



**72<sup>nd</sup> Student Senate  
Judiciary Committee  
Date: January 24th, 2020**

**Call to Order:** 3:05 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chair Leckie, Vice Chair England, Senator(s) Ascanio, Gerdts, Ready, Recht, Sojos, Primozić\* (half excused absence), Slimak\* (half excused absence)

**Members Tardy:** None

**Members Excused Absent:** Senators Absten, Weber

**Members Absent:** Silvia

**Guests:** Senator Maymon, Legislative Aide Cilink, Chair Daradik (Entered 3:25pm), Vice Chair Porter (entered 3:59), Chair Gnanam

**Announcements:**

- Chair - Congratulations to *Chair* Gerdts!
- Vice Chair - None
- Members - None
- Guests - None

**Committee Business:**

- **Bill 3** - Sponsored by Senator Sojos - To ensure all necessary campaign related documents submitted to the Supervisor of Elections by candidates or political parties are made publicly available before any campaign violation decision is issued by the Supervisor of Elections, the Elections Commission, or the Supreme Court.
- **Bill 8** - Sponsored by Senator England - To lower the threshold required to remove a sitting PAC or RTAC Chair to be in line with removal from other positions within Senate.
- **Bill 17** - Sponsored by Senator Slimak - To update and add to the Senate Officers within statute 400.2, 405.2, and 413.2.
- **Bill 18** - Sponsored by Senator Maymon - Re-introducing and updating the bill that would amend Statutes 701.1, 702.2 704.2 and 712.1 to include Candidate Statements of Interest and a SGA Candidate Booklet.
- **Bill 25** - Sponsored by Senator Sojos - To clarify the manner in which Student government meetings are advertised to the public.

**Old Business:**

- **Bill 3** - Sponsored by Senator Sojos - To ensure all necessary campaign related documents submitted to the Supervisor of Elections by candidates or political parties are made publicly available before any campaign violation decision is issued by the Supervisor of Elections, the Elections Commission, or the Supreme Court.
  - Senator Sojos withdraws the bill. Bill is **WITHDRAWN**.

- **Bill 8** - Sponsored by Senator England - To lower the threshold required to remove a sitting PAC or RTAC Chair to be in line with removal from other positions within Senate.
  - Opening Statement
    - England: Already passed finance, very simple bill. 4/5ths referred to only twice in statues, and this bill would bring down the requirement from 4/5ths to 2/3rds to remove a funding committee chair. Too high of a margin, must be updated.
  - Technical, Non-Detableable
    - Harmon: take effect?
    - England: July 1st is when this would take effect
  - Senator Gerdt's moves to enter Round Table Discussion
  - Senator Ascanio seconds
  - Round Table
    - None
  - Senator Gerdt's moves to call the question
  - Senator Recht seconds
  - Vote
    - Ascanio - Yes
    - England - Yes
    - Gerdt's - Yes
    - Primozić - Yes
    - Ready - Yes
    - Recht - Yes
  - **Bill PASSES 6-0-0**
- **Bill 17** - Sponsored by Senator Slimak - To update and add to the Senate Officers within statute 400.2, 405.2, and 413.2.
  - Opening Statement
    - Slimak: Whole point of this is realizing that nobody knows what we do in Senate. Just last night someone went to a reception because I posted it on my story. For PR positions you need a portfolio. You can't have a portfolio without a position. This helps with both of those things. There's a few other changes but that's the main point of this. Yields 1:58 to closing.
  - Technical, Non-Detableable
    - None
  - Senator Ready moves to enter Round Table Discussion
  - Senator Sojos seconds
  - Round Table
    - Ready: I love this!
    - Gerdt's: I absolutely love this
  - Senator Recht moves to approve by acclamation
  - Senator Sojos seconds
  - **Bill PASSES BY ACCLIMATION**

#### **New Business:**

- **Bill 18** - Sponsored by Senator Maymon - Re-introducing and updating the bill that would amend Statutes 701.1, 702.2 704.2 and 712.1 to include Candidate Statements of Interest and a SGA Candidate Booklet.
  - Opening Statement
    - Maymon: The idea for this bill is very straight forward. As much as I love Amplify and Legacy, I don't like the idea of party politics come election day. This gives people who are running a chance to explain to the student

body why they are running and what they'd do if elected. This was presented last year and was veto'ed by President Steinberg. It's been changed up a little bit and I'm here to re-introduce the idea. Yields 1:50 to closing.

○ Technical, Non-Detableable

- Ready: Would this be a separate document/email?
  - A: Yes, they'd be a separate link on the ballot that would link to the statements of interest
- Gerds: So this will not be a physical booklet?
  - A: Correct, it'll be online.
- Gerds: Have you spoken to the Supervisor of Elections?
  - A: No but I should.
- Ready: Where is this going to be hosted?
  - A: Mostly the SGA website but the idea is that it pops up when people go to the ballot
- Ready: Have you spoken to Ben Young yet?
  - A: Not yet.
- England: Is this a requirement or is this optional?
  - A: This is optional.
- Recht: So this won't be physically on the ballot right?
  - A: The information will be accessed via a link which will be displayed on the ballot. The information itself will not directly on the ballot.

