



75th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
February 20th, 2023, at 5:00pm | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93739908628>

Call to Order: 5:00 pm

Members Present: Chair McMahon, Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, LoBianco, Roogow, Vollick

Members Tardy: Senator Salazar

Members Absent: Senators Birdsong and Fineout

Guests: Candidate Cubillos

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:

- **Chair McMahon:** Vice Chair Crocker and I met with Jacalyn on Thursday to discuss changes to the SGA Application, which I will touch on more in the closing announcements, but she made some really good suggestions and overall loved the changes we want to make. We also wanted to reiterate again that your engagement as a committee is really important, so be prepared to ask our candidates and bill sponsors questions when we hear from them.

Committee Business:

1. Andres Cubillos – Director of External Affairs (1 Applicant)
2. Bill 22 – Sponsored by Senator Folwell (P)
3. Bill 23 – Sponsored by Chair Folwell (P)

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation:** Andres Cubillos – Director of External Affairs (1 Applicant)
- Opening Statement:
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- Rounds of Questioning:
 - **Senator Adonis:** I feel like you are very much involved in the community. How do you plan to take the workload of this position and accommodate it into your daily life?
 - **Candidate Cubillos:** So, should I earn this role, I will actually be using the majority of my time to fulfill its duties. I have dropped my position as external Affairs Director in order to better use my time to fulfill the needs of this role. I will also be focusing on developing relationships with the Tallahassee community, because I already have a fairly decent connection there. But what I want to do there is change those connections more towards SGA's favor rather than towards my internship.
 - **Senator Vollick:** I saw in your application that you're trying to put together state-wide student government training programs. My question is how would you go about putting that together?
 - **Candidate Cubillos:** I think one of the things that a lot of students who first get involved with student government have a very hard time with knowing the procedures and knowing how to best advocate for student voices that they represent. So, I was approached by an organization by a nonpartisan non-profit student organization, that works primarily on the civic engagement front of politics. They actually already have a plan that's already laid out to introduce to different universities. I would bring this forward to student governments across the state through my position working with the Florida Student Association. I already have a very good record working with FSA. Just these past couple months, they changed their legislative priorities to the Unger Free Campus bill, which I started working on last year and am working on it now. Because of that, we were able to rally over 50 students across the state to come to a rally in Tallahassee to meet with senators here at the capital to discuss the importance of the bill.
 - **Senator Adonis:** So, if you're granted the opportunity for this role, what is your end goal within this role?
 - **Candidate Cubillos:** My end goal is to establish long-term projects. I feel like with student government especially our focus is too often on the short-term and that leaves a lot of new members behind who don't get the opportunity to continue to work on the projects that are already laid out for them. My goal would be to one, set up the civic engagement board as a long-term project so that students can get involved with SGA, and then continue the work year long. And finally with the training program, make sure that new SGA members are able to adequately learn about their positions and how to best advocate for these programs in a long-term way, rather than in the short term.
- Deliberations:

- **Senator LoBianco:** I definitely support this candidate no question about it. He seems extremely qualified for the role and given his past experience; I think he's just overall qualified. I don't see any negatives about it at all and if he gets the role, I think he'll do great.
 - **Senator Salazar:** I wasn't here to see his opening statement, but after reading through his application and after having seen him on campus engaging in many different things, I think he's more than qualified and I don't think we could pick any better person for tis position. He has my full support.
 - **Senator Adonis:** The candidate has my full support based on his answer to my question. You can see the candidate is really dedicated and also motivated and willing to do the work that needs to be done and also seeing the bigger picture, as well as helping students. I am definitely for the candidate.
 - **Senator Vollick moves to call the question; Senator Adonis seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - I just wanted to say that I appreciate the words from all the committee members, I very much appreciate it. Should I earn this role, I will get started right away. I already have the proposals laid out and ready to go. If I'm confirmed on Wednesday, I will immediately begin rolling them out so that we can get started on these projects as soon as possible. I appreciate your support and I'm hoping I'll be selected for this role.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Adonis, Anderson, LoBianco, Roogow, Salazar, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
 - **RESULT: Candidate ANDRES CUBILLOS PASSES**
- **Bill 22 – Sponsored by Senator Folwell (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Hey guys. Thank you so much for having me, it's been a while since I've been in IA. I was here a lot over the summer to help engage with the confirmations. So, this is a Bill to codify the Garnet and Gold Voting Commission for those who don't know. This commission was created by the Student Body President earlier this year. The general premise of it to help increase voter turnout amongst students but it also has the more wide-reaching goal of increasing civic engagement during election years. At least I personally believe election years are one of the most important years to be civically engaged, not that its ever not important, but there's a lot going on and many students are not always informed. So, like I said this was an executive order by President Gabadage and if this year was a trial run of the commission, I think it was a huge success. It was a midterm election and despite that, I don't have the exact numbers in front of me, but I know we had an uptake in voter turnouts, and we had a lot of events where students had a lot of opportunities to meet candidates and become more informed. The candidate who was confirmed served as the Chair of the voting commission this year; I believe. So, it was a really

