



**73rd Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
September 20th at 6:30 PM | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94723052898>**

Call to Order: 6:32 PM

Members Present: Chair Murray, Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Senators, Barrett, Thau, Russell, West, Stewart, Zittrouer

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senators Melian and Hitchcock

Guests: JSU Director Brandon Gabay, Candidates Van Lugo, Sydney Putnam, Virginia Remington, Gabriela Herrerias, and Ana Dolorit

Land Acknowledgement

Announcements:

- Chair: Greetings from Thagard
- Senator Stewart: Waiting response from President Harmon about her new committee assignment

Committee Business:

- **Candidate for Pride Student Union Secretary** – Van Lugo
- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity PR Coordinator** – Sydney Putnam
- **Candidate for Student Senate Press Secretary** – Virginia Remington
- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity Director** – Gabriela Herrerias
- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity Assistant Director and Editor-in-Chief of the OWL** – Ana Dolorit

Old Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Van Lugo – Pride Student Union Secretary**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate uses They/Them pronouns. Currently a second-year student. Wants to get more involved with the LGBT community here in Tallahassee. Has already went to several events and worked with the current board. Is excited to work with this community on campus.
 - Candidate yields with 2 minutes and 16 seconds remaining
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
 - General Round of Questioning:

- Senators Stewart: What is a primary and tangible goal that you have for your potential goal?
 - Candidate: Since we are moving back on campus, they are looking for ways to get people to safely get connected on campus to avoid spreading covid. Trying to get everyone to connect more and feel more at home here at FSU.
 - Senator West: What prior experience do you have that will help you with this position?
 - Candidate: Their father had opened up his first company, and the candidate was entrusted with many of the secretarial duties of the companies. Experience serving as their father's secretary will help them as they have good time management skills.
 - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Has there been anything that had happened to you in this past year that heightened your interest in wanting to serve this community?
 - Candidate: Has had both good and bad experiences while here at Florida State. Has made friends in various ways that has helped them feel more at home because of the people they have met. Has also witnessed injustices against themselves and their friends and aims to help address these issues to make these students feel safer.
 - Senator Zittrouer: Can you explain why you described your leadership style as "collaborative?"
 - Candidate: Discussed current examples of how they have worked with the directors of the PSU with various events in order to have full coverage and to ensure that everyone is on the same page and is contributing in one way or another. They want people to avoid the idea of one person doing most of the work.
 - Closing Statement:
 - Wants to thank everyone for the interview. Wants to see a positive change for the members of the LGBTQ community here on campus.
 - **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Zittrouer seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Stewart: Enjoys them and feels they have a good understanding of their role. Points out that they have already been working with the eboard, which is important to note.
 - Senator Russell: Agrees and brings attention to their experience and how that could really help this community.
 - Senator Zittrouer: Brings attention to the candidate's passion and how that could help the community.
 - **Senator Zittrouer moves to call the question; Senator West seconds**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 6 - Senators Stewart, Russell, Thau, Zittrouer, West, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE LUGO PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Sydney Putnam – Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity PR Coordinator**
 - Opening Statement:

- Describes themselves as collaborative and hardworking. Brings up their work with the Ronald McDonald House and how they had to be collaborative with this position. Says they have developed effective leadership skills. Wants this position not only because they are passionate and wants to get involved, but also because of their experience with public relations. Even though they are new to the University, they have already thought of ways to help students, such as an entirely new organization to help freshmen get connected. Knows they can serve this position well, considering their other involvement.
 - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 3 seconds remaining for their closing.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
- General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Stewart: What is your prior experience that you think will help you most in this role?
 - Candidate: Brings up the marketing lead position with Ronald McDonald House that they discussed earlier. Mentions they are already trying to join various committees in their sorority. Talks about their experience in high school with DECA and other organizations.
 - Senator Zittrauer: Can you explain how your leadership is democratic?
 - Candidate: Wants to ensure everyone has their voice heard while in a group setting. Discusses how they will reach out specifically people in order to allow for those who are shy or less willing to share their opinions to have their voices heard.
 - Senator Russell: Have you ever ran into any experiences that did not go well, and how did those help you grow as a leader?
 - Candidate: During the Ronald McDonald project, there were some people who were not doing their work. Since they were working with an actual company that would have serious implications, they had to pick up the slack and helped the other students who were struggling to get their work done. Had never experiences working with a real company, but still had to find ways to get the work done in a respectful manner.
- Closing Statement:
 - Thanks the committee for their time, is really excited and passionate to be working in this department. Wants to serve the campus, and also wants to serve as a spokesperson for student government.
- **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Zittrauer seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Stewart: Very passionate for a freshman. Application was very thorough, and they have a lot of experience for this sort of position. Noticed who their reference was and has high regards for this reference, which says a lot about this candidate.
 - Senator Russell: Enjoyed how, as a freshman, the candidate still was able to explain the tangible implementations. Says this was impressive.
- **Senator Zittrauer moves to call the question; Senator West seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 6 - Senators West, Stewart, Thau, Russell, Zittrauer, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson

- No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE PUTNAM PASSES**

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Virginia Remington – Student Senate Press Secretary**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Is a current Senior at FSU. Has been a marketing and executive assistant here in Tallahassee, which has provided them with skills that could help with this position. Has served within their sorority as well as for the entirety of Panhellenic at FSU. Is looking for one last way to serve the school before they leave.
 - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 57 seconds to their closing.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Stewart: Do you have any specific tangible goals for this role?
 - Candidate: Wants to use social media to connect with the student body. Wants to also create a calendar to also help keep students updated on what is going on.
 - Senator Stewart: How do you plan on increasing engagement with the social media presence?
 - Candidate: Wants to post more regularly to increase engagement and following in order to overall improve the social media presence of the Senate.
 - Senator Zittrauer: Could you explain how your leadership style is patient?
 - Candidate: Explains how you never know what is truly going on with a person, and being patient can help people grow and be prepared to serve. Knowing what to say and when to say can help with this role.
 - Senator Stewart: What was your motivation to apply for this role, as someone who was not a part of SGA in the past and as someone who is a senior?
 - Candidate: Has had multiple positions within their sorority and has had two different jobs. Was bored and wanted to find a way to get involved, and after gaining some social media experience this summer, they wanted to find a way to apply those skills on campus.
 - Closing Statement:
 - Thank you for this opportunity, even if they do not get this position, it still means a lot to them.
 - **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator West seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Russell: Discusses how she has known them well for a long time, and knows that they will do whatever in order to serve the position as best as they can. Does not think they would be a negative addition to SGA.
 - Senator Stewart: Not impressed by their application, but after hearing them speak, she feels more confident with the role. Their passion and experience is very clear.

- Senator West: Has never heard anything bad about the candidate, and feels they would be good for this position.
 - **Senator Zittrauer moves to call the question; Senator Stewart seconds**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 4 - Senators Stewart, West, Russell, and Zittrauer
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1 – Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE REMINGTON PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Gabriela Herrerias – Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity Director**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Goes by Gaby, and is a senior majoring in Clinical Professions. Is an IMS Ambassador, second-year UROP Colloquium Leader where she has been able to help students, and serves on the research team for The Power of WE. Has done her own research and works at Tallahassee Memorial. Also has done mission trips in order to help build an aqueduct system.
 - Candidate yields with 1 minute and 31 seconds to her closing.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Senator Stewart: Are you financially certified for this fiscal year?
 - Candidate: Yes
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Zittrauer: What is something within yourself you would like to get your work done to serve this position better?
 - Candidate: Stepping out of her comfort zone in order to grow. She is taking one step closer to something she is not used to, which will prove to be a learning experience during her time at FSU.
 - Closing Statement:
 - Wants to give back and give her passion to others in order to help others grow. Has been able to open doors for others and wants to continue to do so because others have done it for her. Research is for everyone, and wants to diversify research.
 - **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Zittrauer seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Working with Gaby has been a pleasure, and it has taught me that she has an amazing work ethic and always gets her work done. There is nobody better for this position, and her application is one of the best I have ever read. She is an amazing candidate and would help the research aspect of our campus, which could then improve our ranking among public universities.
 - Senator Zittrauer: Working with her for Power of WE, which is very research intensive, she does a lot of work for research. Is a strong candidate and has a fun personality.
 - Senator Stewart: Her application was flawless. Sees absolutely no reason as to why she would not be able to fulfill her role.
 - **Senator West moves to call the question; Senator Stewart seconds**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 5 - Senators Stewart, Russell, Zittrauer, West, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
 - No: 0

