



75th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
9.5.23 | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/4349728982>

Call to Order: 5:30

Members Present: Chair Salazar, Vice Chair LoBianco, Senator Dlugos, Senator Gomez, Senator Gorelick, Senator Lento, Senator Lewis, Senator Nguyen, Senator Randall, Senator Windlan

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senator Birdsong, Senator Brown, Senator Gandolfo, Senator Waller (E)

Guests: President Diaz, Harvens Rigueur, Jenesis Rodriguez, Angel Arellano, John Brady, Spencer Greenwood, Marshall Widmann, Samuel Appel

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 recognize this land remains scarred by the legacies of violence and removal, we recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land, and we 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 Salazar:** Welcome back, it's great to see everyone back!
- **Vice Chair LoBianco:** I am also happy to be back yay

Committee Business:

- **Harvens Rigueur – Executive Branch, Policy Director**
- **Jenesis Rodriguez – Mental Health Council, Secretary**
- **Angel Arellano – OGA, Board of Directors**
- **Marshall Widmann – OGA, Board of Directors**
- **John Brady – OGA, Board of Directors**
- **Spencer Greenwood – OGA, Board of Directors**
- **Samuel Appel – OGA, Board of Directors**

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Harvens Rigueur, Executive Branch, Policy Director]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Rigueur: Hello everyone. I came to Florida State through the CARE program and am currently a junior. I was very kept to myself, but my sophomore year I began to get more involved in thing such as Dream. Something I always try to go by is that wherever you go, leave it a little better than how you found it. As time went on I got more involved such as becoming an Orientation Leader. This helped me give people the knowledge I had in my first two years, which led me to believe I could do a lot on campus, making me apply for Policy Director. I believe I could make a big impact.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Windlan: What are some of the duties for this position and how do you see yourself taking on those roles?
 - Candidate Rigueur: Some of the duties are to enforce SGA projects and to increase University advancements. I plan on helping wherever I can and helping everyone work together to make an impact and leave a lasting legacy.
 - Senator Lento: What is something you are super passionate about going into this position?
 - Candidate Rigueur: I am extremely passionate about community service and philanthropy. With this position, I can have more of an impact than I can anywhere else, so I can give suggestions and stuff since I am right next to the president. Also, I would like to implement more community service events in the Tallahassee community.
 - Vice Chair LoBianco: What previous experiences through being an Orientation leader, Ambassador etc., would you say has specifically prepared you for this role?
 - Candidate Rigueur: Being an orientation leader pushed me out of my comfort zone.
 - Senator Lewis: What skills do you feel you have developed that will help you as a leader in this role?
 - Candidate Rigueur: I would say communication, as my previous roles has helped me realize everyone has different wants and needs, so we have to collaborate in order to hear all of these wants and needs.
 - Senator Gomez: Being as you are familiar with campus, can you think of anything specific on campus that you want to improve?
 - Candidate Rigueur: We all have the same problems with a lot of different solutions, which can cause some congestion, whereas we could all sit down and come together with one more efficient solution.
 - Senator Gorelick: There are already four policy directors so you would now be the fifth. Have you worked with any of the current policy directors, and if not do you see any problems working with them?
 - Candidate Rigueur: I have not worked with them, but I feel like we would work well because we all come from various backgrounds and strengths.

- **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Lento seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - N/A
- **Senator Gorelick moves to forward the candidate; Senator Randall seconds**
- Closing Statement
 - Candidate Rigueur: Thank you for your time and the questions.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [9] [Senator(s) Dlugos, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco]
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: HARVENS RIGUEUR PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Jenesis Rodriguez, Mental Health Council, Secretary]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Jenesis: Hi guys my name is Jenesis. About me personally, I am a Cuban from Miami in my third year here at FSU, majoring in Psychology and Human Development of Family Science. I actually had this position last spring, and I really loved seeing this club come back to campus and the growth we have experienced in such a short period of time. It is really important that students know what is available in terms of helping with mental health. We have resources like CHAW, victim advocacy, etc., just a lot of things we pay for in our tuitions. I would love to help students utilize these resources. In terms of qualifications, I was on the e-board of the Cuban American Association, which taught me a lot about time management and organization and other skills that I can bring to this role.
 - Round of Questioning
 - Senator Randall: Given that you have held this position, how are you planning on expanding on your position?
 - Candidate Rodriguez: With this role it's really just going to be showing up for this RSO and being face at events, especially in my own community of Latinos. I want to be able to bring the Mental Health Council to that space and make everyone aware about us.
 - Senator Windlan: It said in your application you want to help destigmatize mental illness, in what ways do you see yourself seeing that through?
 - Candidate Rodriguez: A big thing about destigmatizing mental illness is talking about your own mental state, which we have talked a lot about on the board in which we want this council to be a safe space to talk about how everyone is doing. Obviously we are not equipped to treat anyone, but just giving people a safe space to talk about their feelings is a great first step.
 - **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Lento seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Lento: I can tell this candidate is very passionate about what she does. Additionally, she has already had this role and has made it obvious she wants to excel in the role.

