



75th Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee

January 23rd, 2023, at 5:00pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/96496516951>

Call to Order: 5:00 pm

Members Present: Chair McMahon, Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senators Birdsong (U), Roogow (U)

Guests: Pro Tempore Duchêne, Chair Kariher, Candidates Reghan Chartran, Remi Ventura, Daniel Ferraro, Victoria Carroll, Sofia Binjaku, Lauryn Klostreich, Zaria Barnes

Land Acknowledgement – Vice Chair Crocker

- 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 McMahon:** I'm going to keep this brief because I know that the first candidate we have, candidate Chartrand, has class at 5:30, so I really would like to get her through in order for her to get there on time. But just for all of our candidates here, you will have three minutes for an opening statement. Any time that is not used during that opening statement can be used for your closing statement. We will then open the floor for committee members to ask questions and then we will deliberate and vote. You will know the results immediately and following that vote, should you pass, you will appear in front of all of Senate on Wednesday at 7:30. SO without further ado, we're going to move into candidate Reghan Chartrand for Student Senate Parliamentarian.

Committee Business:

- Reghan Chartrand – 75th Student Senate Parliamentarian (1 Applicant)
- Remi Ventura – Jewish Student Union, Assistant Director (1 Applicant)

- Daniel Ferraro – Jewish Student Union, Treasurer (1 Applicant)
- Victoria Carroll – Jewish Student Union, Secretary (1 Applicant)
- Sofia Binjaku – 75th Student Senate Clerk (3 Applicants)
- Lauryn Klostreich – 75th Student Senate Historian (0 Applicants)
- Zaria Barnes – 75th Student Senate Press Secretary (0 Applicants)
- Bill #6 – Sponsored by Senator Salazar
- Bill #8 – Sponsored by Chair Kariher
- Bill #9 – Sponsored by Senator Folwell

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Reghan Chartrand – 75th Student Senate Parliamentarian
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hi, my name is Reghan Chartrand and I'm both honored and humbled to appear before you all today as a candidate for Student Senate Parliamentarian. I've wanted to be a lawyer from the time I first learned what a lawyer was. I've always had a passion for advocacy, and this has allowed me to develop strong public speaking and communication skills, as well as an unwavering sense of personal motivation. It is because I have always known what I've wanted to do in life, that I have been able to carefully plan what I wanted to do in order to get there. I have been able to prioritize things in my life accordingly. I knew before I started my first semester that I've wanted to become involved in SGA here on campus. However, as I have no past experience in student government in high school, and I have only been on campus for one semester as a freshman, the thought of running for a position as a senator seemed a little daunting to me. This is why I looked into becoming Parliamentarian. Because this role is an advising position on the interpretation of the standing rules and parliamentary procedure, the role should be entirely nonpartisan. This is perfect for me as I'm still in the process of developing my own political bearings on campus. The position is the perfect opportunity for me to not only gain practical experience, but it also can give me a sense of fulfillment in knowing I'm aiding my fellow students in dedication and diligence. Additionally, as a Native American woman, I want to enhance opportunities for other indigenous students on campus, and I believe the best way to do that is to become involved in student government. My communication skills and work ethic will allow me to not only hold this position, but to do so effectively. Finally, what I believe sets me apart than others in wanting this role, is that I am personally interested in learning all there is to know about rules, senate procedure, and the rules of order, not just to be your parliamentarian, but also for my future career. I want to thank you all for taking the time to meet with me today since my nomination and I am excited to potentially work with you all in this role. Thank you!
 - Rounds of Questioning:
 - **Senator Anderson:** How does your desired career play a role in your decision to apply for this position?

