



## 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate

### Rules and Calendar Committee

02/02/2022 | Zoom Meeting ID: 568 902 4475

**Call to Order: 5:33pm**

**Members Present:** Pro-Tempore Nemeth, Chair(s) Myers, Russell, Gonzalez, Bowling, DuChêne, Roy

**Members Tardy:** None

**Members Absent (Excused):** Currently no RTAC chair

**Members Absent (Unexcused):** None

**Guests:** None

#### **Announcements:**

- Pro-Tempore:
  - Land Acknowledgement: 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.

- Judiciary: Met 2/1 and passed Bill 3 unamended, Bill 7 with amendments; both will be heard on the floor this evening
- Internal Affairs: Met 1/31. Historian candidate passed unanimously; Resolution 6 passed unanimously with no amendments that affected the bill text – only adding names.
- Budget: Met 2/1 at 5:00pm and passed Bill 5 and 6. Bill 6 is sponsored by the entirety of the Budget committee, but is still in Judiciary, so only Bill 5 will be hitting the floor tonight
- Finance: Met 2/1 and passed Bills 3, 7, 8, and CR 7 – all will be heard on the floor tonight
- Student Life: Passed Bill 8 last Thursday 1/27
- PAC: Met on Monday for 2.5 hours and funded several organizations in the amount of \$9,000
- RTAC: no chair currently

**Committee Business:**

- Rodney Wells – 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate, Undergraduate Studies Seat 2
- Max Blumenfeld – 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate, Undergraduate Studies Seat 20
- Erick Rivers – 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate, Arts and Sciences Seat 8

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- Rodney Wells – 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate, Undergraduate Studies Seat 2
  - Opening Statement: First year political science student from Jacksonville, beyond thankful to be here. Beyond SGA, I am political action chair for NAACP, Vice President of Annual Giving for the Student Foundation. Always looking for new ways to benefit the University and have been in contact with Senators. Once, again, thank you. *(Yields with 4 minutes remaining)*
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - Gonzalez: Are you financially certified?
    - Response: Yes.

- Gonzalez: Have you completed any DEI trainings like Greendot, Allies & Safe Zones, or NCBI?
  - Response: No.
- General Questions:
  - Gonzalez: Can you describe the duties of a Senator?
  - Response: Legislative body that approves the budget, passes resolutions, and represents our individual colleges
  - Gonzalez: Out of the committees, which most interests you?
  - Response: Budget
  - Myers: Can you tell us about any previous financial experience?
  - Response: Started a non-profit to increase civic engagement among students; had to learn a lot about finances, budgeting, and more in that space; willing to learn more
  - Gonzalez: Do you know what the overall amount of the Budget is for the next school year?
  - Response: I did get a chance to sit in on your Budget meeting. A little over 13 million dollars?
  - Gonzalez: 14.6 but close enough; What type of legislation do you want to make happen in the Senate? Do you have any ideas?
  - Response: I've begun to have those conversations with current Senators, but increasing civic engagement in the student body, as we are in an election year, is very important to me. Beyond that, I just want to hear the concerns and needs of my constituents.
  - Gonzalez: \*asks for clarification\*
  - Response: To clarify, specifically increasing voter registration and turnout. I want to explore how we can be proactive as an SGA to make that happen and to increase civic engagement.
  - Gonzalez: How would you go about that, as the Senate tries to be as apolitical as possible? How would you specifically pursue that goal in the Senate?
  - Response: Although I legislate within the body, I also have a responsibility to use my platform as a Senator to work with administrators. For example, some institutions offer excused absences on voting days –

that is an area I could use my platform to work with administration on; of course, there is potential for resolutions in that space as well.

- Gonzalez: Seeing as Undergraduate Studies has the largest constituent bloc in the University, how will you properly represent that group of students?
- Response: Being proactive. As a leader, I must engage with the spaces where our students already are: having an open email policy, engaging in residence halls, etc.

