



**74th Student Senate
Student Life Committee
Thursday, 31 March 2022 at 5:00pm | Zoom ID: 937 1197 2014**

Call to Order: 5:02pm

**Members Present: Barrett, DuChêne, Kaminsky, Masters, Soares, Stewart,
Tsouroukdissian, Weintraub**

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Pardee (U)

Guests: Diaz, Drackley, Rowan, Suarez

DuChêne: Are there any guests wishing to make an announcement at this time?

None

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 recognize this land remains scarred by the legacies of violence and removal, we recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land, and we 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:

DuChêne: This will be our last SL meeting until after inauguration in two weeks, so thank you all for being here!

Committee Business:

- **Bill #24, Bill #35, Resolution #27, Bill #39, Bill #45, Resolution #29**

Old Business: Bill, #24, Bill #35, Resolution #27

- **BILL #24 - Sponsored by Senators Suarez, Wells (P), Senator Murray (Co)
To allow first-year college students to represent the college of undergraduate studies despite being enrolled in their University Division.**
 - Opening Statement (5 mins):

- Suarez: Thank you so much. Firstly, student life I just want to apologize on behalf of myself and my other primary and co-sponsor. School has gotten to the best of us recently and this bill had slipped my mind. However, I am still very passionate about it. So, getting into the bones of the bill, I have noticed in these past elections that candidates that may come into FSU may be classified as a junior or senior regardless of if they are in their first year at FSU. I had some reservations with this and so did my cosponsor and my primary sponsor. We wanted to create this bill for all intents and purposes because a first year student at FSU, a freshman, that's living in the dorms or off campus, regardless of what they are doing they are in their first year at FSU. I do not believe it is fair for them to be forced to run in their university division if they want to try and come into senate because for the majority of our first years they are living in university housing and being on campus and they are still representing all of their constituents equally regardless of them being in their university division. So, I wanted to give them the opportunity instead of saying that they have to run in their university division or that they have to run as undergraduate, either/or, whatever they feel most comfortable with. As a first year, getting involved was very scary and chaotic, but getting involved and then representing a major or division is even more so because of the sheer amount of people in that division who are more qualified. So just with this bill I wanted to give them the opportunity to chose between both, they are first years for all intents and purposes, and this would just allow them to do so, and this would help create more comradery within the senate and allow more open minds and more voices. I have had a lot of conversations with first years and them being classified as a junior or senior and them not being able to run with their undergraduate constituents has deterred a lot of them from applying to run for SGA as a whole or senate as a whole, as I feel that's only fair. With that I waive to my closing.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
- **Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Tsouroukdissian seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
- **Stewart has a POI to the sponsor**
- Stewart: Why did you chose to strike that small section of B?
- Suarez: In conjunction with the first item, 1, it would just be contradictory to each other so we struck it as a whole because then it would allow the opportunity for first years to represent their constituents or university division.
- Stewart: So, I think that I am just getting a little confused because it may, from what I am interpreting it as, it might be causing more issues then you think it does, only because it would apply to every kind of college not just necessarily undergraduate studies. So, I get what you are trying to do here, and I like what you are trying to do here I just don't think you realize that this is for the entire statute.
- Suarez: I would be open to an amendment if one wanted to amend it.

