



74th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
February 28th, 2022 at 7:30pm | Strozier 107K &
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/95903818319>

Call to Order: 7:33pm

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

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senators Drackley (E), Fox (E)

Guests: Candidates Khamisi Thorpe, Adam Latiff, Mental Health Council Director Kenley Adams, President Hunter

Land Acknowledgement – Senator Murray

- 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 is Senator Lessard's birthday! The candidate for FLI Director is not in attendance, we will be hearing from the candidates for confirmation: Khamisi Thorpe and Adam Latiff, and SCURC has not yet responded to me about bureau review.

Committee Business:

- **Candidate for Attorney General – Khamisi Thorpe**
- **Candidate for Freshman Leadership Institute, Director – Marlon Derilus**
- **Candidate for 74th Student Senate Clerk – Adam Latiff**

Old Business:

- **Bureau Review Presentation: Mental Health Council (MHC)**

- Presentation Link:
- https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1XMveUpCkg_nE3Py3IPrMgvYPhPITTX42/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101414162495968875930&rtpof=true&sd=true
- Presentation:
 - Kenley Adams: I'm Kenley Adams, the Director of the Mental Health Council. (Presents "Where Are We?" Slide) A lot of times with SGA bureaus, you get students leaders who are very excited to get to work, but fizzle out over time. As a new bureau established by the 72nd Student Senate in 2020, we wanted to ensure that didn't happen and that the bureau could last and serve the Student Body in the best way it could. We did not actually conduct any real work until Fall 2021 when we took the semester to build the bureau from the ground up, and we began having programming and hosting events in Spring 2022. (Presents Board Structure and Leadership Slides) I work jointly with the Assistant Director to lead the bureau and meet with University Counseling and Psychological Services about once a week to stay up to date with their developments. A future goal of ours is to implement task forces or special initiatives within the bureau once we have the infrastructure as different issues arise and spaces for dialogue and programming become necessary to address said issues. (Presents Ambassadors, Programming, and Advocacy Slides) Our ambassadors program is open to all students who would like the space for community building. Participants can help with preparing for programming and events, and the program is led by the Director of Marketing. Those on the Programming Committee meet to discuss events and general body meetings, which is headed up by the Director of Programming. The Advocacy Committee facilitates research and advocacy efforts. They can do that through the Student Senate level by working with our liaison and working on legislation, along with reaching out to local, state, and federal resources for mental health services and legislative advocacy. The Advocacy Committee also reaches out to the seven SGA agencies and other RSOs to see how we can partner together. (Presents Financial Information & Previous/Upcoming Events Slide). (Presents Mission and Purpose Statement). We are fulfilling our mission statement in three distinct categories of destigmatization & representation, community involvement & services, and advocacy.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Vice Chair Diaz: In a previous slide, you mentioned there were several items purchased and used for programming. Given that you were not funded any money, could I ask where that money came from; was it through A&S fees or out-of-pocket?
 - Director Adams: We are funded in this current fiscal year, though were not funded from 2020-2021.
- General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Looking at your website, can you describe how you may go about updating it and making it more accessible for our students to help with continuity?
 - Director Adams: We are actually working on that process and have an upcoming meeting with Ben Young about that process. We have sent him our headshots and important information, and are following up with him on that soon.

- Senator Fronczak: Do you often work with the counseling center? How does the council work alongside them?
 - Director Adams: I work with the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, Dr. Gomez, around once a week, exchange initiatives we have in mind with each other, and sit in on their staff meetings. We always include them in our deliberations on important issues, as we are careful to note that we are not mental health professionals, and always want to touch base with said mental health experts. They are also at a lot of our GBMs and are available to present and provide information.

Senator Lessard moves to table the Mental Health Council for deliberations; Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds.

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Khamisi Thorpe – Attorney General**

- Opening Statement:

- I was born in Jamaica and moved to the United States for better educational opportunities. My career goals are to be a full-time federal prosecutor and a part-time Judge Advocate General in the military. I love to write poems about my lived experiences and like going on walks on various trails in Tallahassee. I applied because being in the FSU College of Law, I feel somewhat removed from the main campus and wanted to feel more involved with the main campus, especially with Student Government. I also wanted the opportunity to make more friends and diversify my friend groups, and wanted to put my skills in drafting legal documents and communicating to good use. I was in Student Government in undergrad, and missed being a part of Student Government organizations. Lastly, I want to work more closely with the Student Body. Some relevant experiences I have include doing Mock Trial since 2018, being a Supreme Court Justice in undergrad at USF, where I was also the Attorney General. In that position, I was responsible for prosecuting all election grievances, writing and reviewing memoranda of agreements, which are contracts between USF entities, and was also tasked with reviewing contracts between USF and off-campus entities. I represented all of Student Government against all claims. For instance, there was a time when we were charged by a student organization for \$1,000 for denying their homecoming grant, and I represented Student Government in that. I also issued notices of noncompliance, which was our way of keeping Student Government officers in compliance with statutes. I am also part of the Public Interest Law Student Association, where I serve as the president. This past summer, I was in the Child Advocacy Clinic, where I represented children in criminal, dependency, and educational matters. There, I conducted legal research, wrote various motions and won them, and advocated for social services for children. I also currently work with Guardian ad Litem as a legal specialist, where I am a paralegal. As a volunteer, I have about 4 children I do monthly visits for and provide supplies to their caregivers and advocate for their best interests in court. I currently serve on the Election Commission with FSU, so that's the current experience I have now. Some of the goals, honestly, I went right to the statutes to see exactly what the Attorney General is supposed to do. I looked it over, and these are goals I have: to effectuate

all of the requirements of the Attorney General. The one that I am particularly looking most forward to is – *(Time expired)*