▪ **Gonzales moves to enter round-table discussion; Russell seconds**

- Closing: Overall, thank you; this is not an easy job and I understand that. I hope that I can use the experience that I have to contribute to this body and thank you again.
- Roundtable:
  - Gonzalez: I remember being in Rules with Linsky and he would always say that he is always for a candidate unless they give him a reason not to be; I'm pleased that this candidate seems to know what the Senate does.
  - Bowling: I appreciate the candidate's eagerness to work with his constituents; I look forward to voting yes
  - Roy: Few times has there been a candidate that I'm already aware of because of how active and involved they already are on campus and in the community; this candidate is one of those people; I think they would put in the work to be a good Senator, and I will be voting yes.
  - **Myers moves to end round-table discussion/call question, Gonzalez seconds**
- Vote:
  - Yes: 6 [Myers, Russell, Gonzalez, Bowling, DuChêne, Roy]
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
  - **RESULT: CANDIDATE DOES PASS**

- Max Blumenfeld – 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate, Undergraduate Studies Seat 20

- Opening Statement: Good evening and thank you. I'm a freshman at FSU studying economics; I'm very excited to be here so thank you. Although this is my first year, I have previous experience working in numerous leadership positions –

top of JROTC and #1 ranked officer in high school, president of chess club and high school SGA; wide experience; learned how to work with a diverse set of people. Born in Germany and travelled extensively in Europe; appreciation for language and culture – I believe that will be a strength in SGA. I have a certain ambition and desire to give back to FSU in any way that I can. I feel FSU's SGA is a great place to start. I see myself using SGA as an opportunity to grow as a person over the next few years, as well as to help others. I hope I can bring my enthusiasm to better and contribute to this body. *(Yields with 2:23 remaining)*

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - Gonzalez: Are you financially certified?
  - Response: No.
  - Gonzalez: Have you completed any DEI trainings like Greendot, Allies & Safe Zones, or NCBI?
  - Response: No.
- General Questions:
  - Gonzalez: Can you describe the duties of a Senator?
  - Response: Accurately represent the wills of constituents in a fair and equal manner.
  - Gonzalez: Are you familiar with our Senate committees, and if so, which one would you like to join?
  - Response: I am not.
  - Russell: Is there any legislation you look forward to working on and advocating for for your constituents?
  - Response: Not at this time, but I'm excited to learn.
  - Roy: Do you have any weekly conflicts – specifically on Monday's and Tuesday's, when many of our committee's meet?
  - Response: No.
  - Bowling: Do you have any long-standing goals for your time in Senate?
  - Response: I want to bring some enthusiasm and motivation to the Senate; try to cooperate with others to achieve common objectives.
  - Gonzalez: Looking at your application, you did not specify any specific areas or projects that specifically impact the Student Body that you are passionate about. Do you have any?
  - Response: Not at this time.

- Russell: What led you to apply to Senate over any other SGA entity?
- Response: It's my understanding that the office of Senator is a temporary position, so I wanted to use it to get my foot in the door and meet new people; using it as a gateway for the future.
- Myers: What is the time commitment you're willing to give to the Senate in hours?
- Response: Whatever is required.
- Bowling: You talked about being a team player. Can you elaborate on times when you had to work with others and how that worked out?
- Response: In JROTC, I had to plan our military ball and various other events; it required a lot of teamwork and out of the box thinking; it was hard, but I learned a lot. Example: Planning field days required cooperation across departments to get the mission accomplished
- Gonzalez: How did you hear about this position?
- Response: Wanted to get involved earlier, but it was too late last semester; went on the website this semester.
- **Gonzalez moves to enter round-table discussion; Russell seconds**
- Closing: Thank you all again for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to providing motivation and enthusiasm to improve my character and also to help those around me better themselves and to better SGA overall – I can't wait to work together to achieve our mission, including safety *[sic]*.
- Roundtable:
  - Myers: I would like to start by saying that I'm worried about some remarks that implied the office of Senator is an entry-level position; not comfortable putting someone in a position who just wants to advance to higher positions.
  - Gonzalez: I don't think the candidate knows enough about the position or role or our body. The application is lackluster. The candidate does not answer most of the application questions. I'm having a hard time accepting that this is something they are super passionate about, as they say, when the effort is not there in the application or in their responses.
  - Bowling: The candidate offered no potential issue or solution that they are passionate about tackling. I would like members of Senate to be in

Senate *to be* in Senate, not to “get one’s foot in the door.” The constituents seem secondary to the candidate’s personal ambitions.

