



74th Student Senate Finance Committee

[10/14/22, 2:30 P.M.] | [<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/9745164143>]

Call to Order: 2:34 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Hockett, Vice-Chair Rivera, Senators Folwell, Allaman, Pedraja, Klostreich

Members Tardy: 0

Members Absent: Senator Rock, unexcused

Guests: 5

Land Acknowledgement

The Student Government of Florida State University acknowledges that it is located on land that is the ancestral and traditional territory of the Apalachee Nation, the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, the Muscogee Creek Nation, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to their descendants and to all Indigenous people. We recognize this land remains scarred by the histories and ongoing legacies of settler-colonial violence, dispossession, and removal. In spite of all this, and with tremendous resilience, these Indigenous Nations have remained deeply connected to this territory, to their families, to their communities, and to their cultural ways of life. We recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land and extend our gratitude as we live and work as humble and respectful guests upon their territory. We encourage all to learn about and educate others on the contemporary work of the Indigenous Nations whose land we are on and to endeavor to support Indigenous sovereignty in all the ways that we can.

Announcements:

- Chair
 - Welcome, I'm glad to see you all here, especially on a Friday afternoon. We are going to take care of this and move on with our day.
- Vice Chair
 - Welcome everyone, thanks for being here. Just in the future if anyone cannot make it to the meeting, please let me know. Welcome to the new faces, thank you for visiting.

Committee Business:

- **Consent Resolution 29-** Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, International Association of Emergency Managers- USA Student Chapter at FSU
- **Consent Resolution 30-** Surf Club at Florida State University, Dental Brigades
- **Bill 80**

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Consent Resolution 30 - Sponsored by Chair Wyatt**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hi everybody, thank you for letting me come here and present this consent resolution. Some exciting news on PAC's end is we have two union board people that are officially sitting in so I'm really excited to be building a committee like it is supposed to be built. Hopefully we will get to a point we don't need senators to sit in anymore, so that's an announcement on my end. This consent resolution is relatively short, we are funding two RSOs hopefully this week. The first one being the Surf Club at Florida State University. They are trying to buy five new Gerry Lopez surfboards so that they can help their new members and anybody who is interested in learning how to surf really get into it. The problem they are facing is that a lot of people who are trying to learn how to surf don't have surfboards obviously on them and available so they are just trying to buy these beginner boards and have them so that they can educate the members of their club, and anybody else interested in learning how to surf. So, the five boards come out to of \$1,100. They did provide three different quotes. This was not the most expensive quote, it was the second most expensive quote, so it wasn't the cheapest. But, for overall quality and design at a price standpoint that is where we decided on the Gerry Lopez surfboard. The second RSO that we heard yesterday was the Dental Brigades. They're just looking for funding for t-shirts, it is a fairly new RSO on campus. They did come in not realizing that we had to give the t-shirts out to everybody and not just club members. We told them they should be giving them out at Market Wednesday or really just make them open to the entire student body. Which now they know about, and they said that they will be doing. The \$540 is going towards funding 70 different shirts.
 - General Questions:
 - None
 - **Senator Pedraja moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Folwell seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Folwell: I just wanted to say that this seems like a solid request. It is not an extravagant amount of money. Maybe being in a lot of hearings has desensitized me to the fact that \$1,100 is actually a lot. But this looks good and they sound deserving, and I trust PAC, especially as they grow their numbers. So I say we fund them.
 - **Senator Pedraja moves to call the question; Senator Folwell seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - I just want to say thank you again, I love coming to Finance, I love seeing you guys. I love that we get to help these RSOs weekly so let's continue to keep up the good work, I guess. Have a great rest of your day.

