



**72nd Student Senate
Investigative Board
Date: September 30th, 2020**

Recording (part 1): <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sclYUfi4U24TbIIIeZXAi-GJFFS1IngR/view?usp=sharing>

Recording (part 2):
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HSblpx8T6FGfOg7Fq80ERLAqpJdWhiiD/view?usp=sharing>

Call to Order: 10:03 a.m.

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

Members Tardy: Senator(s) Murcia

Members Excused Absent: Senator(s)

Members Absent: Senator(s)

Guests: Michaela Robinson, Jack Rowan, President Ahmad Daraldik, Senator A. Gonzalez, Senator Gnanam, Concerned Student, Jonathan Marcus

Announcements:

- Chair - Thank y'all for being here this morning!
- Vice Chair - X
- Members - X
- Guests - X

Committee Business:

Hearings: Ahmad Daraldik

- Opening Statement
 - President Daraldik: I am worried about our student leaders and every student leader needs to be held accountable for their actions. I come here as a student who knows what it is like to be ignored and voiceless. And I come here to advocate for myself as a student, and as the FSU Student Senate President. I wanted to take this time to address how the Student Body President has been doing his duties this past summer. In one of our summer sessions he ignored separation of powers and acted as a legislator, not as SBP. He has been breaking statutes while doing his job, specifically 205.3 regarding conduct (specifically subsection A.1). SBP has a clear conflict of interest with the events of my summer term as Senate President. He is a part of NolePAC, which is not an issue with his involvement. But it's the fact that he and other members of the org go on paid trips funded by NolePAC to further the interests of a non-

American entity, and use those trips as a recruitment tool. Section A3 of that same chapter (205.3) has also constantly been violated. I feel that if I don't do what SBP says, some action will be taken against me. Whether it be removal from office, or not being able to join a new group. Senators Medley-Neyra, A. Gonzalez, England, Adams, Sam, Waters, and other senators in the Amplify movement have also been coerced by the Student Body President. This is a clear over step of SBP's authority. Beyond that, I have felt coerced to allow non-FSU students to speak at Senate meetings by SBP. On July 15, he invited state legislators to our meeting, without letting me know beforehand. I knew that allowing them to speak would be inappropriate. But then the Attorney General threatened me, saying we would end up in court if I did not let them speak. After that, SBP laughed at me. This all happened within the Senate chambers. This is in no way how our Executive body should be acting. I should not feel threatened just because I don't want our senators to be pressured by state legislators. I have screenshots from SBP of two specific incidents that I think his texts were inappropriate. The first is from July 3, the other is from July 7.

- Technical, Non-Debatable
 - Chabot: List out all names of Senators that the Student Body President has been coercing?
 - Daraldik: Sam, Waters, A. Gonzalez, Medley-Neyra, England, Adams, and others from Amplify party.
 - **Chabot moves to enter questioning**
 - **Wang seconds**
- Questioning
 - Leckie: President, can you finish your opening statement?
 - Daraldik: I believe that this committee is aware, but (insert statute about Florida Sunshine Law).. I have not received or seen any meeting minutes from the Executive Branch, nor are their meetings public and accessible. I wanted to address a student that applied for OGA (Jalen Baxter), but never even received an interview.
 - Chabot: Over one summer Senate Sunday, you stated that you thought Senators were being coerced, do you have any proof of that?
 - Daraldik: No, that mainly came from phone calls. Named senators and the individuals of Amplify were mostly who I was concerned about, but it is up to those individuals to speak on their behalf and say what they were asked to do.
 - Wang: Would it be possible for you to send in the screenshots that you mentioned?
 - Daraldik: Yes, I can send the two screenshots that I mentioned to Chair Little.
 - Chabot: So you mentioned that you felt coerced by the Student Body President and the Attorney General, is there anyone else?
 - Daraldik: Not that I can think of from my own personal experience. I am here for the safety of myself and my senators, and I hope that the board can take this up and find a resolution for this.
 - Chabot: Did those people mention being coerced by someone other than SBP or AG Ready?
 - Daraldik: I would just look into Amplify senators to see if there was anyone being forced to do anything, and then who did the forcing.
 - Leckie: What leads you to believe that these people were coerced?
 - Daraldik: Had a conversation with specific individuals to see what and who was involved in this, but I do not have any evidence as to what exactly happened.

