



**74th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
September 19th, 2022 at 5:00pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/95508946768>**

Call to Order: 5:03 pm

Members Present: Chair Diaz, Vice Chair McMahon, Senators Anand, Anderson, Crocker, and Schindler

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senators Roogow (U) and Vollick (U)

Guests: Chair Kariher, Candidates Goeckel and May, Pride Student Union Board Members Ash Soto, and Marcus Williams

Land Acknowledgement – Senator Crocker

- 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 Diaz explained the process for interviews to candidate Goeckel. Candidate May should arrive around 6pm, so we can discuss potential Rules of Procedure changes, and potential changes to the SGA Application in the meantime.
- Ash Soto, Pride Student Union Director: We have a candidate for confirmation today. Their name is Kaitlin Goeckel. They were one of 5 applicants for the secretary position, so we really trust them with the duties of secretary within Pride. We haven't had a secretary since last fall, so this would be really awesome if y'all could forward them onto the Senate floor on Wednesday. I appreciate your time.

Committee Business:

- Kaitlin Goeckel – Pride Student Union Secretary (5 applicants)
- Christopher May – Medical Response Unit Executive Director (1 applicant)
- Rules of Procedure Changes

- Potential Changes to SGA Application

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Kaitlin Goeckel – Pride Student Union Secretary

- Opening Statement:

- Good evening, my name is Kaitlin Goeckel and I use they/them pronouns. I am a second-year student here at FSU studying psychology, with a minor in gender and sexuality studies. I would like to start by thanking all of you for meeting me and thank the Pride Student Union for nominating me. I am here for the position of Pride Student Union Secretary. I applied for this position because LGBTQ+ advocacy and the LGBTQ+ community is something very important to me. I want to do everything I can to apply my skills to better the Pride Student Union and the Tallahassee community. In terms of skills and expertise, I have a lot of positions with overlapping responsibilities, such as these. During high school, I was a teaching assistant for a theatre program. For this I was in charge of holding multiple events. Additionally, I assisted with managing paperwork and records, which included creating programs for events. Currently I serve as an ambassador for the Social Justice LLC and I am a social change peer educator with the RISE office. This has familiarized me with some of the systems used at FSU. Again, I would like to thank all of you for meeting with me and I look forward to answering any questions.

- Rounds of Questioning:

- **Senator Crocker:** Looking at your application, looking at the project you discussed in your application I think its super cool and important, do you have any other projects or goals in mind?
 - **Candidate Goeckel:** Yes, another idea I had is more specific to the secretary position. I was thinking one thing we could add to the newsletter a section on the intersecting identities and diversity of students in the union. Focusing on the other identity-based organizations, such as the Black Student Union. Basically, it would cover the background and how it relates to the Pride Student Union, and it could be a sort of monthly thing. For example, February is Black History month and how it could relate to Pride. October is FSU's Pride month so we could do a section on that as well.
- **Senator Anand:** Looking at the project you said in your application, would working with professionals or anything else you're interested in, how do you plan to make that happen
 - **Candidate Goeckel:** One thing I was thinking about, as an ambassador to an LLC, a lot of our events are service based. We could hold an event, for example a clothing drive where we go through clothes and then donate them to the Pride Student Union. That way we could get that started without a strong financial draw; it would also get the communities involved together. We are still looking into the logistics of that.
- **Chair Diaz:** Are you familiar with the rules and statutes that agencies have to follow about having public meetings and taking minutes?

