



**72nd Student Senate
Investigative Board
Date: October 9th, 2020**

Recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ElxDkyT67Z_7QmuBEk8rKry4GzUsewCX/view?usp=sharing

Call to Order: 3:06 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Little, Vice Chair Soto, Senator(s) Leckie, Murcia

Members Tardy: Senator(s)

Members Excused Absent: Senator(s)

Members Absent: Senator(s) Wang

Guests: Senator(s) Waters, Gonzalez, Stinson, Medley-Neyra, Mougey, Jack Rowan, Jonathan Marcus, Parker Ridaught, Senate President Daraldik, Shayna Cohen, Yolanda St. Fleur, Samantha Jacobson, Kenesha Chalemon, Jaylen Darling, Patrick Martin

Announcements:

- Chair - The primary goal of this board is to be a fact-finding body and figure out as to what happened during the summer semester. The official opinions as to what the Board makes is only by votes, and can be found on the SGA website.
- Vice Chair - X
- Members - X
- Guests - X

Committee Business:

- **Hearings:**
 - Senator Medley-Neyra
 - Senator Gonzales
 - Senator Sam
 - Senator Waters

Hearings:

Senator Medley-Neyra

- Opening Statement
 - Senator Medley-Neyra: Hi, I do not know anything that is going on, and with that I yield.
- Technical, Non-Debatable
 - Senator Leckie moves to enter questioning
 - Senator Murcia seconds
- Questioning

- Senator Leckie: So the reason why you are here is because President Daraldik mentioned your name in his testimony stating that you were coerced to do things that you did not want to do. Was his statement accurate?
- Medley-Neyra: A threat, no, but I felt like I did not have a choice in the matter.
- Leckie: May I ask what the choice of words was?
- Medley-Neyra: Yeah, I chose to run for Senate, I chose to do so following a deeply traumatic experience. I was sexually assaulted, the detective dismissed my witnesses, and then let the guy go. When false allegations came against a friend of mine under the pretences of sexual assault, I chose to speak up for my friend, despite being told not to. I did not want my friends to punish me due to my voting choices regarding certain pieces of legislation this past summer. Though, I have already received punishment because of my past voting choices.
- Leckie: Can you comment on specific votes or specific legislation that you felt like you had to vote a certain way?
- Medley-Neyra: The vote of no-confidence against President Daraldik.
- Leckie: And can you describe the punishments that were happening to you?
- Medley-Neyra: I was told to meet very high standards of beauty, that were based upon cisgender social roles. I was asked to change the way I dress, wear makeup, and always have my hair done. Because of this, I felt like I would be reprimanded in my position(s) because of how my connections to a particular organization expected me to look and behave; at one point, I was asked to deeply reconsider my vote on a piece of legislation.
- Senator Murcia: If you feel comfortable sharing, would you mind telling us which organizations and which people made you feel this way? I am so sorry that you have been feeling this way.
- Medley-Neyra: Because I care deeply for some of the people associated with a certain organization, I will not say their names, but I will say that they are in both the Student Senate and the executive board.
- Leckie: Do you fear any consequences because you are talking to us today?
- Medley-Neyra: Yes, but to elaborate, there are people that are currently at this Zoom meeting that I would currently be comfortable with talking about this matter.
- Murcia: **Point of Clarification:** According to our statutes, people that are on this Zoom meeting are protected by SGA for anything they say.
- Medley-Neyra: There is an organization that is quite powerful that does things differently than how the Senate does, and I have been withheld and dismissed from positions because of them. As of last Wednesday, I resigned from Senate because I was deeply troubled and exhausted by the actions that have unfolded within the executive board and the Student Senate. I am terrified that I will be reprimanded and blacklisted, both within and outside of the Senate, which will potentially hinder me from running for re-election.
- Leckie: I really appreciate you coming forward today, and it would really help if you have any evidence of any of this. Is there any documentation that you have that could help us with this evidence?
- Medley-Neyra: Most of the conversations happened either through phone calls or via video chat, but I do not have any records of those conversations, so I wish you good luck on finding any evidence. There is another instance that I wanted to bring up. Last Spring, I went to a party that was put together by an RSO under the HLSU. When I left that party, I found a former friend of mine from the Amplify Party passed out on the bushes, they were egregiously drunk. I was told that the police were called, so I felt that I should help him get home; he was underage