- **Candidate Chartrand:** Yes, I'm interested in becoming a lawyer in the future, so I thought that taking this position and learning all there is to know, being really familiar with the rules, Senate procedure, rules of order, etc. can only further help me obtain a career in law in the future.
 - **Vice Chair Crocker:** In the role of parliamentarian, during Senate meetings, we often times have new senators question the parliamentary procedure. Have you read up on the statutes at all?
 - **Candidate Chartrand:** I have looked at it briefly before my first initial interview with Sam. I have not looked at it in depth, I admit, which I obviously plan to do well before I start before attending Senate meeting every week and actually hold the position. I have briefly looked at the various committees and rules and those types of things.
 - **Senator Adonis:** Even though you say you do not have previous experience, are there experiences that you have that you believe will prepare you for this role?
 - **Candidate Chartrand:** Yes. I've held other leadership positions in the past through high school. I was president of various clubs such as French Honor Society and English Honor Society and lots of other leadership positions that I think have really aided me in my communication skills and my ability to public speak fairly well. I think holding these positions and having these experiences can only help me with this position, as it is largely answering questions on parliamentary inquiry and that type of thing. I feel like a lot of it is communication amongst fellow senators if they have any questions on senate procedure and I'm to help answer those questions.
 - **Senator Adonis:** If you were granted the opportunity for this position, what are some new ways or strategies you think you would like to come in with to help the Senate as a whole?
 - **Candidate Chartrand:** To help the Senate as a whole, I don't know if I consider this a new strategy, but to be honest, almost any free time I have I would like to spend dedicated to just deliberately studying all of the rules and procedure because my goal as I hold this role is to know everything like the back of my hand. That way, there is not a lot of room for me to be unsure about things or waste time during meetings. I want to be able to hold this role to the best of my ability and because of that, I plan on very efficiently studying through everything so that way I can be that for you guys during meetings.
- Deliberations:
 - **President Diaz:** Hi all, I wanted to say that on behalf of the Pro tempore and myself, we have a lot of faith in these candidates that we have particularly for Senate leadership. We spent a lot of time interviewing them and getting to know them and asking them questions so I don't want to have that sway your votes and your judgement but just know that Patrick and I stand behind these candidates as much as we can. We forwarded them for a reason.

- **Vice Chair Crocker moves to call the question; Senator Vollick seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - None
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
 - **RESULT: Candidate REGHAN CHARTRAND PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Remi Ventura – Jewish Student Union, Assistant Director
 - Opening Statement:
 - Good evening, my name is Remi Ventura and I am a sophomore in the Honors Program as an Environmental Science major. I've held numerous leadership positions in and out of the Jewish Student Union and I am looking forward to continuing to serve to the best of my ability. I've learned an immense amount about myself in my time representing Jewish students and my time on JSU's Executive Board previously as Treasurer and I'm excited for the opportunity to serve as Assistant Director. Over the past year I was treasurer of JSU which included handling all of our financials, budgeting, providing money-saving strategies, sustaining development of events, etc. I collaborated with each position to determine the best options and purchases for each of our events and it proved to be very important in preparing for this position, as my responsibilities heavily rely on my ability to work closely with other board members. Education is one of the most important parts of this job and is a passion that I strive to cultivate each day. I like to say that if my future career could be just someone who is in school, that would be 100% perfect for me. Education is the most crucial part of curbing acts of antisemitism and discrimination in general. I find oftentimes that hateful acts occur because people are unaware of the meaning and implication of their words and actions rather than doing things purposefully, so in order to potentially stop discrimination from happening in our community, we need to encourage education of our cultures through workshops and events offered to the student body. I have several goals and ideas for this position, some of which I just mentioned but educational events combatting antisemitism and Jewish heritage education remain at the forefront. We've already began to do this with our Jewish Heritage month events, such as inviting a Holocaust speaker, decorating, and more. Currently we are working on developing a Jewish artists education event, highlight important figures in the creative world. Thank you so much for giving me the space to speak and the opportunity to work in this position and continue on the board.
 - Rounds of Questioning:
 - **Vice Chair Crocker:** I wanted to know if you've had previous experience working with an RSO such as the environmental service program and organizing events in collaboration with an RSO.
 - **Candidate Ventura:** Yeah so I held the position in JSU for the past year and I have been to a few environmental service program

events, attended a few of their meetings, I actually was supposed to go to the one yesterday but I'm planning on rescheduling and going to the one this weekend. We've collaborated and as a member of the executive board previously, we've also collaborated with Hillel and all of those other Jewish organization to bring events on for the student body.

