



**72<sup>nd</sup> Student Senate  
Internal Affairs Committee  
Date: 09/22/20 via zoom**

**Call to Order:** 5:03 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chair Gonzalez, President Daraldik, Vice Chair Medley-Neyra, Senator(s) Acanda, Primozic, Rudd, Waters, Wilkinson

**Members Absent:** Senator(s) Adams, Alvarez, Tookes

**Guests:** Senator Randall, Christelza Janvier, Secretary Rawan Abhari, Shayna Cohen

**Announcements:**

- Chair - Reiterated the importance of getting financially certified and the importance of thorough interviews for every candidate.
- Guests - President Daraldik reminded senators to get financially certified. Christelza Janvier spoke about purchasing membership for Student Alumni Association. Secretary Abhari spoke of the SGA calendar and advertising senate events.

**Committee Business:**

- Interviews for SCAA Director, Supervisor of Elections, and OGA Board of Directors

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- **Interview #1:** Asia Lavender for Student Council for Accessibility Advocation Director
  - Candidate did not show.
    - Senator Waters motions to table the candidate.
    - Senator Rudd seconds.
- **Interview #2:** Matthew Gonzales for Office of Governmental Affairs Board of Directors
  - **Opening:** Candidate is a resident assistant, and is also serving on the campus recreation board. He's served as a legislative intern with Annette Tadeo. He says he's passionate about student staff workers.
  - **Technical Non-Debatable:**
    - Senator Acanda : Are you financially certified?
      - No
  - **Questions related to position, experience, or future goals:**

- Senator Waters: What is your most meaningful involvement?
  - Serving as a resident assistant.
- Senator Waters: what particular goals, interests, or projects do you have that will better SGA
  - Serving as an RA, there were many problems that presented themselves; the candidate felt it was interesting that the RA's had to advocate for themselves.
- Senator Acanda: What areas of improvement do you see for OGA?
  - Candidate wants to increase exposure; he feels not many people know about OGA, and wants to further outreach efforts to increase the exposure of the OGA board.
- Senator Rudd: What was your favorite piece of legislation in your time serving as a Legislative Intern?
  - There was a bill that would return film agencies to Florida, rather than the more popular option, Georgia. The candidate also references a bill that had to do with the Senate Bill 168, working with this bill serves as an inspiration for the candidate.
- Chair Gonzalez: What tangible goals do you have for your position acknowledging that it is an election year?
  - Candidate wants to get more people emotionally involved in the election, to keep them engaged as much as possible.
- Chair Gonzalez: What goals do you find most pertinent within the Legislative Agenda
  - Candidate wants to push for a more inclusive community on campus by educating students on pertinent issues such as microaggressions with mandatory modules.
- **Questions related to character or any other questions:**
  - Senator Acanda : Tell us about an experience where you had to work with someone you didn't like and how you managed to work past those issues.
    - Candidate served on a committee with his RA peers, on this committee there was an individual who the candidate did not agree with on some things. The candidate believes that it is important to meet people where they are to overcome disagreements.
  - Senator Waters: How have your external and internal identities influenced your decision to join the OGA board?
    - To leave a positive legacy on the board, to better the organization moving forward.
  - Senator Waters: What political figure do you identify with, and how has that person shaped you into who you are today?
    - Candidate loves politics and follows many politicians, but does not idolize any politicians. Candidate appreciates the work of Elizabeth Warren and Senator Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez.
  - President Daraldik: A year from now, how will you judge if your time on the OGA board has been successful?
    - Candidate hopes to improve the organization and leave a positive impact on the Florida State University community. He wants to ensure that the students feel served.









- **Voting Results**
  - Yes - (0)
  - No - (4) Acanda, Rudd, Waters, Wilkinson
  - Abstention - (1) President Daraldik
- **Candidate fails**
- Deliberation about improvements and suggestions for candidates.
- **Interview #6: Ellie Cherry for Supervisor of Elections**
  - **Opening:** Thank you all for having me tonight. I hold two executive board positions across campus and I am so excited to learn and grow and give back to the student body.
  - **Technical Non-Debatable:**
    - Senator Acanda: Are you financially certified?
      - I believe so.
    - Senator Waters: Have you ever been affiliated to any political party or entity on campus?
      - No.
  - **Questions related to position, experience, or future goals:**
    - Senator Rudd: What motivated you to apply to this position?
      - I got interested in student government more so over the summer when everything with Jack Denton happened. There's a need for some more involvement and I saw this was an opportunity. Kelvin Ready recommended I apply for this position. Feel this is a great opportunity to ensure a fair election.
    - President Daraldik: In regards to Election Code, Chapter 700, what have you been able to do to ensure you're qualified and prepared for the position?
      - I've been studying, making flashcards, and reviewing chapter 700 every night as if it were a class.
    - Senator Waters: Why is being nonpartisan important to you based upon your past experiences?
      - An example would be the Jack Denton dilemma, someone who isn't able to represent the student body. It's important there's someone in this position that is able to give everyone a fair chance and ensure this is about an election. Impartiality is what we need to have in this position.
    - Senator Waters: In your resume, it states you are a part of Turning Point USA, which is a political organization. You said you weren't affiliated with a political entity. Can you clarify?
      - I am a part of turning point. I've learned a lot of things I don't like so I will say while I'm proud of standing for something, I am in the process of moving out of the leadership position within that group. It's not everything I expected it to be. I assumed you were speaking about an SGA party.
  - **Questions related to character or any other questions:**
    - Senator Acanda: Can you tell me about a time where you had to work with someone you had disagreements with and how did you move past that, conflict resolution?

- There have been times I've had to go head to head with officers. I've learned a lot through that. Being blunt and communicative is definitely the way to handle these situations.
  - Chair Gonzalez: Can you describe your character and how that plays into conflict resolution?
    - I would say I'm very transparent and will not sugar-coat things which goes hand in hand with conflict resolution. I won't hide things to make people feel better.
- **Closing:** Thank you all again for meeting with me tonight. I'm excited to have this opportunity and get involved in a different way. I'm open to hearing anything from you guys and if you have any questions feel free to reach out.
- **Deliberations**
  - Roundtable
  - Motion for a Non-Senator to speak
    - Senator Waters
    - Senator Rudd seconded
    - Secretary Abhari speaks about political affiliations in the past.
- **Motion to Call the Question**
  - **Senator Waters**
  - **Senator Acanda seconds**
- **Voting Results**
  - Yes - (0)
  - No - (4) Acanda, Rudd, Waters, Wilkinson
  - Abstention - (1) President Daraldik
- Deliberation
- **Candidate fails**

**Unfinished Business:** None

**Final Announcements:**

- Abhari: Anyway I can help for SOE, I would love to.
- Waters: Please pub position for SOE. Be safe, breathe, and go to sleep.
- Gonzalez: You all consistently make me proud. Thank you for sticking with us this entire time and being the absolute best committee ever. Thank you for holding up the standard for what the leaders of our student government should represent. We have three more OGA candidates to vet for the next meeting, one of which is our very own, so I'm excited to finally finish that round.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 09/29/20 at 5pm

**Adjourned:** 8:07 p.m.