- **Candidate Goeckel:** I am somewhat familiar; I do have a lot more to learn. I have not learned a ton about the roles of the secretary as I have not begun the role.
 - **Senator Crocker:** What specific skills or assets do you think you hold that will serve you will in a secretary position?
 - **Candidate Goeckel:** When I was working as a teacher's assistant, I worked a lot with the organization of records and that has a lot to do with a secretary role. I also have worked with attendance and event holding that the secretary is involved in. I have a lot of overlapping responsibilities so I have confidence. Leadership wise I try really hard to be communicative because it is more of a support position so it is important to have open-minded communication.
 - Deliberations:
 - **Senator Crocker:** I just want to say after interviewing the candidate and looking through their application, I think they're qualified for this position. They answered all the questions eloquently. I also think their application was well written, with that they have my support.
 - **Vice Chair McMahon moves to call the question; Senator Crocker seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to speak to you all today. I also want to thank you for taking time out of your day to speak with me. I hope I was able to answer all your questions today. I will continue my work of advocacy and social justice through my positions. Thank you.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 4 - Vice Chair McMahon, Senators Anand, Crocker, and Schindler
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **RESULT: Candidate KAITLIN GOECKEL PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Christopher May – Medical Response Unit Executive Director
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hello everyone, my name is Chris May. I am a senior studying behavioral neuroscience with a minor in chemistry. A little about my leadership experience that would make me a great fit for the position, a lot of my FSU career has been spent with neuroscience and the neuroscience honor society. My sophomore I served as secretary where I organized a lot of our events, presentations, and general body meetings. That included messaging people in the Psychology department and keeping track of attendance. My junior year, I served as the president of the organization. I once again organized a lot of speakers. With the medical response unit, I've had a lot of involvement, it is part of the reason I came to FSU. I have been a part of numerous committees under different executive positions. I was elected to this position by the general body last spring, so I am familiar with the ins and outs of the position. Some overall goals I have is this this idea I have called developmental continuity. Within the organization, we've had a lot of structural and staff changes. So I want to embrace this change and keep focused on our roots because these things are important. A lot of the protocols we have work and are effective and work very well for our campus. I want to expand some harm

reduction on campus. Such as some recreational drug education. Currently the only source of that is the Shaw center inside of the UAS. As a UAS affiliate this would be easy for us to team up with.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

- **Senator Crocker:** Looking through your application, you described your leadership style as objective, and I was wondering if you could think of any instances or times where you had to be an objective leader?
 - **Candidate May:** This past month, we had an initiative within the MRU called stop the bleed where we get different organizations certified in stop the bleed. Currently we are working on changing some of the ways we teach these organizations and their members, I am not the chair I only oversee. I had to work with the person in charge and the committee and got a bunch of different influences and opinions on how it should be run. I also had to look back on the past on how we did that and who we've been training. Listening to those opinions and looking back on our history I had to objectively decide what would be the best way to do that.
- **Vice Chair McMahon:** You stated you've already been elected to this position, could you talk about that experience thus far or any challenges you've run into.
 - **Candidate May:** A challenge is definitely it is a bigger role than most RSOs. With MRU we are able to make medical orders and buy supplies and that something the director does. The former director was leaving so I had to meet with him and figure some things out. Stepping up into the position, I had to decide what direction to take the organization and I laid those plans out last year before summer.
- **Senator Anand:** Were you in charge of the Greek safe program or was that more another position's project?
 - **Candidate May:** I was not in charge of that project; however, I did have a little bit of collaboration with the presentation and stuff like that.
- **Senator Anand:** Since you have already served as director, what would you like to do different?
 - **Candidate May:** We've already started doing things a little different. Once a month, our members are required to attend a general body meeting. Historically for the past three directors, the meetings have been as quick as possible. I really want to make MRU a cream of the crop medical organization and because it is a free organization, I wanted to use those meetings to have speakers and presentations. So far we've gotten the campus emergency resources come in to talk about what to do during a hurricane and our next meeting will have a panel of student doctors.
- **Senator Anderson:** I was a part of the Greek safe program and I had to learn the stop the bleed procedures and I was reading that you wanted to make stop the bleed bigger than FSU and campus, are there any ideas about that?
 - **Candidate May:** We have run into some issues with the Greek safe program is that we haven't had enough supplies and kits that would be used. We haven't bought a kit in a long time, however

with expansion we could purchase more kits. I've reached out to some general organizations to get them stop the bleed kits.

