



**73rd Student Senate
Rules & Calendar Committee
Date: January 20th, 2021**

Call to Order: 5:01 P.M

Members Present: Chair Wang, Chair(s) Martin, Little, Rudolph, Randall, England, Roy, Stinson

Members Tardy: None

Members Excused Absent: None

Members Absent: None

Guests: Rachel Coutu, Parker Ridaught, Jack Rowan Senator(s) Lessard, Flashman, Soto

Announcements:

- President Pro Tempore - Student concern about limiting public comments, possibly discuss writing into rules
- Judiciary - Meeting Friday evening
- Finance - Meeting Thursday 5:30 to review and adopt Rules and Procedure
- Oversight - Passed two candidates
- Budget - Didn't meet Monday because of the holiday; Meeting upcoming Monday at 7
- SLAA - Tabled 3 resolutions,
- RTAC - 2 members of Union Board now on RTAC
- PAC - None
- Guests - None

Committee Business:

- **Rachel Coutu - Candidate for Undergraduate Studies Seat 18**
- **Resolution 1** - Sponsored by Senators Martin & Randall (P) - Recognizing the riot that took place at the United States' Capitol
- **Resolution 2** - Sponsored by Senators Villacorta & Murcia (P) - Condemning actions and the members of the Executive Branch and encouraging all students to adhere to CDC guidelines and University guidelines
- **Resolution 3** - Sponsored by Senator Villacorta (P) - Amending Rule 10.17 in Senate Rules of Procedure
- **Resolution 4** - Sponsored by Senator Villacorta (P) - Amending Senate structure and composition about who should run the meeting during the transition of senate and vacancies
- **Resolution 5** - Sponsored by Senator Villacorta (P) - Clarify how to handle Senator's absences from meetings

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation - Rachel Coutu**

- Opening Statement:

- Coutu: My name is Rachel Coutu. I use she, her, hers pronouns. I'm majoring in Political Science. I am originally from Jacksonville but came to Florida State as I feel it's a good fit for political science majors. I truly just want to help constituents at Florida State and promote diversity on our campus.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

- Randall: Are you financially certified?
- Coutu: No, I was waiting until I was appointed but that was going to be a top priority.
- Randall: Have you attended any university trainings?
- Coutu: Have not. I am a first year, and it's been hard with COVID.

- Questions Regarding Position:

- Martin: You were talking about being there for your constituents should you be appointed. How do you plan on doing that?
- Coutu: I personally am a bisexual women. I want to focus on the LGBT community and represent everyone, and that is a very important part of SGA. I believe our social media is a great way to do that. Once COVID starts to end, we can promote SGA events. As an OL, I want to reach out to other groups I am unaffiliated with to make sure I'm covering all of my bases.
- Randall: What ideas do you have specifically to improve the FSU experience for your constituents?
- Coutu: One of my top priorities is making sure FSU is a safe place to go to. I want to make sure that students feel safe to go here.

- Questions Regarding Character:

- Randall: How do you deal with conflict resolution?
- Coutu: Important to let them know you are listening to them. You need to lower your walls because you don't know everything about everyone. I would listen, take in what they're saying, and look for a compromise.
- Randall: Can you talk about your leadership style?
- Coutu: It's very difficult now with COVID. I am an active hands-on leader. I don't like to sit back and wait for things to be brought to the table for a vote. I want to talk to students and ask them what they want changed.
- Stinson: What are some leadership roles you've had in the past?
- Coutu: Secretary of the National Honor Society in high school, Drum Major, Secretary of Dorman & Deviney Hall Council. Internship with local Congressman in high school.

- Closing:

- Coutu: I just want to thank al, of you guys for listening. I genuinely appreciate your time to listen to what I have to say. I wish you all the best.

- Martin moves to enter roundtable discussion; England seconds

- Roundtable:

- Stinson: I think she's pretty prepared. Good answer and experience. Ties into what she'll be doing here.