and drunk at a party sponsored by an FSU organization, I didn't want to see him be harshly punished. So, I asked them if they would like to join me in my Uber, despite my other friend, the one who I went to the party with, telling me that it was not my responsibility to help this individual, who served as an "amplifier" at that time. They were so drunk, that they could not walk, so I offered to help them get home safely that night; I asked them if they would like to join me in my room for some water before we tried walking to their dorm; I wanted to make sure they were all right. This individual who I knew from campaigning with the amplify party would go on to call my friend deeply racist and homophobic slurs; further, they went as far as to begin hitting, kicking, biting, scratching, my friend. I recognized that he was drunk and saying some racist things to my roommate, but I figured we could have that conversation when they were sober. My friend was so terrified that they hid in the foyer, but the individual who I knew from campaign season in the spring began attempting to further harm my friend. When I spoke up about these terrible acts, I was told to "shut the hell up." My connections to a particular organization withdrew their associations with me as a result of me disobeying them.

- Chair Little: Given the goals of this board, were any of the people that were involved in your story members of the Executive Branch?
- Medley-Neyra: Yes, there were executive branch people in the group involved.
- Murcia: Are any of these members involved in the Legislative Branch?
- Medley-Neyra: Senate, yes. I know I said earlier that I did not know anything, but I guess I did.
- Leckie: Is this group the same group that made you vote and be quiet about this situation?
- Medley-Neyra: Yes, Burning Spear. It is them, as well as some people in the Senate and in the Executive Branch. For their protection, I will not say their names.
- Senator Murcia moves to end questioning
- Senator Leckie seconds
- Closing Statement
 - Medley-Neyra: I apologize for saying that I did not know anything, when I apparently did. You cannot tell a transgender woman how to look and how to dress. Do not give up, no matter what you go through.

Senator Gonzalez

- Opening Statement
 - Senator Gonzalez: Thank you everyone for being here and for having me. I ran for Senate with the Amplify movement. The CARE students won because of CARE. A lot of things happened this summer and I had the choice to either back my friends or back someone that has authority over me. I think I am here because I am fed up, especially since my friends and I have been used as a token. A lot of Senate is my friends, and just being here is hard because I have personal relationships with people from Senate.
- Technical, Non-Debatable
 - None
- Senator Murcia moves to enter questioning
- Senator Leckie seconds
- Questioning
 - Leckie: Have you ever felt compelled to vote in a certain way or act a certain way in Senate?

