



**74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate  
Internal Affairs Committee  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 7:30pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/9458129384>**

**Call to Order:** 7:35pm

**Members Present:** Chair Russell, Vice Chair Diaz, Senators Lessard, Barberis, Hautrive, Fronczak, Murray, Downing, Fox, Tucker

**Members Tardy:** N/A

**Members Absent:** Senator Suarez (E)

**Guests:** Candidate Joseph Cofer

**Land Acknowledgement – Chair Russell**

- 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:**

- **Chair Russell:** Looking into the bureau review process, hoping to start and complete the process in the month of February. Please let me know if you do not have access to the Google Drive folder for access to minutes, forwarding letters, and legislation coming before the committee. We only have one candidate before us today, others have not answered emails notifying them of their confirmation hearings. I hope they can come in next week.
- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson:** For the candidates and everyone else in the committee, please enunciate your words and speak clearly for the Vice Chair taking minutes.

**Committee Business:**

- **Candidate for 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Historian – Joseph Cofer**

- **Resolution 6** – Sponsored by Senator Drackley: To increase transparency to the student body, specifically those applying for positions within SGA

**New Business:**

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Joseph Cofer – 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Historian
  - Opening Statement:
    - I am a freshman involved in Amnesty International, the Presidential Scholars executive board, and in Arrow. I am currently majoring in International Affairs. I am running for Senate Historian because I want to learn from all of you and I think Senate provides a great opportunity to learn from each of the senators and what they do inside and outside of SGA. I know this is a job that is much needed to be filled, and I have been a historian before, and I think I can certainly fulfill the job.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Are you financially certified?
      - I am not, but am currently working on it.
    - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Are you affiliated with any campus political party?
      - I am not.
    - Senator Lessard: Do you have prior experience in student government, either in high school or another capacity.
      - Yes, I was Vice President of my SGA in high school and was also historian. I was an ambassador for a little bit on the side on top of that and had lots of experience in that sense.
    - Senator Murray: Have you undergone and diversity training? Like Green Dot for example.
      - I have not. The only training I have are those provided and required for me to take as an FSU student.
  - General Round of Questioning:
    - Senator Lessard: What other experiences do you have that will make you a good historian?
      - Cofer: I had a lot of involvements in high school, and I realized that it is more about quality over quantity in college. That is why I am still trying to discover my interests. I can certainly take all of the leadership positions I had in high school and apply them here. I think that understanding that Senate is not just about what is in college or at FSU; for instance, I started a company back home and can take what I learned from that (communicating with people and learning to adapt with others and being organized). At the end of the day, that is the success of the company, and I feel that I can apply that as Senate Historian and other positions in the Senate to learn, grow, and figure out who I am as well.
    - Senator Fronczak: Is there a specific time where you encountered a problem with a fellow leader with opposing views and used empathy to connect with them?
      - Not particularly, though when I don't understand where someone is coming from, I attempt to invoke empathy into my leadership style to understand where they are coming from in terms of their experiences to come to bipartisan agreements.
    - Senator Murray: Do you have direct experience taking minutes?

- I have experience typing, and my words per minute is 61 words per minute, with 100% accuracy. It is my goal to make the minutes accurate and timely.
- Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Being Senate Historian and submitting minutes is a huge time commitment. How are your current time management skills?
  - Last semester, I got super involved in a lot of things and am learning to cut down on my commitments to make the most of this job as what I did last semester was unsustainable. I am looking towards more focusing on my real passions and making time for those passions outside of the classroom and building relationships with people.
- Senator Hautrive: Can you provide specific examples of experiences you had in your high school SGA that you feel can help prepare you for this experience?
  - While I was high school SGA historian, I had the opportunity to take minutes during sometimes heated debates and exchanges that took place during an uncertain time in SGA during the era of COVID. There were many emotional, fast-paced, heated debates related to the ways in which SGA could operate during COVID, and I feel that this can be applied to the position of FSU Senate Historian.
- Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Where do you see yourself growing in SGA?
  - I don't have an end goal necessarily; I am mostly here to learn along the way and will enjoy gaining experiences from everyone in SGA.
- Senator Murray: Historian is a very stressful job, how will you attempt to keep yourself sane and feel relaxed whenever you may be stressed?
  - I got in the habit of sleeping in late last semester, so I have begun making time for myself and my mental health by waking up early and going to the gym. My friends and I always seek to have a "family dinner" every night, which keeps me feeling happy and rested every day, along with taking me out of work mode.
- Senator Hautrive: Are you apart of any other organizations on campus?
  - Amnesty International, Arrow, and the Presidential Scholars Program.
- Senator Lessard: Do you hold e-board positions within those organizations?
  - I hold an e-board position for the Presidential Scholars, and am tour chair for Arrow.
- Senator Lessard: About how many hours per week do those e-board positions take up?
  - Part of my role at Presidential Scholars take me about 2 hours per week; Arrow may take up between an hour to an hour-and-a-half a week due to my role of organizing tours. Nothing substantial that could prevent me from having this role.
- **Senator Murray moves to enter roundtable discussion; Senator Tucker seconds**
  - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: I work with the candidate on both of the e-boards he serves on, and I speak very highly of his work and time commitment toward serving the student body. He stepped up as a

freshman for this position that few people want, showing his character and willingness to serve the Senate and student body.