- Vote:
 - Yes: [5] Senator Pedraja, Senator Folwell, Senator Allaman, Senator Rivera, Senator Klostreich
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CONSENT RESOLUTION 30 PASSES**
- **Consent Resolution 29 - Sponsored by Chair Rider**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hello, happy Friday! To start off with we are going to begin with the society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. They came into RTAC this week and explained that they are the leading social technical organization whose primary function is to enhance and achieve the fullest potential of Hispanics and underserved minorities in engineering, math, technology, and science. They really want to empower the Hispanic community by encouraging their members to realize their full potential and allow their members to make a true impact on the world around them through STEM awareness, access, support, and development. Basically, they were offered this opportunity to attend SHPE Convention. They have been promoting this since actually last year and it's going to allow their members to gain a knowledge and insight about careers in engineering and professional development as well as work-life balances. Some of the available things that they are going to be doing include workshops at the conference, making career goals, overcoming imposter syndrome, finding motivation in the workplace, and dealing with life's challenges. They will get advice on all of those topics. When they return from the conference. They are going to be having an information session about the conference to share all of the important knowledge they gained with other students in STEM and anyone that would like to join. They followed all the statutes with being financially certified and are going to provide this for the student body as a whole. Registration at the beginning would be \$310 per person, however if they do it in a bulk registration, or when you go in and everyone registers at once, we are trying to get them passed through RTAC so they can do that. If they do, that bulk registration they would get a cheaper price than if they were to do it per person, so we cut that down to a little less than \$310 per person. Next for the lodging, that is going to be for the hotels, so that would be following statutes the per person per room. That would be three rooms for three nights, \$136, which is equal to the \$1,224, I did some of the math breakdowns on the minutes, so you want to follow that if what I am saying doesn't make sense. In the travel expense category, this is because they are going to be flying, and they are going to be flying to Charlotte, North Carolina, the second through the sixth. This number was definitely a little bit larger because we did per person when it talked about the flights so that would be nine people and each one would be \$409, at least that is what I remember. This is one of the most expensive flight tickets I've seen in while. I talked to Chair Bettley and a few other people and they think that it would be friendly, and I talked to a senator about cutting this line item. Just because it is not as fiscally responsible, this is a really big amount just for nine people so we think tickets are more expense so we believe that the members could

do some more out of pocket for this number. I just wanted to share that, because if that number was brought to the senate, there might be some people that would be a little worried about that, so I would be friendly to an amendment on that and to discuss that further. We also have representatives from the RSO here but that is all the line items to come up with that total.

○ General Questions

- Senator Folwell: This just came to mind; how much money is left in RTAC right now?
- Chair Rider: Let me make sure the website is updated to see what it would be. The website says \$38,741.32 and that's the number that I go off of as chair because that is what Laurel and Ben Young what they communicate on and not me and that's what we will be going off of.
- Senator Folwell: Assuming no amendments, that means that after this bill is passed there would be about \$28,000 left in RTAC?
- Chair Rider: Yes, that is correct.

○ **Senator Pedraja moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Folwell seconds**

○ Round-Table Discussion:

- Senator Folwell: I move to amend. I will give you a few moments to pull up the document.
- Chair Hockett: Chair Rider, do I have permission to edit the actual document?
- Chair Rider: Yes, or I can do it if it is easier because I have it downloaded as a Word Document. If you want to put a line through the number that was there and change it.
- Senator Folwell: My amendment is to decrease in the travel expense from \$4,347 to \$3,000.
- Senator Pedraja seconds.
- Senator Folwell: I'll speak in favor. I feel bad decreasing funding, but I think in this case it's pretty necessary. \$409 per person is a lot so that decreases that number by a little over \$150 per person and I think that's fair. We are still funding them \$333 per person and for travel not to mention the other two categories which total to almost \$2,000 on its own so, and especially given the limited resource that RTAC have left I think that this is a good compromise while still funding the organization generously. I am in support.

○ **Senator Pedraja moves to call the question; Senator Folwell seconds**

○ Closing Statement:

- I think that this amendment is great. I think that it will have a much better chance at passing in senate. I'm going to do a little more research to see. I do think the senate could still look at this travel expense item, but again flights were expensive, so it is what it is. I think that this is a great lodging number, the registration was cut down already in RTAC for their per person given that they are trying to bulk deal, so I think that this number has a good chance at passing and I appreciate the help.

