



## 75<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Judiciary Committee

February 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/99918927976>

**Call to Order:** 6:05 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chair Kariher, Vice Chair Maglin, Senator(s) Folwell, Crusey, Garrison, Casiple, Brewer, Alvarez, Newsome, McFarlane

**Members Tardy:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests:** Senator(s) Widmann, St. Hilaire, Boisvert, Burton, Carter, Dale, Chehatli, Senate Pro-Tempore Patrick DuChêne, Student Body President Nimna Gabadage, Senate President Sam Diaz, Samantha Randall, OGA Board Member Eric Babchin, OGA Director Jason Puwalski, Attorney General Khamisi Thorpe, OGA Board Member Alexis Dorman

**Land Acknowledgement:** 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 Kariher: So, I'm going to quickly go over what we're doing today. Decorum wise, please keep yourself muted unless I call on you. If you're confused about Rules of Procedure, please review them on the SGA website if you're wondering when the perfect time to speak is or anything like that. Moving on, we have three items on official business which are Bills 13, 15, and an impeachment hearing for Senator Bozeman. According to statutes, we have to give a week's notice, so I notified them yesterday and we will be hearing that next Tuesday. Moving on from that, we are having a hearing regarding the Legislative Agenda and that process. We have some Board members here and some people who are going to be answering any questions we have. That does have to be at the end because in our statutes, it says we have to have hearing after legislation.
- Vice Chair Maglin: I'm excited for another great Judiciary meeting!
- **Public Comment:**

- Attorney General Khamisi Thorpe: I was coming to talk to you all about where I am in the whole process regarding the Office of Governmental Affairs, specifically I was put on notice about this over the weekend. I had a chance to look over all the statutes regarding what the duties of OGA are and what everyone is expecting from that office. Based on my understanding and my interpretations, I have had a conversation with the Director, Jason, and we have agreed to rework the current process. Specifically, surveying a diverse student body. I have advised the OGA to come up with a survey that they need to publish to the student body regarding amendments for the agenda items that are on the Agenda. We have agreed that we're going to do that. I understand that today you all have your hearing to question members of OGA and other people about your concerns. So what I'm here to ask is: it possible to afford the OGA some time to rework the process so we can do this in a way that satisfies all the parties, rather than continue back and forth of "to impeach, or not to impeach"?
  - Chair Kariher: Is that your full comment?
  - Attorney General Thorpe: Just to the extent that you know, you have a response—I don't know if you can respond. What I'm here to say is that the OGA is willing and ready to revise the process that was undertaken so that a more satisfactory process can be taken.
- Chair Kariher: I can respond based on what senators have told me. They have been reaching out to the OGA office pretty much the entire time throughout this process and so, you know, the fact that we have a bill on second reading tomorrow I don't think it's been communicated that it's going to be withdrawn. President Diaz, have you been told any changes on that end?
  - Senate President Diaz: Are you asking with regards to delaying passing the Agenda? As far as we were aware, we're going to attempt to pass it tomorrow. I haven't heard anything else along those lines.
- Attorney General Thorpe: I guess what I'm saying is that we haven't formally requested that from anyone, what I'm saying is that I am presenting this option to see if we can get at most a week to adopt a procedure that complies more closely and narrowly to what the statutes requires OGA to do. So, that would require delaying so that they could create this survey—which they plan on creating tonight and publishing as early as tomorrow and leaving it for about a week for students to fill out. Then, assessing what those responses were and then refiguring what the Agenda says to comport with what the students want. And then, involving the Senate as statutes require, and then coming up with a finalized version. Is it possible to undertake that process?
  - Senate President Diaz: Is it statutorily possible? Yes, we can table. If we table it, there's a religious holiday next Wednesday, so we statutorily cannot hear the resolution then, so it would have to be delayed until two Wednesdays from now. I don't know if that significantly delays OGA.
  - Attorney General Thorpe: For me at least, I don't think that will delay anything. I'm going to be staying involved in this process—they just need a week. From what I understand, even if it's seen two Wednesdays from now, it's still going to be fine because from what I understand, it's not due until one month from now. So, what I understand is that student's voices aren't being heard, so if we have the time to redo this process in a way that makes sure our students' voices are being heard, then I think we need to make the OGA go through that process. If you all are not opposed to two Wednesdays from now, we can definitely have a process that has satisfied everyone's expectations and so that way we don't have

to go through this grueling battle of impeaching one another. I'd rather settle it, meditate it, and everyone walks away with a process or procedure that we can all be comfortable with.

