



## 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 7:30pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/98843130209>

**Call to Order:** 7:30

**Members Present:** Chair Russell, Vice Chair Diaz, Senators Drackley, Lessard, Barberis, Hautrive, Fronczak, Murray, Downing, Wells, Suarez, Pfeuffer-Ferguson

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent:** Fox (U)

**Guests:** Candidate Haley Olsen, Presenters Jada Mohorn, Kristen Crespo, Natasha Harwood, Merissa Chu

### Land Acknowledgement – Vice Chair Diaz

- 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:** Tonight, we are hearing Haley Olsen for Veterans Student Union Assistant Director. We did not get a forwarding letter this week. As for bureau review, we will be doing presentations tonight and deliberations next week, as per our Rules of Procedure. Tonight, we will be hearing OGA, IRHC, and SCAA, in that order. The Center for Participant Education and the Office of Student Sustainability do not have any leadership at the moment, so we will not be hearing from them at all, but we will still be holding deliberations on them. The last bureau, SCURC has not responded to me, so I will be reaching out soon to see if they will come next week alongside Mental Health Council.
- **Vice Chair Diaz:** I spoke with Parliamentarian Rowan about different ways we can go about crafting legislation to rescind or table SGA candidates if they do not appear before IA after a certain number of meetings with no communication with the committee. I am having conversations with people about the best way to go about that process.

### **Committee Business:**

- Bureau Review
  - Office of Governmental Affairs
  - Inter-Residence Hall Council
  - Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy

### **Old Business:**

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Haley Olsen – Veterans Student Union, Assistant Director
  - Opening Statement:
    - I am a sophomore majoring in Business Management, and my goal is to be an upper-level math educator. I am a second year cadet in our Army ROTC program, as well as my affiliation with the Simultaneous Membership Program in the Guard, working with combat engineers. When I started going to FSU, I wanted to be involved and I found the Veterans Student Union (VSU). I was drawn to it because of my service and I felt a connection to it. I feel it's important for our veterans to be a community. Throughout my service, through serving as secretary, I played a major part in our Battle of the Bands event, which was one our most highly-attended and successful events that we've had. I delegated all of the assignments for that event and made the schedule. I believe I would be a very good Assistant Director because of my hard work and passion, and my desire to make things better for my battle buddies at FSU. I have already taken on a lot of the Assistant Director duties, as our previous director had some struggles and had a lot going on last semester, so I took on some workload and helped out. I am financially certified and am confident I can do well to help us continue moving forward.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - None
  - General Round of Questioning:
    - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: What sorts of events and activities do you plan to facilitate in this role, especially in collaboration with the other unions?
      - I was personally a fan of the Battle of the Bands event, so I am a big fan of promoting bigger, larger events that are open to the entire Student Body. Last semester, we had an event with the Jewish Student Union, and I know we are planning on doing more things like that, connecting with the other unions and doing joint events, like the powerful Jewish veterans event. We can have an even bigger
    - Senator Lessard: What do you plan on doing in the short amount of time you would have in the position given that agency elections are coming up??
      - A big thing that I pride myself on is my organizational ability. While I was secretary, there was some miscommunication and organizational issues within our board. I think improving on that and improving upon our system would be useful in being able to put on more successful and larger. A goal for me would be improving upon our organization and putting on a large event this semester.

- Senator Lessard: Do you plan on either continuing in this position in the next Administration or do you plan on holding other position within the VSU e-board next Administration?
      - I plan on continuing in this position if that is a possibility.
  - Closing Statement:
    - Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to doing larger events with VSU and helping us reach out to more veterans on campus.
  - **Senator Murray moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - Senator Lessard: You can definitely tell this candidate was prepared. She already indicated to us that she was financially certified. She has already been on the VSU board before, which shows dedication. I think it is admirable that she wants to do more work for the organization as it is somewhat of a time consuming job.
    - Vice Chair Diaz: I would agree with a lot of what the previous senator said. I appreciate the fact that she's already been on the VSU board, and that she's just trying to take on additional responsibilities, especially given the fact that VSU and some of the bureaus we look over are having some recruitment and engagement issues. I'd be happy to vote in favor of her.
    - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Getting to watch the candidate be forwarded and seeing her thrive in it, given the VSU is doing great work, is great. Some of the events that VSU puts on do go under the radar, but this candidate puts a lot of work into it. She absolutely loves what she's doing if you've ever spoken or interacted with her. She puts all her heart into this work, and seeing her step up is great to see, it's the least we can do for her, and I urge you all to vote yes.
  - **Senator Lessard moves to call the question; Vice Chair Diaz seconds**
  - Vote:
    - Yes: 11 – Senators Drackley, Lessard, Wells, Barberis, Hautrive, Fronczak, Murray, Downing, Suarez, Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Vice Chair Diaz
    - No: 0
    - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE HALEY OLSEN PASSES**