- Gonzalez: Yes, and I can elaborate. I was mentioned in President Daraldik's testimony last meeting. I was kicked out of NolePac because of my vote on Resolution 59. Sam Jacobsen sent a message asking if people wanted to be added to the new NolePac group chat, and I liked the message, but was never added into the new group chat, until recently.
- Leckie: Have you felt that there would be a consequence to voting a certain way on any particular item? What were those consequences? How was that communicated to you?
- Gonzalez: I want to expand on this. I'm a person who is strong in my character, I won't let anyone tell me how to vote. But this is just a power move. It's compelling when people are texting and double texting you, asking how you're going to vote. It's troublesome, and it makes it clear what they want me to do. In terms of consequences, I am paying for my votes and my actions, especially with how many people I have failed in Oversight Committee. I have gotten passive aggressive and aggressive texts and calls asking me why I failed so many people and saying I'm disrespectful. I think that's why people aren't passing my bills right now, because they're upset. I currently am dealing with a student conduct case, which began directly after I failed a specific OGA BoD candidate, Rotem Raz- who is in NolePac as well- and Allie Cherry- who is AG Ready's friend. After I failed those two, I got a student conduct case, so I am paying for it. And I might pay for this, and lose friends. But I will not change the way I vote or how I do things in Senate. And will especially not let anyone affect my choices as a Hispanic woman. I'm not shy to say things when they need to be said, and I know there might be consequences.
- Leckie: Do you have any documentation to demonstrate the things you have said?
- Gonzalez: I can send you my Student Conduct case, but I do not have any other documentation, especially since most was conversation-based. I can look to see if I have anything else.
- Murcia: Can you possibly send us the case?
- Gonzalez: Yes, I can send you the documentation of the case, but there is personal information for myself and others on the document.
- Little: Ok, then I will ask you not to send me that. Was there ever an explicit command from the Executive Branch as to how you should vote on certain things?
- Gonzalez: No. They knew that I was not going to do it, so they never even bothered. They are smart, but they also know that I would not listen to them when it comes to votes. I did receive phone calls and double texts from them though, asking about how I was going to vote.
- Leckie: Were there any consequences and/or threats made to you after failing someone through the Oversight Committee?
- Gonzalez: No, they are not stupid. They have already seen they can't control me. As you all saw, my resolution did not even get passed last Wednesday.
- Murcia: Did you ever get any texts or calls telling or asking you to pass a specific candidate through OC?
- Gonzalez: No. But after we failed Rotem Raz, I got a text from OGA Director Kristian Diaz asking why. I usually tell the OGA Board after we pass or fail candidates. When I told them about Raz, Diaz asked me why I failed them, didn't give me a chance to respond, then told me that they are sending the candidate through again. That to me was him trying to flex his power on me. I brought it up to Ahmad. I think I might also be paying for this with Student Conduct, because

the person that reported me to Student Conduct is direct friends with Kristian Diaz.

- Murcia: Are those texts in our evidence? Is there any way for us to see them?
- Gonzalez: I can send the documentation I have to the Chair. After Diaz said that, I brought it up to my committee when Ahmad was a voting member. As Senate President it's his job to handle these kinds of communication with other parts of SGA. President Daraldik mentioned that he would talk to the Executive Branch and the OGA Directors about this and see what it was about. I also mentioned the messages to SBVP Janvier, and she told me to text him about how I felt about this, and that it made me uncomfortable. So I texted Kristian, I got a text back from them asking me if they could take me out to dinner. But after that, 10 minutes later, I got a screenshot of a snapchat Kristian Diaz had sent to someone else about the situation. It was sent to the HLSU board from last year, in regards to bringing Ahmad into the situation. I will send you that screenshot as well.
- Little: I have received the two pieces of evidence, I will sign them and log them into evidence as soon as possible so that the Board can view them.
- Leckie: Do you feel pressured to take certain actions from certain organizations on campus?
- Gonzalez: Yes, I did from Kristian Diaz, Sam Jacobson, and from Jonathan Levin because they are all on the Executive Branch.
- Murcia: Has either Amplify or Burning Spear made explicit threats to you about your future in SGA?
- Gonzalez: No. I applied to be on the OGA Board, and I thought I was denied because I was putting up a fight with Levin and Diaz, which might be true. But there were no explicit threats. I also believe that they would not do that.
- Leckie: Personally, I would like to keep political discussions out of the conversation, to preserve our independence.
- Little: For the future, please keep your questions to pertain to members of the executive branch.
- Senator Leckie moves to end questioning
- Senator Murcia seconds
- Closing Statement
 - Gonzalez: Thank you everyone for being here! I am glad you all are here to listen to what I have to say. I am only here because other organizations are using minorities and CARE as tokens and to further political agendas. I also feel as if it is really low that someone had to report me to the Student Conduct Board. I hope I was able to help you all.

