



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

Call to Order: 5:30

Members Present: Senator(s) Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Chair Salazar, Vice Chair LoBianco

Members Tardy: Senator Birdsong

Members Absent: Senator Brown

Guests: Hope Hellman, Yasmin Khosh, Grady Anderson, Roshu Senthil, Arthi Solayappan, Marie Weber, Eva Galindo, Savanna Tobias

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:

- None.

Committee Business:

- **Grady Anderson- OGA Board of Directors**
- **Roshu Senthil- Transfer Leadership Institute, Director**
- **Arthi Solayappan – SCURC, Assistant Director**
- **Marie Weber – SCURC, Member at Large**
- **Eva Galindo – WSU, Director of Administration**
- **Savanna Tobias – Transfer Leadership Institute, Assistant Director**
- **Bill 80**
- **Bill 82**

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Grady Anderson, OGA Board of Directors]**

- Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Anderson: Hey everyone, my name is Grady Anderson and I am a second year student majoring in Political Science. I am excited to be here today under consideration for this position. Last year as a member of Noles Engaged in Politics, I got the opportunity to lobby alongside OGA in favor of legislation that would benefit our state, university, and fellow students. I am thankful for this opportunity to serve the university last year, and I am looking forward to representing the university this year. I hope to bring my research in experience and higher education policy to the board. As an undergraduate research assistant, I am skilled in reading legislation. My job has prepared me for this role. I just completed a project in which I compiled all the FSU policies and the corresponding Florida statues in what turned out to be a 49 page document. Thank you for your consideration.
- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Gorelick: I am not familiar how much time goes into being on the board of directors in OGA, but how do you plan on ensuring you will have enough time for this role?
 - Candidate Anderson: I can 100% put in my time. I am actually only taking 6 credit hours in the spring, plus an internship which I don't expect to be a very heavy internship, so I will have ample time to devote to OGA.
- **Senator Randall moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Waller seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Randall: This candidate is very passionate about politics. He will spend hours doing research on education policy because he is very interested in this field. I see no better fit for this board than someone who really cares o what they are lobbying for.
 - Senator Windlan: I have worked with Grady on a lot of different organizations. I witnessed him do some lobbying with OGA at FSU day at the Capitol. I don't think there is anyone more qualified for this position than Grady.
- **Senator Gorelick moves to forward the candidate; Senator Gomez seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Candidate Anderson: Thank you for this opportunity, I am looking for a great year of lobbying.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [11] Senators Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE ANDERSON PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Roshu Senthil, Transfer Leadership Institute, Director]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Senthil: Hi everyone! I am currently a sophomore and I am majoring in Statistics and a minor in Data Analytics. Last year I was involved with FLI and it really impacted my first year here in a positive way. After this I realized I wanted to be a part of a program where I could

make a true difference in students' lives. I am not a transfer student, but I understand how hard it can be to come to a new school and start fresh. I am from Nebraska and only moved to Florida a year ago, so I understand the difficulties. I believe that by being director I'll be able to work collaboratively and efficiently with my team. Through giving leadership and effective organization, I'll be able to make the TLI cohort feel like a family. I promise to make sure all students feel welcomed and help them find their place here at FSU so they can thrive. I am excited to work with different RSO's on campus.

○ Round of Questioning:

- Vice Chair LoBianco: What previous positions have helped you prepare for this role?

- Candidate Senthil: I haven't had any leadership yet at FSU but in high school I was president of the NHS and Deca which is a business chapter, where we compete in different events. I was really involved in a lot of event coordinating and working with the officer team to lead the meetings, so I feel that experience can transfer over to this position.

- Senator Windlan: How do you see yourself going about fostering more mentorship in TLI?

- Candidate Senthil: I want to model it similar to the FLI mentorship that I went through, where we spent the first few weeks of the program with the mentors getting to know us. I want to make sure mentors and mentees get matched accordingly based off of personalities. I want the mentor to be more of a helping hand.

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

○ Round-Table Discussion:

- None.

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

○ Closing Statement:

- Candidate Senthil: I want to take this time to thank everyone for your consideration for this position and the chance to be here.

