



73rd Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee

September 7th, 2021 at 8:00 PM | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94723052898>

Call to Order: 8:05 PM

Members Present: Chair Murray, Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Senators Hunter, Barrett, Thau, K. Hitchcock, and Stewart

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senators Nasworthy, Russell, Melian, West, and Zitrauer

Guests: Secretary Quentin England, Secretary Nolan Rudolph, Senator Franceska Edouard and Senator Jason Randall

Land Acknowledgement

Announcements:

- Chair:
 - Meeting today as well as Friday in order to hear from one candidate tonight, and the rest of the candidates on our forwarding letter on Friday. This is due to the fact that it would be illegal to hear the other candidates due to the national holiday.
- Vice Chair:
 - None
- Members:
 - None
- Nonmembers:
 - Secretary Quentin England: Suggestion to remove the ex-officio appointment clause in our Rules of Procedure.
 - Secretary Nolan Rudolph: Coming in to introduce himself and his role within the Student Government Association's Executive Branch, as well as open up for people to reach out to get involved.
 - Senator Jason Randall: RTAC and PAC applications are out now, and people need to submit their applications for in-person and virtual events, in-state and out-of-state events.

Committee Business:

- **Adoption of our Rules of Procedure**
- **Candidate for Supervisor of Elections** – Spencer Greenwood
- **Bill 46** – Jason Randall (P) - Revising the COGS statutes to improve readability, strengthen the relationship between COGS and the Student Senate, and expand the ex-officio voting rights of the COGS Speaker in the Student Senate.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Rules of Procedure:**
 - Senator Hunter moves to amend the Rules of Procedure Section II Article G; Senator Barrett seconds
 - **AMENDMENT PASSES**
 - Senator Hunter questions about the time of our regular meetings; Chair Murray explains the state of the situation and how we have not fully decided on a time for our meetings
 - Senator Hunter moves to adopt the Rules of Procedure as amended; Senator Stewart seconds
 - **MOTION PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Spencer Greenwood – Supervisor of Elections**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Excited for the opportunity and realizes the importance of elections as they pertain to the business of the Student Government Association at FSU
 - Open to answering any questions that may come their way
 - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 18 seconds remaining.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Senator Barrett asks if he is financially certified
 - His answer is no
 - Senator Hunter asks if he is aware of how to become financially certified, if he is forwarded for the role
 - His answer is yes
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Hunter asks how familiar he is with our election code at FSU
 - While at USF, the candidate was required to know all of the election codes and statutes. He knows there are 37 pages and has reviewed it thoroughly. He took the certification test today and feels very confident on how he did. Thinks the most important aspect in understanding everything is the violations and how students are punished for said violations. Has experience in overseeing past USF Supreme Court case with a major election code violation.
 - Senator Barrett asks some of the candidate's tangible goals with the position
 - His main goal is a year-long overhaul process of the election code and understands how large and intensive of a job that is. He found certain areas of the statutes vague and unclear, which was an issue for him in the past. He believes these sorts of things should be very clear and that overhauling parts of the election code is important. He sees the values of diving into the subject of campus political parties within the election code is important. Found typos and grammatical issues within the election code. Wants to make voting easier, such as earlier voting or opening certain polling sites for students in order to improve accessibility. Sees value in

having a longer voting process to have more participation and engagement with the process.

- Senator Hunter asks how he would plan to work with the political parties on campus, since he does not have much history, as well as our branches
 - Sees no difficulty with interacting with the parties since they are registered organizations, and just wants to work with them so that they are in line with the election code and statutes. Feels as though he works great with people due to his communication skills, as well as how he voices his concerns and remains transparent with all parties to move forward with decisions while leaving nobody behind. Interacting with the President, as well as all other branches, is important since they are important for the election process. Will have all lines of communication open for these parties to allow for anyone to ask any question; does not care what any question is, he just wants to make sure that nobody is confused or unclear about statutes or rules. Saw issues at USF with people not being aware of what the rules fully entailed, and this led them to break the rules. He thinks the best election season is when nobody has any violations. Has not met anyone in our Student Supreme Court but hopes to bond with them over his experiences. Feels as though he is off to a great start with our Student Senate.

- Closing Statement:

- Very appreciative for this nomination and hopes to be confirmed but will understand any decision made by the senators on the committee. Discusses value of doing our job properly and believes that he has the ability to accomplish the job properly. He is eager to get involved with the elections, and knows elections are coming up.

