



74th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
February 7th, 2022 at 7:30pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/99469538694>

Call to Order: 7:33pm

Members Present: Chair Russell, Vice Chair Diaz, Senators Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Hautrive, Barberis, Downing, Tucker, Suarez

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senators Fronczak (E), Lessard (E), Murray (U), Drackley (E), Fox (E)

Guests: Chair Tyler Roy

Land Acknowledgement – Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson

- 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:** Sent out emails for bureau review, should be around 2 weeks from today. I hope we can meet again the same week of bureau review for deliberations on bureau review. We have to complete the process by spring elections, which is cutting it close on time. We need to update the list of questions. Relatively
- **Vice Chair Diaz:** I believe the business we have before the committee will be quick. It will leave us a lot of time to discuss the forwarding questions on the website if we so choose.

Committee Business:

- **Candidate for Student Council for Undergraduate Research & Creativity, Treasurer**
– Ramen Veloso

- **Constitutional Amendment #1** – Sponsored by Senator Roy: To amend Section 7B of Article V of the FSU Student Senate Constitution to include appointment exceptions to offices defined in statutes.

Old Business:

- **Candidate for Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy, Committee Member** – Roberto Ortiz
- **Candidate for Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy, Director of Programming** – Valeria Veras
 - The committee was informed by Senator Murray that candidate Veras intends on withdrawing her application.

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Ramon Veloso** – Student Council for Undergraduate Research & Creativity, Treasurer
 - Opening Statement:
 - I am a third-year chemical engineer major. I am a candidate for Treasurer and I believe my experience with research and as an editor of OWL, which SCURC oversees, as well as my previous experience as treasurer of VEGFSU makes me an ideal candidate for this position. In addition to my experience doing math and calculations as an engineering major, which I think is a useful skill I will bring to the position.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Are you financially certified?
 - No
 - Senator Tucker: Are you aware of the process of becoming financially certified?
 - The President of the organization spoke to me about that, and told me she would work me through the process this weekend when we meet.
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Vice Chair Diaz: What experiences do you have that you believe qualify you to be treasurer of this organization?
 - I have been the treasurer of VEGFSU for about 2 semesters now, and just started a position as an assistant editor of the OWL, and have already started working on one research submission to be peer reviewed. I believe that all my work in terms of projects and research for labs in Miami, my hometown, qualifies me. I am also applying to a research lab in Tallahassee to be able to do more research as well.
 - Senator Tucker: Did the work in the laboratory position involve you doing anything related to funds or anything that would apply to the treasurer position?
 - No, I brought up my experience working in labs to relate it to the overall work that the research council will be doing.
 - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: What are some general goals you have for this position?
 - If I managed to help at least one person, I would have reached my goal. In general, anything I can do get someone involved in research, is my goal – to help as many people experience that as possible. You don't really understand the extent of how much research helps before you work in a lab.

- Closing Statement:
 - Thank you for having me. I appreciate all of the questions I was asked. I could represent myself well and why I am the ideal candidate for the role.
- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Tucker seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Downing: I like that he said he would want to help at least one person. Sometimes people focus on the bigger picture, and I think it is good to step back and focus on the individual people that may need help and that would want to be involved in undergraduate research.
 - Senator Barberis: It seems that the candidate does have some experience in this type of role. The candidate said financial certification would get cleared up quickly, so I don't see any glaring issues.
 - Senator Hautrive: This candidate seems motivated for the position and looks like a good fit.
- **Senator Tucker moves to call the question; Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 5 – Senators Hautrive, Barberis, Downing, Tucker, Vice Chair Diaz
 - No: 0 - names
 - Abstain: 2 – Senators Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Suarez
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE VELOSO PASSES**