Senator Sam

- Opening Statement
 - Senator Sam: I did not find Max Roca's interview for Chief of Staff to be what I wanted in a candidate. So I voted no for him. Jonathan Levin texted me and asked how I voted on him and I said "no." Levin asked me why I said "no," so I explained my reasoning, and all he said was "interesting." At that point I felt a little intimidated, but I responded "how so?" Then they explained their side. That was the first time I was questioned on a vote. I've had phone conversations with various people regarding things, but I can't prove them. I worked with Kristian Diaz in HLSU, and I did provide the snapchat screenshot to Ashley Gonzalez because I was involved with the HLSU executive board when Kristian Diaz was also involved with the board. The Student Conduct report Ashley mentioned

stems from a small get together for my 21st birthday. I was not reported, but many people were, I think it was based on what was going on in OC. I feel as if this was some sort of retaliation towards the Oversight committee. I would love to take questions.

- Technical, Non-Debatable

- Leckie: At this point, are you still a senator?
- Sam: I am currently a suspended senator, and I have been putting off my financial certification exam because I am so done with Senate.

- Questioning

- Leckie: Can you finish up what you wanted to say?
- Sam: I also received some texts from former SGA President Evan Steinberg saying some nasty things about my vote when it comes to Resolution 59, and it was one of the things that I forgot to mention.
- Leckie: Could you elaborate on those phone calls and who you talked to?
- Sam: I had several phone calls with Levin about Resolution 59, and I can send you the screenshots of us planning the calls, but they were not compelling me to vote a certain way. I was hopeful that our two branches of government could still have a bond. It was more so that I did not know how to vote on this resolution and I wanted someone's second opinion.
- Little: Do you have any call logs to prove that those calls happened?
- Sam: I did make a lot of phone calls after then, but I can search and look for the FaceTime call with President Levin. I don't know if I'll be able to find it. I would also like to add that I haven't been reported for my 21st birthday party, but I probably will be after this. If that happens, I will be perfectly willing to submit my conduct case to you all.
- Leckie: Have you ever felt like you were being compelled to do something?
- Sam: Yes, I did, 100%. I was a student that wanted to be in Burning Spear up until when everything happened this summer. I saw a lot of things behind the scenes that I didn't like. We're supposed to be better than real politicians. Seeing things like what you see on the news happening in our community saddens me to my core. One of the consequences I felt was not being able to get into Spear or being blacklisted. But once Levin texted me about Max Roca, I stopped caring. I want to talk about this now, because it's still prominent on our campus now. I've seen it in multiple places I've served at FSU?
- Leckie: What do you mean that you felt like you were going to be "blacklisted?"
- Sam: Nothing specifically, I use that word all the time. But I feel like I would have organizations turn their backs on me and such, as well as not get into the organizations that I want to be a part of and such. I'm sure this testimony will affect me, I'm hoping to do more with GGK and I'm sure that won't happen now. But I just wanted to clarify that.

- Senator Murcia moves to end questioning

- Senator Soto seconds

- Closing Statement

- I thought I had more to say, but I feel as if it is not relevant to this specific investigation. I just want to stress that it is important to talk about things that make us uncomfortable, because these things are affecting our communities. It's one of the reasons why I just resigned as the Chair of the Hispanic/Latinx Caucus, because certain individuals can't keep politics out. I hope power hungry individuals can be put in check, and that you all are trying to do that. I appreciate your time.

