



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SENATOR ANDREW D. REITER

February 9, 2017

Statement Regarding Resolution 16

Making the decision to abstain from voting on Resolution 16 was not one that I took lightly. Although the Student Body Statutes and the Senate Rules and Procedures do not define the usage or rules regarding an abstention, Robert's Rules of Order defines it as the following, "While it is the duty of every member who has an opinion on the question to express it by his vote, yet he cannot be compelled to do so. He may prefer to abstain from voting, though he knows the effect is the same as if he voted on the prevailing side."¹

I believe that there were procedural issues in which this Resolution was handled that possibly violate the Senate Rules and Procedures and the SGA Code of Ethics, therefore I did not feel comfortable voting on it. I also felt it would be the wrong decision to vote against the sentiments being expressed by what is being resolved as they directly reflect the missions of the Student Government Association², Florida State University³, and FAMU-FSU College of Engineering⁴.

I commend the sponsors of this bill as well as the students that took the time to speak on the measure for their dedication and passion in advocating for our fellow Seminoles. I would also like to recognize President Thrasher's statements⁵ and actions regarding the students affected by the Executive Order⁶, and I hope for the quick return of the student currently unable to return to the United States.

Andrew D. Reiter
College of Engineering Seat 2
Chairman, Internal Affairs

¹ <http://www.rulesonline.com/rro-08.htm/>

² "The mission of the Student Government Association (SGA) is to provide FSU students with representation, services, and advocacy within the university structure. The SGA provides quality leadership for, and accountability to, its constituency by recognizing that strength arises from diversity, engagement, and dialogue."

³ <https://www.fsu.edu/about/mission-vision.html/>

⁴ <http://eng.fsu.edu/about/mission.html/>

⁵ <http://news.fsu.edu/news/university-news/2017/01/29/president-thrasher-statement-executive-order/>

⁶ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states/>