



**75th Student Senate
Judiciary Committee**

October 27, 2023 at 4:03pm | [<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93149836915>]

Call to Order: 4:03pm

Members Present: Chair Velazquez, Senator(s) McKinney, Mendez, Crusey, Ramos, Syska, Widmann

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Vice Chair Anandjiwala, Senator(s) Behar, Brewer, Chinn, Walerio,

Guests: Jack Folwell, Senator Seeger, President Diaz

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:

- **Jack Folwell:** If you guys don't know, I'm talking about Bill 95. And this is a big change. I won't lie, it is a big change. But I want to explain why the executive branch have begun the initiative to start a new process. And really, it stems from three primary policy issues, which I'll explain fairly briefly. The first of which is that, frankly, there is a dilution of the most financially minded people in Senate right now. I think, on average,

the people who are most financially literate will tend to go to one of four positions, PAC chair or RTAC Chair, Finance Chair or budget chair. This means that in the most financial decisions made in any given year, which is, in my opinion, the annual budget allocation, only one of the four most qualified individuals sits on the committee making decisions. And by nature of being the chair, they cannot interfere too heavily with the decisions being made. This makes it so that these four people won't have the ability to really influence what is going on in this very, very important budget allocation. Additionally, beyond that, it makes it so that none of those four people have the right to debate in either one of the finance committees, or the financially based committees, which makes it really difficult for the people most knowledgeable about these about the finance code to really make their voices heard because they're split evenly. And this is even without taking into account that many of the people who are most financially literate will go on to, you know, be treasurer, Deputy treasurer, or otherwise in the office of the Treasury, or bureau or agency treasurer. The second policy point is that, really, while both financially based committees are important, they having two separate committees handle these makes it so that the work is diluted if the work is not consistently expansive enough to span across the two committees, and combining them is sensible, so as to consolidate individuals who have financial experience and are interested in financial interests, which is kind of related to the first point as well. And the final point is that the only SGA official elected by the student body for the explicit purpose of handling finances, that is the student body treasurer, is does not have the permission, or is not able to involve themselves in these decisions. I think that as the only elected official explicitly for the purpose of finances, they should have an explicit say, in this annual budget allocation. The only way to fix all three of these issues at the same time is this bill, we've explored every possible avenue we've really tried to preserve the power Senate has, but this is the this principle that this bill carries out is the way to fix this issue. I will be here for the actual debate of the bill I fully trust chair Seager in his presentation of the bill. But if you guys have any further questions about like technicalities or or anything else, I do encourage you to log on to their speaking and asked me as well. So thank you so much. And you know, that I was Judiciary for a year. I love judiciary. Thank you.

- **Senate President Diaz:** Just a quick public comment. I'm in favor of the bill in so far. And one thing that I do like that it fixes I'm not going to address anything else in the bill, pertaining to committee composition, but what I will talk about is combining of the budget and finance committees. And it's for this reason, which is that if you look at throughout the span of a year, the budget committee does absolutely nothing except for budget week, which is when they're crafting the budget. The only thing that the budget committee is responsible for is budget transfers, so to say I want to move money from HLSU, I think this literally happened in this week expense to contractual services. Like those quick budget bills and Senate projects. Bills are the only two things that the budget committee is responsible for outside of budget week, so you can check the budget minutes. Very frequently, the budget committee cancels its meetings, or they meet for 10-15 minutes about one bill, or two or three bills per month as part of the responsibility, so I think it makes complete and total sense. This is something I

would have proposed outside of this bill regardless, to combine Budget and Finance into one committee. I don't know why there's balloons on my screen. But it makes a lot of sense for me to have one committee responsible for PAC and RTAC, budget transfers, treasurer confirmations, finance code revisions, that should all be the same committee that has responsibilities over everything regarding finance, and we're not having this conversation at orientation with new senators. What's the difference between budget and finance because there shouldn't be. Anyway, that's my public comment. That's all I'm gonna say about this bill, unless I'm asked a question, but there's my comments.

New Business:

- **Senate Bill #94 – White, Randall (P) Widmann, Diaz (Co):** Allowing budgeted SGA entities the ability to have their entity's logo featured in printed materials instead of the SGA logo
- **Senate Bill #95 – Seeger, Staveski (P) Arellano, Hellman, McAllister, Randall, Sparling, White, Widmann (Co):** This bill shall reform the Budgetary process, combining the two financial Senate committees into a singular committee and creating a temporary "Commission" that shall be responsible for the allocation of the Student Government Association's yearly budget. This omnibus bill shall require a 2/3 vote of the Senate to pass.