- **Senator Adonis:** With the position, what are some changes that you personally want to see done on campus.
 - **Candidate Ventura:** So one of the things that I think is really important is bringing Jewish students together in general and I think we try to do that with our events now, but I think we are miles from where we could be and there is so much improvement to be done and growing our network across campus and so I would like to host events that would continue to connect students and also more things informally. So, sending out a newsletter to all Jewish students on campus and just updating them on different events across all of the Jewish organizations. I think for me at least, I found it hard as a freshman to find other Jewish students on campus, and I was so grateful when the opportunity to join the board literally fell into my lap one day. I think it is important to reach out to students across campus a little bit more frequently and a little bit more diligently to know that were here for them. Going hand in hand with that, there have previously been anonymous reports of antisemitism and we can't do anything about it if they are anonymous so making sure that students are aware that we are here for them to report things to is important because we cannot help them if we don't know what's going on and who its involving and all the information regarding that. One thing that I really look forward to is connecting with Jewish students whether it be one on one, through email, through social media, however they feel comfortable to make sure they know that were here for them.

- **Senator Vollick:** So I see in your application that one of your goals is to enhance communication in collaboration with the Jewish Alumni Network, and I was just wondering if there was anything specific that you and that network would want to accomplish or promote within the next year.
 - **Candidate Ventura:** Yeah we have previously held a bunch of meetings with the director of the program and one thing that were discussing is connecting Jewish Alumni with current Jewish students whether it's through career fair situations or a newsletter that outlines the contacts and what they do, sometimes it is hard if you feel like you don't have connections in your field and connecting with people of your same culture, too, can make the process a little less stressful. We also discussed collaborating on events in general such as sending out a monthly or biweekly newsletter to connect alumni with happenings on campus and inviting them to our annual banquet.

- Deliberations:

- **Senator Vollick:** I think after all these questions asked and her application that she's more than qualified for this position and so this candidate has my full support.
 - **Senator LoBianco:** Following up on Senator Vollick and also reviewing the application, she's obviously very prepared for this role and I think that tells a lot about her character and I'm very confident that when and if she does get this role, she will be able to accomplish everything that she's saying she can so she 100% has my support.
 - **Senator Adonis:** Due to the previous senator's statements, I would definitely say that the candidate has my support because she did an amazing job answering all the questions and I can see her passion about the role.
 - **Senator D'Lugos:** Especially with the application, every answer is written out thoroughly and you can tell she's really interested in holding this position and she has my full support.
 - **Senator Vollick moves to call the question; Vice Chair Crocker seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Thank you so much for hearing me and taking the time today to meet with me and considering me for this position. It's extremely important to me as someone who was raised Jewish and especially culturally Jewish that I give back to the community on campus and working as the Assistant Director for me is the best way to do so. I'm looking forward to continuing to collaborate with the current board, future boards, and Jewish students across campus. I look forward to working with every one of you pending my confirmation. Thank you so much.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
 - **RESULT: Candidate REMI VENTURA PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Daniel Ferraro – Jewish Student Union, Treasurer
 - Opening Statement:
 - Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Daniel Ferraro. I'm currently a Junior studying Finance and minoring in Computer Science. As you know, I'm here today as a possible candidate for the Jewish Student Union Treasurer position and what I want to start with is that this position means community to me. The Jewish community has been everywhere all over the place. There has been a lot of antisemitism and discord and frankly that is something that frightens me and should frighten everyone. As someone who has been part of that community since almost since I was born, going to synagogue, going to Jewish schools and Sunday school, it's something that is hurtful. That's why I would like this opportunity to be become the treasurer because I think that one way that we kind of make people come together is through important events that cultivate kindness and overall understanding for each other. Whether that's kind of just educational, having fun with some friends, or just painting, things like that, that's what we love about just making everybody feel included. That overall is what I would like to bring to the position, as well as bringing the

strong skills of understanding financial management, data analysis, and things such as that. I think that I would like to make a change in this community. I've been a part of it, but I would really like to step up this upcoming semester if I would be allowed that.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

