



**73rd Student Senate
Rules & Calendar Committee
Date: March 3rd, 2021**

Call to Order: 5:02 pm

Members Present: Pro-Tempore Wang, Chair(s) Stinson, Roy, Martin, England, Randall, Rudolph

Members Tardy: Chair(s)

Members Excused Absent: Chair(s)

Members Absent: Senator(s)

Guests: Trevor Murray, Meagan McLaughlin, Shayna Cohen, Patrick Martin, Kristian Diaz, Thomas Mills, Michele Merchant, Senator(s) A. Gonzalez, Gabadage, Daraldik, Villacorta, Soto, Murcia, Stults, Flashman

Announcements:

- President Pro Tempore - Land acknowledgement
- Judiciary - Passed bill 13, legislative round table
- Finance - Heard rtac CR and 1 PAC candidate
- Oversight - Passed candidate for OGA social media director, director of FLI, and Bill 13
- Budget - Did not meet
- SLAA - Tabled Res 17 & 18
- RTAC - Passed CR 9- \$500 for undergrad mock trial
- PAC - Did not meet, heard PAC candidate in finance
- Guests -

Committee Business:

- **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 9** - Sponsored by Senator Daraldik (P) - Denounce the claim by the Burning Spear Organization that they control the Student Government Association Student Senate

Old Business:

- **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 9** - Sponsored by Senator Daraldik (P) - Denounce the claim by the Burning Spear Organization that they control the Student Government Association Student Senate
 - Opening Statement:
 - Daraldik: Resolution is something long overdue. Merely asking that we denounce and state our autonomy against Burning Spear: an org that reaches far beyond our campus. Burning Spear believes that it controls Student Government and student life in a variety of ways. This resolution is only a first step of dismantling this org's grip on our Student Government. Our student government should be run by our students and not by back room meetings that believe groupthink is the solution to our problems and reports to a corporate board whose intentions and interests are of no concern to the FSU student body or SG. Burning Spear refers to itself as a "mafia" and offers no opportunity for dissension. Our SG is meant to be a democracy. With an org like Burning Spear, that is not possible. I hope with this resolution that we reclaim SG and the Student Senate, and exec/judicial branches will follow with the acknowledgement and denouncement of this org.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Randall: Did you already reach out to COGS?
 - Daraldik: No
 - Roy: How did you come up with the people listed for who the resolution will be sent to?
 - Daraldik: These are orgs that are claimed to be controlled by Burning Spear to some extent.
 - Martin: Have you reached out to any of the orgs to see if any of them would denounce it?
 - Daraldik: I've reached out, but I have not received any responses.
 - Roy: Has anyone come to the Student Senate to complain or address this?
 - Daraldik: This resolution was drafted in an earlier senate. The sponsor withdrew the resolution b/c they proclaimed they had received threats.
 - Randall: Do you perceive any threats to your safety?
 - Daraldik: I have been threatened in the past and blacklisted.
 - **Little moves to enter round-table discussion; Martin seconds**
 - Round Table:

Little moves to allow non-committee member to speak; Rudolph seconds

- Villacorta: I wrote the first version of this. I withdrew it on the floor after a friend not involved in SGA told me that the head of an org they were in told them their leadership position within the org would be jeopardized if this resolution passed. A member of this committee had texted me that anyone who voted for this resolution would be blackballed. The same senator told me that Burning Spear and SGA work together for the university. At the exec debate, I was told that an overwhelming amount of questions submitted to the SOE was about SGA's association with Burning Spear. It's very clear that there is interest from the student body in having this addressed. Encourage the committee that this gets to go to the floor to have a debate.
- Randall: I don't understand why these names are listed. Why Bowden and not Hecht? How does this apply to Thrasher? How does this apply to FSView?