- Chair Little: Do you think that these specific senators will come forward and explain exactly what it was they were being coerced to do?
- Daraldik: Yes, I believe so.
- Chabot: **POI** Has Daraldik sent in those screenshots that he mentioned?
- Little: He has not, but he can text them to me.
- Chabot: Have you felt that you have been pressured by anyone else other than the Student Body President or from organizations outside of the SBP?
- Daraldik: I have truly been feeling coerced by SBP and by the Attorney General
- Chabot: What does the word “coercion” mean to you?
- Daraldik: I feel like “coercion” is that you are being told what to do and if you do not do what you are told to do, you will face repercussions, and I felt that way between the SBP and the Attorney General when given orders.
- Chabot: How do you feel as if you were being threatened?
- Daraldik: I feel as if SBP was working hard to make sure that he could remove me from the Senate President position. I was made aware that he had specifically asked to see my Garnet and Gold Key Application which I had never applied to. It felt weird because why did he need to see that?
- Chabot: Can you name specific things that he has told you to do that you felt pressured to?
- Daraldik: I was told I needed to “deal with” Jake Alvarez serving as a Senator with tenure. I thought it was inappropriate for him to ask me to “take care of him”. And that was because of his opposition to SBP. I thought his opposition was valid, but because I didn’t take any clear steps against Alvarez, I felt awkward dealing with SBP.
- Chabot: When you say that you were pressured against former Senator Alvarez, does that include his confirmation as Parliamentarian?
- Daraldik: No, not in that regard.
- Wang: What do you mean by “take care of” in regards to former Senator J. Alvarez?
- Daraldik: Just to take care of his opposition, and make him stop asking controversial questions about Senate business. I felt tasked with stopping his opposition which made me uncomfortable
- Wang: Did SBP give you any instruction on how to take care of it?
- Daraldik: No, he just told me to “take care of” the situation.
- Leckie: Did SBP ever mention an explicit consequence?
- Daraldik: No, not that I can recall. There was just always the idea that if I didn’t do what I was told, I felt threatened. He hasn’t taken actions against me, but maybe against others.
- Leckie: Do you know what these actions that he has taken are?
- Daraldik: No, I do not.
- Chabot: Can you name any other problems that SBP asked you to “deal with”?
- Daraldik: Not at this time
- Leckie: So you said that you have a phone call meeting about this over the summer, so I was wondering why you did not come to the committee about this over the summer?
- Daraldik: I was worried, I didn’t have enough information to come forward about this.
- Little: I will share my screen with the screenshots.
- Leckie: Are there any screenshots involving the situation with J. Alvarez?
- Little: I did not receive a screenshot involving that.
- Wang: What email were you referring to in regards to this screenshot?

- Daraldik: SBP had a townhall for Jewish students over summer. I wanted to be in attendance, but I didn't want to feel attacked. I thought it would be good to have people from The Center to moderate that event. After I asked the Center, SBP told me that it was bad to have moderators, and then threatened not to go around him like that again.
- Leckie: I would like to see the screenshots with J. Alvarez
- Wang: I thought that was a phone call.
- Daraldik: Yes, that was a phone call, not a text.
- Wang: Do you have any proof that that phone call happened regarding previous Senator Alvarez?
- Daraldik: My phone log goes as far back as 9/22, but the actual phone call about Alvarez happened two months ago. I do not believe that I have a record of that phone call.
- Leckie: I was wondering why senators within Amplify were more likely to be coerced.
- Daraldik: I believe that because those senators were affiliated with the same party as SBP
- Wang: **POI** Has Attorney General been affiliated with Amplify party?
- Daraldik: I believe so, but SBP has been involved with interviews for senators to be slated/run with Amplify in Spring 2020.
- Chabot: At our last meeting, we had a motion to move into Judiciary at a whole, made by someone with a conflict of interest. Do you believe that any members of the Executive Branch had a conflict of interest with any senators which would lead them to coerce others to make such a motion?
- Daraldik: I think maybe AG Ready, his name was mentioned by several people.
- Chabot: Do you believe that Attorney General Ready was using his powers for political gain?
- Daraldik: Yes, I believe so
- Chabot: How so?
- Daraldik: From seeing the two candidates that he intended to have forwarded by SBP. This is him being biased and using his power to get his personal friends positions that they don't necessarily deserve.
- Wang: We asked for multiple advisory reports for Judiciary, do you think any of these would be biased?
- Daraldik: I can't say, because I don't know the relationships between current members of the executive and judicial branches. I would hope that they aren't biased, but I would put anything past this administration.
- Chabot: Do you have moments where you have felt coerced by Attorney General?
- Daraldik: Attorney General stated "If the State Legislators are not allowed to speak, then this would have to result in a Supreme Court case," which made me feel coerced. That was a threat, that if I don't do what *he* wanted, it would mean us going to court.
- Chabot: You mentioned that SBP and other people went on funded trips outside the country with NolePAC. Do you know how the NolePAC trips are funded?
- Daraldik: I am not 100% sure where or how they were funded. The reason I brought it up is because I have seen it used as leverage, making senators vote in line with NolePAC ideals. I believe I have a screenshot of Samantha Jacobsen sending messages to a NolePAC group, but if I can find it, I can send it to Chair Little.
- Chabot: **POI** Was Samantha Jacobson a member of SGA?