○ Opening Statement:

- Again, we do have a representative for this RSO as well if we have any questions. The International Association of Emergency Managers, the USA chapter at FSU. They came to us explaining this conference, they are a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals

of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. IAEM student chapters are an essential part of the organizations as they help prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders in the field. The FSU student chapter strives to promote community awareness through practical education the summation of information in the field of emergency management. They are going on this trip to Savannah, Georgia. They are going to be driving, so the travel expense for this going to be vans, I give the breakdown. To take five people it would be \$400 per person. We talked to them about how they are doing their application but they haven't posted it, but they do know that they would have to have at least five people going if not more. They have expressed interest, they are in really good communication with advisors to make sure that this all goes well. They are going to be doing a lot of field work with this and a lot of educating. I definitely will say that they will be coming back to campus to educate their members on things that they learned, you can read a little bit about the trip. Again it's a great networking opportunity as well with emergency management professionals in the field and they are going to learn deeper about emergency management topics and get further involved. Savannah Georgia is not too far but basically we decided to fund them \$2,000 for registration, \$1,000 for car rental, and \$920 in lodging. They had a more expensive registration fee here. There is also more information about the minivan, they went through Avis. They followed statutes perfectly on that to get the rates. For the rooms they also came in with a few different quotes, but we decided to fund them for the four different nights for two rooms. They have ten active members so they definitely would have people that would want to go. We talked about dues a little bit. I will say looking at how the senate will look with the new RTAC budget I think that they should stay very tight on this, the travel expense makes sense, they are driving, so it's going to be included with gas and if they run into traffic that would be more expensive. The registration fee is what my more was a little confused about because they don't have the application out, how do we know all five people are going to be registering. I would say that we should keep it how it is or considering cutting it because they don't have that application out, but the sponsor is here if you have any questions.

○ General Questions

- Senator Folwell: Where did you say they were traveling to again?
- Chair Rider: Savannah, Georgia
- Senator Folwell: Who is the RSO representative that is here today?
- Chair Rider: Today we have Steven Babin.
- Senator Folwell moves to let a non-senator speak: Senator Pedraja seconds
- Senator Folwell: Is there anything that you can tell us more details about the registration? How you came to that number and basically any information that you have.
- Steven Babin: As far as the registration fee, to my knowledge it is capped at \$2,000 max that SGA would give out, so the student conference registration fee is \$400 per person It is a monumental event in terms of networking potential. You have emergency management from both North America as well as the rest of the world coming and meeting in Savannah Georgia for this annual conference so they they can meet emergency

professionals from all over the world. And registration for that experience is \$400 per student member so we wanted to max how the most possible number of students who could register with SGA funding.

- Senator Folwell: If you were here earlier in the meeting then you would have seen that the RTAC budget is very limited. If we were to cut down the amount to \$300 per person, and they would have to raise \$100 each on their own, would you be agreeable to that and is that possible?
- Steven Babin: Obviously that would not be the most ideal outcome we would definitely hope for the max possible amount of funding, it's definitely a vitally important social society, we have seen recently in Florida how important emergency management is in terms of natural disasters that can happen. We are at a university in the state capital of one of them most disaster-prone states in the country, so we all know how important it is to get students into this field young. We consider it to be a vitally important profession for society, that's why we want to aim for the highest most possible number for the students.
- Senator Folwell: Would it be possible for you all to raise the \$500?
- Steven Babin: We have not done much fundraising at the moment which is why we have humbly requested the most amount of money possible.
- **Senator Folwell moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Pedraja seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Folwell: I'm conflicted, I think cutting registration to \$1,500 is wise but I do agree that this is an important organization especially given our geographical and political organization.
 - Senator Pedraja: I agree with you Senator Pedraja, if they are able to raise the amount of funds that we can't provide to them then I think that would be an effective move.
 - Senator Folwell: Considering what RTAC Rider put into the chat, which was "I can send them fundraising opportunities."
 - Senator Folwell moves to amend to change \$2000 to \$1,500; Pedraja seconds.
 - Senator Folwell: I am just going to speak in favor. I think that amount makes the amount much more friendly to the number of people going. It hurts me to fund organizations less as I said earlier but sometimes it needs to be done.
- **Senator Folwell moves to call the question; Senator Pedraja seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - I think that we did some good here, I just did more research with Bettley and we are going to work on fundraising with them, I will send them opportunities. With this new budget I think that the senate will find this more friendly. I would be worried that they would cut them even more, so I think that for both of these organizations it will be a lot better. I think that these numbers are friendly and coming up with \$100 per person for registration is very feasible to do. I appreciate it I think we did good here, this is more fiscally responsible.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [5] Senator Pedraja, Senator Folwell, Senator Allaman, Senator Rivera, Senator Klostreich