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None
- General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Is there anything in your presentation you would like to share that you didn't get the opportunity to as your time ran out?
 - I wanted to talk about one initiative, a legal aid program we started at USF that basically allows attorney to come and give students a free 30-minute consultation on private legal issues that they're having. For example, students were having landlord-tenant issues, and we had pro bono attorneys come and sit and listen to what issues they're having and direct them to the proper area to fix those issues.
 - Senator Lessard: How do you think your experiences as Attorney General at USF will lend itself to your experience here as I know the schools are slightly different in their makeup?
 - I think the most important thing that I learned from being in Student Government in undergrad was basically what we're here to do: support the Student Body. At USF, one of the things I was able to do was to be in so many different places, helping so many people. The Attorney General position at USF was not there to serve the Executive Branch, it was there to serve all of the branches. If it's the same here, I think I'm properly equipped to assist the branches in everything they do. For instance, with the Elections Commission, I know it's the Attorney General's responsibility to represent them (the Executive Branch), and also reviewing legislation and offer opinions as to their legality and enforcement when it comes to the Legislative Branch. To that effect, I've had much experience with the Senate at USF and the Executive Branch at USF, and am very prepared to take on the role of Attorney General here.
 - Vice Chair Diaz: Given if we confirm you by Wednesday, you would have about a month to six weeks to serve as Attorney General before Spring Inauguration. Do you plan on re-applying to the position under the Gabadage administration and have you perhaps spoken with the Student Body President-elect about that opportunity?
 - I am looking forward to reapplying if I get this position and once I get that time in. I definitely want to reapply and wanted to clear this hurdle first before I went on and made those plans. Even if I am not confirmed, I will definitely reach out about the process for applying again. I definitely want this to be a long-term experience.
- Closing Statement:
 - No Time Left
- **Senator Lessard moves to enter pro-con debate; Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson seconds**
- Pro-Con Debate:
 - **PRO:**
 - Senator Lessard: I definitely really like this candidate. His experience at USF not only as Attorney General, but as a

Supreme Court justice is admirable, and something we have not seen in prior candidates – just the level of experience. I know we only have about a month or month-and-a-half at most until the term of this position expires, so I think the fact that he wants to reapply is something that sets him apart from prior candidates, as we have not heard that before. Usually, if we are on the fence about a candidate and only have this short amount of time left, we would usually prefer to wait it out, but I don't feel that way about this candidate. I think he's a well-rounded individual with a lot of experience that could really benefit the Student Body.

- Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: He is probably the most qualified candidate and has the most goals I've ever seen, the most tangible goals, too, that can be done. I think him saying he wants to reapply again, I feel like he can get chosen. Being a law student – this is what we need – that's what this position is supposed to be. Not only does the candidate have professional goals, but also personal ones, trying to get connected with campus more, and that shows personal reflection on top of that and career development, which I think is something that is really respected within SGA and can help himself and those around him grow. He is taking it seriously and is showing how he wants to move it outside of what we would expect it to be and trying to help our students on campus through outside sources. I'm voting yes, and I think everyone else should.
- Senator Murray: I agree with everything that was just said. In my several months of being in IA, nobody has ever brought a Powerpoint. That's crazy, that's amazing – huge props for that. I have full confidence in this candidate. Hands down, period.
- Senator Suarez: I also support this candidate. Going through so many different confirmations hearings, I've never heard someone so well spoken and say exactly what they want to achieve, even with only having potentially a month left.
- **CON:** No speakers
- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to enter deliberations; Senator Lessard seconds**
 - Senator Hautrive: I thought the candidate was awesome and I agreed with what everyone else said. I think he'd be a great fit.
 - Senator Suarez: I think this candidate will continue the longevity of SGA and will continue to lead it in the area we want it to continue in, and will make SGA more respectable in a way, because a lot of students don't look at us that way.
 - Senator Downing: I think he's a great candidate. I will say something I think we should touch on in Senate on Wednesday is his time management – he's involved in a lot of different things, so I am curious about his time management skills. I was very impressed by him bringing a Powerpoint.
 - Senator Murray: I just wanted to ask whether or not the candidate would actually have to vacate his office at the end of the Janvier Administration. To me, statutes read the Attorney General serves "at the pleasure of the Student Body President." That seems to me that if the Gabadage

Administration doesn't want this person to be Attorney General, then at that point, they'd stop serving. It's not part of the Cabinet, so –