- **Stewart moves to make an amendment to unstrike 704.1 B and add “however,” instead of the period and strike out however in the first line. Tsouroukdissian seconds. Sponsor finds this friendly. No objections.**
- DuChêne: Parliamentarian Rowan, how do I indicate that we are unstriking a committee change and not adding new language? Also, is this grammatically correct?
- Rowan: Just bold it. We usually don't have it that statutes run on like that unless it's for a list. So, I would move the however to the sub section.
- **Stewart moves to remove Senator Wells as a Primary Sponsor and add him as a co-sponsor. Tsouroukdissian seconds. Sponsor finds it friendly.**
- **DuChêne has a POI to the sponsor.**
- DuChêne: I'm going to phrase this in a sort of Storytime way. I ran for Senate at a time when traditionally I would have been an undergrad, however, I am in a BFA program that is so credit intensive that I was already enrolled in Fine Arts under my acting major. I was eligible and only able to run for Fine Arts. Under this bill would I have been able to choose whether I wanted to run for Fine Arts or Undergraduate?
- Suarez: Yes. That is similar to a case that was brought up to me when I wanted to create this legislation. So, you would be given the choice to represent the constituents within your university division or the constituents for all intents and purposes I guess your age group seeing as you were a first year college student. I don't want to assume you were living in the dorms, but the majority of the time students are living in the dorm cause they are a first year student. So, with this legislation one would be able to choose which constituent group they would want to represent, which they would feel most comfortable representing.
- **Follow up POI**
- DuChêne: Could you talk more about how you feel that living in the dorms or being a first year student are specific parameters that define what an undergraduate senator is?
- Suarez: No. I don't think saying you live in the dorm is the pinnacle of defining yourself as a first year student or freshman or anything like that. I just wanted to give them the option to decide I guess. As we all know, the housing crisis on campus is abundant and there are first year freshman students who are living in apartments. So, being that the majority of them do live in dorms I wanted to give them all the opportunity to represent who they wish. I define first year more so as first time in college, and I understand that can get hairy with the fact that maybe you never went to college and now you are coming at 40 years old. But because we haven't seen that case before, and we have seen cases of students not

wanting to run for senate because they do not want to run for a university division as a first year that's like the bones behind this.

- **DuChêne has a POI to the sponsor.**
- DuChêne: Do you see any partisan or campus political party problems with this?
- Suarez: Yes I have thought about that. But I think this bill, regardless of party affiliation will help anybody because it gives people the opportunity to run. This bill wasn't created in mind with any particular party or anything like that.
- **DuChêne has a follow up POI to the sponsor.**
- DuChêne: As we know from past elections, one campus political party tends to sweep undergraduate studies and vice versa the opposition party in other university divisions. In my specific example of me being enrolled in Fine Arts, the College of Fine Arts has traditionally been swept by the opposition party and if I wanted to run for Fine Arts, I might face a dilemma when I look at past voter records and realize I may not win and see that there is a statute that would allow me to just pick and choose which one I want to go to. Do you see how that may raise concerns when people could try to circumvent an election of their peers, if I would be allowed to choose not to face my own constituents in my party and to just run undergraduate studies, or vice versa. If I know that this political party normally wins this college, I might run in that university division instead. That's my main concern and I was just wondering if you could address that?
- Suarez: Yes of course, I did fully think about that. Although we haven't faced an issue like that because this legislation hasn't yet been created. At the end of the day when I decided to submit this, I submitted it on the basis that it will allow more people to enter senate that are wanting to. This opportunity I believe is more fair because I don't believe it is fair to push a particular candidate into a position where they are representing a group that they may not be knowledgeable of. Often times we enter our university division, in my case as a transfer student, I entered FSU without taking any classes in my university division at FSU, I transferred in with the majority of my credits. Although I shared the same sentiments I think that this bill will allow more people to join or apply for senate and that is ultimately our goal.
- **DuChêne has a POI to the sponsor.**
- DuChêne: This says first-year non transfer students, would this apply to graduate students?
- Suarez: Yes I believe so if an amendment wanted to be made I would be friendly to that as well.
- **Stewart moves to make an amendment in 704.1 B to say "first year non transfer undergraduate students". Tsouroukdissian seconds. No objections. Sponsor finds it friendly.**