○ Senator Gerds moves to enter Round Table Discussion

○ Senator Sojos seconds

○ Round Table

- Gerds: I like the idea of having a way for candidates to make their case, even if it's relatively short. I'd prefer to have this in the email that's sent out as opposed to on the ballot. I think it's best to keep the ballot as close to a real ballot as possible. I know a lot of students vote on a mobile device which can mess up the ballot if mobile devices throw you onto another tab. Would you be okay with this being included in the email instead of on the ballot?
- Maymon: Yeah, as long as people have access.
- Gerds: Will this be posted on the elections website?
- Maymon: I think we could do that.
- Recht: So I've only been through 1 election cycle so I'm not the most experienced. It's a marketing strategy to have fliers and stuff. I think this would be a really good way to get people engaged. I think it should be linked on the sight beforehand so people can look before election day.
- Gerds: I'd like to create a separate one for constitutional amendments and other things like that. I think the problem will be getting people to see this before the election day.
- Maymon: Don't we send out an email in advance of election day?
- Gerds: I think only one gets sent out on actual election day. I think it should be included in the email and added onto the elections website. My opinion is that I like the direction but I'd like to see this tabled until the sponsor has spoken to some other parties involved.
- Recht: I agree with that but I know what's going to a big job of the elections ad-hoc is to review the role of the Supervisor of Elections.

- England: I don't think this will help engagement, I think it'll actually do the opposite. I think marketing oneself as a candidate is something that should be done in advance of election day and really won't make a difference by the time people have opened up the ballot and are ready to vote. Their minds are already made up by that point.
- Maymon: So I agree, and I want this sent out before election day. I just didn't think of that ahead of this meeting.
- Sojos: I think this is a good idea but would be better served as working in the parties and is something they run internally.
- Maymon: We need to reach those students running without a party too
- Ready: It's one thing for SGA to allow students to run and the ballot allows everyone to run. When posting these statements we'll run into where a candidate won't have a statement and another student running for the same seat will. I fear it's going to look like we're advocating for one position or one student over another. The fact that we're hosting the content looks as though we're endorsing it.
- Maymon: I've thought about that and I think the easiest way to do that is to make this a requirement.
- Gerdts: I disagree with the Vice-Chair where he said this wouldn't draw more people into voting. I think people prefer to vote when they know who and what they're voting on. For an independent this would require their own writing statement and writing abilities. Parties could write a simple draft and therefore I do think this helps parties more so than independents. I like the idea because we're different from a normal election and do have to do more.
- Maymon: The point of this is for everyone to have their own independent statement regardless of parties or independents.
- Recht: So this would never pass on a real government ballot. We are students at a university and are not a real ballot. I didn't do a single bit of campaigning when I ran, it was all the parties. They come to the ballot because they want to fulfill the research they've already done. I think independent candidates have an advantage because they now have a way to reach the people.
- Ready: Would this have to be approved by the Supervisor of Elections?
- Maymon: Probably, like usual campaign stuff.
- Ready: My point with that one is that if we have to approve it again, there's a lot of stuff you can tell students. I don't like the approval thing to begin with, but I just don't know how we can put constraints on this whole thing.
- Sojos: I think we should wait to implement this with the overhaul of election code that's coming from the ad-hoc. Otherwise we're just putting another thing into election code for something that doesn't already attract much turnout.
- Gerdts: Originally I wanted to have this tabled. My opinion is now that any amendments made would change how this acts, where it shows up and what can/can't be said. I think all of that is too much work for the committee to engage in. I think we should fail this bill allowing more time and amendments to be made.
- Maymon: If that is the general consensus then we should possibly withdraw the bill.

- England - Point of Information: What changes to this idea have been made since President Steinberg's veto?
  - A: Fundamentally nothing much has changed. I just made a few changes by removing redundancies and changed a few things I disagreed with.
- Daraldik: Is this going to be on the unofficial ballot too?
- Maymon: Just the official ballot
  - Senator Maymon withdraws bill in committee. Bill is **WITHDRAWN**.
- **Bill 25** - Sponsored by Senator Sojos - To clarify the manner in which Student government meetings are advertised to the public.
  - Senator Sojos withdraws the bill. Bill is **WITHDRAWN**.

**Unfinished Business: X**

**Committee Legislative Round Table:**

England: Pro Temp's role in committee of the whole

Gerds: revamping ad hocs and creating Select Committees

Leckie: creating sub committees

Primozic: Changing TLI Leadership process

Daraldik: distinguishing between excused and unexcused absences

**Final Announcements:**

Gerds: I look forward to the continuing excellence of this committee. Thanks to this committee for being my home!

Leckie: Thanks to everyone for coming out on this extra meeting. We got through everything we need to do which is great!

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 8:15 P.M. Monday, January 27, 2020 in WJB G061

**Adjourned:** 4:04 p.m.

*Griffin Leckie*

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Signature of Chair