- Chair Russell: Yes, I believe it would be at the discretion of the Student Body President. I think they wrote that so as to keep in mind that they might want to replace someone, but if there is no strict term limit, I don't think he would have to vacate the office unless –
 - (Committee references Student Body Statutes)
 - Senator Murray: We don't have to figure this out right now.
- **Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson moves to call the question; Senator Suarez seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 10 - Senators Fronczak, Suarez, Murray, Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Wells, Lessard, Barberis, Hautrive, Downing, Vice Chair Diaz
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE KHAMISI THORPE PASSES**

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Adam Latiff – 74th Student Senate, Clerk**
 - Opening Statement:
 - I would like to voice my passion to be your next Senate Clerk. Through the last five years, I've built experience through being a Youth Mayor, a Youth Commissioner, an activities volunteer at an elderly home, and fulfilling my activities as my high school SGA Vice President. I have built a character that values communication, good work ethic, organization, and enthusiasm. Now that I've prepared myself, I'm ready to learn more and have new experiences as your Senate Clerk. I'll take pride in fulfilling my duties: updating the Calendar, upkeeping Canvas, and being a messenger between the Senate, Senate Leadership, and Administration. I am financially certified and am ready to ensure order and certainty for the Senate. I'm here to provide my service and showcase my capabilities, while at the same time, making some good friends and building valuable knowledge in the coming months. Thank you.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - None.
 - General Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Lessard: How do you think your experiences in your high school SGA and your local government will lend themselves to your position as Senate Clerk?
 - I think it really built the person I am. I was able to network and learn how to carry myself with confidence. At the same time, working with people, you realize that you have people depending on you, and I think that's what's very important being Senate Clerk. When you have people depending on you, you become the better version of yourself: becoming more organized, valuing good work ethic. All of these experiences in the past have molded me into the person that is prepared for this position.
 - Closing Statement:
 - Virtue is found in the struggle, not the prize. I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to voice my passion to become the Senate Clerk. Thus far,

my journey with Senate has been – I've met some fantastic people and I hope to continue this journey by becoming your next Senate Clerk.

- **Senator Lessard moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Murray seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Pfeuffer-Ferguson: Very thorough application, fantastic answers, passion for the role. He understands what he will be doing. I think that being a freshman is very good for Student Government and making it more accessible for students.
 - Vice Chair Diaz: I suppose I should give full disclosure that this candidate is my suitemate, and I fully endorse him for this position. I know that he has a great heart, and that he can manage his time well in this stressful position. He has spoken with President Hunter several times about this position and I know that he is very willing to learn and is willing to adapt to the role. He will do us a great service as Senate Clerk.
 - Senator Fronczak: I wanted to talk about his ability to network with other people. I think that's really shown in his application. He talked about how he was in the Florida League of Cities and was Youth Mayor and Vice Mayor, and how he connected with a lot of different peers of a similar background and interests, and also how he connected with people who were not necessarily of his work ethic or his caliber – I think it's admirable.
 - Senator Lessard: I definitely feel like he is very personable. You can see that in his application and in his presence through Zoom. Sometimes people on Zoom can seem very cold and distant, and I definitely didn't feel that today. As Senators, we should always be able to approach the Senate clerk with questions about legislation, and I'm a big fan of people feeling approachable and expressing that in all areas. FSU can feel like you're a little fish in a big pond, and that not everyone is approachable. I appreciate that Candidate Latiff feels approachable in that way.
- **Senator Murray moves to call the question; Senator Lessard seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 10 – Senators Fronczak, Suarez, Murray, Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Wells, Lessard, Barberis, Hautrive, Downing, Vice Chair Diaz
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE ADAM LATIFF PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- **Candidate for Freshman Leadership Institute, Director – Marlon Derilus**
- **Bureau Review**
 - Deliberations
 - SCURC Presentation

Closing Announcements:

- Chair Russell: I will be reaching out to SCURC about coming for their Bureau Review Presentation and again to our FLI Director candidate about coming to committee.
- Senator Lessard: More of a question, but if we don't hear from SCURC by the next meeting, can we go ahead and do deliberations on them next week so as to not push

back this process another week? I don't want to prolong bureau review any longer than next week unless they will be here.

- Chair Russell: I haven't checked Statutes, but our IA Rules of Procedure don't specify anything about that. Regardless, the memorandum we draft is simply a suggestion, and does not have legal force. I have no problems with holding deliberations next week if they do not respond, but I do want to give them an extra chance to come on Monday.
- Chair Russell: I would like to do an in-person meeting next week, and I do not really like this hybrid option, as it is just kind of confusing when calling on people and having microphone/speaker issues. I think that if everyone is comfortable with it, we should go ahead and have our next meeting in-person. We can still have the option for Zoom for our candidates only to make it more accessible for them. I will let you know as to the exact location of the meeting by this Friday.

Next Meeting: March 7th, 2022 at 7:30pm <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/95903818319> and Strozier Library 107K

Adjourned: 8:25pm

Signature of Chair Katie Russell