- **Seantor Vollick:** Reading over your application, I see that one of your goals is to have more events. Do you have any specific ideas for those events and what you want to do?
 - **Candidate Ferraro:** I think one of the coolest things that we have are a wide range of alumni. We always have great speakers and a lot of people turnout. Florida State is a very forgiving school. The alumni is always willing to help out their students. I think that more Jewish alumni from the school coming to talk about their experience both in FSU and out can really impact the overall community.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Looking over your application, one of your goals is to have JSU gain more members. Do you have specific plans of action to do this?
 - **Candidate Ferraro:** Yes, I've been working already since the start of the semester with the outreach committee, and we've talked about different ways that we can integrate both of our positions to expanding membership. I guess that kind of goes along with the different kinds of events that we could plan such as socials, and overall, just game nights and things such as that.

○ Deliberations:

- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Reading over the candidate's application and listening to them today in this meeting, I think the candidate is qualified and it's nice to know that we have a candidate that is so passionate and that plans to grow JSU membership, and just have fun with the position. I think it's great that this candidate already has ideas, should they come into this role. They have my full support for those reasons.

○ **Senator Vollick moves to call the question; Senator Adonis seconds**

○ Closing Statement:

- I'd like to thank the community for this opportunity. I think that the future is always bright. I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can do and overall, what kind of changes we can make across campus.

○ Vote:

- Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick
- No: 0 -
- Abstain: 0 -

○ **RESULT: Candidate DANIEL FERRARO PASSES**

● **Candidate for Confirmation** Victoria Carroll – Jewish Student Union, Secretary

○ Opening Statement:

- Hi everyone my name is Tori Carroll, I'm a Junior at FSU and I'm applying to be the Secretary for JSU. I'm really involved in a ton of Jewish organizations, and I've obviously been involved for the past year a half. I've also been involved in Hillel. I just have a lot of Jewish involvement all

across campus. I want to be Secretary because I think it would be a really impactful position.

- Rounds of Questioning:
 - None
 - Deliberations:
 - **Vice Chair Crocker:** Just with respect to the candidate's time, I think they are qualified. Clearly, we didn't have questions for the candidate, which I think is a good thing, and I'm in support of this candidate.
 - **Senator Salazar moves to call the question; Senator Adonis seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Thank you all so much for the opportunity and I look forward to working with you guys this upcoming semester.
 - Vote:
 - **Yes: 6 - Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick**
 - **No: 0 -**
 - **Abstain: 1 - Vice Chair Crocker**
 - **RESULT: Candidate VICTORIA CARROLL PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Sofia Binjaku – 75th Student Senate Clerk
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hello everyone, my name is Sofia Binjaku. I am a first year here at FSU. I'd like to say that I'm very thankful to have been nominated and to have come this far in the process of becoming Senate Clerk. Student government has always been a passion of mine since high school and that has still not changed. Although I have some student government experience, the way FSU's student government is structured is completely different than what I am used to. I think a position like this where I get to learn about Senate and how it functions from a behind-the-scenes perspective is ideal. I'd like to get in touch with the school more before I ever get involved in a major position and I like to be very intentional and knowledgeable wherever I put my time because I take any positions where I put my time very seriously. I am aware that this position requires a lot of organizational skills and fortunately that is something that I'm familiar with. To vouch on a more personal note, the way I organize my school work, personal life, and extracurriculars is that I have my schedule set on Google Calendar for any places I need to be in in a timely manner. I have a physical planner for due dates and homework that I need to finish, and I frequently use the *Reminders* app on my phone for any short-term things I have to do. If I were to get the position, all of those things would apply to any things that I have to do and any legislation that has to be posted on Canvas. I have been molded by my experiences to be a very determined and hard-working person. Being a first-generation immigrant and college student will definitely have that effect on me. I would like to mention that this position is new to me, however, I am a quick learner and will be very quick to this position and you all and other senators. I will be prepared for meetings by having legislation distributed on Canvas as well as any important documents throughout Senate meetings I'm confident that these factors will help me excel in this position. Thank you all for your consideration.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

