



**75th Student Senate
Judiciary Committee**

September 12, 2023 at 7:00pm | [<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/95954663934>]

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Members Present: Chair Velazquez, Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senator(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie Walerio, Widmann, President Diaz, Pro-Tempore Cofer

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senator(s) Behar, Brewer, Mendez, Ramos,

Guests: Senator Lento, Senator Hellman, Kole Kolasa, Katherine Kennamer, Taylor Kendall, Zachary Klein, Spencer Greenwood,

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:

- None

Public Comments:

- None

New Business:

- **Senate Bill #80 – Lento (P):** This legislation essentially allows the Student Body President to address the Student Body more informally to allow the further transparency within SGA. It removes the term “State of the Student Body Address” to simply be “Presidential Addresses.”
- **Senate Bill #81 —Widmann (P) Barret, Behar, Brown, Crusey, Denning, Gummerman, Hellman, Khosh, Lento, LoBianco, Mendez, Meunier, Newsome, Nguyen, Randall, Salazar, Sparling, Staveski, Velazquez, Walerio, White (Co):** This bill overhauls Title VII of the Student Body Statues
- **Senate Bill #82 — Hellman and White (P) Cofer, Patel, Spraling (Co):** This bill shall create the Freshman Class Council
- **Senate Resolution #57 — Diaz (P):** Amending Senate Rules to change procedures for the consideration of candidates coming for Senate Confirmation

- **Bill #80 – Sponsored by Senator Lento (P)**
- Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Lento (P):** This bill allows for the Student Body President to address the student body for more transparency. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - **Senator Widmann round table, Pro-Tempore Cofer seconded.**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - None
- Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Lento: Thank you for taking the time to listen to this bill today.**
- Vote:
 - Yes: [7] **Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senators(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann, Cofer**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [1] President Diaz
 - **RESULT: Bill 80 [PASSES]**

 - **Bill #81 - Sponsored by Senator Widmann (P) Barret, Behar, Brown, Crusey, Denning, Gummerman, Hellman, Khosh, Lento, LoBianco, Mendez, Meunier, Newsome, Nguyen, Randall, Salazar, Sparling, Staveski, Velazquez, Walerio, White (Co)**
- Opening Statement:

- **Senator Widmann (P):** Hey! This bill talks about revising the election code in our student body statutes. It is 37 pages long so please read through it and let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - None
 - **Vice chair Anandjiwala motions to call the question, Pro-Tempore Cofer seconded**
- Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Widmann:** Thank you for taking the time to hear about this bill.
- Vote:
 - Yes: [6] **Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senators(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [2] President Diaz and Pro-Tempore Cofer
 - **RESULT: Bill 81 [PASSES]**
- **Bill #82 – Sponsored by Senator Hellman and White (P) Cofer, Patel, Spraling. (Co)**
- Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Hellman and White (P):**
 - **Senator Hellman (P):** This idea has been in the works for several semesters, and now we are receiving an overwhelming amount of interest from the freshman class. Having a dedicated council for freshmen can lead to a more organized and efficient allocation of resources for their specific needs, ensuring that their concerns are addressed promptly and effectively. This, in turn, can contribute to a more positive campus experience and a stronger sense of community among all students 17,066. That is how many students were accepted into the Class of 2027. That is how many students the Freshman Leadership Institute accepts every year. The reason we can call ourselves leaders is because our student body elected us, on the basis that we will always do right by them. We cannot tell 98.8% of our new peers, our new Seminole family, that we will not work to create a place that new freshman can start their journey in student government. The Freshman Class Council will play a pivotal role in organizing and promoting events specifically tailored to the needs and interests of incoming students. These events can range from orientation activities and academic workshops to social gatherings and community service initiatives. These events not only help freshmen adjust to their new environment but also foster a sense of belonging

and inclusivity, which are essential components of a thriving campus community. As Deputy Treasurer of the Senior Class, I have met with the Senior Class Council President and Treasurer to work out logistics when it comes to exact positions and finances. The Freshman Class Council would not be able to make event or purchase requests without the approval of the Senior Class Council, which are the same rules that apply for the sophomore and junior class. The Freshman Class Council has been worked into the budget as a whole and we are well prepared to be the support that these freshmen, or anyone, will need during this transition. This is not a controversial idea. We were selected as leaders to make real change. With the creation of the Freshman Class Council, we will get to see real results on this campus. We will make history by witnessing the ever-growing freshmen class expand the reach of student government. The entirety of the class councils board is pushing for this addition, and I would appreciate the support.

