



**73rd Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
September 14th at 6:30 PM | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94723052898>**

Call to Order: 6:32 PM

Members Present: Chair Murray, Senators Stewart, Barrett, K. Hitchcock, Melian, Thau, and Russell

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson and Senator Nasworthy

Guests: Senators Nemeth and Randall, Jewish Student Union Director Brandon Gabay, Nolan Rudolph, Bruce Suarez and Candidates Caroline Bell, Ariel Trueba, Jack Hitchcock, and Kenley Adams

Land Acknowledgement

Announcements:

- Chair:
 - Thanks all of the guests for coming, as this is the biggest turnout that Internal Affairs has had during his time. Requests that everyone that is not a candidate or a senator to not unmute themselves, and requests that candidates only speak for their opening statements, to answer questions, and during their closing statements. Extends a welcome for all candidates and guests to stay for the remainder of the meeting after their work is done.
- Vice Chair:
 - None
- Members:
 - Senator K. Hitchcock: Says she will be taking the minutes for this meeting and requests that everyone bears with her, as she has not done this in quite some time.
- Nonmembers:
 - None

Committee Business:

- **Candidate for Office of Governmental Affairs Deputy Director** – Ariel Trueba
- **Candidate for Mental Health Council President** – Kenley Adams
- **Candidate for Pride Student Union Secretary** – Van Lugo
- **Candidate for Secretary of External Affairs** – Jackson “Jack” Hitchcock
- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity PR Coordinator** – Sydney Putnam

- **Candidate for Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy Assistant Director –**
Caroline Ball

Old Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Ariel Trueba – Office of Governmental Affairs Deputy Director**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Uses He/Him pronouns. Not new to SGA, served as Director of Student Advocacy on the Board of Directors for the Office of Governmental Affairs. From Miami, FL and is a fourth year student majoring in Political Science and Business Management with a minor in Spanish. Served in the Freshmen Leadership Institute, and afterwards decided to apply for the Noles Engaged in Politics Program under the Office of Governmental Affairs. During high school, had the opportunity to intern under the Mayor of Miami. Continued to intern within the city of Miami. Applied for this position because he truly cares for what the legislative agenda is going to look like and wants to advocate at the state level for this session. Will work with Senate, and wants to focus on voter registration and different stakeholders on campus in order to increase voting on campus.
 - Candidate yields with 8 seconds remaining for their closing.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Zittrauer: What are some ways that you will be setting aside your own political beliefs and biases in order to best serve in this position?
 - Candidate: Has no party affiliation and keeps his political beliefs to himself, even when involved with student politics. There were a lot of partisan items on the agenda for both sides, and kept his beliefs to himself. Brought attention to work he did for the CARE program and the Unconquered Scholars program. He will do that to the best of his ability to best serve in this position.
 - Senator Barrett: Which prior position that you have held do you believe is the most relevant to this position and why?
 - Candidate: Serving as the Director of Student Advocacy made him feel most ready. Looked on the people who held these positions prior and the work that they put into the legislative agenda.
 - Senator Melian: Can you elaborate on your position in the Unconquered Scholars program and how you plan on bettering it with this position?
 - Candidate: Currently serves as the Vice President of the Unconquered Scholars program and this is the second year with that position; moving forward, his role is to serve as the right hand to the president. Mainly focuses on the annual banquet and plans to include invitations to those within the state and local government.
 - Closing Statement:
 - “Thank you so much for this time, and I look forward to seeing the results.”
 - **Senator Zittrauer moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Stewart seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:

