



**72<sup>nd</sup> Student Senate  
Judiciary Committee  
Date: April 6th, 2020**

**Call to Order: 8:08** p.m.

**Members Present:** Chair Leckie, Vice Chair Slimak, Senator(s) Absten, Ascanio, Gerdts, Parker, Sojos, Weber

**Members Tardy:** Senator(s)

**Members Excused Absent:** Senator(s) Recht, Ready

**Members Absent:** Senator(s) Silvia

**Guests:** Parli. Alvarez, Vice Chair Villacorta, Chair Gnanam, Senator-Elect Ashley Gonzalez

**Announcements:**

- Chair - Impeachment articles tonight, I hope everyone reviewed the recommended documents. Bill 62 will remain tabled, and we will be hearing bill 66
- Vice Chair - Thank you all for the wonderful birthday wishes today!
- Members - X
- Guests - X

**Committee Business:**

- **Bill 62** - Sponsored by Senators Villacorta and Gnanam - to remove unconstitutional powers from Student Body Statutes. [REMANDED BACK TO JUDICIARY]
- **Bill 66** - Sponsored by Senators Villacorta and Acanda - to delete the 307.3 (A)(1) that prevents the changing of the Student Government Association application in the period after the Spring Inauguration and before the Fall Inauguration, and to ease the process for proposing changes to the application.
- **Impeachment Investigation and Recommendation** - Senator Jungers

**Old Business:**

- **Bill 62** - Sponsored by Senators Villacorta and Gnanam - to remove unconstitutional powers from Student Body Statutes. [REMANDED BACK TO JUDICIARY]
  - **Waiting for Supreme court advisory opinion**

**New Business:**

- **Bill 66** - Sponsored by Senators Villacorta and Acanda - to delete the 307.3 (A)(1) that prevents the changing of the Student Government Association application in the period after the Spring Inauguration and before the Fall Inauguration, and to ease the process for proposing changes to the application.
  - Opening Statement

- Villacorta: This changes the SGA application, something IA has power over. Right now we need to consult a lot of people before changing the application, some positions may be vacant. I do not believe that we necessarily need to be consulted, I believe that the Senate has the ability to do it itself. There is also a requirement of a specific time period that we can change it. After talking to the IA committee, we agreed that this was unnecessary. IA fully supports this. (0:52 to closing)
- Technical, Non-Detableable
  - Slimak: Did you consult the Chief of Staff about this piece of legislation? Understanding they conduct the interviews.
    - No
  - Gerdts: May is highlighted, what is the original language?
    - Shall
- Senator Weber moves to enter Round Table Discussion
- Senator Gerdts seconds
- Round Table
  - Sojos: Why was the time restraint placed?
  - Villacorta: Unsure, all i could find is that it was placed two years ago
  - Gerdts: I understand the concerns of not consulting the Chief of Staff, I am divided, the positions are mostly for the Senate and SGA as a whole. I am leaning to support, as it gives support and power to the Senate. Hopefully IA is able to continue our work. I worry it weakening the power of Chief of Staff
  - Villacorta: I appreciate the thoughts, this would consult the chief of staff before making changes. The main issue we in IA saw was that consulting so many people before making changes will slow and hinder necessary changes that may be needed. We still plan to consult with them.
  - Weber: you seem to do a good review of 307, why is this the time you put this forward? Why has this taken so long?
  - Villacorta: this has just come up in IA, after talking with some of the candidates, we realized holes and issues that are within our application. We want to update and edit the application. The timeframe that is in place is very limiting.
  - Slimak:there's been miscommunications between the senate and exec in the past, we should be reaching out and communicating with them to ensure a healthy and positive relationship.
  - Villacorta: If this passes committee and the senate than I am happy to let them know the updates. I do not see that this needs a heads up.
  - Weber: I am all for the separation of powers between branches. The biggest thing is these date changes. What changes is IA wanting to make specifically after the Spring election?
  - Villacorta: IA does not have the power it needs year round, regardless of how the issues come up. This gives the power back to IA
  - Gerdts: I support this bill, I want IA to know that we support them. Limiting a committee in this way makes sense understanding the structure of SGA. I want the Senate to have power and ability to do what we need. I was uncomfortable with the previous encounter. I request we refrain from this moving forward.
  - Villacorta: i totally get what you are saying, IA has been getting heat for other branches not fulfilling their statutory needs.

