



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

74th STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 14

Primary Sponsor: Lessard, Fronczak

Co-Sponsor(s): Russell

Whereas: all senate absences, whether excused or unexcused, are considered to be a full absence on a senators attendance record, and

Whereas: senators are encouraged to submit documentation to excuse their absences from Senate committee and Senate Body meetings, and

Whereas: a half absence is only awarded when a senator is late or leaves a meeting early, therefore

Be it resolved by the Seventy-third Student Senate at Florida State University that: The Senate Rules of Procedure be amended as follows:

RULE THIRTEEN – Senate Attendance

- 13.1. Attendance at the following meetings shall be considered mandatory for all Senators and Senate Officers. A roll call will be conducted at the beginning and end of each meeting for the purpose of determining quorum and attendance:
 - a. Regularly scheduled meetings of the Student Senate as a whole.
 - b. All standing committees, sub committees, and ad hoc committees on which a Senator or Senate Officer serves.
 - c. Any properly called special session of the Senate.
 - d. Any other meeting, upon concurrence of the Student Senate President and Student Senate President Pro Tempore, with at least twenty-four (24) hour notice to all the members required to attend.
 1. The Senate may overturn this provision at any time before or after the meeting with a two-thirds vote.
- 13.2. When roll is called at any meeting and a Senator is absent or tardy, the presiding officer must publicly state if the absence or tardy is excused or unexcused.
- 13.3. A Senator shall be considered as having no absences at the beginning of their term in office. Absences will accumulate over their term in office and will be counted against the Senator regardless of any change in the academic semester, or any intervening election in which their seat is not up for consideration.
- 13.4. If an absence is considered unexcused, the failure to attend any meeting in its entirety shall constitute one full absence. If an absence is considered excused pursuant to rule 13.9, the failure to attend any meeting in its entirety shall constitute one-half absence.
- 13.5. Failure to be present for any one roll call that determines attendance or quorum shall count as one-half absence.

a. Senators who are not present during the initial roll call are tardy and must check in with the presiding officer upon entry into the meeting.

b. If a tardy Senator does not check in with the presiding officer, they will accrue one-full absence in circumstances where a previous roll call is accepted as final roll call.

13.6. Quorum shall be defined as more than half of the voting members of the body this is meeting.

13.7. At any time, any Senator may move for a roll call to determine quorum.

a. Before a quorum call is conducted, the presiding officer shall call a three-minute recess to allow Senators to retire to the chamber.

b. In cases where quorum is not achieved and business must end, that quorum call shall be considered the final roll call of that meeting.

13.8. Under no circumstances shall any Senator receive more than one full absence during any one meeting, even if multiple quorum calls are conducted.

13.9. Senators shall notify the appropriate presiding officer of a planned absence or tardy in writing prior to any missed Committee Meeting or Senate Meeting.

a. If a prior notice is not possible, any Senator who receives an absence or tardy shall be required to provide a written excuse to the presiding officer of the missed meeting within six (6) school days of the meeting. Failure to submit a written excuse within this period will result in the absence or tardy being declared unexcused.

b. With proper documentation, the following shall be considered excused in addition to the excuses listed in the university policy on attendance:

1. Documented illness.
2. Documented attendance of a class or class-related activity
3. Study session(s) or studying for a documented exam on the day following the absence
4. Religious holy days
5. Calls to active military duty or jury duty.
6. Deaths in the family.
7. Official University activities

c. In any other circumstance, the presiding officer shall have the discretion to determine if an absence or tardy is excused or unexcused, subject to appeal by the absent Senator before the Rules Committee.

1. The decision of the presiding officer shall be presented to the absent Senator in writing and a copy shall be furnished to the Student Senate Pro Tempore.

2. The presiding officer shall be required to report all absences and tardiness to the Student Senate President Pro Tempore within twenty-four (24) hours after the meeting, and shall state whether or not the absence or tardy is excused or unexcused.

13.10. Penalties: for Absences and Tardies

- a. If a Senator is absent for three (3) committee meetings, they shall be required to meet with their Chair to determine whether or not they should be reassigned. If a decision is not reached in that meeting, the committee may, by majority vote, expel a member who has received three (3) absences. If expelled from a standing committee, an expelled member shall be reassigned to a different standing committee by the Student Senate President.
 - 1. If a Senator knows that they will not be able to attend the regularly scheduled meetings of a committee, it is their responsibility to meet with the Student Senate President regarding a reassignment prior to absences being accrued.
- b. Any Senator who accumulates any combination of five (5) excused and unexcused absences, shall be automatically suspended and forward to the Rules Committee for review over the Senator's absences. Suspended senators shall not be considered in determining quorum, not shall they be entitled to any rights or privileges of a Senator, except for those related to due process of potential impeachment proceedings.
- c. Taking the number of both excused and unexcused absence into consideration, the Rules Committee shall decide if the Senator is capable of continuing their work as a Senator in good faith.
 - 1. If the Rules Committee finds that the Senator is no longer capable of consistent attendance, they shall then forward the Senator to the Judiciary Committee for impeachment proceedings and the Judiciary Committee shall conduct those meetings according to all of the laws and rules related to impeachment contained in these rules, Statutes, and the Constitution.
 - 2. If the Rules Committee finds that the Senator is capable of continuing their work as a Senator in good faith, they shall unsuspend the Senator, then propose and vote on any number of additional absences that the Senator may accumulate before being suspended and subject to review by the Rules Committee again.

13.11. All Senators shall be permitted to take a leave of absence during the summer session by informing the SGA advisor in writing at least 2 weeks before the last Senate meeting in the Spring Semester. Any Senate seats temporarily vacated in this manner shall be advertised and filled in the same manner as other vacant Senate seats. Any Senator who takes this leave of absence shall resume office at the first Senate meeting of the fall semester.

Be it further resolved that: a copy of this Resolution be sent to the follow:

Abril Hunter, Senate President
Sarah Nemeth, Senate President Pro-Tempore
Jacalyn Butts, Assistant Director of Student Governance and Advocacy
Dr. Felicia Williams, Director of Student Engagement
Jack Rowan, Student Senate Parliamentarian
Joseph Cofer, Senate Historian

OFFICIAL: _____

DocuSigned by:



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Student Senate President

3/3/2022 | 1:26 PM EST

**SENATE VOTE: 30-0-0
PASSED: March 2nd, 2022**