Yields with 1:41 remaining.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - **Senator Waldie:** Just one questions for clarification, I know somewhere in here it says that the SCC not have discretionary spending of A&S monies so, how would that work on a day-to-day basis, if there is supposed to be planning, what are the procedures built in for that within the legislation?
 - Senator Hellman: Follow the same as the sophomore and junior class councils, the senior class treasure will put purchase requests for events, and what's great about the class councils is that they treat it like their family and a lot of our events unless it's just the senior class during graduation, a lot of our events are joint, so it's a lot of collaboration and no way that anything can get passed through that doesn't go under the senior class, and that falls for every class too.
 - **Senator Waldie:** Okay, thank you so much.
 - **Whitman motions to enter round table, Pro-Tempore Cofer seconded.**

- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Chair Velazquez:** We are now in round table, does anyone have anything to say?
 - **Senator Widmann:** Yes, I am also a member of the senior class council, and I love the work that the class councils do. My reason for joining class council was to get students more involved and as I am terming out of senate soon, I wanted to stay involved with my class and student body as a whole. We heard in both our speeches for pro temp and senate president on ways to get more students involved in student government. This entity here is the perfect way to do that as we heard from the deputy treasurer of the senior class, the finances of this have already been worked out and seems like a cost-effective way that we can get more students involved. You have my support.
 - **Pro-Tempore Cofer:** I approached this, looking subjectively from the fact of what exactly what Senator Widmann said. I came into this space wanting to create exposure, more areas to be involved, in student government. More subjectively

that the class councils are something they want, worked hard for, and have already implemented a strategy to make sure they can be funded. When I first say the legislation, I was skeptical but that fact that they want to do it, willing to do and that this is a community and freshman are being put in blindly, is what really put me in favor of this bill. Freshman have been really vocal for their want and desire for this, so I think it's something we shouldn't be in the way of.

- **Senator Chinn:** It seems that instead of creating an entire freshman class council it might be better to just expand or built upon the Freshman Leadership Institute. If they are going to be working under the senior class council then speaking to them anyway, it seems counter intuitive to what the freshman leadership institute is. The bill has failed twice already, and I am not seeing any significant changes, so I don't see a change to make this bill come up again.
 - **Senator Widmann:** I just wanted to add on to that. With the bill failing, one of the reasons was that we were in the middle of a hiring process for our current advisor so that was something we couldn't keep on the books. Having the freshman class council work with the senior class council, every other class council works with the senior class council, they can't put in purchase requests without going through the senior class council. If I'm not mistaken the freshman leadership institute is pretty selective and it has a GPA requirement, which goes against what student government is to engage all students, so that's my opinion.
 - **Pro-Tempore Cofer:** I think the problem with this and why it failed in the past, I wasn't there for it so I can't be completely honest but there wasn't really an outlines process for how this was going to work, you know implementing the fact that there is now a budget process for how it's going to play out. The difference between the FLI and this is that the class councils have a broad ability for students in that class to be more involved in campus generally, and FLI is more exclusive, with mentorship and being more personalized. Especially when you consider the fact that FSU is admitting more freshman each year. So, I think it is important to provide resources that support the egregious amounts of new students that are coming to our campus.
 - **Chair Velazquez:** Do we have a motion to call the question?
 - **Senator Widmann motions to call the question, Senator Waldie seconded.**
- Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Hellman:** Due to the huge increase in acceptances, we have to accommodate for the growing campus and like Senator Cofer said we are so lucky to have leaders like the ones we have in class council that are carrying about these incoming freshmen especially coming from seniors that are going to be gone next year. The way the class council is pushing so hard for these students to have a say and answering these students, and their dms. It would not be fair on our part to just read them and swipe out. These students are begging for it, and I believe it is extremely admirable of the class councils to be pushing for this so hard and I do appreciate everyone hearing me tonight.
Yields with 58 seconds.