- **Senator Crocker:** You said one of your goals was to get more medical professionals to speak at meetings, how do you plan on going about that and do you have experience with that.

- **Candidate May:** Yes, I touched on this earlier. Being neuroscience president we had a guest speaker come in and talk about their career, I got connections through that. I have also got connection in the college of medicine to speak. Many of our members are working and have been able to reach out to these speakers to get them to come.

- **Senator Crocker:** How do you plan to educate the community on drug and alcohol use prevention?

- **Candidate May:** I had the idea and I want to research with other organizations that have done it in the past. I have seen these notecards online before and to list drugs and what they do, as well as Narcan and other things like that. Creating more flyer and presentations could be a great first step.

- Deliberations:

- **Senator Crocker:** I think the candidate is educated on the topics we have discussed. It also sounds like he has experience to allow him to excel. I also like that he has multiple goals and so this candidate has my support.

- **Senator Anderson:** I like how his goals are all very thought out and tangible and so he also has my support.

- **Senator Crocker moves to call the question; Senator Anderson seconds**

- Closing Statement:

- I just want to thank you for your time and kind words. I am ready for this position, and it is a big reason I came to FSU. I think with all of my experience and goals I am fit for the role.

- Vote:

- Yes: 4 - Vice Chair McMahon, Senators Anand, Crocker, and Schindler
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

- **RESULT: Candidate CHRISTOPHER MAY PASSES**

- Rules of Procedure Changes

- Roundtable Discussion

- **Chair Diaz:** I wanted to talk about some procedural roles as they pertain to bureau reviews. I passed a bill over the summer outlining what we have to talk about and how we go about these things. I have some proposed amendments to our committee Rules of Procedure that would give us guidelines for what to follow in terms of the process of creating and passing the resolutions pertaining to each bureau in Bureau Review.
- **Senator Crocker:** I like that you clearly outline things that will be asked so it is like a checklist.
- **Vice Chair McMahon:** I also like it because I know when I spoke to former Chair Russell used to be very stressed about this so I think this makes it easier on everyone.
- **Vice Chair McMahon moves to adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure, Senator Anderson seconds.**

- **No objections**
 - **Amendments to IA Rules of Procedure ADOPTED. Please refer to SGA website for new Rules.**
- Potential Changes to SGA Application
 - Roundtable Discussion
 - **Chair Diaz:** I don't know how many of you have applied for things or used the SGA application, but it definitely is not the best. This isn't in the works yet, but I wanted your opinions on the application.
 - **Chair Kariher:** I think it's awesome we are talking about this. I was talking to Chair DuChêne last week about this. We were thinking there could be an option for people to respond in their native language or for the question to be in their native language. I feel like sometimes people who don't have English as their first language have less in their response. We might not be getting the whole picture of their application.
 - **Chair Diaz:** I was talking to Jacklyn about this, Qualtrics is very difficult, and we can't even see letters of recommendations or even resumes. So, the idea of using Nole Central was discussed to accept applications in the future.
 - **Senator Schindler:** I've had to use Nole Central, and it is just as non-user friendly as Qualtrics. For the common student that applies, they will have difficulty with it and I don't think it would help as much. What about google forms?
 - **Chair Diaz:** SGA in general tends to stay away from google because you can get hacked easily.
 - **Chair Kariher:** Maybe Nole Network and post it like a job and interview.
 - **Senator Anand:** Can we talk about the questions because I have some stuff to point out about that. I personally feel like a lot of the questions are repetitive, I can't pinpoint the specific, but I feel like so much of the application can be cut down.
 - **Senator Crocker:** I don't know how in the works this was, but the responding in the native language, how would that even work? I am just not sure of the logistics, and I would hate for things to get lost in translation.
 - **Chair Kariher:** It was just something we were noticing. As a trend, people who don't speak English as a first language had shorter applications and judgement was being made on them. We were just trying to figure out a way around that.
 - **Senator Crocker:** I do agree with Chair Kariher, at the last IA meeting we had a candidate I voted no on because of her limited application and when she passed onto the senator floor they explained themselves very well. I do think that should be something that should be addressed.
 - **Chair Diaz:** I can pull up the application so we can look at specific questions. Share any thoughts you may have.
 - **Senator Schindler:** Do we have to have one standard SGA application or can we have different ones for different roles.
 - **Chair Diaz:** That is beyond me, I think it is just easier this way. Some organizations have extra applications however, OGA for example had another application.

