



75th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
January 30th, 2023, at 5:00pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93739908628>

Call to Order: 5:01 pm

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

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senator Adonis

Guests: Chair Kariher, Candidates Arthi Solayappan, Adam Latiff, Morgan Gahan

Land Acknowledgement – Senator Anderson

- 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:** If the committee members could keep their cameras on, echoing what Vice Chair Crocker said earlier, I know that would be a big help to her so we would all really appreciate that.

Committee Business:

1. Morgan Gahan – Mental Health Council, Director of Marketing (1 Applicant)
2. Adam Latiff – Deputy Supervisor of Elections (1 Applicant)
3. Arthi Solayappan – Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity, Editor-in-Chief (1 Applicant)
4. Bill #11 – Sponsored by Chair Kariher (P)

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Arthi Solayappan – Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity, Editor-in-Chief
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hi, I'm Arthi Solayappan. So being editor in chief of the Owl will allow me to immerse myself in various research areas, expand my leadership/professional skills, and continue to foster my interest in a public service career. My goal is to expand the Owl's publication by adding more entries and diverse projects. I hope to organize more research-oriented events with various organizations on campus. Some of my personal goals are to learn more about research through other projects and digital editing. I've applied for this position because I want to engage in various research projects within diverse areas. I have experience in editing through the congressional internship from this past Fall and have worked with an editorial team for my presentation. This would be an excellent opportunity to grow in research, leadership, and professionalism. Thank you.
 - Rounds of Questioning:
 - **Vice Chair Crocker:** Do you mind diving in a little bit about your prior research that you participated in?
 - **Candidate Solayappan:** Of course. So, I did UROP my second year and I was researching how infrastructure policies have changed in terms of equity and affordable housing. I'm a political science and economics minor, and a lot of my work has been on affordable housing, and I worked in D.C. last semester. I also worked with the transportation teams so a lot of what I do is regarding urban redevelopment. What I basically did was a historical comparison between- sorry it's hard to condense it into a smaller- year's worth of research- I don't know if you guys know but Capital Cascades Trail actually used to be an African American neighborhood called Smoky Hollow, so that's basically what I did a historical comparison on to see how our urban policies have improved since then. It's actually pretty impressive that we had two urban renewal cases in Tallahassee which is kind of rare. So that's something that I was looking into with my professor.
 - Deliberations:
 - **Vice Chair Crocker:** I just want to express my support for the candidate. It's clear that they have extensive background in research, and I think it's really important that for somebody that we're passing for this role that they have that, so I just want everyone to know that they have my full support.
 - **Senator Anderson:** This candidate also has my support. Looking over your application it shows you know exactly what you want to do with this publication and the ways you're stepping forward, so that's really good to see that you stand for ideas and push for them.
 - **Senator Salazar moves to call the question; Vice Chair Crocker seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - I just wanted to say thank you guys so much for your time. I am really excited to be in this position. I have a lot of plans. It is my first time with really digital editing, so I'm really excited to learn more and work with a team but I think I have a strong background in research and I have

worked with an editing team before, so this is my first time doing it basically on my own and leading the team, so I'm really excited for that. Again, thank you guys for your time.