Senator Waters

- Opening Statement
 - Senator Waters: Thank you all for being here! I am a man of accountability, respect, and integrity. And I expect that from everyone else who is a leader around me. I take leadership and advocacy very seriously. When people don't play by the rules, it's my duty to call it out. I was elected in the Spring term with the Amplify movement, but after doing some reflection, I realized that I was just a token. There is a clear division between white people and minorities in senate. My sole reason for being here is to stand up for what is right and fight to make sure people are being heard and not marginalized. I will answer all of the questions to the best of my ability.
- Technical, Non-Debatable
 - None
- Questioning
 - Leckie: Has anyone told you to vote a certain way?
 - Waters: No one has told me to vote a certain way. I don't think I could be directed to vote a certain way. I have had conversations with people from Senate and exec about how I felt about Resolution 59.
 - Leckie: Who from the Executive Branch spoke to you about Resolution 59?
 - Waters: SBP Levin texted me on July 15th during Senate, to the best of my knowledge. It was simply a "Hey, how are you?" kind of conversation, but nothing else.
 - Leckie: No one has ever given you an explicit consequence to voting a certain way
 - Waters: No.
 - Little: That one time you communicated with SBP was the only time you spoke with him about legislative matters?
 - Waters: Yes.
 - Vice Chair Soto: Has anyone told you to do something that did not have to deal with voting?
 - Waters: No.
 - Murcia: Have you seen things happen to anyone else or do you know of anyone else that was threatened or coerced?
 - Waters: In reference to the people that just recently gave their testimonies, I find their testimony to be true and valid to the best of my knowledge.
- Senator Leckie moves to end questioning
- Senator Soto seconds
- Closing Statement
 - Waters: I appreciate your time listening to me, and hopefully you do your due diligence and do what you need to do. I am not here to be a token, I am here to advocate for my community. I am a part of the CARE program, I fought hard to be here, and I will fight for those individuals.

Deliberations:

- Senator Leckie moves to enter Deliberations
- Senator Murcia seconds
- Deliberations:
 - Leckie: I think our next meeting should give the Executive Branch the opportunity to come in and give their side of the story, even though they have defied our subpoenas.

- Little: I am unsure about moving forward with subpoenas, especially since they are only complying with a 30-day notice. What are the Board's thoughts as to maybe sending the Executive Branch an email encouraging and inviting them to come out to our next meeting?
- Leckie: I think it is only fair to give the Executive Branch a chance to come to our next meeting.
- Murcia: Yes, I am in agreement with Leckie.
- Little: Is there anyone in specific that we want to send the email to?
- Soto: I think we should include SBP Levin and SBVP Janvier.
- Murcia: I think we should also include OGA Board of Directors Kristian Diaz.
- Little: I am also interested in having Attorney General Kelvin Ready at our meeting.
- Murcia: Seeing that Sam Jacobson was mentioned, I also think we should invite them.
- Leckie: I think we should refrain from adopting majority opinions until the Executive Branch testifies, but I think we should be thinking about these broad issues and how they can be prevented from happening again in the future.
- Little: I agree. I think that while I have my confidence in my fellow senators, I also feel as if what was said has come from a personal place and I think we should hold off on making more decisions.
- Leckie: I think we should finish out this board after the conclusion of our next meeting.

Final Announcements: Chair Little: It has been a long meeting, but I thank you all for being here. I know that this is a touchy subject for a lot of people, and I have definitely felt the toxicity that comes from different situations regarding the Senate. You are more than welcome to come to me for anything, and if you have any questions or concerns about the Board's process. I am glad we are getting through this together!

Vice Chair Soto: Thank you all for being here and for testifying! We really appreciate you being here!

Murcia: RIJ meeting at 6pm tonight.

Leckie: I can say that this is the first time where the Legislative Branch is soaring and we have to hold ourselves accountable so that we are able to grow and get things done.

Medley-Neyra: I am a student who is in a position to not know everything, especially where knowledge applies to burning spear. I do know that minority students are being tokenized within the burning spear organization by white men and women in positions of power and influence. I would encourage you all to find someone who is willing to speak about the truth about this organization. There is a common loom of a lawsuit if someone speaks negatively about the SBP, SBVP, and the SBT, which is a reason why I was scared to talk about these things today. Before you write your final report, figure out a way to have people tell you about their experiences without having it be publicly stated because they really want to tell you, they really want to.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 10/16/20 3:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 5:07 p.m.

Gabrielle Little

Signature of Chair