- **Candidate for Confirmation: [John Brady, OGA, Board of Directors]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Brady: Thank you all for being here, I am John Brady, a junior here at Florida State majoring in Political Science and International Affairs. I got interested in OGA after being a member in Noles engaged in Politics. This organization opened my eyes to the universities role in our state government. One thing I enjoyed about this organization is we lobbied for Bright Futures as one of the bills. This bill would've allowed the AP Capstone diploma as another means to receive bright futures instead of test scores. Education is something I am passionate about, my mom's an educator and I have grown up around education my whole life. Whether that is bettering education for students here or any perspective students, it is something I intend to work on with OGA and using the resources available to achieve that.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Lento: What specifically would you do if there was bias present in any legislation that you had to lobby for?
 - Candidate Brady: I currently work at a firm where we have numerous clients, and often times I have to put aside my own personally bias to achieve goals for our client, whatever that may be. Whether that is helping them set up an agenda they want to pursue or so forth, so I have experience putting aside my personally bias.
 - **Senator Lento moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Gomez seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Windlan: I was also part of the Noles Engaged in Politics cohort last spring, and I think it is good preparation to become a board of directors' member for OGA, so I think that experience speaks towards the candidate in a positive light.
 - **Senator Gorelick moves to forward the candidate; Senator Windlan seconds**
 - Closing Statement
 - Candidate Brady: I really appreciate you all for being here today, thank you.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [9] [Senator(s) Dlugos, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco]
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: JOHN BRADY PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Spencer Greenwood, OGA, Board of Directors]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Greenwood: Hi everyone. I currently serve as SOE for SGA as I am going into my third term this year. I also serve as the Director of Programming for FSU Student Foundation, and I have been involved in numerous activities and events across FSU's campus for the three years

I've been here. I applied to join OGA due to my interest in political lobbying. I care a lot about FSU's students. Additionally, after what happened last year I would like to try and move to a fresh age in OGA and attempt to increase lobbying on behalf of the university.

○ Round of Questioning:

- Senator Gorelick: With being SOE and so forth, if confirmed for this position, how do you see yourself balancing your time and workload?
 - Candidate Greenwood: No, I am used to balancing a lot of duties currently. I've been able to balance my roles pretty well.
- Senator Randall: What specifically would you do if there was bias present in any legislation that you had to lobby for?
 - Candidate Greenwood: I am very nonpartisan already, and in matters in student government. Personally, I have no different feelings towards OGA in regard to my bias. I've been pretty good at being nonpartisan, and at the end of the day if I lose an argument my duty as a member in OGA is to lobby on behalf of the students.
- Senator Windlan: It says in your application you want a legislative agenda that you feel all students are presented by, how do you see yourself doing this?
 - Candidate Greenwood: I will be fairly new to the legislative agenda creation process, but overall I would want to work with all of the agencies and bureaus, clubs, etc., that have important ideological that they want to present to the Florida legislature.
- Vice Chair LoBianco: I saw on your application that one of your goals is to repair any relationships that may have been broken between OGA and the student body/SGA, is there anything specific things you want to change?
 - Candidate Greenwood: I don't have a detailed plan for that set out, that was more of an idea that I wanted to move forward with and present in front of the directors, but our new directors Daniel and the deputy directors all have many experiences to go with and they all understand what needs to be done, and they all understand effective communication.

○ **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Lento seconds**

○ Round-Table Discussion:

- Senator Randall: I have worked with this candidate through SGA, and he is super passionate about what he does so I think he will be really great at sitting back and looking at things from a nonpartisan perspective.

○ **Senator Gorelick moves to forward the candidate; Senator Lento seconds**

○ Closing Statement

- Candidate Greenwood: I appreciate you all for hearing me out. Thank you guys so much.

○ Vote:

- Yes: [9] [Senator(s) Dlugos, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco]
- No: [0]
- Abstain: [0]

○ **RESULT: SPENCER GREENWOOD PASSES**

- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Samuel Appel, OGA, Board of Directors]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Appel: Last but not least, my name is Samuel Appel, I am a third year political science student and I currently serve as the campaign coordinator for the New Voters Project of Florida PIRGS on FSU's campus. I began this role in spring of 22', and I oversaw our operations last year during the midterm election on campus. Fortunately, we were the #2 out of 150 PIRG campuses for on campus student voter turnout. Besides this role, I have also served as a legislative intern for the house democratic caucus, and in addition during the Summer I participated in a program where I lived In Washington D.C and worked for a D.C based nonprofit that helped refugees. I am really excited for this opportunity of OGA. I found out about this position after my time in the capital, and I think it's a great way to give students a voice to the government.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Windlan: During your experience with PIRG, is there any specific issue you would like to advocate for?
 - Candidate Appel: I think textbooks is something that is on a lot of people's minds, and phrasing it in a way that will see success in administering a new government program at the state level so that student have access to textbooks. Considering things about implanting hurricane relief for students across the state, or other things like Narcan administration or fentanyl test strips.
 - **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Gomez seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Lento: This candidate seems very articulate and very educated. He seems very passionate and knowledgeable about OGA and has a lot of experience, so 100% qualified.
 - **Senator Gorelik moves to forward the candidate; Senator Windlan seconds**
 - Closing Statement
 - Candidate Appel: Thank you guys for hearing me out.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [9] [Senator(s) Dlugos, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco]
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: SAMUEL APPEL PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- None.

Closing Announcements:

- None.

Next Meeting: TBA

Adjourned: 6:31 p.m.

Signature of Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Lohr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "L".