- **Senator D'Lugos:** If you were to come into this position, do you have any goals that you would like to achieve?
 - **Candidate Binjaku:** I would say that I would like to have a personal relationship with the senators so that you all feel free to address me with any concerns or any sort of mistakes I could potentially make such as posting legislation on canvas or how I can be better in my position. I want to learn from them so that I can better learn how Senate works so that we mutually have a relationship and respect for each other. I want to better provide services to you all.
- **Senator Kariher:** How comfortable are you with using Microsoft Word?
 - **Candidate Binjaku:** I am more used to Google Docs, but if Microsoft Word is something that is more preferable for you all, that is something that I can quickly learn to do.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** In the previous Senate, it was often the responsibility of the Clerk to make any quick changes to Bills or anything that we were hearing on the Senate floor such as making amendments. This often requires a very quick response-time in Microsoft Word as previously mentioned. How confident are you in your ability to adapt to using Microsoft Word as opposed to Google Docs and learning how to make those changes fairly quickly.
 - **Candidate Binjaku:** I would say that those two are very different programs. But I am very adaptable and honestly Microsoft Word is a program that is much better long-term. I think that would benefit me in the Senate meetings and also outside of meetings just because it is a program that most people prefer. I will say that I feel confident adapting to it fairly quickly.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Do you have any previous experience with what amendments look like, as well as Bills that have been written in Senate?
 - **Candidate Binjaku:** I do not. As I mentioned, this position is new to me and I do not have any experience with that but as I said before, I am fairly quick to learn new things. I don't think that will be a huge concern. And as I said, I would like to have a more personal relationship with the senators, so I am very comfortable taking criticism.

○ Deliberations:

- **Vice Chair Crocker:** I wanted to say that I think it's great that the candidate is applying for a position that is new to them, and while I think that is right to have some concern over this candidate's lack of experience with Microsoft Word and looking at legislation, I think it is great that the candidate is open to criticism and more so correction. I also wanted to say that if we do choose to pass this candidate, it is really important for all of us to band together to teach, help, and guide her. IF we pass her, we need to acknowledge that it's our responsibility to make sure she is prepared for the role so just keep that in mind.
- **Chair Kariher:** I just wanted to say that I'm in full support of this candidate. I think that what they may lack in some technical skills, they make up with intrinsic motivation. I think they are very motivated and it's

not just something to build their resume. I think they actually want to build the Senate community, which is something that we all value and we all want. I think that's going to be more important than any previous technical skills that she could have brought to the table. I urge you all to vote up on her.

- **Senator LoBianco moves to call the question; Senator Salazar seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - After hearing you all speak and all of your feedback, I understand that I do lack in some things that are very important in Senate. But, as I said before, I am a quick learner and I take on criticism well because I like to be the best that I can for you because if you look at it from my perspective, I am sort of at your service because I am posting stuff that you all need to be prepared and briefed on before Senate meetings and that is a big responsibility of my position. I would like to thank you for your time and for hearing me today.
- Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
- **RESULT: Candidate SOFIA BINJAKU PASSES**

