



75th Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee

February 13th, 2023, at 8:00pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/96176523850>

Call to Order: 8:03 pm

Members Present: Chair McMahon, Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Dlugos, Salazar, Vollick, Pro-Tempore Duchene (to meet quorum)

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senators Adonis(U), Anderson(E), Birdsong(U), LoBianco(E), Roogow(U)

Land Acknowledgement – Chair McMahon

- 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:

- I don't really have any opening announcements; I'll just touch on information in my closing announcements.

Committee Business:

1. Jenesis Rodriguez –Mental Health Council Secretary

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Jenesis Rodriguez –Mental Health Council Secretary
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hi everyone, my name is Jenesis Rodriguez. Just to get into my background, I'm Cuban and I'm from Miami. I'm a first-generation college student so fun fact, both my parents were 20 when they had me. So my

current age, - can't imagine that. Both of them dropped out of college to raise me and here I am now. Growing up I always wanted to be a lawyer, that was my default. Around high school, I started to look into what could actually interest me. I took an AP Psych class and loved it. I felt like the knowledge I was gaining was actually practical and had applications in my life, and I had never really felt that way with the stuff I was learning in school. SO yeah, I applied to FSU for psychology, which is my current major. I'm majoring in Psychology and Human Development and Family Sciences. What I'm to do with this is mainly through Psychology research. I want to help underrepresented communities get into the mental health conversation and get into the field of psychological research because a lot of the constructions we have about human behavior are based on observations of only predominantly white male populations. Women and communities of color are very underrepresented in this research, which is what I'm aiming to do in the field. Right now, I'm doing research that looks into culturally responsive classroom management strategies in order to bridge the discipline gap between white students and students of color. So essentially just trying to minimize the extent that students of color are being suspended getting detention, getting expelled at a higher rate than other students who are not minority students. That's basically my whole goal with mental health council as well, just opening the conversation of mental health to those communities of color and to women who might not feel like mental health is accessible to them.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

■ **Vice Chair Crocker:** What research have you already found within your goals that you think would have a significant impact on what you plan to do to close that gap?

- **Candidate Rodriguez:** So, the research we're doing is more like school psychology-based and like elementary, middle, and high school territory. Its more so looking at the kind of behavior that students of color exhibit that white teachers may take as misbehavior that can lead to those detentions and expulsions, etc. So, I feel like what we can learn from this research that can bridge the gap of mental health is nobody communicates the same. We all have different cultural backgrounds and I know I run into it a lot where people of different cultures than mine, we communicate our feelings very differently. I know being Hispanic, mental health isn't really something we talk about very often. It's about learning the differences within those communities and being able to see what specific cultures need.

○ Deliberations:

■ **Vice Chair Crocker:** I think this candidate's past experience specifically dealing with the gap between white students and minority students is really compelling, it has to do with the achievement gap that we see in elementary, middle, high school, and college, unfortunately. I think that can really guide them and it seems that they have a lot of experience and a lot of passion for the topic that they were speaking on. I think that will guide them in this role. Passion just really just needs to be there for somebody applying for this position. They have my support.

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

○ Closing Statement:

- I guess just to wrap it up, I just wanted to say thank you guys for hearing me out today. I am very passionate about mental health. I have always wanted to help people and I just hope that through this position, I can continue to do that and help whoever may feel like they need a safe space on this campus.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 5 – Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Dlugos, Salazar, Vollick, Pro Tempore DuChene.
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
 - **RESULT: Candidate ALEXIS DORMAN PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- Chair McMahon: Vice Chair Crocker and I were talking and tonight was great and I really appreciate everyone participating and having their cameras on. The whole quorum thing was different because we were meeting outside of our normal meeting time. But with that, I know that Vice Chair Crocker and I would really appreciate it if you guys were more involved specifically with asking questions to the candidates. No one is doing anything wrong, but we really just would love to have more people participate just to show that we're actively participating, like what we did in our Senate workshop. With active listening and active participation, it shows the candidates that we value their time and we're appreciative of the fact that they're here. Tonight was a little different because we only have one candidate and we met outside of our normal meeting time. But yeah, I would really appreciate it if you guys were a little more participative, especially when it comes to asking questions, just so that the same person isn't always asking the same questions for everybody. One more thing, Vice Chair Crocker and I are meeting with Jaclyn on Thursday to finalize the changes that we recommended to the SGA application. Once we have met with her, per statutes, we can finally submit the resolution for all the changes we want to see happen. I'll update you guys on Monday with the exact resolution written before we submit it to Qualtrics before next Senate meeting.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** I was just going to touch on what Chair McMahon said, our minutes are really important, especially when we're forwarding candidates on the senate floor. When only certain people are speaking, I know I speak a lot. When I do the minutes, I think wow I talk a lot like it needs to stop. But our minutes are read because people need to know what questions have already been asked during our meeting so that they know not to ask the same questions on the senate floor. So just know that the minutes are being read by other senators, so get your voice heard, ask some questions, you'll be in the minutes. That's basically all I have to say.

Next Meeting: Monday February 20th, 2023, at 5:00pm

Adjourned: 8:15 pm

Jack McMahon

Signature of Chair Jack McMahon