- **Vice Chair McMahon:** I feel like this question about which of Florida State's motto does the candidate relate to and the question about values are both really the same question just worded different.
- **Senator Schindler:** I agree that the questions are the same, but I think the Florida State motto is a good question.
- **Chair Diaz:** I have heard a lot of complaints about this question in general people think it is a dumb question.
- **Senator Schindler:** I hated this question when applying but it is a big part of our university and I like how you have to research and relate it to yourself.
- **Vice Chair McMahon:** I agree with Senator Schindler, it may be an annoying question but is a question pertaining to our school and the position they are applying for is to keep our university running.
- **Chair Diaz:** I am just facilitating this conversation but any changes we make have to be in consultation of the chief of staff, attorney general, and Jacklyn. Those are in the statutes, this is just our conversation and we will take into account what they think.
- **Senator Crocker:** I think to save us a lot of time in the interview process, we ask those basic questions such as "are you financially certified" as part of the application.
- **Vice Chair McMahon:** If we were able to look at the candidates resumes, we could eliminate this question about past experiences and just go look at their resumes.
- **Senator Anand:** One thing I really liked about some other applications is they have two or three questions that really hit the main point and then questions like "have you taken CORE?", which is a leadership seminar. We could use that but with non-debatable questions.
- **Chair Diaz:** How is that applicable here?
- **Senator Anand:** I think those non-debatable questions, such as "are you financially certified?" could be integrated into the application structure so we don't have to do that during the interview and we're not repetitive.
- **Chair Kariher:** The question about goals and the next question about a project are a little repetitive. The two coincide with one another.
- **Senator Crocker:** I agree. When I first filled out the application, I thought the project question pertained to a project already in existence on campus, not one we would be creating. Maybe the language can be changed to be clearer.
- **Chair Diaz:** I think that is what it is, asking about something already on campus.
- **Senator Crocker:** I've just seen on some applications people repeating and referencing the same project, I just don't think it's super clear.
- **Chair Diaz:** What about the leadership style question?
- **Senator Schindler:** It's a good question, I just think it is a hard question, but it does require thought.
- **Chair Diaz:** I hate the question, as an applicant.
- **Senator Anand:** I don't like the question; I think the leadership style should've been shown in the application. I think it's repetitive and confusing.
- **Vice Chair McMahon:** I was going to say the exact opposite of what you guys said. I love this question, I feel as an applicant it is a hard question and we should be challenging these candidates and this question is

perfect for that. I think it is also relevant to the applicant as they are going to be a leader on a team.

- **Chair Kariher:** I think a better question than this, something like what “leader do you look up to?” or something along those lines.
- **Chair Diaz:** My problem with the rest of this application is we can't see the resume or letter of recommendation. When the application is first submitted they can be seen.
- **Vice Chair McMahon:** Could the resume and letter of recommendation just be attached to the forwarding email?
- **Senator Crocker:** This might be an unpopular opinion, but I do not see the relevance or usefulness in a letter of recommendation. The candidate is already speaking in their own favor and the letter of recommendation can be repetitive.

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- Chair Diaz: We did great and had a light workload in terms of candidates. Great work and a good amount of debate for the candidates. I understand it's hard to ask a lot of questions and debate when we have a lot of candidates, but good work today.

Next Meeting: September 26th, 2022 at 5:00pm

Adjourned: 6:33 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signature of Chair Samuel Diaz