- Martin: I liked her responses as well. Definitely needs help during Senate. Possibly have people help her figure out legislation. She wants to make a difference; keep an open mind about how we can help her transition into a senate role
 - Randall: Want to echo what Chair Martin said. She is definitely more of a build and needs support. I appreciate her nurturing spirit. Her approach to wellbeing and mental health is very well-taken with COVID-19. I saw an insta post of her at a convention in December. Wish I could've gotten to ask her a question about COVID safety, but it is a concern.
 - Villacorta: I saw some of the same of Chair Randall. She was at a TPUSA convention. Believe FSU is looking into whether TPUSA should remain on campus after concerns at the U.S. Capitol.
 - Stinson: Disagree with Senator Villacorta. You don't have to agree with everything at an event to attend it.
 - Randall: I don't agree with the political beliefs part of Villacorta, but I want to ask about COVID safety protocol.
 - Villacorta: **POC:** Issue is not about political beliefs. It is about the actions and membership with an organization that performs these actions.
 - Martin: Focus on the fact she could have brought more to her interview about what she wants to do in her role in senate. I haven't read her application, but if she didn't discuss it here or in her application, it is not necessarily something she believes in.
 - Villacorta: I share Randall's concerns regarding COVID protocols.
 - Little: Her answers seemed well intentioned. She named several communities she wanted to represent in senate. I feel confident forwarding her.
 - Rudolph: I agree with Chair Little. Her application sounded good. A lot of good intentions at heart.
 - Little moves to forward the candidate; Rudolph seconds
 - Vote:
 - England: Yes
 - Little: Yes
 - Martin: Yes
 - Randall: Yes
 - Roy: Abstain
 - Rudolph: Yes
 - Stinson: Yes
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE PASSES**
- **Resolution 1-** Sponsored by Senators Martin & Flashman (P) - Recognizing the riot that took place at the United States' Capitol
 - Opening Statement:
 - Martin: This talks about the riot at the U.S Capitol and even within Tallahassee. It's important because of not only what it's saying in the text, but so many people were willing to cosponsor. This is a collaborative resolution. It's not just a statement, but it's calling on the FSU police department, sharing university resources from Counseling Center, the resilience project, the psychiatric clinic at UHS. It's focusing on how students can get more help with their health/mental health. We're hoping to have more protection for students.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
- Roy moves to enter round-table discussion; Little seconds
- Round Table:
 - Roy: We all agree there are few events that shake not just the student body but the political center of our state. We expect to see ramifications from this. It shouldn't be too controversial. We are going against disunity. Yields in support.
 - England: There is no more historic day than today to be voting on this resolution. 2 Wednesdays ago, the capital riot happened; 1 wednesday before was the impeachment. Today is the Inauguration. Wednesday seems to be a pretty historic day this month. Excited to keep that going.
- Randall moves to pass by acclamation; Little seconds
- Closing Statement:
 - None
- **RESULT: PASSED BY ACCLAMATION**
- **Resolution 2** - Sponsored by Senators Villacorta & Murcia - Condemning actions and the members of the Executive Branch and encouraging all students to adhere to CDC guidelines and University guidelines
 - Opening Statement:
 - Villacorta: Students reached out to SGA showing members of exec branch at clubs maskless promoting deals and events and clubs. The exec branch asked the student body and swore themselves to follow guidelines with PledgeTLH. This sets a bad example when students are reaching out about the leader representing them being hypocritical. Tallahassee is the poorest zipcode in FL and has the highest barriers to life saving medical care. Beds almost at capacity in TLH hospitals. There is a county-wide health risk posed by students going to bars and clubs. Asks the committee to amend the updated total cases and deaths.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Randall: Was there a reason why you didn't include specific language as to why the poverty rate is related?
 - Villacorta: 4th and 5th whereas mention how low income individuals are more likely to be uninsured have a harder time accessing healthcare and being in a worse place should they contract COVID-19
 - Stinson: Why aren't the actions of half the student body not called out?
 - Villacorta: Half the student body did not make a public pledge to refrain from these activities and are not an example to the student body
 - Randall: Executive is all agencies, bearus, and related projects. Did you see any of these members?
 - Villacorta: Things sent to me included members of the executive cabinet. Agencies and bureaus not included
 - England: Did you sign the pledge yourself?
 - Villacorta: I did not
 - England: Did you engage in any similar behavior?
 - Villacorta: No, I'm severely immunocompromised.
- England moves to enter round-table discussion; Roy seconds
 - Round Table:
 - England moves to amend to remove any references to the executive branch and change to the student body.