- **Senator Hunter moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Barrett seconds**

- Round-Table Discussion:

- Senator Barrett finds his energy outstanding and nods to how the candidate knows the information. Enjoys the fact that he has history with a judicial branch and his sentiments of standing by the election code. He appreciates how he wants to increase voting participation on campus.
- Senator Stewart enjoyed how well-spoken the candidate was, as well as how passionate and interested the candidate is with the role. Brought attention to the fact that he had done his research with the election code and believes he would be able to accomplish both of his goals.
- Senator Hunter thinks he is a fantastic candidate for the position due to his willingness to complete the work, as seen by the fact that he did a lot of the work before even getting confirmed. Brings attention to how difficult his tangible goals are, but that he shows the ability to put in the work which is something to appreciate. Says that his outgoingness could really help him accomplish his goals and the duties of this position.

- **Senator Barrett moves to call the question; Senator Stewart seconds**

- Vote:

- Yes: 5; Senators Hunter, Barret, Stewart, Thau, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
- No: 0

- Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE GREENWOOD PASSES**
- Senator Hunter moves to recess until 8:55 PM, Senator Stewart seconds
 - **MOTION PASSES**
- Senator Barret moves to exit recess, Senator Hunter seconds
 - **MOTION PASSES AT 8:57 PM**
- Quorum Call:
 - Members Present: Chair Murray, Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Senators Hunter, Stewart, Thau, and Barrett
 - Members Absent: Senators Nasworthy, Hitchcock, Russell, Melian, West, and Zittrauer
- **Bill 46 - Sponsored by Senator Randall (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - COGS has shown their support for this bill. Bill makes two main changes: 1) Lists COGS ex-officio spot within senate, and 2) Allows COGS to participate more within Senate.
 - Sponsor yields with 2 minutes and 54 seconds remaining.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Stewart requests a simple wording of what COGS is and what their relation to Senate is based on statutes.
 - Senator Randall explains that they are the Congress of Graduate Students. They permit travel grants just as Senate does, but on a larger scale to allow students to travel around the country and world to showcase research; fund graduate student RSO's; have their own funding boards. Their budget is 30% of the A and S fees that graduate students pay. They work as a partner with Senate as it pertains to graduate student affairs, and they follow all of our statutes and codes that Senate makes. They are also independent and have their own Rules of Procedures that they follow internally. He feels as though they need more structure with Senate than what already exists, but he does not aim to change that much currently. He wants to provide a small framework for changes since they are directly affected by what we do.
 - **Senator Hunter moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Stewart seconds**
 - Senator Hunter already felt as though this sort of legislation was needed but did not know much about how to work with this whole situation. She finds that this bill speaks to the need of COGS having a more active role within Student Government, and this will expand their rights as part of our senate. She supports this bill and feels as though it will strengthen the bond between Senate and COGS, which can only be seen as a positive.
 - Senator Stewart appreciates the work that Senator Randall has done for COGS, as well as helping to explain what it is. She loves this bill, as it will promote interconnectedness with COGS and Senate, which is only good.
 - **Senator Hunter moves to call the question; Senator Stewart seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Agreed with the sentiments of Senator Hunter. Brings attention to the fact that we are required to meet a certain number of times every year, but he is already seeing an improvement and wants the situation to continue to

improve. Provided example of how COGS is helping improve and revise the finance code.

- Vote:
 - Yes: 5 - Senators Hunter, Barrett, Stewart, Thau, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: BILL 46 PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- Senator Hunter wants to encourage everyone in the committee to stand up against racism, homophobia, and bigotry in general when they see it occur at the University. Brings attention to issues at the football game on Sunday, and how disheartening this is to see as someone representing the largest college on campus as well as minorities. Disappointed in the lack of support for the Black and LGBT communities on and beyond our campus.
- Chair Murray questions as to when we should meet, as meeting on Friday nights could be an issue and there are no times on our When2Meet where everyone is available to meet.
 - Senators Barrett and Stewart are open to alternating the times of our meetings
 - Senator Hunter is not ok with alternating meetings, as each absence is counted towards our Senate absences. Brings attention to how we can get suspended for the number of absences we would have.
 - Possibility of meeting on the weekends.
- Chair Murray asks about meeting virtually, in-person, or hybrid
 - Senators Hunter, Stewart, Thau, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson would prefer virtual as we are already having issues with meeting quorum
- Chair Murray will send out a new When2Meet that will include only weekend options

Next Meeting: September 10, 2021, at 7 PM

Adjourned: 9:22 PM

Signature of Chair Trevor Murray:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Murray", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, there is a short, vertical, wavy line.