- Little: She is a member of the Senior Class Council for sure.
- Chabot: How do you know that senators were being/feeling coerced?
- Daraldik: They were telling me their experiences and how they were feeling about those individuals that were coercing them.
- Chabot: Were those senators mentioned in your opening statement?
- Daraldik: Yes, as well as others in the Amplify movement.
- Chabot: You feel as if specific senators were forced to vote a certain way on Resolution 59, are there any other pieces of legislations or motions that you feel as if other senators have been coerced to vote a certain way on.
- Daraldik: At this point, I'm unsure.
- Wang: Are those senators who voted against Resolution 59 involved in NolePAC or AIPAC, and do you believe they faced repercussions because of their vote?
- Daraldik: Yes, I know several of them have been removed from several group chats, and I believe that fits as repercussions for their vote on Res 59.
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- Senator Wang moves to end questioning
- Senator Murcia seconds
- Closing Statement
 - Thank you for your time, I hope you guys have a great rest of your days. I hope that I was able to provide insight about what is happening within SGA at this moment in time.

Deliberations:

- Senator Chabot moves to enter Deliberations
- Senator Murcia seconds
- Deliberations:
 - Chabot: I think it is clear that our next move should be subpoenaing the senators that the Senate President mentioned to be subpoenaed. So that Adams, England, Medley-Neyra, Gonzalez, Sam and Waters. I move to subpoena the following senators.
 - Seconded by Wang
 - Leckie: Will we be able to have them and the Executive Branch come speak on Friday?
 - Little: I don't believe so.
 - Vote
 - Leckie: Yes
 - Wang: Yes
 - Chabot: Yes
 - Result: **Subpoena is issued**
 - Little: I will send those to be signed asap
 - Leckie: Maybe we should get testimony from senators on friday and bring in exec on saturday. Hold off on board opinions until we get more testimony. Don't feel like we can make concrete opinions
 - Wang: I agree. We don't have all the facts yet and we need more testimony
 - Chabot: I think this testimony led to a lot more questions than answers. I agree that y'all should get more
 - Little: Does Friday work for the Board? I would like to get this wrapped up as soon as possible
 - Wang: Murcia and I have RIJ at 6 but before that is fine.

- Leckie: Maybe friday at 4 and saturday at 10?
- Little: Who from exec would we like to call in?
- Leckie: SBP, SBVP, AG Ready.
- Chabot: I would hold off contacting them until you get testimony from the senators.
- Leckie: I don't know if exec will comply with any more subpoenas.
- Little: I would agree that we should hold off with 24 hours notice. I would feel better about having exec members in on Monday or Tuesday.
- Leckie: Probably move to Monday. Our first subpoena was denied because of lack of 24 hour notice and the second one was because of the FL evidence code requiring 30 days notice.
- Little: Will we have enough time to hear 6 people's testimony on Friday if the meeting is only 2 hours?
- Murcia: I am free earlier.
- Little: I only have one class at 10 on Friday, after that I'm free.
- Chabot: I believe VC Soto has class.
- Little: How does the board feel about meeting earlier?
- Wang: How about 2pm?
- Little: That works for me.
- Chabot: I think we should hear testimony Friday, and then call exec in on Monday or Tuesday
- Little: I'm inclined to do Tuesday just to be safe with the 24 hour buffer.
- Murcia: I think for now we should hold off on majority opinions since we don't have the other testimony.
- Wang moves to exit deliberations
- Murcia seconds

Final Announcements: X

Little: Meeting Friday at 2. Thanks to all of you for coming and working so hard, and to Pres. Daraldik for testimony.

Murcia: RIJ Friday at 6

Chabot: I will miss you all. I will be resigning tonight. It's the right thing to do for me, and I hope you can all understand that. Please take care of yourselves. Don't push yourself, and don't put yourself in a position where you're unable to put yourself first and best serve the students and your relationships. I'm here for you all. I have full faith and confidence that you guys will do the right thing moving forward.

Gnanam: I already told Pres. Daraldik and Chair Little this but I was helping with minutes because Soto asked me.

Rowan: I want to thank Chabot for taking this Board on and today's testimony shows that decisive action is need and there needs to be serious consideration on the action of exec

Marcus: Thank you Chabot for making this a safe space for people to come forward

Alvarez: Chabot, you have been a moral guide in a political body. You have always been on the straight and narrow which is rarely appreciated in this association. You should go forward knowing that you made a positive impact on this body. I have loved getting to become friends with you and hope that you know you can come to me. For the Board, I hope that you all uphold the rules and protect the legislative process.

Wang moves to adjourn

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Friday, October 2nd at 2pm
Adjourned: 11:31p.m.

Gabrielle Little

Signature of Chair