#### **New Business:**

- **Bureau Review Presentation: Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA)**
  - Presentation Link:
    - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ToxQPxb1o\\_KwcourrdGLNFV9WOBpu0\\_r/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ToxQPxb1o_KwcourrdGLNFV9WOBpu0_r/view?usp=sharing)
  - Presentation:
    - Jada Mohorn: I am the Communications Director for the OGA. This is our Internal Affairs Bureau Review.
    - Natasha Harwood: I am the Director of Events for the OGA Board. (Presents Leadership of OGA Board).
    - Mohorn: Spent a total of \$5,000 for our Seminole Reception, awards for which were \$161, with our overall budget being \$7,500.
    - Harwood: (Events Slide) For our events, we had 3: FSU Day at the Capitol, with about 1,000 people attending, Seminole Evening Reception with about 300 people attending, and our future upcoming event is our

Day at City Hall, which we are estimating about 75 in attendance, but that could end up being a lot more.

- Mohorn: The Board believes it has fulfilled, and will continue to fulfill, its expectations and goals outlined in our mission statement, as well as that of SGA. These include representing and advocating for FSU students, as well as monitoring the governmental processes and informing the Student Body of key governmental issues that are going on around campus and throughout the community.
- Harwood: Our selection and forwarding process strictly adheres to those outlined in Student Body Statutes.
- Mohorn: OGA feels it will better carry out its mission with greater cooperation from the Senate, and looks forward to collaborating on future legislation with the Senate.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions
  - None
- General Round of Questioning:
  - Senator Murray: Dealing with workload, do you think 9 at-large members is a lot (12 major positions within OGA including Director and 2 deputies), or do you think it would be better for there to be fewer members on the OGA board that would each individually have more workload?
    - Harwood: I do believe I could handle an increased workload, and it could be beneficial as they are major offices.
  - Vice Chair Diaz: Do you have any opinions on amendments to a bill presented to us (Bill 1) a few months ago with respect to the ability for OGA to have deputies or assistants that are not necessarily board members?
    - Harwood: I don't have a super clear understanding of that proposal as I wasn't there, but I do know that the Board as a whole felt like if it had more autonomy, it might be easier to have a more smooth functioning of OGA, and that our Director and Assistant Director have indicated interest in a less intense forwarding process.
  - Vice Chair Diaz: What plans do you have to potentially innovate OGA or what ideas do you have for new events you might want to put on?
    - Harwood: Our newest event is FSU Day at City Hall, and that event is our first time doing it. It is to connect the local government to FSU, not necessarily just focusing on the state-level government. The planning process is going forward, and we are potentially looking to involve high school students in this process as well.
  - Senator Lessard: Earlier, you mentioned wanting to have more "autonomy" for OGA. What does that vision look like? Does the Senate not necessarily have to approve your legislative agenda? What do you refer to that as?
    - Harwood: It is not really my place as the director of events to speak on that issue, but the previous senator mentioned before, efforts to try to decrease the involvement in the forwarding process for nonessential members.

**Senator Lessard moves to table discussion on OGA pending deliberations; Senator Barberis seconds.**

- **Bureau Review Presentation: Inter-Residence Hall Council (IRHC)**
  - Presentation Link:
    - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mVcp\\_SZJUTBdwml4rNN2u3jqHWzg43dd/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mVcp_SZJUTBdwml4rNN2u3jqHWzg43dd/view?usp=sharing)
  - Presentation:
    - Merissa Chu: I am the Director of IRHC. We are a bureau of SGA and an affiliate of University Housing comprised of 18 different residence halls on campus, as well as our executive board. Our mission is to engage students in their on-campus living experience through leadership development, community involvement, and peer advocacy. We are oftentimes the second things placed into the hands of freshmen, after their room key. We provide the opportunity for leadership development through the Hall Councils in their residence halls, and provide instruction, mentorship, and events and programming to bring a sense of communities to these halls. Our expenses pertain to the annual programming we have every year. (Explains budget breakdown, leadership structure).
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - None
  - General Round of Questioning:
    - Senator Fronczak: How is involvement and engagement in terms of students running for and filling slots in Hall Council positions?
      - Director Chu: To pull back the curtain a bit, we have a Qualtrics that goes out and look to ensure that we are following deadlines. When the election deadline closes, we do reopen the opportunities to other residents to fulfill the roles that may not be getting filled, or that no candidates applied for. This would always be in coordination with the Head Coordinator of the hall or their deputies.
    - Senator Fronczak: With the \$1,000 food allocation on the budget breakdown, what does it mean when it says IRHC will “help supplement this gap with the loss of funds from vending machines provided to us by housing?”
      - Director Chu: We receive funding through the vending machines and all of the laundry fees. All of that money goes back to IRHC and it goes back to residents’ programming. The vending machine antidote is in reference to the loss of funds endured because of COVID, as there were less residents on campus occupying the dorms.
    - Vice Chair Diaz: I often hear concerns regarding programming from people I live with in my residence halls, and that they feel Hall Councils don’t necessarily do enough for them. What kinds of safeguards are there in place to ensure that programming is being trickled down and that all Hall Councils are putting on effective programming for residents?
      - Director Chu: While IRHC is the umbrella organization of the Hall Councils, in terms of programming, the e-board pilots and puts on campus-wide programming which get lots of participation. With respect to individual Hall Council programming, each Council has duties they have to uphold and are responsible for writing an end-