- Vote:
 - Yes: 8 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Anderson, Birdsong, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Roogow, Salazar, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
- **RESULT: Candidate ARTHI SOLAYAPPAN PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Adam Latiff – Deputy Supervisor of Elections**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Well hello, Senate. My name is Adam Latiff and I'd like to share my passion to become your next Deputy Supervisor of Elections. To begin, I'd like to talk about my past experiences. I'm financially certified and a few months ago, I completed my term as the 74th Senate Clerk and I was able to learn about the track of legislation, how to organize the canvas, the calendar, and build relationships with senators. None here, but still senators...I'm just kidding. Before that I served as the youth mayor of my city and the vice president of my high school SGA. And last year, I was an active member of Miami Dade teen court where we held trials for juveniles. SO were going to go back to civics. As I said I had experience in the legislative, executive, and juridical branches of youth government. Now I'm ready to understand the spine holding everything together, which is the people and the votes. I'm passionate about ensuring that our student body is well-represented in our elections and I'm ready to uphold the legacy that we've had up to date of having an effective and clean election. I'm ready to work alongside Spencer Greenwood in taking on the best actions to allow for this upliftment. In total, I'm ready to take on this position and continue networking and ensuring that us students implore the right that we have to vote. Thank you.
 - Rounds of Questioning:
 - **Senator Salazar:** I saw you initially submitted an application for a different position. Why did you switch over to this one?
 - **Candidate Latiff:** So, I learned that in statutes you can't have two positions, and I was more passionate about this position. So, I had to let go of that one and I had a great relationship with mental health council, but unfortunately statutes said I can't take them all, so.
 - **Senator Anderson:** How will you make sure the student body is informed on elections and when those are happening and how they get an overall bigger vote when it comes to student elections?
 - **Candidate Latiff:** Well, I think the main thing that worked last semester was the implementation or the use of the Instagram. They were quite active and made TikToks and outside canvassing and showing the importance of the election. I think that engagement really allowed for the student body to be aware of how important it is to vote. So just upholding that legacy because again, social media is a fantastic platform.
 - Deliberations:

to see happening for getting resources available for students. With that, I also just want to talk about my previous experience marketing. In high school, I was senior class vice president, and I was captain of the sailing team. Through those positions, I was able to do marketing for those clubs and then for my high school job, I worked at a hair salon, where I marketed online for them, as well. Thank you.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

- **Vice Chair Crocker:** You mentioned getting more accessible resources for students on campus who are struggling with mental health. How do you plan specifically on marketing those resources to students?
 - **Candidate Gahan:** So, the major resource that I was taking about is help with getting accommodations. When I was going through these struggles last semester, it was really hard for me to get accommodations for dealing with my classes and I found that I had to reach out to case management and go to the Dean. I just feel like there are a lot of steps that I could've skipped if the information that I got was more readily available. I also want to use the online platform of the mental health council to advertise what already is available for students because I know that there is a lot of resources, they're just kind of too hard to access or not widely known about. So definitely just things like mental health course drops and the online medical resources for people struggling with mental health.
- **Senator Birdsong:** So, you kind of just answered my question towards the end of what. You were saying just then, but if you just want to kind of go more in depth or think of something else- but I was just wondering if you saw nay issues currently with the mental health council and what your ideas would be to bring something new to it or improve it?
 - **Canndiate Gahan:** I wouldn't say I have any issues with it. Obviously, I think it's a great thing to have on campus and I want to join it. I do think they could be more active and vocal with what they're doing. Especially with the social media marketing, I thin they could go a bit heavier on that because students use social media more than emails or stuff like that. I think that they just kind of need help expressing to students what they're doing and how they're helping change the mental health stigma on campus.

○ Deliberations:

- **Senator Anderson:** I just want to say that I do support this candidate and I completely understand what you're saying regarding mental health not being necessarily accessible to a lot of students. I think there are a lot of loopholes that they have to go through to get the resources that they need so I really appreciate that being said, especially when it comes to classes and stuff like that.
- **Senator LoBianco:** I also just wanted to give my support for this candidate. I think it's very important to find people who are extremely passionate about this when it comes to this role. Definitely when I read her application, she is very passionate about it and that shows that she's going to put in the work that she's saying she will. I support this candidate.

this to begin with was a little unnecessary in my opinion but also just the fact that it's been inactive for the entire time that it's been existing just kind piles onto that.