- Senator Barrett: Personally feels that this candidate has quite an impressive amount of experience with different positions, both within FSU as well as outside in the real world.
 - Senator Zittrouer: Feels that it is important to set aside personal beliefs and biases and enjoys that the candidate is willing to do so, so he will be voting yes.
 - Senator Stewart: Knowing Mr. Trueba as both a friend and as somebody that she works with, thinks that he will fill this role fantastically. Points out his amazing resume and goals.
 - Senator Melian: Agrees with previous speakers and points out to Ariel's involvement on campus and how he served as Melian's CARE mentor. Says that Ariel has consistently shown integrity and wants to better the campus community.
 - **Senator Stewart moves to call the question; Senator Zittrouer seconds**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Senators Melian, Barrett, Thau, K. Hitchcock, Russell, Stewart, and Zittrouer
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE TRUEBA PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Kenley Adams – Mental Health Council President**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Former IA Chair, Junior, Majors are Political Science and Psychology. Is very passionate about mental health and mental health policy. Since freshman year, this was the first thing they jumped on within Senate. Has been working on it very closely since they started at FSU. Has had a lot of time trying to figure out where this bureau belongs on campus. Feels it is important to lay a solid framework so that this bureau does not fizzle out. Wants to do good work this year and then set up for future boards to do great work.
 - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 19 seconds remaining for their closing.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Senator Barrett: Are you financially certified?
 - Candidate: Believes their certification is expired, but is happy to become financially certified again.
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Zittrouer: Can you elaborate on how you plan about promoting the collaboration you discussed in your application?
 - Candidate: Collaboration for this role is somewhat threefold. One: Work with existing structures here on campus such as CHAW. Do not want to overpower these organizations. Two: Collaboration within the different agencies and communities here on campus. Work with people who are experts with these unique communities on campus that deal with different struggles in different ways. Three: Collaboration within the board, the team, and SGA as a whole. Has their own goals for the board, but wants to make sure they are supported by everyone on the board.
 - Closing Statement:
 - Thank you to everyone. Is super excited and wants to share some of their goals: Wants to make this something that is threefold. One: Making an

advocacy board that would work with OGA to increase advocacy. Two: Wants to engage SGA to create a campaign dealing with mental health as it pertains to SGA and serving as a student leader.

- **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Zittrauer seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Stewart: Had the pleasure of meeting Kenley during her freshman year. Thinks she is someone who is very passionate for mental health and has the capacity to serve, and points to her amazing and thorough application responses. Feels she has everything needed to serve in this role.
 - Senator K. Hitchcock: Agrees with the previous speaker. Says the candidate was the one who got her into SGA and genuinely wants to help people. Says she is super passionate and has amazing experience.
 - **Senator Zittrauer moves for a non-committee member to speak; Senator Melian seconds**
 - Senator J. Hitchcock: Wants to speak on behalf of the candidate. Says the candidate played an integral role with getting so many people involved with student government. Still has the handbook the candidate gave him. The love and guidance the candidate has given him and so many other students is unquantifiable and there is no better candidate for this position.
- **Senator Zittrauer moves to call the question; Senator Melian seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Senators Melian, Barrett, Thau, K. Hitchcock, Russell, Stewart, and Zittrauer
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE ADAMS PASSES**

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Caroline Ball – Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy Assistant Director**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Feels as an Accessibility Assistant Director, it is very important to listen and understand. As someone who has never gone through anything of the sort in their life, it is very important to listen and spend time to hear their story to take full measures to help with any problems they may face. Feels as though you should analyze the world around you to see how you can help those with a disability. Shares a personal anecdote of a friend who uses a wheelchair and how it can be hard for people to advocate on their own, so they feel it is important to stand by their sides as they go through everything. It is super important to be an effective voice. Three main points of this position are to: listen, analyze, and speak out. These three things would set them on a path to advocacy.
 - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 27 seconds remaining for their closing.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Senator Barrett: Are you financially certified?
 - Candidate: Not aware of the exam, but will love to do that as soon as possible