of-the-month (EOM) report about the events they host, their budget expenditures, what they do with decorations, etc. At the end of the day, there are some teams and Hall Councils that perform better than others because they may be bogged down or can't commit to their duties as well as they would like. We do follow up with Hall Council leaders after reading EOM reports and provide support through our channels of communication.

- Senator Lessard: You noted that there are nine currently active Hall Councils. Does that mean that there are seven buildings that are not part of the Hall Councils?
  - Director Chu: No, but some Hall Councils encompass multiple physical buildings to form multi-building communities that form a Hall Council.

**Senator Murray moves to table discussion on IRHC pending deliberations; Senator Hautrive seconds.**

- **Bureau Review Presentation: Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy (SCAA)**
  - Presentation Link:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WHS2M9xb6QCKmDB7nlw15C-Kck6Wwy1H/view?usp=sharing>
  - Presentation:
    - Kristen Crespo: I am the Assistant Director (AD) of SCAA. (Presents Current Leadership slide). We are trying to fill our positions as much as possible, and have received several application confirmations and are currently awaiting interviews. (Presents Budget Breakdown). We are currently limited in our budgetary processes, as we are only allowed to have access to the \$2,160 budget allocation at the beginning of the next fiscal year in the summer, meaning our programming can only really begin next semester. In terms of upcoming events we are brainstorming for next semester, we are we are planning on hosting a movie night that is accessible to all people, featuring assisted listening devices and closed captions for DCP films. We would also like to host a brunch on Landis or somewhere else accessible to all students. We would like to collaborate on this with some organizations, including the Sign Language Club and Best Buddies, among others. Our last possible event is partnering up with JSU or OUC to have a discussion-based picnic for Jewish disability awareness. (Presents Purpose slide). I wanted to remind you that we are a very new organization and are limited in our resources, but we are doing the best we can to plan for next semester when we can begin doing the real work of putting on events and programming.
  - Technical Non-debatable Questions:
    - None
  - General Rounds of Questions:
    - Senator Suarez: Is you Director aware that her term ends in April?
      - AD Crespo: She is aware, but she is still committed to doing the best she can, and we are also working on filling the rest of our positions.
    - Senator Murray: Are there any positions on the board in particular that you are needing to fill urgently?
      - AD Crespo: We want to fill all of our positions as fast as possible.

- Senator Lessard: Do you know if your current Director plans to reapply to be the Director of the bureau next Administration or does she plan to pass it on?
  - AD Crespo: If she has the opportunity, I think she will want to reapply for the position.

**Senator Lessard moves to table discussion on SCAA pending deliberations; Senator Hautrive seconds.**

**Senator Lessard moves to table discussion on the Center for Participant Education and the Office of Student Sustainability pending deliberations; Senator Suarez seconds.**

**Vice Chair Diaz: POI:** What is the procedure for bureaus that do not have any e-board members?

- Chair Russell: I have not looked over statutes, but our IA Rules of Procedure do not specify what happens. Even though there will be no presentations as neither organization has leadership, we will still deliberate on their existence and ways they can improve. I will have to write a memorandum with recommendations to Senate, so in it, we can ask that Senate actively promotes that each bureau gets their e-board positions filled quickly to get these bureaus revamped and revitalized.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Bureau Review
  - Mental Health Council Presentation
  - Deliberations to be held next week

**Closing Announcements:**

- Senator Lessard: Go see Cinderella!
- Senator Murray: Congratulations to Chair Russell for being the first out of 4 or 5 IA Chairs to do bureau review. It's a good precedent to set for doing a good job.
- Chair Russell: We will be having a hybrid option next week. The location will likely be in Strozier or in Thagard, but I will still be asking that our presenters come on Zoom to make it easier for them. No worries if you can't make it in person, but we will be celebrating Senator Lessard's birthday. Whatever treat they would like, let me know!
- Vice Chair Diaz: Welcome to IA, Senator Wells!

**Next Meeting:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:30pm

**Adjourned:** 8:28pm



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**Signature of Chair Katie Russell**