- Weber: I am curious about the timeline of this bill. By opening up this timeline, do you see that summer senators will be affected by this? They cannot change statutes, yet their application can be changed.
  - Villacorta: Do you know the statute of the restrictions on changing statutes over summer? Precedence is so, I do not see a lot of changes coming about over summer.
  - Alverez: Currently there is not rule, statute, or constitutional amendment limiting summer senators from making statute changes.
- Senator Gerdts moves to call the question
- Senator Weber seconds
- Closing: Villacorta: Thanks guys for hearing this. Thanks for figuring this out. Please come to IA meeting next week, we have three candidates coming forward!
- Vote
  - Absten - Abst.
  - Ascanio - Yes
  - Gerdts - Yes
  - Parker - Yes
  - Slimak - Abst
  - Sojos - No
  - Weber - Abst.
- **Bill RESULT 3-1-3**
- Vote 2
  - Absten - Abst.
  - Ascanio - Yes
  - Gerdts - Yes
  - Parker - Yes
  - Slimak - Yes
  - Sojos - No
  - Weber - No
- **Bill RESULT 4-2-1 PASS**

#### Hearings:

- **Impeachment Investigation and Recommendation** - Senator Jungers
  - Resigned

**Unfinished Business:** None

#### Committee Legislative Round Table:

Weber: I'm glad this bill got talked about today. Our decisions on how bills pass or fail are by majority vote, I think that voting procedures should be moved to Rules or Procedures with a voting requirement of 2/3rds.

- This could be cool to work on as a committee

Gerdts: I think that this  $\frac{2}{3}$  requirement would be good. I wanted to add a clause into 400 to work on this abstention thing for committees themselves. With such small groups, one abstention could do this.

Alvarez: the only other instances are appointments and resolutions. The only other instance of a non majority vote is an amnio vote, or a COGs vote. Both need a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to pass. The abstention sanction can be read as for the floor only, maybe just add something specifically for committees.

Weber: What is the exact number in 400 for this?

Alvarez: 400.5 the ladder two sentences.

Weber: I want to remove this chapter, and move the voting requirements into Rules, I want to ensure that it is not a simple majority to change the voting rights

Gerts: It has now been many moons for apportionments, I hope to see it soon.

Alvarez: The constitution does not have a threshold for passages of regular legislation

Slimak: Starting to look at Senate Projects if you are interested in anything let me know! We can collaborate.

Chair Leckie: Thank you for this opportunity as your chair, this has been an amazing experience working with you all. I am proud of you for doing such diligent and hard work. We will miss all of you leaving the Senate.

#### **Final Announcements:**

Chair Leckie: Thank you for this opportunity as your chair, this has been an amazing experience working with you all. I am proud of you for doing such diligent and hard work. We will miss all of you leaving the Senate.

Slimak: Over the past few months you will notice that I have been asking about collaboration and communication with all aspects of campus. I want to ensure that we are talking to the people about the things that might affect them. This is what I will continue doing moving forward, as I believe this to be a vital key to our success in SGA

Gerdt: I want to say a special goodbye to Senators Weber and Parker. Parker, you are here and killing it. You are dedicated, and your passion for Senate shows. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, I love you. Weber, I respect you so much for your dedication. We have done so much work over the past year, you have shown me love and dedication for Judiciary, that I will miss.

Parker: Thanks Brenden! I know I was quiet in this committee, but I was so excited to see all of you filling the space and being strong Senators. I was excited to see Judiciary and get involved. It has always been the hyped up committee. As always, if you need anything at all I will be here at FSU. I am finishing my masters here in December, and hopefully back for law school. I'm not gone, but i'll miss you all. It's been fun. I love you all.

Alvarez: Tomorrow is Teal Tuesday, a part of Sexual Assault Awareness month. Its a big thing, please try to wear teal to show support! I had ribbons for everyone, but sadly we are socially distant. Please send a photo of participating in kNOW more social media challenges

Villacorta: IA will be hearing three candidates for agencies next week, all candidates have been in positions before. Alysa and Josh, its been great working with you within the Senate. I hope to see you all around. Please keep practicing social distancing. If you are in Tallahassee and in student apartments, look into renters unions. They are doing a lot to help with economic situations

Weber: Thank you for all the kind words, Judiciary has been an amazing committee, I have no regrets joining it. If you have any questions or want help next year please reach out i'm happy to help!

Alvarez: I'll still be around for another year, it's sad to see so many friendly faces go. Know your rights, know your powers. I am proud of the Judiciary for knowing your rights best, so thank you. Please make sure you still spend a spare amount of time understanding and reading rules. I look forward to seeing you all soon when we are able to be back in person!

Leckie: Thank you all for a great meeting!

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** None

**Adjourned:** 9:05 p.m.

*Griffin Leckie*

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Signature of Chair