- General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Stewart: Is there any way you can elaborate on your experience in high school and how you feel you are fit for this role?
 - Candidate: In high school, they were a part of the Learning Disability Association, which was linked with the Physical Disability Association. Tried to be friends and listen to those who were struggling and paired this listening with their role in Student Government in order to advocate for them.
 - Senator Zittrauer: Have you thought of any ways to connect with different students on campus, since you are new to campus?
 - Candidate: Is in Phi Mu and works with the Children's Miracle Network for their Philanthropy. On two committees within their sorority: Ritual and Sisterhood. Accepted the videographer position for Panhellenic's blog and magazine. Has an idea for a new RSO.
 - **POI Senator Barrett:** Is the Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy the same as OAS?
 - **Senator Randall:** They are different, OAS is a University entity and the Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy is a bureau.
 - Senator Melian: What is your main goal for this role?
 - Candidate: As a freshman, it is ambitious to start all of this soon. Discusses an event where people with learning and physical disabilities can come and speak with others to allow those without disabilities to listen to them. Having that quality time and then being able to take full measures can be very beneficial in the candidate's mind. Wants to base their work off of what those with disabilities want as a community.
 - Senator Thau: How do you plan on balancing your time with this position?
 - Candidate: Has a class that bases a lot off of time management. Has learned a lot about how to work around this new schedule in college and is already changing their behavior to improve their time management skills. None of their meetings overlap at this moment. Feels that having a busy schedule is a lot easier for them and that they are very good with time management. Feels that once everything slows down for them, that everything will be easier for them since things will be planned ahead.
 - Senator Stewart: Could you give some tangible goals that you have with your position?
 - Candidate: Wants to have a buddy/meeting system between people with and without disabilities. This could raise understanding of living with disabilities and could improve advocacy for this community on campus. Mentioned the idea of hosting some sporting events for people with disabilities. Loves inclusivity, and wants to plan events catered for this community on campus to ensure they are included.
 - **Senator Barrett moves to allow a nonmember to speak; Senator Zittrauer seconds.**
 - Senator Randall: Do you know what the purpose of the Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy is?
 - Candidate: Maybe to hear and advocate for people in that community that have disabilities. To see and analyze what's on

FSU's campus. Being able to speak up and help them when it comes to working with Student Government to allow these students to be seen as equal.

- Senator Randall: How do you plan to increase participation in advocating for people who have disabilities?
 - Candidate: Being a part of Greek life and Dance Marathon, getting the word out about this new bureau by doing more or using social media/posters and paper alongside word of mouth could improve participation. Is still connected with their high school, and will be reaching out to students coming to FSU from their high school. Will invite people to come to meetings
- Closing Statement:
 - Thanks everyone for asking questions and being able to reflect on what the position entails. Is excited to be able to join this council and is passionate about advocating for accessibility. Wants to help this community face any problems by finding solutions for them. Mentioned listening, analyzing, and speaking out again. Wants to increase face-to-face contact with this community.
- **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Zittrauer seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Zittrauer: Wants to commend the candidate on being a freshman, as they are the second one that the senator has seen during his time in Senate. Feels the candidate knows what they are talking about and that they are passionate about this topic and position. Will be voting yes.
 - Senator Stewart: Wants to commend the candidate. Thinks the candidate is very ambitious in what they are trying to do, even though the candidate themselves does not have a disability. Thinks that being a freshman during the fall semester and taking on this sort of role is very ambitious, but thinks that learning is a huge part of this process and this would be a fantastic learning opportunity.
 - Senator Barrett: Wants to agree with the sentiments of the previous senators. When he first read the application, was worried as the answers were a little too concise for his liking, but the way the candidate answered all of the questions helped alleviate these feelings. Specifically liked the fact that the candidate is willing to reach out to this community on campus to learn what they want.
- **Senator Barrett moves to call the question; Senator Zittrauer seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 5 - Senators Barrett, Thau, K. Hitchcock, Stewart, Zittrauer
 - No: 2 - Senators Melian, Russell
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE BALL PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Jackson "Jack" Hitchcock – Secretary of External Affairs**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Prefers to be called Jack. Is a second-year student majoring in International Affairs, and points out that he is already a senator. Is passionate about outreach and external affairs his whole life. This position works heavily with the Florida Student Association, and explained what FSA is. Our SBP is the governor of that board, which means she

represents the entirety of students within the state of Florida. Outlines the expectations of this position and the importance of the role.