- Vote:
 - Yes: [5] **Senators(s), Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann, Pro-Tempore Cofer**
 - No: [1] Senator Chinn
 - Abstain: [2] Vice Chair Anandjiwala, President Diaz
 - **RESULT: Bill 82 [PASSES]**

- **Resolution #57 – Sponsored by Senator Diaz (P)**
- Opening Statement:
 - **President Diaz (P):** Hi, this resolution details rules change within the rules of procedures for confirmation. The procedure for confirmation is currently in a very messy paragraph format. So, I decided to make it a list also it doesn't change much except that currently the rules say that of you want to go into debate on candidates for confirmation you have to do pro con debate. I want to change that to free discussion to enter round table because I don't like the idea of having to speak in con of people. I think you should be able to speak your opinions freely when it comes to confirmation. If you have any questions, please let me know, thank you.
Yields with 1:41 remaining.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - **Senator Whitman moves to enter round table, Vice Chair Anandjiwala seconded.**

- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Senator Widmann:** I think this is great, I think anyway that we can simplify or make easier the process for confirmation which is a lengthy process and something we should definitely be doing.
 - **Vice Chair Anandjiwala:** I agree with what Senator Widmann said and I think it's very helpful in the sense that it will help us and everyone with confirmation.
 - **Vice Chari Anandjiwala moves to call the question, Senator Widmann seconded.**
- Closing Statement:
 - **President Diaz:** Thank you for your support.

- Vote:
 - Yes: [8] **Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senators(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann, President Diaz, Pro-Tempore Cofer**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Resolution 57 [PASSES]**

Committee Business:

- **Forward as a group**

- **Committee Confirmation:** Kole Kolasa – Judicial Branch, Chief Justice (1 applicant)
- **Applicant:** Hello everyone, my name is Kole Kolasa, I go to Florida State University and my application is in for Chief Justice. The reason I want to be Chief Justice is because I have had many conversations with the previous chief justice Matthew Linsky. We had many conversations about the responsibilities, requirements and overall, what he likes to see out of the whole chief justice of the supreme court. He mentioned a lot of participation with different senators, trying to get different bills passed and trying to help everyone interpret the constitution properly so we can get everything done constitutionally and there are no problems later down road. I am currently a 2L at FSU and I hope to be Chief Justice next year so there is more tenure involved so everything can run as smooth as possible. I was also on the elections commission last year and that was entertaining, fun and a learned quite a bit. Interacting with the students, it's fun to see how far they have come because I never got that opportunity when I was in undergrad. I think it is a fantastic opportunity to talk to the students that are arguing and discuss with them where they are going after this, I try to help them out best I can and give them advice about going through that process. I ask for your confirmation tonight so I can keep doing that. Thank you!

Candidate yields with 1:12 remaining.

- **Committee Confirmation:** Katherine Kennamer –Judicial Branch, Associate Justice (4 applicant)
- **Applicant:** I am also a 2L and I was on the elections commission which was great preparation for this role. I was really cool to see how passionate the undergrad got when it came to all the election violations. It was a great experience to see how much people care about student government and this role. I worked in US bankruptcy court so I also the realistic side of things so I can mesh those 2 things together. I think I will be a fair justice.

Candidate yields with 2:25 remaining.

- **Committee Confirmation:** Taylor Kendall – Judicial Branch, Associate Justice (4 applicant)
- **Applicant:** Hey guys, Taylor Kendall here. I am a 2L at FSU Law. Kind of echoing what Katie said, a lot of us were previously on the elections commission so we got to see the whole process, how dedicated the students are. In my undergrad, I wasn't involved much, so to be a law student now and be more involved in the student government and understanding how that process works is really interesting to see. As I mentioned to peers, what is really interesting about elections commissions is that you do have that connection with the students, a lot of these students are interested in law school, so having that opportunity to connect with them and give that mentorship is really important. I wasn't really involved in the student government, so I have no biases, I am here for your best interest and to see really good arguments. I think it's really cooled that students get an opportunity to be heard and I like the passion behind it. So, to be able to represent FSU in a different capacity is important.

Candidate yields with 1:46 remaining.

- **Committee Confirmation:** Zachary Klein– Judicial Branch, Associate Justice (4 applicant)
- **Applicant:** Hi everyone, thank you. My name is Zachary Klein, and I am a 3rd year Law student at the College of Law, and I do have some previous experience, this summer, more in the judicial system. I was at an insurance defense firm, so I got to see litigation and that side of it. More specifically for undergrad. I did go here for my 4 years of undergrad, but I did not have any affiliation with the government association, so I do knowledge but nothing to faultier my impartiality. Echoing the other candidates, I do like how I can provide a bridge between undergrad and laws students. Kind of being a liaison to make sure everything is followed through with the by-laws that are ruled out in the judicial and legislative system.