○ Vote:

- Yes: [11] Senators Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco

- No: [0]

- Abstain: [0]

○ **RESULT: CANDIDATE SENTHIL PASSES**

● **Candidate for Confirmation: [Arthi Solayappan, SCURC, Assistant Director]**

○ Opening Statement:

- Candidate Solayappan: Hi I'm Arthi, I'm a political science major in my fourth year here. Being assistant director and editor in chief has allowed me to immerse myself in different research areas, expand my leadership, and help foster my interest in a public service career. This is my second year in SCURC. My goal is to expand the Owl's publication by adding more entries and creating more research oriented events with RSO's on campus. I personally want to learn more about research through other projects. I applied for this position because I wanted to engage in various research areas. I have experience editing in my congressional internship,

and I worked with an editorial team in my UROP presentation. I have been investigating how infrastructure policies change in terms of equity and affordable housing issues using historical documents, academic research, and newspaper articles. This position would be an excellent opportunity to grow within research, professionally, and learn new leadership. Thank you.

- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Gomez: Could you elaborate on what the Owl is?
 - Candidate Solayappan: The owl is a journal put out by FSU with undergraduate researchers. People apply, and then we go through a peer review process, where we then publish them.
 - Senator Nguyen: Can you tell me more about your congressional internship?
 - Candidate Solayappan: I went to DC last fall and I worked for Congressman Clark under transportation issues. I did a lot of editing was for news articles or social media posts. It was a lot of emails, phone calls, but it was a great experience.
- **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Vice Chair LoBianco seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Vice Chair LoBianco: I would like to speak in pro. She seems very to the point, well spoken, and educated, which is someone who would be perfect for this role. Her experience speaks for herself.
 - Senator Gomez: As an Arts and Science major myself, research is very important and this candidate is extremely passionate.
- **Senator Lento moves to forward the candidate; Senator Gorelick seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Candidate Solayappan: Thank you guys for your time, I am really excited for my second year here, and I hope to bring more diverse publications than last year.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [11] Senators Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE SOLAYAPPAN PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Marie Weber, SCURC, Member at Large]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Weber: Hi everyone, my name is Marie. I am a freshman majoring in Biochemistry, and I am really passionate about research and would like to engage more undergraduate students in research. In high school I was very involved in research, where I held a leadership position as vice president in my high school's honors society. My duties in SCURC would include being the ambassador as well as a peer editor. I am most excited for this opportunity and I appreciate your consideration.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Gomez: Being a first year STEM major, do you think you have enough time and dedication for this role?
 - Candidate Weber: Yeah, I am lighter on my coursework right now for an easy transition period, so a lot of my classes will be more

review than a challenge. This will give me enough time for this role.

- **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Lento seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Randall: I have gotten to know this candidate through Presidential Scholars, and I am more than certain that she is qualified. She is very passionate about this and is very bright.
 - Senator Lento: To be a freshman and already get involved is very impressive.
- **Senator Gorelick moves to forward the candidate; Senator Lento seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Candidate Solayappan: Thank you for your time and consideration.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [11] Senators Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE WEBER PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Eva Galindo, WSU, Director of Administration]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Galindo: Good afternoon, my name is Eva, and I am a third year majoring in Psychology and Social Work, and I have been involved in WSU since my first year here, and it has really formed a community for me on campus. I was also part of the women's history month last year, which gave me insight into the hard work that is put into WSU. I would love to contribute to that. In this position, I would be able to emphasize my strengths of organization. I have been in previous roles where my reliability and attention to detail was needed. The experience from these roles will transfer to this role, and I would love to have this opportunity to officially be the director of administration for WSU and give back to my community.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - None.
 - **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Lento seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Windlan: Looking over her application and resume, she seems very qualified. She has shown continual commitment, and I think she has great credentials to do well in this role.
 - Senator Nguyen: I worked with this candidate over the summer, and I can tell she is very detail oriented as she says. She always looks so happy and passionate, so I really do believe she would work well in this role.
 - **Senator Lento moves to forward the candidate; Senator Windlan seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Candidate Galindo: Thank you all again so much for your consideration. I am looking forward to serving the community at FSU.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [11] Senators Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco

- No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE GALINDO PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: [Savanna Tobias, Transfer Leadership Institute, Assistant Director]**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Tobias: Hi! My name is Savanna Tobias. I am currently pursuing my Bachelors here in Political Science with intent to pursue law school. As a nominee for this position, I am confident I will be able to help reactivate and lead the program to help transfer students. From the age of 16, I have worked closely with individuals from all ages, races, and backgrounds. I worked at a receptionists at an animal clinic, and was a student assistant at St. Petersburg College. I have also been fortunate enough to be exposed to the decision making of judicial processes through my role as a judicial shadow on Florida's 6th judicial circuit. Upon confirmation, I am ready for the position through my skills of leadership and objectivity to promote this program. Thank you.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - None.
 - **Senator Gorelick moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Gomez seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Vice Chair LoBianco: I would like to speak in pro, looking over her application, I really like the goals she listed if confirmed, so I think she is a great candidate.
 - **Senator Gorelick moves to forward the candidate; Senator Lento seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Candidate Tobias: Thank you for taking the time out of your evening to do this ceremony hearing, and it is an honor to be recommended for service. Thank you.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [11] Senators Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE TOBIAS PASSES**
- **Bill #80 - Sponsored by Senator Lento**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Senator Lento: Hey guys! This is my first bill I have ever presented. This bill was brought to me by former Senator Jack Folwell. Essentially, we want to make SGA more transparent, where we have more connections to the student body and an easy way to do that especially for President Hitchcock is to address the student body. So what this bill essentially says is that within 24 hours' notice, the student body president may address the student body about any matters and overall be more transparent about what is going on within SGA.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Gorelick: Under 306.4 Part A, where it says "the student body president shall address the student body.. no later than 5 weeks into the

fall semester...” how far back are we willing/allowing student body president to give this address, because I feel like it should be done before fall elections occur to have this address given. I do understand obviously that with the hurricane, it got pushed back. How long do you think the president should have to give this address?

- Senator Lento: I do agree that it should happen before the fall elections. I am open to an amendment.
 - Senator Gorelick: Where 306.4, under A1, after the first sentence after “fall semester,” put “prior to fall elections take place”.
 - Vice Chair LoBianco: Seconds.
 - **Senator Randall moves to enter round-table discussion; Vice Chair LoBianco seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Gorelick: I think this is a really good bill. I think we should all be transparent in the SGA especially our student body president, so allowing him the 24 hours is very good. I encourage you all to vote in favor.
 - **Senator Randall moves to call the question; Senator Gomez seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Senator Lento: Thank you.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [12] Senator(s) Birdsong, Dlugos, Gandolfo, Gomez, Gorelick, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Waller, Windlan, Vice Chair LoBianco
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: BILL #80 PASSES AMENDED**
- **Bill #20 - Sponsored by Senator Hellman and White**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Senator Hellman: Hi everyone. This bill was written to create the freshman class council which will encourage freshman experience in student government. This will help bridge the gap between high school and college so that students will have a way to continue their advocacy and enhance the breach of the current council. As deputy treasurer of the senior class council, I have worked extensively with the senior class council due to the amount of DMs from freshman received, looking for SGA involvement. The FCC has been worked into the 14k budget and the process of electing president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, will be the same as the junior and sophomore class, which is stated in statues under 302.4. FCC will serve in a different capacity than FLI. Ever member of the FCC will be supervised by the SCC. With the increasing number of applicants and acceptances to the university, we must accommodate to the number of students here. The FCC will give students a home on campus for students who can't afford some of the social clubs. We are creating a space for those who want to positively impact their campus and get involved right away. Lastly, student government is about fostering relationships that are meaningful, as we all work towards a common goal. I met my best friend in SGA, and I believe these freshman should have the chance to create their relationships with likeminded individuals on campus.
 - Round of Questioning:

to get involved, and SGA is supposed to be a learning lab, so this is a great way to start.