- Stinson: Just a ploy to come at Jonathan Levin. Was following state law.
- England: Number of other people at the university that have not always followed covid guidelines. Only naming exec branch instead of anyone is just a continuation of the rhetoric we've seen over the last few months that came out of IB. Resolution makes good points. Very factual. Hearsay about the exec branch in the first few whereas is harmful.
- Little: Main issue is the use of the word condemn. Setting precedent that the student senate condemns anyone is divisive. This is calling out versus calling in. We need to be working towards how we can fix the problem instead of condemning past actions.
- Roy: The statistics are impressive. Students need to remember pledge. I agree with sentiments calling out exec branch. Not in senate's power to condemn them. I would like to see legislation like this. More in our power as a general statement to everyone;
- Randall: Condemn is strong language and a little harsh. I'm not comfortable with condemning someone. I have some issues with poverty statistics. Want specific language about being in specific language related to how being in a certain poverty group makes you less likely to be able to afford healthcare. Calling out exec is not the best solution. Some of the most important student engagement possibilities come from the exec branch. It doesn't mention in-person classes.
- Villacorta: **POC**: Be it resolved; doesn't mention in-person as the university already as guidelines for those; spoke to UHS about guidelines; change to student government officials instead of exec; condemn standard legislative language for disapproval
- Stinson: It should say student body in general instead of student government officials. Agree with Chair Little.
- Martin: Needs a revamp, but it has good points. Move away from condemning anyone since Florida made the choice to open bars and clubs that are now considered Covid guidelines. I want to pass if it doesn't condemn anyone and included how to follow and encourage other the students to follow COVID guidelines
- Villacorta: **POC**: presents photo of SBP maskless at a club
- Rudolph: why don't we amend to condemn action of sgo and SBP at the same time; People have a right to say "you did that and I dislike it"; call out both exec and student body
- Randall: Did you personally meet with or reach out to any members of exec?
- Villacorta: No. I didn't feel it was pertinent given several students sent pictures and messages about their behavior; repeat disrespect for guidelines
- Stinson: There's a lot of backstory to pictures. Misinformation could be construed here
- Little: Return to Chair Martin about condemning at all. Condemning people is wasted energy. It's not our job to publish to people. We could use said energy for positive solutions that include the whole student body.
- England moves to amend to remove any references to the executive branch and change to the student body; Stinson seconds
 - Villacorta: **PoPP**: More language referring to student government; student government officials need to be included.
- **Sponsor finds friendly. Amendment is adopted.**

- Randall moves to amend to update the current infection and death rates; England seconds
- **Sponsor finds friendly. Amendment is adopted.**
- Randall moves to amend the resolution to add a whereas clause; Little seconds
- **Sponsor finds friendly. Amendment is adopted.**
- England moves to call the question; Rudolph seconds
 - Closing Statement:
 - Villacorta: Thank you for your time. I get how hard the pandemic has been. While students are required to have insurance, many work around that so it doesn't show in the system. Lost students and members of the community to COVID. Knows students who have had covid 4 or 5 times. There are long term health effects to even asymptomatic cases.
 - Vote:
 - England: Yes
 - Little: Yes
 - Martin: Yes
 - Randall: Yes
 - Roy: Yes
 - Rudolph: Yes
 - Stinson: Yes
 - **RESULT: RESOLUTION PASSES**
- **Resolution 3** - Sponsored by Senator Villacorta - Amending Rule 10.17 in Senate Rules of Procedure
 - Opening Statement:
 - Villacorta: This is to remove senate naming ad hoc. Senate named an award after a former SGA staff member who then had students come and say that person had been discriminatory towards them. The naming Ad Hoc was created to allow students to give feedback. Senators can research before naming something after someone.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - England: Is there still another way we could make a naming ad hoc or does this remove any chance of another naming ad hoc?
 - Villacorta: Senate president can instate an ad hoc at any time or any reason.
 - Roy moves to enter round-table discussion; England seconds
 - Round Table:
 - Roy: Commend the sponsor on this. I remember people talking about wanting to rename things and having to wait for a naming ad hoc to be established to name anything. We can always change if the need arises.
 - Randall: I appreciate knowing we can create another naming ad hoc.
 - England moves to call the question; Roy seconds
 - Closing Statement:
 - Villacorta: Thank you. I yield
 - Vote:
 - England: Yes
 - Little: Yes
 - Martin: Yes
 - Randall: Yes
 - Roy: Yes
 - Rudolph: Yes