Candidate yields with 1:34 remaining.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - **Chair Velazquez: we will now open the floor for questions.**
 - **Senator Widmann: For all of the candidates, have you all read the constitution?**
 - **Applicant Kolasa:** Yes, we had to read the constitution being on the elections commission and we especially had to go over the election code twice. We went over it multiple times when advocates were arguing in front of us, they would cite the statutes, so we would have to go deliberate on them.
 - **Applicant Kennamer:** What Kole said, we had to read it for the elections commission. It has been a little bit so I would have to review before a case came up but wanted to get through, he confirmation first.
 - **Applicant Kendall:** I also echo what everyone said I think there has been slight changes based on last year and the election commission based on how things progressed so really refreshing and going over that constitution.
 - **Applicant Klein:** I was not on the elections commission, but I have looked over the constitution and again is important with any legal process to make sure there is a fundamental understanding of the statues and provisions within the law that will be talked about.
 - **Vice Chair Anandjiwala motion to enter pro con, Senator Widmann seconded.**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Senator Widmann:** I want to speak in pro of all the candidates, I think they are all great. Specifically, for those who served on the elections commission. Previously I have been able to see you all in action and I think you all are great fits for the Supreme court.
 - **Vice Chair Anandjiwala:** I am going to echo the same sentiments as Senator Widmann. I think you guys are all so amazing. I was able to look at your applications and resumes and you guys are definitely fit for the role, so I support all the candidates.

- **Senator Widmann moves to call the question on the candidates individually, Senator Waldie seconded.**

- Closing Statement:
 - **Applicant Kolasa:** Thank you senators for the kind words, and those who are came to watch from the elections commission. I appreciate your time tonight to confirm all of us. I any of you have questions on graduate school because I'll be a triple nole after this, so if anyone needs help with law school applications or graduate school applications, feel free to reach out. I will help you with any of that. Thank you.

- Vote:
 - **Kole Kolasa**
 - Yes: [7] **Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senators(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann, Pro-Tempore Cofer**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Kole Kolasa [PASSES]**

- Closing Statement:
 - **Applicant Kennamer:** I want to echo what Kole said, I really appreciate you guys coming out and being so dedicated to the process. I think I would do great in the role, and I would take is seriously. Also, if you need anything, feel free to reach out. We want to be a resource and make this an educational experience for everyone involved. Thank you, guys, so much.

- Vote:
 - **Katherine Kennamer**
 - Yes: [7] **Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senators(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann, Pro-Tempore Cofer**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Katherine Kennamer [PASSES]**

- Closing Statement:
 - **Applicant Kendall:** Thank you for being here. As Kole mentioned, I think actually coming and seeing us in action, it's important to make this a seamless process and so I think one of the things to take in consideration is that we need constructive criticism as well, so this is a 2-way street. So, to better position you all and the student government we are always open to suggestions. Going forward I think that is something important and bridging the gap of communication between undergrad and Law school, and what that process looks like. So, we are always here to help. Thank you.

- Vote:
 - **Taylor Kendall**
 - Yes: [7] **Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senators(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann, Pro-Tempore Cofer**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Taylor Kendall [PASSES]**

- Closing Statement:
 - **Applicant Klein:** Everyone thank you for being here, taking the time. We are all very passionate and want to help as much as possible and echoing what Taylor said we want to be a resource, but we also want to take feedback from everyone as its given and we want to do the best we can to keep it as much a seamless process as possible. Appreciate your time. Thank you.

- Vote:
 - **Zachary Klein**
 - Yes: [7] **Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senators(s) Chinn, Novotney, Waldie, Walerio, Widmann, Pro-Tempore Cofer**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Zachary Klein [PASSES]**

Old Business:

- None

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair Velazquez:** That is all we had on the agenda today. I look forward to seeing you tomorrow and if any of you guys want to work on the rules of producer for judiciary feel free to reach out and we can get that going. Thank you guys so much again!

Adjourned: at 7:45

Signature of Chair Velazquez

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