- No: [0]
- Abstain: [0]
- Abstain: [0]

- **RESULT: CONSENT RESOLUTION 29 PASSES**

- **Bill 80 - Sponsored by Chair Kariher**

- Opening Statement:

- Thank you guys so much for having me today I am super excited to be presenting to Finance. This bill is pretty simple, all it does is strike out central reserves bills for the annual sweepings, or whether or not it can be allocated to the food category. Central reserves is an account that is really only used for enrollment shortfalls and it is not really something that we will be using ever again. We are going in and trying to remove language that talks about central reserves besides what is absolutely necessary so if you guys have any questions about the central reserves process or what we have been discussing please let me know. This just cleans up everything so open to any questions.

- General Questions:

- Senator Folwell: You may have said this, but will there be a cap on this at all for central reserves?
- Chair Kariher: Essentially the new process is that central reserves have a minimum amount that is set in statues. It is set at \$500,000. Everything in excess to that minimum amount, will be moved to sweepings from now on, so everything that is extra money will be going to sweepings. We will not really be using central reserves except for enrollment shortfalls. That's why it doesn't really make sense to have it having a food category because they only time it will ever be used is if we allocate \$14.9 million in the budget, but we end up only collecting \$14.6 million then we have that difference, a shortage, so that's the only time we will be passing a bill to move that money.
- Senator Folwell: Is it just a statutory change or does it need to be university or state level changes need to happen.
- Chair Kariher: I have drafted Board of Trustee regulation changes, me and President Hunter have been working on. As it currently stands it's how it is supposed to be done legally with both state statues and our amendments are to make it even more clear. The past several years, money has been growing in the central reserves account and it really should not have been. After we have gotten legal advice, and talked to budget advisors and Dr. Hect I feel like we have come to the conclusion that things do need to change and that it was just a misinterpretation of statutes that caused that, but we are changing things to make it more clear but as it currently stands, the correct interpretation of that language should be that all the excess money should be going to sweepings.

- **Senator Folwell moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Pedraja seconds**

- Round-Table Discussion:

- Senator Folwell: I am going to go ahead and speak in favor of this bill, although I am not privy of the conversation going on surrounding central reserves, I know it has been hectic. I trust Chair Kariher and the other people to do what is right. It sounds like there is going to be some pretty hefty SGA revisions coming up so I say we just do it now.

- Senator Pedraja: I speak in favor of this bill; I think the concept of it is great.
- **Senator Pedraja moves to call the question; Senator Folwell seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - You are going to be seeing me a lot in these next upcoming weeks with having more bills like this dealing with central reserves language, so I appreciate you guys and I look forward to working with you more.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [5] Senator Pedraja, Senator Folwell, Senator Allaman, Senator Rivera, Senator Klostreich
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: Bill 80 PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- Chair Hockett
 - Thank you to everyone who is here from the RSOs. Showing face is definitely an amazing thing and it allows you to help with that gray area with funding and things like that and let your voice be heard. We really do appreciate when you do show up to these meetings and taking time out of your day. I am also very happy that you all showed up at this time. I think that this is a good time in general that will work for most people.
- Senator Folwell
 - I wanted to let you all know that sweeping deliberations are happening 40 minutes if you guys would like to be there for the allocation of \$580,000. I am hoping it won't last more than two hours. I really appreciate you all, if that does sound like something you would be interested in, I always found that watching others can help learning the intricacies of senate.

Next Meeting: 10/21/22 at 2:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 3:22 p.m.

Signature of TJ Hockett