



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

74th STUDENT SENATE

Senate Bill #: 59
Primary Sponsor: Folwell
Co-Sponsor(s): Diaz

A revision to the Student Body Statutes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SEVENTY FOURTH STUDENT SENATE THAT:

A revision is made to the Student Body Statutes § 100.6, 100.8, 400.1, 404, 405.6 (See attached).

To amend the statute to consolidate the various statements about Senators taking Leaves of Absence, simplifies and codifies the process, and makes it so that senators on a leave of absence are not counted toward quorum.

PROVISO: This bill shall go into effect upon the first Senate meeting of the Fall 2022 Semester.

Read 1st Time: 6/22/2022

Referred to Committee: Judiciary and Rules & Calendar

Committee Report: Passed in: Judiciary 07/5., Rules & Calendar 07/6

Read 2nd Time: 07/20/2022

Senate Vote: 16-1-1

OFFICIAL:

DocuSigned by:

Samuel Diaz

7/25/2022 | 8:11 AM EDT

Student Senate President

PASSED: July 20th, 2022

CERTIFIED TO THE STUDENT BODY

DocuSigned by:

Nimna Maladage

7/27/2022 | 9:18 AM EDT

President of the Student Body

Date

DocuSigned by:

Dr. Felicia Williams

7/27/2022 | 10:24 PM EDT

Director of the Student Governance & Advocacy

Date

DocuSigned by:

Dr. Amy Hecht

7/28/2022 | 10:58 AM EDT

Vice President of Student Affairs

Date

100.6 Major offices may only be held by FSU students registered for at least six (6) hours in both the fall and spring semesters, respectively, and at least three (3) hours during the summer session. ~~Senators not taking three (3) hours in the summer session may go on a leave of absence rather than being removed from their office. Additionally, a Senator who is taking at least three (3) hours in the summer semester but intends to conduct the class online may also take a leave of absence.~~

100.8 Student Government Association officers may take a leave of absence in the summer term according to the procedures outlined in the applicable chapter of statutes. At other times they must have approval of the Student Body President (for the Executive Branch) or the Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court (for the Judicial Branch). ~~The Senate Rules of Procedure shall govern members and related officers of the Senate when it comes to taking leaves of absence during any term.~~ All other officers of the Student Government Association may take a leave of absence during the summer session or at other times by notifying the Student Body President of their intentions in writing before they take a leave of absence, unless otherwise prohibited by Statute, or by individual bylaws.

400.1 Senate Session

A. Fall, Spring, and Summer Meetings

The fall, spring, and summer meetings of the Student Senate shall begin on the second Wednesday in the respective semester and shall terminate on the Wednesday prior to finals week of the three semesters.

B. Each Student Senate shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure in accordance with the Student Body Constitution and Statutes.

~~C. Except for summer leave of absences, no leave of absence may exceed one week. No Senator may take more than three (3) leaves of absences in one semester. Further, absences accrued during any further leaves shall be considered unexcused absences. Special exceptions may be granted by the Rules and Calendar Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.~~

Chapter 404 Terms of Office

- A. Senate members shall take office upon inauguration.
- B. Senators shall terminate office when one of the following circumstances occurs:
 - 1. At the inauguration of their successors.
 - 2. If occupying an upper-division seat, and changing their major, or field of study, would change their division classification.
 - 3. Upon their graduation, be it at either the undergraduate or graduate classification.
 - a. An exception to this applies when the Senator graduating with their undergraduate degree will be enrolled as a graduate student in the same academic division, and will be permitted a "Leave of Absence" for any Summer or Winter break between their graduation as an undergraduate and enrollment as a graduate student.
 - 4. If they are no longer an enrolled student at Florida State University, unless they are taking a summer leave of absence pursuant to Section 405.6.
 - a. ~~An exception to this applies where an official "Leave of Absence" has been granted for the summer session, pursuant to Chapter 100.6.~~
- C. Installation of Senators shall occur at the inauguration ceremony for the term that they are elected. Any Senators not formally sworn in at inauguration shall be sworn in at the next available Senate meeting.
- D. ~~All Senators enrolled as students during any of the summer academic terms shall be members of the summer meetings upon fulfillment of the following requirements.~~
 - 1. ~~Senators must file a notice of intent with the Senate President two (2) weeks prior to the last Student Senate meeting of the Spring semester. At the discretion of the Student Senate President or by a majority vote of Senate, the Senate may accept a late notice of intent. If a notice of intent is not provided or not accepted according to this rule, the Senator's seat shall be considered vacant and available for appointment for the entire summer.~~

2. ~~This notice of intent must include the dates which the Senator intends to serve during the summer session.~~

- E. The number of Senators available to serve during any term shall at no point fall below thirty (30). Should occasion arise wherein there are fewer than thirty available serving Senators, the Student Body President shall make appointments to maintain a total of thirty (30) Senators. In this case Senate and its committees may meet for the sole purpose of voting on new Senators even if there are less than 5 voting members in each standing committee.
- F. ~~Appointed Summer Senators shall be on notice that their duties are of a temporary nature. Their term of office shall be terminated upon the return of the absent Senator, whose seat the appointee is occupying.~~
- G. Senators, by virtue of their office and the public trust, may not apply to be appointed to any vacated Seat within the Student Senate. Additionally, upon resignation or removal from their Seat, no former Senator may apply to be appointed to any vacated Seat within the Student Senate apportioned for the opposite semester from the seat which they originally held until after the said opposite semesters elections are completed and certified, but shall always be permitted to run in said election.

405.6 Leaves of Absence

- A. Senators, under certain circumstances, may take a Leave of Absence, during which time any absences will not count toward their record.
- B. There shall be **two** different kinds of Leaves of Absence: a Special Leave of Absence, and a Summer Leave of Absence.
 - 1. A Special Leave of Absence is a Leave of Absence given special extenuating circumstances that may rise on a case-by-case basis. In order to take a Special Leave of Absence, a Senator must provide notice to the Pro Tempore and at the next Rules and Calendar committee meeting, the committee shall vote, by two-thirds (2/3), to approve the Leave of Absence.
 - a. **A Special Leave of Absence shall not extend for a period of more than three (3) months and shall last at least one (1) month. A temporary Senator may be appointed to fill the seat for the period of the leave of absence. These temporary Senators shall be appointed in the same manner as summer Senators.**

b. No Special Leaves of Absence shall extend beyond the end of the Spring Semester. If a Senator is on a Leave of Absence until the end of the Spring Semester, and wants to serve during the summer session, they must undergo the process in the same manner as any Senators not on a leave of absence. Senators temporarily filling the spot of another senator on a Leave of Absence are not permitted to fill out a notice of intent to serve during the summer session.

2. A Summer Leave of Absence may occur during the summer session, with specific circumstances listed below. During a Summer Leave of Absence, a Senator's seat may be temporarily reassigned for the extent of that Senator's Summer Leave of Absence.

a. During the summer session, Senators may take a leave of absence. In order to serve, Senators must file a notice of intent with the SGA Advisor two (2) weeks prior to the last Student Senate meeting of the Spring Semester. At the discretion of the SGA Advisor or by a majority vote of Senate, the Senate may accept a late notice of intent. If this notice of intent is not submitted, the Senator shall go on a Summer Leave of Absence for the Summer Session, and will return to office upon the first day of the Fall Semester.

C. When a Senator is on a Leave of Absence, their presence will not be counted towards or against quorum of Senate or any committees.