- **Gonzalez moves to end round-table discussion; Russell seconds**

○ Vote:

- Yes: 0
- No: 6 [Myers, Russell, Gonzalez, Bowling, DuChêne, Roy]
- Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE DOES NOT PASS**

- Erick Rivers – 74<sup>th</sup> Student Senate, Arts and Sciences Seat 8

○ Opening Statement: Currently a junior majoring in Creative Writing and Art History – so in College of Fine Arts and the College of Arts & Sciences. Currently involved in SGA as a member-at-large in the Junior Class Council who works in outreach; wanted to run for Senate last semester but needed to get acclimated. Now that I’m acclimated, I would like to work for my constituents to get more professional opportunities so that they leave this University prepared. (*Yields with 3:44 for their closing*)

○ Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

- Gonzalez: Are you financially certified?
- Response: No.
- Gonzalez: Have you completed any DEI trainings like Greendot, Allies & Safe Zones, or NCBI?
- Response: No.

○ General Questions:

- Gonzalez: Can you describe the duties and responsibilities of a Senator?
- Response: Passing bills and resolutions that better the student body. For example, more tutoring or improving the parking situation on campus. I also know that senators are active in committees – there’s Rules, there’s Budget, there’s Finance, Student Affairs (sic), and there’s Judiciary. They allocate A&S fees to agencies and bureaus.

- **Myers moves to enter round-table discussion; Russell seconds**

○ Closing: Like I said earlier, I know that I would only be in Senate temporarily, but I want to use that time fully to help improve Student Life for students like me. As a black, gay person, I know there is much to work on for students, especially

being at a PWI. Reiterates additional Student Life issues like parking issues. I know the good work that some of the Senators here have done and I look forward to being a part of that, even if my time is limited.

- Roundtable:
  - DuChêne: he clearly wants to be on Student Life Committee!
  - Gonzalez: I don't know about that! He was schooling us on Senate! This candidate is beyond prepared; he described the committees
  - Russell: I love this candidate's energy and responses; I will be voting yes
  - Bowling: He started listing facts; that was impressive; he's clearly knowledgeable and I look forward to voting yes
  - **Gonzalez moves to end round-table discussion; Myers seconds**
- Vote:
  - Yes: 6 [Myers, Russell, Gonzalez, Bowling, DuChêne, Roy]
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
  - **RESULT: CANDIDATE DOES PASS**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- None

#### **Closing Announcements:**

- Nemeth:
  - Our Google Drive folder is up! Please check it before our weekly meetings to see what legislation and candidates we'll be hearing. I did restrict access, so please go request access as soon as we adjourn so I can approve you all. I also created a contact sheet, so if you feel comfortable, go ahead and add your student email and phone number so we can have all of our contact information in one place.
  - As I sent in our GroupMe, we will be rotating taking minutes each week. I took them last week, and although it was quick, I will not be doing that again unless it's an emergency. We are starting with Student Life, so PAC Chair Roy will be taking them next meeting, then our new RTAC Chair, then back to the top of the list. Please touch them up after each meeting, send them to my email within 24 hours so I can approve them, and I will send them to Ben Young.



- I text in the Senate Chairs chat after Senate with the list of where legislation is going. Please double and triple check this to make sure your committees are hearing legislation.
- Please read the minutes your Vice Chairs send you before you sign them. We have minutes with the wrong date posted on the website. It's a minor issue, but one that can be prevented.
- Parliamentarian Rowan
  - I have been speaking to President Hunter about this, but hopefully in a few weeks, after elections, we will be doing a Parliamentary Procedure Refresher for the Senate; the more your members know, the less I have to raise my hand in the meetings; when the date comes out, please encourage your members to attend.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

- <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/5689024475>

**Adjourned: 6:21pm**



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**Signature of Pro-Tempore Nemeth**