- Candidate yields with 1 minute and 20 seconds remaining for their closing.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
- General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Zittrauer: What are some of your goals?
 - Candidate: Some of the hard goals he has for this position are really big. For FSA, he would be leading lobbying efforts for the entire state of Florida. Wants to increase the A&S Fee that each student pays, and that would have to be approved by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors. Wants to have a Better Relations Day to see how other student bodies are doing in order to better the student body. Points out other schools that are doing that and how collaboration betters everyone. Says we have a lot to learn from other schools. Wants to enact "Student Government Did That Week," where all branches, agencies, and bureaus of Student Government go to a common area to have their accomplishments highlighted. Wants to work with OGA in order to expand the legislative agenda into a legislative report card to grade legislators on their work and how they vote on things.
 - Senator Melian: What do you think about yourself is the best quality that would allow you to be great in this role?
 - Candidate: His kindness and willingness to reach out to others. These are important to have when it comes to lobbying. He wants to bring a brand new, smiling face to this position. Brings attention to his experience during high school as both the Student Body President and his work for Take Stock in Students, where he helped to raise \$90,000 over three years. Worked with Salvation Army. Raised \$40,000 while performing outreach for the Salvation Army.
- Closing Statement:
 - Says he can talk forever, and says that people should reach out to him about any of his experiences or goals.
- **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Zittrauer seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Chair Murray relinquishes Chair position to Senator Barrett in order to speak on this candidate**
 - Senator Zittrauer: Considers Jack a close friend of his, but did not know of many of his accomplishments. This speaks to his humility and dedication to helping others. Personally, Jack was one of the first faces he saw in SGA and was his first friend in SGA. His goals and character are both very solid, and he will be voting yes on Jack.
 - Senator Stewart: Has the pleasure of having Jack as a friend, colleague, and peer. Points to his thorough application, and how he discussed his leadership quality of being motivating. Says he has so much motivation in him that he expresses it to others on a daily basis. Feels he will work to the best of his abilities and will be voting yes.

- Senator Russell: Had the pleasure of being in SGA with Jack during all four years of high school. In every sense, he is so kind, motivating, and supportive, which are important qualities to have. His goals are set in his mind, and he makes it a point to learn everyone's names. He is overall a kind person, and feels that forwarding Jack to the Executive Branch would be one of the best things the committee could do.
- Senator Melian: Cannot think of a better person for this goal. Jack streamlines his goals, always has a smile on his face, and always tries to create new smiling faces.
- Senator Murray: Considers Jack to be one of, if not, his closest friend. There is not someone he can speak more highly than Jack. In the past week, he has been able to see Jack really put in a lot of work. He always gives his 100% in everything that he does. He is amazing at touching every single person he talks to. Knows that this is the candidate that he believes the most in.
- Senator K. Hitchcock: Has known Jack for a little while (said jokingly). Jack is the most selfless person on this planet, and there is nobody who can serve Florida State better than he can. He gives his everything to everyone else and just wants to help others. His kindness and motivation does not end with the committee or Zoom, it continues throughout life.
- **Senator Zittrauer moves to call the question; Senator Murray seconds**
- **POC by Senator Murray:** The calling of the vote is at the chair's discretion, so Senator Murray can conduct the vote if wanted.
- Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Senators Melian, Thau, K. Hitchcock, Russell, Stewart, Zittrauer, and Murray
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE HITCHCOCK PASSES**
- **Chair Barrett relinquishes the Chair position back to Senator Murray**

Unfinished Business:

- **Candidate for Pride Student Union Secretary** – Van Lugo
- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity PR Coordinator** – Sydney Putnam

Closing Announcements:

- Chair Murray: Heard a candidate on Friday that did not need to be heard by us, since it was not a major position. Runs a tight ship, is a rules guy and wants to follow the rules. Does not want to get at anyone and assert his authority. For the respect of everyone, if you are a member of this committee, he wants to have your camera on since we are talking to people. Senator Hunter transferred out of IA, but that makes life a little easier since Monday at 6:30 will now be our regular meeting time. Senator Stewart will then also have to transfer out of IA. We will miss Senator Stewart.
- Senator K. Hitchcock: Asks why we are moving times?
 - Chair Murray: The official decision was that we would alternate to avoid just one group having a lot of absences. Did not just want two people to have all of the absences, and now it would just be Senator Stewart missing.
- Senator Stewart: If I do end up moving out of IA, I am so glad to have had the opportunity to work with all of you and want to continue working with you all out of IA.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 20th at 6:30 PM

Adjourned: 7:48 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Murray'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line across the top and several diagonal strokes extending downwards.

Signature of Chair Trevor Murray