- Daraldik: Thrasher and Hecht have relations with this org. I've received a picture before where the VP of student affairs was at an event where there was a banner that said Burning Spear. It felt appropriate to send it to people who have direct contact with this org. FSView has written stuff about this org in the past.
- Randall: Why is Student Seminole Boosters being sent this?
- Daraldik: SSB is one of the biggest orgs on our campus, and they have a lot of funding and relations with athletes. Their leadership in the past have been members of Burning Spear.
- Randall: Is there a reason you only mentioned Chris Graham of OFSL?
- Daraldik: Greek life is a vital part of our campus. When it comes to OFSL, their leadership are usually targeted to be members of Burning Spear.
- Martin: This also went through SLAA. A lot of people came, and now we're in R&C talking about it again. While I understand people want to hear it in the whole Senate, we're the student leadership of Senate. I'm sure what we say is important too. I don't want it to seem that if someone votes a certain way, we will be questioned. It gets polarizing how you decide to vote, but it's important to note that we're chairs, and we know what we're voting on.
- Roy: This is an issue I've seen on my social media. I've heard about it from constituents and SLAA members that this is something that can be heard on the floor. In SLAA, it passed with 9 votes and 1 no. Even reading the minutes, some of the people voted yes to have it heard on the Senate floor. This past election cycle, we had a candidate run solely on raising awareness of this issue on campus. It'll be just as big of an issue in the next election cycle as it was in this one. I want people to have the opportunity to vote and hear this on the floor.
- Martin: Many in SLAA did not know this was coming to R&C. They thought it would just go straight to the Senate floor, and that influenced how they voted.
- Roy: From the members that I have heard from, they wanted it to go forward. I'm sure no one wants this to be heard by less people to be voted on.
- Gonzalez: I don't believe the argument having it being heard on the floor is canceled out just because it came to Rules and just because you are chairs especially because some people on this committee are best friends with spears. Some of your mentors are spears. The inherent bias that exists in this committee is too large for this to be shot down without a word. You all should give the privilege of the 60 other senators to have a voice and vote on this.
- Murcia: During campaigning, I had multiple students come to me to ask about Burning Spear and how to get involved with SGA specifically to learn about and oppose the org. It's important that the entire senate gets to hear, read, and vote on this.
- Little: This seems like something that affects the entire senate. Two committees do not represent the entire senate. If it goes before the full Senate, then we'll know whether we agree or not. I've seen things on social media specifically about this resolution, so the student body knows this exists and that we're having this debate and conversation now. To fail to allow it to go to the senate floor is a bigger mistake than to let it go there and be debated on.

- Randall: I will be voting to forward this to the Senate for the sole reason that this is an important resolution and that I agree with what it's saying. I want to make sure that this committee is very careful about saying that we don't believe the committees represent the Senate.
 - **Randall moves to call the question; Roy seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Daraldik: I wanted to address one thing that if the committee decides to shoot it down that it's not representative of the full Senate. I disagree because the role of committees is to make these points and to decide if something is appropriate enough to reach the Senate based on its importance and how much it impacts the student body. I believe this resolution impacts the student body in such a grave way that it would be a disservice to the students if the entire Senate who represent the constituencies that we have to express their opinions. Burning Spear has been a part of my FSU experience since I was a freshman. Once you get into SGA, you realize the impact they have on student life and student mental wellness. I began to doubt myself and leadership experiences and credibility because I was told that I shouldn't be as vocal about my identity because I was someone who was looked at by this org. I was not accepted into this org because of who I am. Being someone who is vocal about issues that are important to me doesn't mean that I'm not a good leader. I think that it's vital that we at least have this conversation on the Senate floor.
 - Vote:
 - England: No
 - Little: Yes
 - Martin: No
 - Randall: Yes
 - Roy: Yes
 - Rudolph: Yes
 - Stinson: No
 - **RESULT: RESOLUTION PASSES**

New Business: X

Unfinished Business:

- **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

Committee Legislative Round Table:

Final Announcements:

Date and Time of Next Meeting: March 10th, 2021 5:00 PM

Adjourned: 5:58 PM

Renee Wang

Signature of President Pro-Tempore