- **Senator Anderson:** Have you spoken to any of the members on the past executive board about the removal of this or a director of accessibility about this?
 - **Sponsor Chair Kariher:** Yeah so, I know the previous directors- I have no idea who they are because they don't have a website. You can't really find anything about this but when I've talked to members of the board, and I've talked to our leadership and our advisors about this and they're all aware. I can't say they're on board but wink, you know.
- **Senator Vollick:** When is the last year you said they were actually active?
 - **Sponsor Chair Kariher:** They received this past year but since my time in Senate, there's not been anyone even forwarded for any of the positions. They have an empty board. I scrolled through a lot of the previous forwarding letters that get sent and at least its been- I went all the way back to last February and I didn't see anything, so.
- Deliberations:
 - **Vice Chair Crocker:** I feel like this kind of goes without saying but I'm obviously in support of this. We definitely shouldn't be advertising any sort of bureau on the bottom of everybody's syllabus if it doesn't even exist. If they haven't been active, there's no reason for them to receive a budget either. It's just a no brainer so yeah, I'm in support of this.
 - **Senator Anderson:** I do understand where this is coming from. I am a little weary about it just because I know how it can be perceived for us to be getting rid of this bureau, but I feel like it hasn't been active for two years and it hasn't been using a budget then it's kind of like why is it here. We have so many other groups that advocate for accessibility and stuff, but I just maybe think it can be taken in the wrong direction when it does get heard by Senate. But you made some really good points that I think would help you.
- **Senator Vollick moves to call the question; Senator Salazar seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - Alright I just wanted to say that while it does seem a little weird voting to get rid of something that would serve the student body with a purpose, we do this all the time with bureaus. I don't know if you've ever looked at the bureau section in statutes but there's tons of sections where it says, "this bureau was removed by this senate." Bureaus are something that you guys actually check every single year to make sure they're doing their jobs and make sure everything is happening. I think Bureau Review going to happen soon for you guys but it's a very common process I guess so I don't want you guys to be worried about voting to get rid of something that sounds like something that is good, like you're voting against accessibility advocacy, when really, you're- I don't know, you're directing resources in other directions that can do more good on campus. I do understand the sentiments of the last senator that spoke, and I just hope you guys support this.

- Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Birdsong, D'Lugos, LoBianco, Roogow, Salazar, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 1 – Senator Anderson
- **RESULT: BILL #11 PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair McMahon:** Within the next upcoming weeks, I've talked about this in a previous meeting about the changes to the SGA application and people who were in this committee last senate, you guys already know we did this. I've been a little swamped recently, which is why I've kind of let that go on the back burner but I'm going to contact Jaclyn and talk to her, and the director appointments, which is Katie Russel, and the Chief of Staff who is Quentin England, so that we can have a meeting that isn't a repeat of the meeting we had last time. This way we can do comprehensive work and use suggestions for the SGA application. As for bureau review, I need to look at the statutes because there's a certain amount of time in regard to our time frame when this happens. I believe we need a lot of time to do bureau review so essentially what Chair Kariher was saying with the bill we just heard, we are going to do that with a lot of bureaus actually. We're going to have to go through and get contact information from their current leadership, financial information, events, and things like that. We essentially review it and interview the directors of these bureaus, their boards, and things like that to determine if they should still be bureaus. So that needs to be done before Spring Inauguration, which obviously is a little but away, but this takes a hot minute to do because there are so many different bureaus that we have to go through so I'm going to try to compile a list for next meeting on next Monday so that we have an idea on how many we have to do. We are going to be a little busy these next few weeks. I know that we've kind of like today, a super short meeting, gotten done within 30 minutes. Our next couple of meetings will not be this short. I know that a lot of you guys have engagements after this and things like that. So, like I've said this in the group chat, if you have a conflict time or you can't stay past a certain hour or whatnot, please let me know so we can figure something out. I would love to keep our meetings at 5. This is really the only time I can do it, and our forwarding letters come on Fridays so we can't do them on Thursdays. But if you guys have conflicts with that just contact me. If we have to put you on another committee unfortunately, we might have to do that. Feel free to contact me or Vice Chair Crocker. We live together so anything that comes to her comes to me.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Thank you for having your cameras on, I really appreciate it. Love you all.

Next Meeting: February 6, 2023 at 5:00pm

Adjourned: 5:37 pm

Jack McMahon

Signature of Chair Jack McMahon