- Stewart: I would like to comment on this really quickly. I think there were a lot of concerns brought up which are entirely valid and I'm honestly really glad that Chair DuChêne brought them up because it got me thinking as well. Right now, though, if you are considered a dual major you also have the ability to choose what division you want to run in as well.
- Barrett: I will echo that sentiment because I have been in that position.
- **Stewart moves to call the question; Tsouroukdissian seconds**
- Closing Statement: First thing, I just wanted to say thank you all. I am so happy that I got to speak on committee and all the amendments I love. I hope that we will allow more people in senate that are passionate and can represent their constituents well.
- Vote:
 - Yes: **7** Voter Names: Barrett, Kaminsky, Soares, Stewart, Tsouroukdissian, Weintraub, Barrett
 - No: **0**
 - Abstain: **0**
- **RESULT: BILL #24 PASSES**
- **BILL #35 - Sponsored by Senator Beall (P), Senator Hunter (Co)**
To complete funding for Bill 88 that was paused in the 73rd senate to install one large picnic bench outside of the Rovetta building. The amount listed would be used to cover freight and installation costs of the table.
 - Opening Statement (5 mins):
 - DuChêne: Are the sponsors present at this time?
 - DuChêne: As the sponsors are not present this bill is laid upon the table.
 - **RESULT: BILL #35 IS TABLED**
- **RESOLUTION #27 - Sponsored by Senators Diaz, Suarez (P), Senators Russell, Downing, Lessard, Barberis, Fronczak, Wells (Co)**
Proposing amendments to the Student Government application that would clarify a question pertaining to applicants' academic classification.
 - Opening Statement (5 mins):
 - Diaz: After speaking to an advisor about the legality of this bill I move that it be withdrawn.
 - **RESULT: RESOLUTION #27 WITHDRAWN**

New Business: Bill #39, Bill #45, Resolution #29

- **BILL #39 - Sponsored by Senators Diaz, Stewart (P), Senator Barrett (Co)
Providing a method by which non-Senators can endorse legislation.**
 - Opening Statement (5 mins):
 - Stewart: Initially this bill just kind of naturally arose from a few instances that occurred in Senate but beyond that I believe this bill could have so many more benefits besides the obvious one. So essentially, what we are trying to do here is allow up to five stated individuals' in SGA that could act as non-senator co-sponsors that could endorse legislation. At the top of any legislation where it says primary sponsors and co-sponsors there will be a section that will be added that will say non senator co-sponsors, again you can have up to 5. In order for this to be a participatory thing and not just someone's name, we created the senate endorsement legislation form which is essentially a form that states that the non-senator co-sponsor is endorsing this piece of legislation and has a section where they can include a small statement as to why they are endorsing it, things they want to be seen done with it, or sections they would not like to see removed. This would travel through the piece of legislation throughout the committee review process and heard on the senate floor. For example, if the OGA director wanted to speak on the OGA bill then they would have to come to senate and be given certain rights and motioned on to speak as well as just have the time. This would essentially give them the opportunity to say their opinion on the bill. There is a little section at the bottom of the bill that says the opinions of said person are their own and do not represent the entirety of their organization. I believe this could be extremely beneficial and could help out administration. As well as creating possibilities for different branches of SGA to be connected, not connected in the way that powers are overridden but in a way that we can work alongside each other.
 - Diaz: I'll keep it very brief so we can get time for closing. This isn't forcing anybody to require that they have a non-senator co-sponsor, but we talk a lot about wanting to reach out to and consult with people on bills and this is one way out of many potential ways we can do that. To let people, voice their opinion on bills without equivocation and without misrepresentation. We want to provide an option for people to make it explicitly clear when they support a piece of legislation and for them to provide a reasoning as to why they do which is where the legislation endorsement form comes in.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions: None
 - **Weintraub moves to enter round-table discussion, Soares seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Masters has a POI to the sponsor.**
 - Masters: Is there going to be any sort of process or requirement so people cant just put their name on a bill just to put their name on a bill?
 - Stewart: Its outlined kind of in the bill. But basically, the request would have to come from the sponsor of the bill. For example, if you wanted the OGA director to

endorse the bill, you would have to reach out personally and get them to fill out the form. Then you would go ahead and submit that on the Qualtrics with your legislation. So, it would be up to your discretion as the primary sponsor. I would also like to add that the non-senator co-sponsor at any time to withdraw their endorsement if the bill has moved away from the direction that they supported it in.