- **Senate Bill #94 – White, Randall (P) Widmann, Diaz (Co)**
- Opening Statement:
 - **Senator White:** Hi, everyone. So this post pretty simple, it just changes statues around. So at our SGA budgeted entities that have their own logo such as their agencies or bureaus, instead of using the SGA logo being required for the material, they can use their own logos to promote their organization.
 - **Yields with 2:40 remaining**
 - **Senator Ramos motions to enter roundtable, Senator Crusey seconded.**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Senator Widman:** Yes, I'm in firm support this bill. I know I am a co sponsor. But I mean, it's something we're seeing now, with some of the sweepings applications we received. I've been getting emails about getting specific quotes from SGA affiliated SGA affiliated groups. I just don't think it's necessary to require them to do these.
 - **President Diaz** I'm literally in the process of ordering Senate T shirts right now. And I'm like, Why do I need to add paid for by SGA on it, I should be able to use a Senate seal. But it's like, no, you have to use the SGA logo. I'm like, Well, I don't want the SGA live, I want the Senate logo to be used, you know what I mean? So that's just something that I personally have been

dealing with the finance code. And I'm that's why I'm a co-sponsor. I'm glad this has been proposed.

- **Senator Widman motions to call the question, Senator Crusey seconded.**
- Closing Statement:
 - None
- Vote:
 - Yes: [6] Senator(s) Behar, Crusey, Mendez, Syska, Widmann, Diaz
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Motion to pass Bill 94 [PASSES]**
- **Senate Bill #95 — Seeger, Staveski (P) Arellano, Hellman, McAllister, Randall, Sparling, White, Widmann (Co)**
- Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Seeger:** Hi, everyone. I'm hoping everyone had a great week is going to have a great weekend coming up. This is on Bill 95. Again, as the non Senator spoke in public speech. This bill is to cover the three primary policy issues that we have right now being that we are spreading the wealth between senators that who are the financial who are the most financially literate in Senate are being split between pack our tech, finance and budget. So this will actually just merge that all together into the Finance Committee, and then into other entities that will cover the other responsibilities that budget has right now. Also, what else I would also like to go over the the grouping of who is going to be on the Budget Commission, which I have it right here is going to involve both all of the student body treasurer, the senate president and the student body treasurer. I think I said that right. So the grouping is going to be the student body treasurer, seven senators grouped from the Student Senate by the Student Senate President, to students appointed by the student body president, to students appointed by the student, body Treasurer, and one representative of cogs. Again, this is not don't think of this bill as taking away the Budget Committee. It think of it more as a conjoining of two big entities so that the most financially literate students in Senate can all be grouped together and can make the best decisions of what finance has to do and what budget has to do. During the responsibilities in Senate. I yield the rest of my time towards closing.
 - **Yields with 1:30 remaining**
 - **Senator Widman motions to enter roundtable, Senator Crusey seconded**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Senator Widman:** Yes, I am 100% in support of this bill. Again, I am a co sponsor of it. But this is something that we actively practice in all of the major financial operations that happen in Senate, the main being sweepings.

There are representatives from cogs. There's representatives from the executive branch, there's representatives from Senate, there are representatives from the Campus Recreation board and the union board. I'm not sure why we haven't made this change already. But it's something that needs to happen. So it has my full support.

- **Senator Crusey:** I just have a question. So, the previous Senator just mentioned that. For the sweepings project or process, we have a rep from Campus Rec and union board would they be allowed to be on the Budget Commission?
- **Senator Seeger:** Based on the bill, as I'm reading it, the union board and I forget what the other entity you said, Campus Rec? Yeah, they are not on this bill. It's just three entities appointing senators, or students of the student body being the student body treasurer as student body president and the student senate president. But I would love to talk with the other representative that made this bill and to see if he would be open to adding that in here.
- **President Diaz:** They can be if appointed by student body president or student body treasurer.
- **Senator Widmann:** Just a question for the bill sponsor. Would you be open to amending that adds it's a member from Campus Rec and a member from the union board? Or did you want to leave it?
- **Senator Seeger:** To be honest, I'd like to leave it as it is right now. As President Diaz did say the student body treasurer or the student body president can appoint students from those organizations. But as of right now, I wouldn't find it friendly only because I'd like to talk to the other sponsor this bill that spoke in public roundtable to see if he would like that as well.
- **Senator Widmann motions to call the question, Senator McKinney seconded.**

- Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Seeger:** Hope everyone has a great weekend. I do the rest of my time.

- Vote:
 - Yes: [6] Senator(s) Crusey, McKinney, Mendez, Ramos, Syska, Widman
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Motion to pass Bill 95 [PASSES]**

Old Business:

- None

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair Velazquez:** Thank you very much. I adjourn this meeting at 4:23pm Have a great holiday weekend everybody with it up. Peace.

Adjourned: at 4:23

Signature of Chair Velazquez

Christian Velazquez