



**73<sup>rd</sup> Student Senate  
Internal Affairs Committee  
October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94723052898>**

**Call to Order: 6:34 PM**

**Members Present:** Chair Murray, Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Senators Powell, Thau, West, Russell

**Members Tardy:** Senator Barrett

**Members Absent:** Senators Marcus (E), and Hitchcock (U)

**Guests:** Brandon Gabay, Jason Puwalski, Caroline Martins, Candidates Edvin Velasquez, Ella Phillips, Natasha Harwood, and Emma Kiely

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements:**

- Chair:
  - Wants to congratulate the Jacksonville Jaguars. Hopes everyone is enjoying this weather. Sent out Bureau Review emails today to everyone. After anyone gets confirmed, they can stay if they wish. We are going to Cancun's tonight after the meeting.
- Vice Chair:
  - Please speak slowly and enunciate tonight for my sake with these minutes.
- Members:
  - None
- Non-Members:
  - Jason Puwalski: Shared sentiments of the Vice Chair. Very excited to come speak on behalf of OGA come November 1<sup>st</sup>. Main reason he came to this meeting was to speak in support of all of these candidates. These are the people they really want for their board and feel they all are very qualified.
  - Brandon Gabay: Reminder that JSU Assistant Director applications are open, so we can expect someone to come through IA.

**Committee Business:**

- **Candidate for Hispanic/Latinx Student Union Treasurer** – Edvin Velasquez
- **Candidate for Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member** – Jada Mohorn
- **Candidate for Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member** – Trevor Murray
- **Candidate for Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member** – Ella Phillips

- **Candidate for Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member –**  
Natasha Harwood
- **Candidate for Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member –** Emma Kiely
- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity, Assistant Director and Chair of the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors –** John Massa

**Old Business:**

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Edvin Velasquez – Hispanic/Latinx Student Union Treasurer**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Wants to start off by thanking everyone for their time. Uses he/him pronouns and is a senior here at Florida State. Through his years, he has been able to accumulate some experience. Wants to make an impact for this community. Coming to this campus was a huge step out of his comfort zone. If given this opportunity, wants to use his experience and knowledge to serve this community as good as possible. Is in two other organizations that are affiliated with HLSU. Discussed his experience in these two organizations. Wants to use his Microsoft Office certification skills to keep everything organized and plan events for the organization. Wants to use these funds to uplift the cultural experiences that HLSU has to offer.
    - Candidate yields with 6 seconds remaining.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Are you financially certified for this fiscal year?
      - Candidate: Yes I am.
  - General Round of Questioning:
    - Vice Chair: Pertaining to the goals you talked about, what are some avenues you plan on using this year to accomplish said goals?
      - Candidate: I am specifically interested in financial literacy, so I want to plan events surrounding that.
    - Chair Murray: Have you received any specialty training such as Green Dot training?
      - Candidate: Yes, I have undergone Green Dot training.
  - Closing Statement:
    - I am excited to serve the Hispanic/Latinx community.
  - **Senator West moves to enter round-table discussion; Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: I feel he has enough experience especially with his certifications to properly serve this community on campus.
  - **Senator West moves to call the question; Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds**
  - Vote:
    - Yes: 3 - Senators West, Thau, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
    - No: 0
    - Abstain: 0
  - **RESULT: CANDIDATE VELASQUEZ PASSES**

## New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Jada Mohorn – Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Third year students doubling in Sociology and Mass Communications. Wants to be a part of something that would have a big impact on campus. Since they are already on the Union Board and worked with policies in the past. Wants to work with professionals on campus and help students on campus.
    - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 38 seconds remaining.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - None
  - General Round of Questioning:
    - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: What sort of specific things dealing with policy do you aim to handle?
      - Mostly policies affecting students on campus, and increasing awareness for our students here on campus.
    - Chair Murray: OGA has been trying to deal with student engagement, so how do you plan on tackling this?
      - Candidate: Increasing the quality of communication with students.
  - Closing Statement:
    - Thank you all so much for being here and for allowing them to have this opportunity.
  - **Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Russell seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Great candidate, will be voting yes.
  - **Senator Russell moves to call the question; Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds**
  - Vote:
    - Yes: 3 – Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Senators Russell and Thau
    - No: 0
    - Abstain: 0
  - **RESULT: CANDIDATE MOHORN PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Trevor Murray – Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Second year at FSU, but during his first year he did not see OGA do much work. He sees so much potential for this year. He went through OGA's statutes and realized that they were not doing everything they were supposed to be doing. Is super passionate about student engagement, including civic literacy. He wants to work with other agencies and RSOs to increase their engagement. Invites the committee to grill him.
    - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 38 seconds remaining.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - Senator Russell: Are you financially certified?
      - Candidate: Yes.
  - General Round of Questioning:



