



**73<sup>rd</sup> Student Senate  
Student Life Committee  
Thursday 2/24 at 5:00pm | Zoom ID: 937 1197 2014**

**Call to Order: 5:01pm**

**Members Present:** Barrett, DuChêne, Kaminsky, Powell, Soares, Tsouroukdissian, Weintraub

**Members Tardy:** Masters, Pardee

**Members Absent:** Remler, Stewart

**Guests:**

**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.

**Read by Chair DuChêne**

**Announcements:**

- None

**Committee Business:**

- Bill 16, Resolution 17

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- **BILL #16** - Sponsored by Senator Rivers (P)  
To transfer the power of Director of Homecoming Chief and Princess to Homecoming Executive Council. Also, to give Homecoming the power of planning Homecoming Chief and Princess Election.
- **RESOLUTION #17** - Sponsored by Senator DuChêne, Pfeuffer-Ferguson (P), Bettley, Diaz, Gonzalez, Little, Myers, Rivers, Russell, Wang (Co)

Condemning the passage of the Florida Legislature's "Don't Say Gay" bill, and reaffirming our support for the LGBTQ+ community

- **Bill 16 - Sponsored by Senator Rivers**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Rivers: Homecoming receives SGA funding to put on the Homecoming Chief and Princess election. Therefore, SGA (AKA Homecoming) should have control over running the selection and election of Chief and Princess. These are people that represent the student body so students should be the ones who pick these people.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - None
  - **Tsouroukdissian moves to enter roundtable discussion, Soares seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - Tsouroukdissian expresses concern at there being an even number of voting members on the Homecoming Commission. It is moved to amend the Bill, removing the Director of Homecoming Chief and Princess as a voting member of the commission, and reverting the number of voting members of the commission from 8 back to 7. Weintraub seconds, sponsor finds it friendly.
    - Powell: Why are we changing the number of votes?
    - Rivers: I'm not entirely sure I understand your question but what I will say is that since they do not have it currently SAA has the director of the homecoming parade and chief of princess therefore they do not have the voting power at all at as it stands right now nor will they need to if we move it to homecoming because they will still be able to do their job just as efficiently if they weren't a voting member on the planning commission
    - Powell: So, my question really is what would the problem be in your opinion of including them on the voting board?
    - Rivers: Nothing at all. It does not matter whether they are or are not on the voting board they still have the power to plan or be responsible to plan or be responsible for the homecoming court election.
    - Powell: I expect there to be heavy push back on this, would you not agree?
    - Rivers: Yes, I have already prepared for there to be heavy push back on the senate floor, however, this bill is absolutely necessary because homecoming receives money from SGA so homecoming needs to be responsible for multiple aspects of the homecoming process; we are not responsible for the homecoming chief and princess election as it is now.
    - Tsouroukdissian: I encourage you to see if you can get co-sponsors for this because having co-sponsors really helps your point. I just feel like it's not ready for the floor and I am curious if anybody is thinking of tabling it as of now.
    - Soares: I'm just thinking about how right now I'm a little confused and I'm reading it over and over again, so I'm worried how it's going to be perceived on the floor.
    - Masters: I agree

- Powell: POI to the sponsor: You mentioned that the director of homecoming chief and princess was a part of SAA – in terms of the homecoming committee, if the director of homecoming chief and princess is a member of SAA, who would be the most senior official on that committee?
- Rivers: The overall director would still be most senior official
- Powell: So that would be the homecoming director?
- Rivers: Yes
- Powell: What I would propose, as opposed to cutting the vote from 8 to 7, but instead giving the homecoming director 2 votes, but let me know what you all think
- Soares: Are you saying that in all cases or only in the case of a tie?
- Powell: To keep it simple, I would say in all cases, but it would only come into play if there was a tie
- DuChêne: To clarify: if you were to amend this to say that the highest-ranking member always gets two votes, that would be pretty unprecedented. A less unprecedented move might be to give the highest-ranking member the ability to break ties and break ties only. Additionally, for clarification, this is going to Judiciary after this, not straight to the floor.
- Masters: So, in this case that would be the Student Senate President Pro-Tempore? Per 616.2D?
- DuChêne: Yes.
- Powell: I feel there are still a few kinks that need to be worked out in terms of wording, definitions, and cosponsors, etc.
- Powell: POI to the sponsor: How involved is the Student Senate President Pro-Tempore in this process?
- Rivers: Looking over this, I can see that I probably shouldn't have included this membership stuff. All I wanted to do was make the director of homecoming chief and princess feel like their voice mattered in this process; I figured adding them to the planning commission would do that. They would still have their power in terms of running the elections, regardless. I would be friendly to table this bill.

○ **Tsouroukdissian moves to table, Weintraub seconds, no objections**

○ **RESULT: BILL 16 TABLED**

● **Resolution 17 - Sponsored by DuChêne, Pfeuffer-Ferguson**

○ Opening Statement:

- DuChêne: This is the first piece of legislation that I've brought through to y'all while being a chair but this is a condemnation of the Don't Say Gay bill, which has passed the Florida House and is heading to the Senate. This bill condemns that. The legislation aims to prevent classroom discussion of sexual orientation or sexual identity in a way that is "not appropriate for developmentally appropriate students." I have spoken with the Pride Student Union Director about this and she is very enthusiastic

about this resolution. I have added some statistics about how this will affect LGBTQ youth. This bill is antithetical to the values of Florida State University and the community of Florida State University as well as the Student Senate. Because I specifically used the terms of condemnation, it's going to have to go to Rules and Calendar; I'm prepared to defend the use of 'condemnation' because I really do think that this bill is harmful. The main 'be it resolved' statement is that any bill that plans to ban the discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity from the classroom is antithetical to the values of our institution and is condemned in the strongest possible terms. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns. I yield. **Yields with 3:15**

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - Kaminsky: What is the official name and code of the bill?
    - Answer: Yes, it's HB 1557 – Parental Rights in Education
- **Soares moves to enter round-table discussion; Tsouroukdissian seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
  - Tsouroukdissian moves to add his name as a cosponsor, no objections, sponsor finds it friendly
  - POI from Tsouroukdissian to the sponsor: Would you find it friendly to add the name or code of the bill somewhere in the resolution?
    - Answer: I include the codes in the 'be it resolved' statement – I don't refer to it as "Don't Say Gay" there, I only use that name in the main bill text just because that is what the media and most opponents and LGBTQ+ organizations are referring to it as.
  - Soares: I think it's powerful that you used the word 'condemned,' even though it has to go through another committee because of that, I think it's important that you're standing by that.
- **Tsouroukdissian moves to pass by acclamation, No objections**
- Closing Statement:
  - Waived
- Vote: Passed by Acclamation
- **RESULT: RESOLUTION 17 PASSES**

**Unfinished Business:**

- None

**Closing Announcements:**

- Chair DuChêne: I once again hope everybody is doing okay after the elections. The only other announcement I have is that I am in Cinderella in the School of Theatre - we close this weekend on Sunday; we have 5 more shows: tonight at 8, tomorrow at 8, Saturday at 2, Saturday at 8, and Sunday at 2. I appreciate all your support. Our next meeting will be the 3rd of March at 5 o'clock pm and I adjourn this meeting at 5:39 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 3rd, 2022, 5:00pm

**Adjourned: 5:39pm**

*P. DuChêne*

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**Signature of Chair Patrick A. DuChêne**