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Lauryn Klostreich – 75th Student Senate Historian**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Good evening, my name is Lauryn Klostreich and I'm a first-year majoring in international Affairs and Political Science. I'm from a small town in Montana but I went to high school in South Florida around the West Palm area. I was an undergraduate representative in the 74th Student Senate and it was one of the highlights of my time here at FSU. I really want to take my involvement to the next level which is why I applied for this position. I think it's a great way to gain a more in-depth understanding of the Senate and all of its procedures and everything that it influences. Even though I'm still kind of new to the whole process, I learn to adapt really quickly and well, I know that with the right leadership team, we can take this Senate to the next level and can initiate real, positive change. I want to help Senate tackle food insecurity on campus and having a more representative group of senators. I'm really passionate about bringing in a diverse group of individuals and helping them get involved with student government in all aspects, not just in Senate. Whether it's by recruiting more out of state students or having a wider variety of majors, I just want people who join senate to step out of their comfort-zones so we can create an environment we are really proud of. I first learned about Senate when I participated in the leadership seminar hosted by FSU's Center for Leadership and Social Change. It taught me and other first-years how to be the next generation of leaders and gave us the connections that we need to succeed. Outside of SGA I also work for Campus Rec with Outdoor Pursuits which has taught me how to work with and accommodate others. It also gave me a strong background in communication and working efficiently under pressure, which is something that a Historian does a lot because it's a very fast-paced job so

I'm confident that I can handle that. Regardless, I'm fully prepared to be dedicated to this role and to this organization and I'm really happy to answer any questions you might have.

- Rounds of Questioning:
 - **Senator Vollick:** I see you originally applied for a different position but are now slated for the Senate Historian. I was wondering if you knew all the responsibilities that come with the job.
 - **Candidate Klostreich:** Yeah so I know the Historian is mostly responsible for taking minutes and then also any task and responsibility assigned by the President or Pro Temp. and I am fully prepared to take those. I think that I will be a much better fit in this role.
- Deliberations:
 - None
- **Senator D'Lugos moves to call the question; Senator Vollick seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Like I said, I'm really excited to take my involvement with SGA to the next level. I know that my dedication to this group and for the university is going to be great motivation for me in this role. I'm confident that I can handle any of the tasks that are thrown at me, and I know that this is going to be a great year for Senate. Thanks for meeting with me.
- Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
- **RESULT: Candidate LAURYN KLOSTREICH PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Zaria Barnes – 75th Student Senate Press Secretary
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hello everyone, my name is Zaria Barnes. I'm a second year Junior here at FSU. I'm majoring in Criminology with a minor in Communications. A little about myself, I'm currently Vice President of Ignite, which is a political information organization that helps women know more about different political roles that they could get into and it's about connections. Other than that, I'm very involved with school, which causes me to need to use a calendar. My calendar is my best friend. I really love it. It helps me a lot. As you may know, this was not my first pick to be Press Secretary but after looking over the roles once more, I thought this was something I could really do. Looking at things like the SGA's Instagram page, I will admit that when I do scroll through Instagram, I know exactly which one is SGA, so I've actually stopped and read what's actually going on other than just scrolling by. One thing that I would love to do is to create a safe environment so that everybody could feel safe with coming up to me and asking me questions about different information regarding the meeting, different events that are coming up. I hope that they feel comfortable to come up to me and ask me questions. Not only that, but just building a relationship with everyone is what I want. The senators that I know so far are very sweet people and they are always there to help, and I hope that everyone else is hopefully like that. I may not have the extensive experience but I am willing to learn if taught to me well. I feel

like my position is more so to help you all not be as stressed as you might be. So if I have any questions, of course, I'll ask, but I feel like my position is to take some load off from you all. I thank you for allowing me to be here.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Are you comfortable with speaking in front of a large group of people when it comes to maybe sensitive topics such as dress code within the Senate or things like that?
 - **Candidate Barnes:** Yes I actually started my pre-law back in high school, so I did speech and debate, mock trial, and everything so those were the times where we did have to speak about very difficult topics like different takes on abortion or the death penalty, or whatnot. Also arguing for or against it and things like suicide and depression. So yes, I feel very confident about talking about things like that.
- **Senator Salazar:** You said you were the president of this other organization. How do you feel like you could balance that and being the Senate Press Secretary and school all at the same time while doing well in all of them?
 - **Candidate Barnes:** Yes, I'm very confident mainly because with me being vice president, were mostly on zoom and our president is okay with us not being at every single meeting. We really only have about two meetings a month and then we'll have certain events that we do but I'm very confident that I'll be able to perform my role to the best of my abilities.
- **Chair Kariher:** I was wondering if you have any experience creating infographics or any type of graphic design background?
 - **Candidate Barnes:** So, I'm not sure if you all use Canva, but I have some experience with that. That is something I can do. If not, I'm certain I'll be able to use the app that you all use.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Our previous Press Secretary took on the role of having T-Shirts created for the senators and it ended up being a very lengthy and trying process when it comes to obtaining rights to certain images and getting everybody's sizes and getting everyone to respond to messages about the T-Shirts in general, so how comfortable are you with organizing a project such as this one?
 - **Candidate Barnes:** I am very confident mainly because this sounds like something I had to do with my church back at home. I wouldn't say harass, but you know any time you see someone you can say "hey can you please respond" or "let me know if you would like to have a shirt" or things like that.

