



**74th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
October 10th, 2022 at 5:00pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/95508946768>**

Call to Order: 5:01pm

Members Present: Chair Diaz, Vice Chair McMahon, Senators Anand, Roogow, and Vollick

Members Tardy: Senators Crocker and Schindler

Members Absent: Senator Anderson (U)

Guests: Candidates Drackley and Lunde

Land Acknowledgement – Chair Diaz

- 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** – It is great to be back here in IA after these two weeks. We have this ongoing project of wanting to redo the SGA application and changing some of the questions and formatting. I wanted us to set up a meeting with the Chief of Staff and Director Russell about what they want to see from this process. But for right now, we have two candidates to confirm this evening.

Committee Business:

- Austin Lunde – University Defender (1 applicant)
- Alden Drackley – Mental Health Council Director (1 applicant)
- Candidate Re-forwarding Bill
- Institutes Bill

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Austin Lunde – University Defender

- Opening Statement:

- My name is Austin Lunde, I am a 3L at the College of Law. I spent the last two summers in a prosecutor's office up in North Georgia where I will almost certainly be employed after graduation. Through those positions, I have worked very closely with the public defender's offices in my hometown. When I return, I am very good friends with everyone on the Supreme Court, I actually served as a justice by appointment on the most recent case involving the Supervisor of Elections. I have also served a justice for the summer term until new justices could be confirmed. I applied to this position because I haven't seen it filled since I started law school two years ago, I am yet to see someone actually be named as University Defender. After speaking to the chief justice and several of my friends I think I have the skills necessary to represent students to the best of my ability to their benefit. I am hoping to fill that role until my graduation this spring.

- Round of Questioning:

- **Chair Diaz:** How much experience at the collegiate level do you have with conduct hearings, academic honor policy violations, or whatever the case may be?
 - **Candidate Lunde:** In undergrad, I had a quite a few friends who served on the tribunal, at my undergrad university, that handled all the academic honor violation cases, so I acted in an unofficial advisor. Here at Florida State, I have served as an associate justice by designation on the Supreme Court, so I have seen the ins and outs of that at our university. In terms of honor code here at FSU, I don't have a lot of experience, but I am quick to adapt and I'm sure as soon as I am confirmed I can help out students.
- **Vice Chair McMahon:** Prior to this meeting, some on this committee did not know what the university defender is, and I am sure many in the student body are the same. If confirmed, how do you plan to inform the student body of the University Defender's role and its benefits to students?
 - **Candidate Lunde:** I also did not know what the University Defender was for quite a while, hence why it hasn't been filled up. To start I would want someone's help either from the supreme court or SGA, to either do a campaign or even just an email sent out to all students. The email could say that if a student is in a supreme court case or code of conduct case or anything else. It could also have the website with my contact information. Hopefully, we could get that message out to let people know that they have someone who can help them.

- Deliberations:

- **Vice Chair McMahon:** After hearing his answers and reading his application, I am in support of Candidate Lunde. I think he possess a lot of the skills necessary for the University Defender so yeah he has my support.

how they used to do things. I also used to work with a soup kitchen that also worked with mental health for low income and homeless people.

- Deliberations:
 - **Vice Chair McMahon:** I give this candidate my full support, by the way he has been talking and answering questions he sounds very invested and passionate about mental health. I think he will do great things in the position.
 - **Senator Vollick:** Seeing that Chair Diaz is a reference for this candidate, I think that's the real cherry on top and they have my support.
- **Senator McMahon moves to call the question; Senator Vollick seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Thank you, I appreciate the nice words.
- Vote:
 - Yes: 6 - Vice Chair McMahon, Senators Anand, Crocker, Roogow, Schindler, and Vollick
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: Candidate ALDEN DRACKLEY PASSES**
- Candidate Re-forwarding Bill
 - Roundtable Discussion
 - **Chair Diaz:** So, the reasoning behind this bill actually has a little bit to do with this summer. We had a candidate who applied for one position but was forwarded by the executive branch for another position. We had this whole argument on the floor if that was legal, for someone to apply for one position but to be forwarded for another. My opinion and that of many senators, was that it should be the executive branch's right to receive and application and like the person, but for another position. I wrote something up in the chapter about candidate screening process. It explains the roles that the executive branch has. It reads, "If during the candidate screening process, the Student Body President finds that a candidate is better suited for another position within the same Student Government entity to which the candidate applied, the Student Body President may reserve the right to forward the candidate, with their consent, for another position for which they meet all Constitutional and statutory requirements." I really would like some co-sponsors if anyone would like to be added to it.
 - **Senator Crocker:** How many times has this type of situation this has come up?
 - **Chair Diaz:** I am not sure of the exact times it has happened, but last year we had a similar scenario. Last year, exec put one candidate that applied to be OGA director elsewhere.
 - **Senator Folwell:** I was the person that pointed out to the senate that the positions that cause this bill to be written were flipped and it caused a lot of confusion that this would clear up. I suggest co-sponsoring.
 - **Vice Chair McMahon:** I really like this bill and I would love to co-sponsor this with you.
 - **Senator Schindler:** I would like to co-sponsor as well.
- Institutes Bill

- Roundtable Discussion
 - **Chair Diaz:** So, for this bill it deals with FLI and TLI. I hope you all are aware of FLI and TLI, but if you're not FLI is an organization that gives mentors and mentees, I was a mentee and now I am a mentor so I know how impactful that can be. Basically, the institutes don't have anything written about what they do directly into statutes. And this says "An Institute is an annual Executive Project that is administered under the auspices and supervision of the Executive Branch through changing administrations." Very similarly to agencies and bureaus I wanted to give them their own definition and creation.
 - **Senator Vollick:** I think it is fair that you wanted to remove the Student Body Vice President as an acting presiding Director from that part of legislation and I think a Senate-confirmed Assistant Director would be a good call.
 - **Vice Chair McMahon:** What did Nimna not like about the bill?
 - **Chair Diaz:** What he didn't like, I already removed. The idea was to give the institutes their own line items in the budget. I wanted it to be that FLI and TLI have their own budget request. Nimna did not want the money to be taken away from executive projects and given to the institutes.

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair Diaz:** I wanted to set up a meeting with the Chief of Staff and Director Russell about the application and what we talked about a few weeks ago. I am not sure if this time works for them, but I will invite them to this meeting to discuss. If they can't come next week, I would like to present them with official recommendations that we can send them and get their written feedback on.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 17th, 2022, at 5:00pm

Adjourned: 5:34pm



Signature of Chair Samuel Diaz