- Stinson: Yes
 - **RESULT: RESOLUTION PASSES**
- **Resolution 4** - Sponsored by Senator Villacorta - Amending Senate structure and composition about who should run the meeting during the transition of senate and vacancies
 - Opening Statement:
 - Villacorta: There were issues with determining jurisdiction over who presides over the senate during voting on senate leadership. This changes SBP to most senior member of senate. This includes a definition of "most senior" since people were inaugurated at the same time. The senator whose name appears first on the official roll is most senior since they were inaugurated a few min before. SBVP is not allowed on the floor of the student senate per rule 11.2. 1.1 and 11.2 contradict each other. It also grants sole power to the senate to elect officers, so someone not part of the senate could not constitutionally break a tie.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Randall: Would you be willing to say most senior senator per 1.1A?
 - Villacorta: Yes. I would be amenable.
 - England moves to enter round-table discussion; Martin seconds
 - Round Table:
 - England: Won't support. One concern is based on longevity of the rules. This rule has been here for a number of years and has always been a ceremonial roll for SBVP to run elections of senate president. We saw the two most senior senator run for senate president. Moving down the list causes a problem. We have the potential for severe conflicts of interest. The person who oversaw the election is chair of a political party on campus chair. They decide who asks questions. Change rule 11.2. Don't change rule 1.
 - Martin: Most senior member loses votes if they preside. It's important for SBVP to preside and selfish to take someone's vote to have the senior most member to preside.
 - Villacorta ROR: You can't take a vote someone is not constitutionally enumerated to have. Only senators have the right to vote as stated in Bynum v. SGA.
 - Stinson: Agree with England. Too much power to someone in senate
 - England: Can you cite where the constitutionality is coming into questions? You don't see it's acceptable for the SBVP to break the tie. Find the section where only senators have the right to vote on the senate floor.
 - Villacorta: Art 2 Sec 2 Clause B
 - England; I would interpret differently. Neither of us are lawyers. Decision must come from supreme court before I will consider this unconstitutional
 - **Randall moves to table until advisory opinion is received, England seconds**
 - **RESULT: Resolution 4 tabled**
- **Resolution 5** - Sponsored by Senator Villacorta - Clarify how to handle Senator's absences from meetings
 - Opening Statement:

- Villacorta: This is addressing issues with absence policy. It adds in clarification about when meetings when a senator has been suspended and then are absent again. The committee can choose whether or not to give senators more absences so the senator does not have to come back.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
- Roy moves to enter round-table discussion; England seconds
- Round Table:
 - England: **POPP**: Moment to look over Resolution 5
 - Rudolph: What was the process before for suspended senators?
 - Villacorta: Certain amount of abs. Going over that they have to talk to R&C. The committee can reinstate or forward for impeachment. 2 senators had to miss for big exams, and there was debate over whether they would have to come back again after being reinstated.
 - England: Suspended senators accumulate 7 absences. Immediately suspended if they missed any more meetings. Waste of rules time. Allows us to have more time.
 - Randall: **POI**: Open to amendment making it a 2/3rd vote in r&c?
 - Villacorta; No harm in general rules
 - Little: **POI**: Do we vote again if a senator meets the threshold a second time?
 - Villacorta: They're called in again. Rule 13.8b.1 gives you the opportunity to decide if you want to allow more absences or forward for impeachment.
 - Little: **POI**: Is the number of absences a hearing process? How does that communication work?
 - Villacorta: Case by case basis
 - England: I support $\frac{2}{3}$ vote
 - Rudolph: Where would $\frac{2}{3}$ vote go?
 - Randall: Add $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to "proposed vote" and add "and pass by two-thirds"
 - Rudolph: Sound good.
- Randall moves to amend to add $\frac{2}{3}$; Rudolph seconds
- Sponsor does not find friendly.
- Randall withdraws amendment.
- England moves to call the question; Randall seconds
- Closing Statement:
 - Villacorta: Thank you for your input. Hopefully this can solve problems and not take up too much R&C time.
- Vote:
 - England: Yes
 - Little: Yes
 - Martin: Yes
 - Randall: Yes
 - Roy: Yes
 - Rudolph: Yes
 - Stinson: Yes
- **RESULT: RESOLUTION PASSES**

Unfinished Business: Resolution 4

Committee Legislative Round Table: None

Final Announcements: None
Date and Time of Next Meeting: TBD
Adjourned: 7:05PM

Renee Wang

Signature of President Pro Tempore