

# 75<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee April 3th, at 5:00pm | https://fsu.zoom.us/j/97407455338

Call to Order: 5:01 pm Members Present: Chair McMahon, Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Anderson, Allgoever, Birdsong, D'Lugos, Fineout, Lewis, LoBianco, Roogow Members Tardy: Members Absent: Senator Salazar Guests: Chair Bettley, Senator(s) St. Hilare, and Dale

## 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:

None

## **Committee Business:**

- 1. Bill 42 Sponsored by Senator Bettley (P)
- 2. Bill 45 Sponsored by Senator St. Hilare (P)
- 3. Bill 47 Sponsored by Senator St. Hilare (P)
- Old Business:
  - None

### New Business:

- Bill 42 Sponsored by Senator Bettley(P)
  - Opening Statement:

- Hi guys! This is a pretty simple bill. I'm also going to refer to my cosponsor at the end for any additional information that he has about the process for this. Basically, what this does is it just removes the advisory cabinet from statutes. This is not something that has been active for a while. The upcoming administration had mentioned that they don't necessarily think that it's required to be in statutes. All it does is strike the advisory cabinet from the top part and removes the definition of it. With that, I'll yield to my cosponsor.
- Senator Dale: It has not been in use for a long time and the upcoming administration didn't really see a purpose for it.
- Rounds of Questioning:
- Deliberations:
  - Senator LoBianco: I just wanted to express my support for this bill. I think it's pretty simple and I appreciate how it cleans up statutes and lines up with current practices while also being receptive to the incoming administration, so I am in support.
- Vice Chair Crocker moves to call the question; Senator Roogow seconds
- Closing Statement:
  - ....
- <u>Vote:</u>
  - Yes: 9 Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Anderson, Allgoever, Birdsong, D'Lugos, Fineout, Lewis, LoBianco, Roogow
  - <u>No: 0 -</u>
  - <u>Abstain: 0 -</u>
- RESULT: BILL 42 PASSES
- Bill 45 Sponsored by Senator St. Hilare(P)
  - Opening Statement:
    - Hi everyone! The BSU Vice President and President reached out to me about the way that elections go within BSU and as someone that has had the opportunity to see this election cycle, I've gotten to see the environment that comes from election season. It is very similar to SGA elections. Anyone within our student body can vote and it is a whole process as far as spending money and getting everything together. They had expressed that having to even do all of that to even run for a position that needs to be done anyway, unlike the other agencies that do have an election. Jason expressed to me that they think it's time to align with the other agencies so that we're not the only ones doing this sort of process. Elections normally fall around finals week and that sort of time period, and it is not necessarily the most convenient for students. It prevents a lot of students from engaging in the process as a whole because it is overwhelming. You have to go through approvals and a lot more that has to be completed. It does weed out students who are willing to put out work and who's willing not to, but it prevents a large group of students from getting involved because the process is already so overwhelming, and it is an election. That's why this legislation was written because it was brought to my attention.
  - Rounds of Questioning:

- Vice Chair Crocker: Sorry if you said this and I missed it but who brought this to your attention specifically?
  - **Sponsor St. Hilare:** Jason Lewis and Sophinie Debraistis. I also spoke with Spencer Greenwood about it.
- Senator Birdsong: I'm curious if you anticipate what the reception will be from students who are a part of that community and frequent BSU events and be voting in these elections?
  - **Sponsor St. Hilare:** I think that students will definitely be in favor of it because more students will have the opportunity to apply. BSU sort of has its own sort of politics in regards of who goes out for different things, and I think that this will be a great opportunity for more people to be encouraged to apply for these roles like in other agencies. It opens up a more holistic process with less stress of politics. I know this particular year some of the candidates I had spoken with had already spent money on the election which they can't really go back on, which is why this will be going into effect this following year. Everybody is super on board with it.
- Deliberations:
  - Vice Chair Crocker: I am in full support of this. I think that this bill is great because it makes the election more accessible to students and allows for a larger pool of people to feel like they can apply.
  - Senator LoBianco: I am in support of this because I think it encourages greater student engagement.
- Vice Chair Crocker moves to call the question; Senator Anderson seconds
- <u>Closing Statement:</u>
  - Thank you, guys, for hearing me out. If you ever have any questions or any other ways you think that we could expand on this, I'd love to hear it. I know my term is about to end but I would love to chat about it. I really do appreciate you guys hearing me out.
- <u>Vote:</u>
  - Yes: 9 Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Anderson, Allgoever, Birdsong, D'Lugos, Fineout, Lewis, LoBianco, Roogow
  - <u>No: 0 -</u>
  - Abstain: 0 -
- RESULT: BILL 45 PASSES
- Bill 47 Sponsored by Senator St. Hilare(P)
  - Opening Statement:
    - With this bill, we have a lot of student leaders that are super involved in a lot of things. The OGA Board of Directors and Deputy Supervisors of Elections, these are students who do a lot. I think that they should have the opportunity to engage in other major positions. Right now, they aren't necessarily able to and Supervisor of Elections, for example, there is a time period where they are super busy and then for the rest of the year, the semester, it is super calm, and then it revs up, and then it goes to be calm again. I think that those students, should have the opportunity to.
  - Rounds of Questioning:
    - Vice Chair Crocker: I'm assuming you already spoke to people that this would affect, and if you have, what were their opinions on this?

- **Sponsor St.\_Hilare:** So, I haven't spoken directly to individua's. This was actually brought to me and it seems like something that people are in support of. I definitely could speak to the Deputy of Supervisors. Would I be able to bring on someone to speak to these people or tap them in?
- Senator Dale: Whenever I was talking to the sponsor of this bill, afterwards I went and talked to Deputy Supervisor of Elections and multiple people on OGA and they all seemed very receptive to it. Nobody was against it and they all seemed like it was a good idea. For a little bit of background, OGA has not always been a major position unless you were the Director or Assistant Director, so that was kind of an experiment. This year, it didn't really necessarily increase commitment. It was like a failed experiment. Deputy Supervisors are typically not super involved outside of that 10% of the year where they are super busy. I think it would be more fair to people involved in those positions to allow them to get involved in other things.
- Deliberations:
  - Vice Chair Crocker: I would like to express my support for this. I do think it doesn't make sense at all that Supervisor of Elections and Deputy Supervisor has that one chunk where they're super busy and they get to fulfill their duties. The rest of the time they're not getting to use their full potential in SGA. I think it's super smart that this was brought to our attention.
- Senator LoBianco moves to call the question; Senator Lewis seconds
- Closing Statement:
  - I really appreciate you guys hearing me out. This was a fun time in IA I had never been here before so I'm really happy to be here. If you guys ever have any questions, you can always reach out to me.
- <u>Vote:</u>
  - Yes: 9 Vice Chair Crocker, Senators Anderson, Allgoever, Birdsong, D'Lugos, Fineout, Lewis, LoBianco, Roogow
  - <u>No: 0 -</u>
  - Abstain: 0 -
- **RESULT: BILL 47 PASSES**

## **Unfinished Business:**

None

**Closing Announcements:** 

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Next Meeting: TBD

Adjourned: 5:52 pm

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Signature of Chair Jack McMahon