- **Barrett moves to call the question; Soares seconds**
- Closing Statement: Stewart: Thanks so much for listening to us. We are very excited about this; it will be the last piece of legislation I will be passing if it makes it through special session and it means a lot to me. I believe it will have many positive implications to not only senate but SGA as a whole. Diaz: I agree. I think that this is a great way to have more transparency about who supports legislation-
- **Time expires**
- Vote:
 - Yes: **6** Voter Names: Barrett, Kaminsky, Masters, Soares, Tsouroukdissian, Weintraub
 - No: **0**
 - Abstain: **1** Voter Names: Stewart
- **RESULT: BILL #39 PASSES**
- **BILL #45 - Sponsored by Senator Drackley (P), Senators Diaz, Hunter, Russell (Co) To move the duties of the Senate newsletter from the Senate President to the Senate Press Secretary and Senate Historian. This will allow the Senate newsletter to be done more consistently as well as open more transparency of what the Student Senate does to our constituents in the Student Body.**
 - Opening Statement (5 mins):
 - Drackley: So, I don't want to take too long. Under statutes right now there is a Senate newsletter which is to be done by a Senator or Senate officer by delegation of the Senate President. Obviously as we can see right now, that is not happening under statutes. However, I do love Tyler Roy news but as to my knowledge the publisher is graduating soon. I think it would be an amazing opportunity for us to finally have this newsletter whereas it could be a collaborative job between the Senate Historian and Senate Press Secretary and still be under the supervision of the senate president. I think this would be an amazing opportunity to reach out to the student body with regards to what we are doing as a student senate as well as make it easier for the press secretary to release their weekly section.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions: None
 - **Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Tsouroukdissian seconds**

- Round-Table Discussion:
- Stewart: I love this bill so much. I think it can accomplish so many things that have needed to be accomplished in my time in senate. I do think that the current press secretary has done a great job at trying to increase that with the social media she has been using but I do think that this would be a great thing that would send it in the further direction and would make it easier.
- **Stewart moves to add herself as a co-sponsor. Sponsor finds it friendly.**
- **Stewart moves to pass by unanimous consent. No objections.**
- Closing Statement: Drackley: Waive close.
- **RESULT: BILL #45 PASSES**
- **RESOLUTION #29 - Sponsored by Senator Diaz (P), Senators Stewart, Russell, Roy, Barrett, Pfeuffer-Ferguson (Co)
Amending Rule 12 of the Senate Rules of Procedure to discourage Senators from indicating or implying that individuals or entities support or oppose legislation without their explicit consent.**
 - Opening Statement (5 mins):
 - Diaz: Well, hello Student Life once again. Clearly we have had issues and last night and less committee meeting it was evident that some people are a little too loose with their words. Perhaps it's not even intentional, it may be on accident which they are implying people support a piece of legislation when they don't or haven't even been consulted on it. This is a simple rules of procedure change which would allow the senate president or committee chair the teeth to rule any such discussion out of decorum or out of order. These actions could lead down the path of getting removed from the senate chamber. I actually want to change the wording from supports to also say oppose, I saw that after.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions: None
 - **Stewart moves to enter round-table discussion; Barrett seconds**
 - **Stewart moves to make an amendment to 12.6 so it will read to say, "at no time shall a senator indicate or imply that the position of an individual or entity pertaining to a piece of legislation without the prior explicit consent". Barrett seconds. No objections. Sponsor finds it friendly.**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Stewart: I would like to speak in pro, I think this is needed and that's all I'm going to say.
 - **Stewart moves to call the question; Weintraub seconds**

- Closing Statement: Diaz: All in the spirit that we are making sure we give accurate information on the Senate floor; we are not misrepresenting anyone's positions whether in support or not and giving the senate president and committee chairs the teeth to enforce it.
- Vote:
 - Yes: **7** Voter Names: Kaminsky, Masters, Soares, Stewart, Tsouroukdissian, Weintraub, Barrett
 - No: **0**
 - Abstain: **0**
- **RESULT: RESOLUTION #29 PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- Bill 35

Closing Announcements:

- Tsouroukdissian: Goodnight Senate forever. Much love, it was really fun, and I learned a lot. I'm about doing Summer Senate though.
- Stewart: It has been a really great experience being able to serve with you guys. I think you all have a great deal of potential and it makes me really happy to see that you all are at least coming to committee. As always, I will be around for questions so don't hesitate to reach out.
- DuChêne :Thank you all for coming this evening! If you haven't yet, and are able, please sign the petition for our special session so that we can finish the work we have left this Monday, 4 April at 7:30pm
- Thank you, Senator Tsouroukdissian and Senator Stewart!

Next Meeting: No earlier than Thursday, 14 April 2022 at 5:00pm

Adjourned: 5:53 pm



Signature of Chair, Patrick A. DuChêne