commission Membership**

The revisions in this Bill would remove voting members from the Homecoming Director and Homecoming Live Director. In my review of this legislation, it will disproportionately affect the representation structure resulting in a Commission comprised 57% of voting members of the Legislative Branch and removing voting rights from members of the Homecoming Council. This over-representation of Senate leadership and lack of a vote by Commission leadership does not provide a balanced review of the funding that has been allocated to Homecoming. Further, Senate currently is represented by the Senate President and Senate Pro Tempore on the Commission which should provide an adequate voice for the Legislative Branch as it related to Homecoming spending.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Senate Bill 44 and do hereby veto the Bill.