- **Constitutional Amendment #1 - Sponsored by Chair Roy**
 - Opening Statement:
 - This amendment allows for an exception. The Constitution says the Student Body President (SBP) has to appoint officers of SGA. Currently, our statutes for our current Senate leadership is against this. We have a Senate Clerk and Historian that are appointed by the Senate President and approved by the Senate. This is currently unconstitutional. One could invalidate that and make it so that the SBP would have to appoint these officers, but I see this as an opportunity to say the Senate should be able to appoint its own officers, irrespective of the scope of the SBP. This allows for statutes to be changed to create positions that lie within the scope of offices not appointed directly by the SBP. All of those offices created by statutes, for the record, can be vetoed by the SBP or by Dr. Hecht when such a bill reaches their desk.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Would this change how we do any work in Senate?
 - No, but for example, earlier this Senate, there was a proposal to allow OGA to appoint Senate-confirmed assistants, which was shot down for its unconstitutionality. We realized that we are doing the exact same thing with our Senate officers, and this amendment could open the door to allow for changes like that to occur, subject to a veto of the SBP or Dr. Hecht.
 - Vice Chair Diaz: This would allow for officers designated in statute to be appointed by the SBP in addition to the officers listed in section B?
 - No, it is the opposite. All of those listed in Section B are the exceptions to the positions appointed by the SBP. Those listed are offices that go through different processes. We are simply adding

offices defined in statute to that list of exceptions, such as Parliamentarian, Clerk, or Historian, which would be appointed by the Senate President. If in the future, we were to add more positions not appointed by the SBP, this would allow more freedom to do so.

- Vice Chair Diaz: Are there any other big or influential positions within Student Government that you can think of that would apply to this rule other than the Senate officers?
 - I cannot. Though from my research, I do not believe this would mess anything else up. PAC and RTAC members may possibly apply to this rule. There is some ambiguity to that.
- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to enter roundtable discussion; Senator Barberis seconds**
 - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: This would make it to where we are not breaking statutes. It has no real-world impact and only ensures we are being held accountable. No other way to vote on this.
 - Senator Tucker: I see no con to this, and it solely keeps us within Statutes. I see no reason to vote against this.
 - Vice Chair Diaz: I totally agree with the previous two speakers. Great job to Chair Roy for catching that and attempting to fix it.
- **Senator Tucker moves to call the question; Senator Hautrive seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Thank you for your time. This will go through another committee, but if you have any other questions or have any other improvements you would like to make, please contact me. I look forward to working with you. Thank you and have a great night.
- Vote:
 - Yes: 7 – Senators Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Suarez, Hautrive, Downing, Tucker, Barberis, Vice Chair Diaz
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CA #1 PASSES**

Chair Russell: We do not necessarily have anything else to do. I don't know if you all would like to meet a little bit earlier next meeting as it is Valentine's Day, perhaps 5:30. We can also move forward with changing the forwarding questions on the website.

Senator Hautrive: I think the questions are somewhat basic, and we ask them in committee anyways.

Vice Chair Diaz moves to enter legislative roundtable, Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds.

- **Senator Tucker:** We can do this outside of IA, correct? We do stray away from the questions on the website anyway, so I don't think it's a big deal to remove questions we don't need anyway.
- **Chair Russell:** The questions are just something I email to Ben Young, and is not a legislative change. A Google Doc does exist with the forwarding questions we can look at. We can also look at changes to statutes to see if SGA office candidates' applications can be rescinded if they skip a certain amount (perhaps 3) of IA or Senate interviews. We can begin thinking about changes like that.
- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson:** We will need to discuss that with individuals like Chief of Staff Slimak and Secretary England.

- **Chair Russell:** We don't want people holding spots for those wanting to serve by not showing up for interviews.

Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to exit legislative roundtable; Senator Suarez seconds

Unfinished Business:

- **Candidate for Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy, Committee Member**
– Roberto Ortiz

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair Russell:** Thank you for coming today.
- **Senator Hautrive:** Shoutout to Senator Downing for the peacock account.
- **Senator Downing:** My sorority is doing a Valentine's Day rose sale, sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation. The link is in my bio and we deliver to dorms and sororities on campus. The link closes at midnight tonight, and I will post it on our Senate groupchat.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 14th, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Adjourned: 8:13pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned above a horizontal line that spans the width of the page.

Signature of Chair Katie Russell