○ Deliberations:

- **Vice Chair Crocker:** I just wanted to say that this candidate has my full support. It's really nice that all of the questions we asked today enlightened the candidate about the multiple responsibilities and roles that the Press Secretary plays and I also think it's great that the candidate is willing to grow in this position and acknowledges that they might not know everything that comes with being Press Secretary and that's okay because there is always room to grow. They are comfortable with

reaching out to others and getting familiar with Senate as a whole and I think that's really important.

- **Senator Salazar:** I like her attitude and confidence and her ability to actually do this and do it well so she has my full support, as well.
- **Senator Adonis:** I'm definitely in favor of the candidate because she's willing to learn within the process and you can see her attitude has to do with confidence. In terms of that, I really appreciate the way she answered all of the questions we asked her and her interview was very good.

○ **Senator LoBianco moves to call the question; Senator Salazar seconds**

○ Closing Statement:

- Thank you for everyone who took the time to be here. Thank you for the opportunity and thank you all for the kinds words. I can't wait to work with you all if I pass.

○ Vote:

- Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick
- No: 0 -
- Abstain: 0 -

○ **RESULT: Candidate ZARIA BARNES PASSES, DOES NOT PASS**

● **Bill #6 – Sponsored by Senator Salazar (P)**

○ Opening Statement:

- I'd like to thank you guys for taking the time to listen to this. As an HLSO Liaison, one of the first things that the Assistant Director and Director brought up to me was the issue with part of their statutes, which states that: A representative from each of the affiliate organizations has to vote on the Exec. Board, especially like the Assistant Director and the Director. They have a big issue with this because that means that as they can vote, it is 17 extra voters compared to the usual 14, which includes the Director, Assistant Director, E Board, and Programming Board, which is what they would prefer it to be. The big issue with this is it's people who are not on the E Board voting for E Board issues; people who do not know very much about Senate and Senate-related things voting on things that have to do with Senate. They would like Programming to stay, but basically they don't want non E Board members voting on E Board issues. I feel like it's not too hard to understand what the problem is with that, and they revised the statutes like a year ago, and that's why this is here. That's why I'm issuing this revision to take away that part of the statutes.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

- **Vice Chair Crocker:** I guess I'm just a little confused. Has there been any instance of this causing a problem, specifically?
 - **Senator Salazar (P):** Yeah, so they feel like it creates a lot of internal strife, as there is easily over 30 people voting on a matter, where before it was only 14 people voting. It takes a lot more time to vote on these positions, which are E Board and Director and Assistant Director of HLSU. And they would prefer to streamline the process more and make it a little easier and a little more effective if it was just people who have already served in these

positions to vote on these things instead of people who are with affiliate organizations that are not very familiar with the roles.