- Wants to say thanks again for interviewing. Is looking forward to helping the student body through representation.
  - **Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Russell seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Knowing Ella outside of SGA stuff, I can confidently say she is a hard worker. If there is one word I could describe her with, it would be hard worker. She makes sure she gets things done efficiently in a timely manner. I am excited to see what she can do in this position over the next year, and I will be voting yes.
    - Senator Russell: Is also voting yes because she believes they will be able to serve the community better. Points to their goal with increasing punishments for students who do commit sexual assault.
  - **Senator Powell moves to call the question; Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds**
  - Vote:
    - Yes: 4 - Senators Russell, Thau, Powell, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
    - No: 0
    - Abstain: 0
  - **RESULT: CANDIDATE PHILLIPS PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Natasha Harwood – Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Is a second year majoring in International Affairs and Environment and Society. Knew being in the state capital meant that there are a myriad of resources offered to students. Is passionate about increasing engagement and education about political issues. Has honed their leadership through various avenues. Learned a lot of abilities through their internship. Wants to bridge the gap between downtown and College Town. Feels there is a lot more that OGA can do.
    - Candidate yields with 5 seconds remaining.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - None
  - General Round of Questioning:
    - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Over the course of your various leadership experiences, could you point to a time where you had to deal with people whom you did not fully agree with and discuss how that impacted you and helped you grow as a leader?
      - Candidate: At her internship, she was working with a community that all shared different views than hers. It was very interesting to put aside any personal opinions she had for the sake of professionalism. Was an ongoing issue, because she wanted to continue receiving support from the community. When doing this, she often had to work with them and alongside them, and through communication she was able to get them to understand the situation.
    - Senator Russell: When reading the goals for your potential role, is there a specific idea that you have that you want to do?
      - Candidate: Would like to increase involvement of the Greek life community through direct service and engagement. Wants to

reach out to other organizations to get them involved. In the end, wants to increase awareness about OGA

- Closing Statement:
  - Thank you all for your time and I appreciate you for listening.
- **Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Russell seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
  - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Everything about the application and questions answered were pretty comprehensive. Everything with their involvement will help them to bring a diverse perspective to OGA, so I will be voting yes.
  - Senator Russell: Feels their goals and ideas will serve OGA well. Has a ton of communities they are wanting to serve, so will be voting yes.
  - Senator Powell: Voting yes for the same reasons as other two senators. Points to their goals of bridging the gap between downtown and College Town.
- **Senator Russell moves to call the question; Senator Thau seconds**
- Vote:
  - Yes: 4 – Senators Russell, Thau, Powell, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE HARWOOD PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Emma Kiely – Office of Governmental Affairs, Board of Directors Member**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Third year student majoring in International Affairs and Media Communications Studies. Feels that FSU's experience is so much more than what we do in the classroom as students. Since we are located so close to the capital, we have a plethora of resources and opportunities. On campus, they are involved with a couple of different things that are important to them and strengthened their passion for community engagement, including PeaceJam, the Student Foundation, and NEP. Would like to see the NEP program expand, and would be willing to help direct that program. In the past, worked for two different representatives and wrote some newsletters for them. Currently interns as a political communications intern. Really values transparency and accessibility, which is something that they think would really benefit OGA.
    - Candidate yields with 0 seconds remaining.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - None
  - General Round of Questioning:
    - Senator Russell: On your application you discussed various goals that have to deal with reaching out to students, how would you go about reaching out to students that have no ties to SGA?
      - Candidate: Possibly having an OGA Liaison go to various GBMs to increase awareness, as well as utilizing social media more to make it more accessible for students.
    - Senator Russell: Do you currently hold any other leadership positions?
      - Candidate: Yes, I currently am an RA through University housing and I used to be an ambassador for SAA.



outreach of doing so. URAs show students what is there and available for them.

- Chair Murray: Is there any work being done with the FAMU's joint engineering programming?
  - Candidate: I currently do not know, but I think we need to get more of a diverse group of URAs to help us know that in the future.
- Closing Statement:
  - Wants to thank everyone for their time and for staying late.
- **Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Russell seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
  - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Even though I do not know him personally, I have heard a lot about him as it pertains to research. Being in the same scholarship program, students also in it as well as my scholarship director have mentioned his name in the past and pointed people to him for any questions they may have had. He has had such a huge impact on the area of research here at FSU, which is why I am voting yes.
  - Senator Russell: Is voting yes because the candidate is overly qualified. Points at their various experiences dealing with UROP and URA. Feels they would make research on campus more of an encouraging and empowering students.
  - Senator Powell: Is voting yes because it sounds as though they have a degree of prestige in the area of research.
- **Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to call the question; Senator Russell seconds**
- Vote:
  - Yes: 4 - Senators Russell, Thau, Powell, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE MASSA PASSES**

**Unfinished Business:**

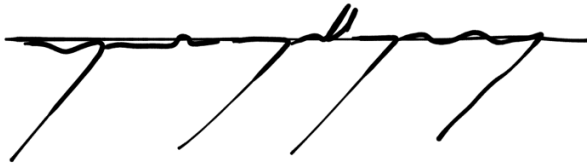
- None

**Closing Announcements:**

- Chair Murray: Discussed the process of Bureau Review and the timeline for that.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Adjourned: 7:49 PM**



---

**Signature of Chair Trevor Murray**