- Senator Gorelick: I hate doing this because the sponsor of this bill I someone who I very much admire and love, but this is a bill that I am not quite on board with yet if I am being 100%. I do hear what the SCC is saying and the other class councils, but I just think there are other ways for freshman to get involved on campus. We have 750 RSOs, we have the FLI, the legislative certification program, so I just think that maybe having something like blazers and bolts, but something where students don't have that power position but can learn from our class councils that have had these positions for a while. But work with them, see what they do, see how much they can take. Sometimes I feel like people are eager to join something just because they did it in high school, but when they get here it is completely different. So, right now, my vote is going to be no, but if it passes it passes and we'll talk about t again in Senate tomorrow.
- Vice Chair LoBianco: Unfortunately, I am going to speak in con as well. I feel this bill has already been brought to senate twice and has been killed twice both for legit reasons. I can totally see the benefits of this council, however I feel the cons outweigh that. I think as small as the budget it, it should be kept towards the sophomore and junior councils, as we already organizations for freshman in place such as FLI, which is a great bridge way already for freshman to get introduced into SGA. If it passes it passes.
- Senator Lento: I was on the fence for a while too, as I have heard opinions from both sides. The points that were brought up to me, you could say that for a lot of other legislations, just because something hasn't passed before doesn't mean it shouldn't pass now. I have also had freshman reach out to me personally asking how they can get involved. So I am in support, I think it is a great way for freshman to get involved. I wasn't involved my fall semester of freshman year, if that was around it could have changed my course of trajectory.
- Senator Nguyen: I am in support because when I was a freshman last year, I wanted to become involved. I did see FLI and I wanted to apply but there were meetings at certain times every week but I had class schedules tat overlapped every week, so I couldn't do it. I also looked at how there were class councils and I was shocked that they didn't have a FCC, because I was involved in high school. I appreciate that SCC will be overlooking the FCC. And a lot of orientation students over the summer came up and asked how they can get involved, and if there are any class councils for them to join, but I told them there was none for freshman.
- Senator Lewis: I would like to speak in pro of this bill just because I see a huge increase in the amount of freshman wanting to get involved on campus. Now that we are moving into a more involved space on campus and around the country, I think people our age are wanting to get way more involved in SGA, so I feel like this is a great stepping stone, especially those coming into FSU their freshman year. I also never understood why there wasn't a freshman class council. I think it is a great opportunity for them. Regardless or not of if there are already plenty of opportunities for freshman, I think that offering as many opportunities for them is a great way to keep a large population of freshman involved.

- Senator Birdsong: I shared a lot of the same reservations that other senators have brought up, but I do think there are differences for opportunities in involvement and opportunities in leadership. Class councils offers freshman a unique way to be involved in that they can be the leaders of their class and serve in that representative form. I am an undergraduate studies senator, a large part of my constituency is freshman, so I am just going to vote in pro.
 - Senator Windlan: I understand a lot of the current reservations on this bill, and I did vote to not place it on second reading and to send it to committee because it warranted that continued discussion. Ultimately, I spoke to my sister who is a freshman on campus this year a lot of her friends on what their thoughts are, and they all thought it was a very good idea. Especially because getting involved in other aspects of SGA and organizations can be intimidating, especially coming in a freshman. I like how this would be specifically designed for freshman.
- **Senator Lento moves to call the question; Senator Gorelick seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Senator Hellman: This is due to the increase of acceptances, we have to accommodate for the growing campus. I believe we are so lucky to have leaders that care about the incoming freshman the way that they do. Class council is pushing so hard for these students to have a say. I appreciate everyone for hearing me out tonight.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [8] Senator(s) Birdsong, Dlugos, Gandolfo, Lento, Lewis, Nguyen, Randall, Windlan
 - No: [2] Senator Gorelick, Vice Chair LoBianco
 - Abstain: [1] Senator Gomez
- **RESULT: BILL #82 PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- None.

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair Salazar**: Good questions! I really appreciated the discussion on Bill 82, it was really good and thank you for speaking up.
- **Vice Chair LoBianco**: Not really, but I did love the discussion on the last legislation, I loved the engagement.

Next Meeting: 9.19.23

Adjourned: 5:31 p.m.



Signature of Chair