- **Vice Chair Crocker:** It makes sense, I guess I'm just not really understanding. I guess I understand the streamlined aspect, but why is it a problem outside of wanting the process to be streamlined to get more input from outside entities?
 - **Senator Salazar (P):** Because they don't know the ins and outs of Senate. Their issues are with their affiliate organization so like PRSA and MASA. They are directly involved with their own club and organization, their affiliate organization. They're not really concerned with the E Board and Assistant Director and Director, and that is why they feel like it would make their process easier and more effective if those affiliate organization didn't have that power to vote on the E Board and AD and D.
- **Chair Kariher:** Have the affiliate organization consented to this?
 - **Senator Salazar (P):** No.
- **Chair McMahon:** They haven't consented- did they even know about it?
 - **Senator Salazar (P):** I'm not entirely sure that they do.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Is HLSU the only one of its kind that has affiliate organizations vote on Executive Board?
 - **Senator Salazar (P):** I'm not exactly sure. I think JSU also has something like that. But I don't think they have as many affiliates organization as HLSU has. Keep in mind with HLSU, there are 17 affiliate organization, which would bring the total of people that would vote on this to over 30. It would be 14 without the affiliate organizations needing to vote.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Sorry for bombarding you with questions. So would you disagree then that having affiliate organization vote on executive board would maintain a process would maintain a process Executive Board and affiliate organizations could collaborate to have share goals? (Restates question) *I feel like affiliate organizations voting on Executive Board could cause shared goals to be put into leadership positions and move forward, would you disagree that this is an advantage of having affiliate organizations vote on Executive Board?
 - **Senator Salazar (P):** Yes I would because they're different types of goals. Assistant Director and Director and E Board a lot of what they do goes through Senate, whereas a lot of affiliates do it doesn't have to do with Senate, its more within HLSU itself. If they don't really know what's going on with Senate, a lot of people within HLSU E Board and Assistant Director and Director don't feel like that should qualify someone to have a vote on that sort of issue.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Sorry if you already said this, I might have missed it. Who are some of the affiliate organizations?
 - **Senator Salazar (P):** There is Mexican American Student Association, Puerto Rican Student Association, Cuban American Student Association, there is the Peruvian Student Association, there's VENZA, and there's the Dominican Student Association, among others.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Is everybody in HLSU in support of this or is there disagreement amongst HLSU?

- **Senator Folwell (P):** Right now the statutes are just really messy and without definition. Its unclear what an institute is and the areas in which those definitions do occur are not very clear. You can see on the top of the Bill in Chapter 303, we struck out the current title of the Bill. There are two Institutes under that: the Freshman and the Transfer. As this has evolved over time, the statutes have not been updated to properly reflect those changes, so we felt that it was best to fix the issues currently in place before we expand upon the institute because expanding the problem before its fixed could potentially make the system worse.
- Deliberations:
 - **Vice Chair Crocker:** Yeah, I mean this Bill is pretty much a no-brainer. If all its really doing is restructuring to make things more consistent and update them to keep up with the times, I don't see an issue with this bill at all. I applaud the sponsor for looking deep into the structure of statutes and wanting to fix them, so this bill has my support.
- **Senator Vollick moves to call the question; Senator Adonis seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - I just want to thank the Chair for letting me go first because otherwise we wouldn't be able to hear this today. Id like to thank the committee for hearing this out. More than anybody else, Id like to thank the candidates for being okay with this happening first because I know that Senate is not something that you guys are used to the procedures of yet for some of you and I just want to thank you for taking some extra time.
- Vote:
 - **Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Salazar, Vollick**
 - **No: 0 -**
 - **Abstain: 0 -**
- **RESULT: BILL #9 PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair McMahon:** I recently had a phone call with President Diaz and as you guys who are returning from IA in the 74th Senate, you know that we worked on some of the changes regarding the SGA application and we gave a lot of great feedback in the meeting with Quentin and Katie regarding those changes. I think were going to have to have one more meeting regarding that with Jaclyn to kind of gauge where her head is at and the things she would like to see change within the SGA application, but that will be within the next coming weeks. I'm hoping to get that completely wrapped up by like mid to late February, that way we can start on our bureau review, which is another thing that we have to do, before the Spring Senate Inauguration. That is the beginning of April. So by that well have to do out Bureau Review. Just in the meantime I wanted to update you on the SGA Application.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** I think we engaged in great conversation today. I loved that everyone participating in questioning bills and candidates and I just think we are a great committee. That's all.

Next Meeting: TBD

Adjourned: 6:35 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Signature of Chair Jack McMahon