great project. A lot of the events I was there for, and I thought they were a fantastic representation of how we can get our student smore involved, especially in a critical state like Florida and that state's capital. I've talked to President Gabadage about this, and he was on board. I actually brought it up in his office when I was talking to him about something else and I glanced around, and I decided to run it by him. He read it in front of me and said everything looks good, I sent him an email so he can look over it more thoroughly, but it seems like he is all on board with this. There are a few adjustments that have to be made to make it more sustainable. There are some specific organizations laid out in the initial executive order and I basically laid out a process for before the election year starts, for the senate president, student body president, and SGA advisor to get together to decide what those organizations would be, because I don't expect it to be the same exact stakeholders in every single election. Organizations come and go, and I think that this really helps it to stand the test of time. I think that a lot of this is actually taken directly from the executive order, some of the language itself, so I think the initial order was very compelling in what it wanted to do, and I think this has done a great job of continuing that. So, I think that we can keep this good momentum going and continue to help increase voter turnout for years to come.

○ Rounds of Questioning:

■ **Senator Vollick:** It might be in the bill, but I don't know if I read it. For the Board of Directors, does the student body president appoint them or do they have to run for this position?

● **Sponsor Folwell:** So, each individual organization would designate a person for that. There are some positions that are predetermined so the SGA Attorney General is a position that would be in there no matter what. I designee of the SGA Executive Branch would be appoint by the Student Body President. A designee of the Office of Governmental Affairs would be appointed by the director. For non-SGA nominees I think they can figure out their own method but so long as they are designated by the organization in question, that's kind of how it goes.

■ **Senator Vollick:** For those who are designated for a position, do they have to confirm "yes I would like to be in that position" or do they just get designated for it?

● **Sponsor Folwell:** Theoretically, an organization could just prop somebody up, but then what would happen is that that person would resign if they didn't want it. Technically I don't think I laid out a process to turn it down, but I think that the way that things naturally fall will cause people to make sure that the people who are designated would be on board. I think most places would do it by election if I had to guess.

○ Deliberations:

■ **Senator LoBianco:** Overall, I am in support of this bill. I think it is really straight forward and I really like the purpose of it and the idea behind it. I have no question that this bill will definitely do great things if it goes through so I support.

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

- Closing Statement:
 - So I don't feel like it's too controversial but I know we don't deal with affiliate projects all that often. So, for those of you who aren't really familiar, affiliated projects are joint projects through the executive and legislature. Even though this won't happen again until 2024 in the Fall, it will be a joint project of the Student Senate and the Executive Branch. So, I think that this is a really good opportunity to increase interbranch relationships. Other affiliated projects include the Medical Response Unit and the Child Care Center. I think that's a really good track record of programs for this to be included on and I don't think this will be an issue, but I do hope you all vote in favor.
- Vote:
 - Yes: 5 –Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Anderson, LoBianco, Roogow, Vollick
 - No: 0 -
 - Abstain: 0 -
- **RESULT: BILL 22 PASSES**
- **Bill 23 – Sponsored by Senator Folwell (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Two kind of big bills right in a row, I know that these are both new organization you would be voting to pass. This one is a codification of the Diversity and Inclusion Institute. The institutes are basically the Education Program, Freshman Leadership Institute, and I was actually an FLIET where you help very driven and motivated freshmen to become the best leader on campus that they can be. While SGA promotes institutes, they say there are three official institutes. The two I just mentioned and the DNI, which was never actually put into statutes. It was just a thing the Executive Branch has been doing for a little bit now but has never been codified. The Senate President told me to write this with the DNI director Ms. Gibson. Based off of my brief conversations with her since then, she still seems very much on board. The language is that this shall take effect at the end of this semester and it's there because the investigation is currently ongoing. We do not think there is anything that would actually harm its current function, but we do have some concerns that this is how the participants are chosen, this is how the exec. Board members are chosen, and we don't want any malicious parties to say, "hey you didn't actually do this in the way that statutes say." Even if you do perform the actions in statutes, you did it while it wasn't in effect. We just didn't want to run into any lawsuits. We don't think they would actually come to fruition, but it could just be a headache for some directors who didn't ask for that. That language should protect the current participants of the institute from having any trouble whatsoever, not that we foresaw any, but crazier things have happened. Beyond that, it already exists so this doesn't really change anything too significantly beyond just really solidly putting it in place. I know that there have been some concerns about diversity and inclusion at the university recently, and I think that this is a solid step we can take to ensure that there is at least A&S funded program that can help combat that. I'm happy to take any questions.
 - Rounds of Questioning:

Nothing has really changed since we've talked about it together, it's all very basic stuff. I will also send a resolution once I complete it and everything.

Senator Vollick moves to approve the SGA recommendations; Senator LoBianco seconds – No objections

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair McMahon:** Sam wants us to meet with the Chief of Staff because we decided to go with Survey Monkey, so we will see if we can get Quentin to come to our meeting, but if not, we still move the SGA application changes forward. I really want to thank you all for your participation today, specially Trevi, who was super involved.
- **Vice Chair Crocker:** Thanks for approving the changes, so exciting!

Next Meeting: February 27, 2023, at 5:00pm

Adjourned: 5:32 pm

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

Signature of Chair Jack McMahon