- Senator Lessard: I appreciated all of the answers the candidate gave, and his willingness to serve, especially as a freshman. To be so involved on campus so quickly is very commendable.
- Senator Murray: I agree with and appreciate all of the comments made by previous senators and I respect his persistence and willingness to serve in the Senate. It is very rare for a candidate's application to be so thorough and diligent.
- Senator Tucker: The candidate seems very intelligent, organized, proactive, and thoughtful. He answered questions amazingly and has my full confidence.
- Senator Fronczak: I appreciate that he focused on empathy in his application in addition to his past experiences and basics of wanting to do the job well.

○ Closing Statement:

- Thank you for this opportunity. I would love to have this honor to learn from you. My intention is not to rule over you, but to learn from each of you and I appreciate this opportunity.

○ **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to call the question; Senator Lessard seconds**

○ Vote:

- Yes: 11 – Drackley, Lessard, Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Barberis, Tucker, Hautrive, Fronczak, Murray, Downing, Fox, Vice Chair Diaz
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

● **RESULT: CANDIDATE JOSEPH COFER PASSES**

● **Resolution #6 - Sponsored by Senators Drackley (P), Tucker, Chair Russell, Vice Chair Diaz (Co)**

- **POC** – Lessard: Should we be presenting the original filed resolution or have the sponsor present the resolution as he intends to amend it?
  - **Chair Russell:** I will screenshare the resolution Senator Drackley sent me with the amendments he intends to introduce.
- Opening Statement:
  - Senator Drackley: This is a simple resolution to add a link to the forwarding interview questions available on the SGA website at the end of the SGA application. This is a way for applicants to see those questions, as those I have spoken to do not know where to find said questions. This is to also ensure those applying to SGA offices are more prepared and know more about the position they are applying for. Statute 307.3(c) requires that we address any changes to forms like this to the Student Body Chief of Staff, the SGA Director of Student Affairs, the Student Senate Program Assistant, and the Attorney General, which is being added via my amendment.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - Murray: Does this resolution have the authority to force the changes to the SGA application or is it purely a recommendation?
    - Senator Drackley: While we cannot force these changes to be made, I would assume that the support expressed by the Student

Senate would lead to the changes being done, as has been done in the past.

- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to amend the resolution to add Senators Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Fronczak, Downing, Lessard, Murray, Barberis, and Hautrive as cosponsors; sponsor finds it friendly.**
- **Senator Murray moves to enter roundtable; Senator Fronczak seconds**
  - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Great job to Senator Drackley on this resolution. You are eating in IA already. So proud.
  - **Senator Lessard moves to amend the resolution to add Dr. Felicia Williams as a recipient, Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds; sponsor finds it friendly.**
  - Senator Lessard: Love the resolution, I think it will be much better to provide increased transparency for applicants. Adding a link to the application will be helpful, with candidates feeling more prepared and at ease before interviews, not just with IA, but with the Chief of Staff and the Senate as a whole.
- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to pass by unanimous consent**
- Closing Statement: Sponsor waives.
- **RESULT: RESOLUTION #6 PASSES**

#### Unfinished Business:

- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research & Creativity, Treasurer**  
– Ramen Veloso
- **Candidate for Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy, Director of Programming** – Valeria Veras
- **Candidate for Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy, Committee Member**  
– Roberto Ortiz

#### Closing Announcements:

- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson:** Great job today with being prepared for questions. We are, in fact, eating.
- **Senator Hautrive:** Happy to be here for my first IA meeting this semester. I have been busy but will be showing up in regular attendance from now on.
- **Chair Russell:** We can meet in a hybrid format for future meetings if we would like. I will send out a poll to discuss options for where we may want to meet in person.
  - **Senator Lessard:** I wouldn't mind coming in-person or in a hybrid format in the future.
- **Chair Russell:** We should have more opportunities to have fun outside of committee meetings. Thank you for showing up tonight and interacting with me in GroupMe.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:30pm

**Adjourned:** 8:17pm



Signature of Chair Katie Russell