- Abstain: 0
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE HERRERIAS PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Ana Dolorit – Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity Assistant Director and Editor-in-Chief of the OWL**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Nice to see everyone again. Has incorporated research into every one of their steps here at FSU. Feels as though research should be integrated into every student's time at FSU. Wants to be able to reach out to a more inclusive environment for research at FSU. Has been published by The OWL, and wants to pay it back by being an Editor-In-Chief. Wants to improve the quality by having a more diverse and inclusive field of research that is shown on campus.
 - Candidate yields 1 minute and 26 seconds to their closing.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Stewart: Can you explain what The OWL does and its role on campus?
 - The OWL is a research publication on campus that is published every year. Takes research conducted by undergraduate students and showcases them within a publication. It all ranges from STEM, humanities, and the arts on campus.
 - Senator West: Do you have any tangible goals?
 - Candidate: Wants to improve students commitment after their initial experience with research. Since so few students get chosen for The OWL, they want to help provide other resources on campus to help them engage in research. Wants to engage with the students in a more personal manner. Wants to be there with students during the entirety of their research journey. Being a part of SCURC is not just for this position to think is interesting, but everything.
 - Closing Statement:
 - Nourishing the student body's interest in research is their main goal. Wants to work with other organizations in order to improve SCURC's impact on campus. Has experience on campus with editing that would help them with this position.
 - **Senator Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Russell seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Stewart: Believes application was very thorough. Has a great knowledge and experience that would help. Understands now why this job is so important.
 - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: As someone who participated in UROP last year and lost interest in doing research, I can confidently say that having a someone such as this candidate serving in such a position could have vastly helped me maintain a better appreciation for research. They also aim to diversify research as well as educate students that there is research outside of STEM, which is something I can appreciate.
 - Senator Zittrouer: Enjoys seeing someone so passionate about research, and finds it to be encouraging.
 - **Senator West moves to call the question; Senator Russell seconds**

- Vote:
 - Yes: 5 - Senators Zittrauer, Russell, West, Stewart, and Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE DOLORIT PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

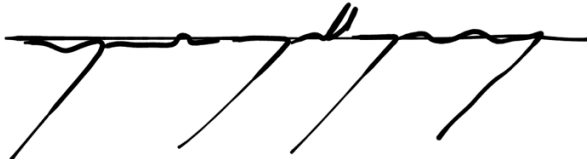
- None

Closing Announcements:

- Chair: Does not know if we will have any candidates to hear from next Monday. Apologizes for not being able to pronounce “senator” right ever. Is now a small committee. We are hearing candidates that do not need to be heard by IA or Senate in general, and provides examples. Wants to ask everyone, if we were to do hybrid meetings, how many people would come in-person.
 - Senator Russell: Maybe, it would depend on what else is going on in her day.
 - Senator Stewart: Does not really matter since she is leaving, but hypothetically yes.
 - Vice Chair Pfeuffer-Ferguson: No, I would prefer to be on Zoom as I have a busy schedule and it makes taking minutes way easier.
 - Senator Zittrauer: Yes, as he rushes home to make the meeting.
 - Senator West: Maybe, have the option of Zoom be open just in case people cannot make it.
- Chair: Says we will try hybrid for a week or two, to see if it works. Was trying not to be “too strict.” Wants everyone to be engaged and enjoying themselves. On October 4th, there is a Sweepings Committee meeting that he needs to be in, in order to do deliberations. May or may not be in IA that day, since Sweepings should take precedent. Feel free to reach out to him if there are any questions.
- Vice Chair: Thank you all for the work you put in tonight, and thank you all for enunciating your words properly.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 27th at 6:30 PM

Adjourned: 7:42 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Murray', written over a horizontal line.

Signature of Chair Trevor Murray