- Senator Folwell: This is a **POI** to whoever knows the answer: Timing-wise, does two weeks from tomorrow work with the actual day at the Capitol and the lobbying efforts for the legislative session that we need to comply with, or is that too late?
  - Director Jason Puwalski: If I may, yes it does. That would not only allow us to get everything done before the day at the Capitol, but it would also allow us to get things done weeks in advance before the beginning of the legislative session. It leaves us with more than enough time. With regard to President Diaz's comment about that next week is a religious holiday and they can't hold a meeting, I would also note that the week after that is Ash Wednesday, so I don't know if that will also be another cancelled meeting. Even if we need to do it in three weeks on March 1<sup>st</sup>, that would still work in terms of having the whole thing done not just before Day at the Capitol, but also in advance of the beginning of the legislative session. Even if we were to still push it back three weeks that would still be fine.
- Attorney General Thorpe: So as far as going forward with the plan that we have proposed, that's not something I can imagine we can agree on here. Would it be appropriate for me to just continue this conversation in the one email thread we have going? I need to know how we're moving forward so I can advise OGA.
  - Chair Kariher: In Judiciary we don't hear the legislative agenda, so we can't decide whether or not it gets tabled or anything. This hearing was really just for the legislative process that has happened so far. So, we have had multiple senators and multiple Board members come forward with concerns regarding how OGA has been restructured and how it's going about this whole process. I was hoping we could get those questions answered. This isn't about accusations or anything, we literally just have real concerns to ask to see what's going on. Regardless of whether not the Legislative Agenda gets tabled or moves on, I think it's important that the people who have the concerns who are here to ask and answer questions have the opportunity.
- Senate President Diaz: Yeah, just looking again at the FSU Religious Holidays Calendar, there's literally religious holidays from the 15<sup>th</sup> of February through March 1<sup>st</sup> each Wednesday. So, we might have to do some other special session of Senate or something so that we can pass the Agenda. It will be a little bit complicated if we have to table it tomorrow, but yes that is an option that we can take.
- Director Jason Puwalski: I didn't want to give my public comment while answering Senator Folwell's question, so here is the rest of what I wanted to say. Last night OGA did meet, and we did vote as to our recommendations on the different amendments that the Senate proposed so we're looking forward to seeing what happens with that and collaborating with the Senate on that. Attorney General Thorpe alluded to this earlier, but we are currently working on a survey right now and by tomorrow morning, it will be published to the student body. There's a question on there—and of course it's all by the honor system, so there's no way to completely verify, but there is a question on there to delineate who is a member of the student body and who isn't. Members of the public who are not part of the student body are welcome to fill it out as well. There's a

question on there that asks if you're a student at FSU however we're going to make sure everyone remains anonymous. We're not asking for FSU IDs or any identifying information, we want to make sure that people are able to answer as they see fit. That will be released tomorrow, and we look forward to seeing what the students have to say about that. Probably about a month ago, President Diaz and I set out a timeline that we were trying to stick to, so trying to pass the Agenda tomorrow was just trying to stick to that timeline. However, I am more than open to amending that if President Diaz is also open to amending that. I know you've mentioned the concerns with religious holidays and how that would make it impossible to pass major legislation, and the Agenda is major legislation—I'm confident we can find a time to get that passed through the Senate without calling a special session before Day at the Capitol. President Diaz and I can talk later about that. Our liaison, Senator Burton, we can see if she wants to table that. I wanted to provide those updates that we have been in touch with some folks, especially the Attorney General and the agencies, we're releasing that survey tomorrow and if President Diaz is open to amending that timeline we set a month ago, I'm open to amending that as well.

#### **Committee Business:**

- **Bill 13 - Senator Widmann (P)**
  - Changing statutory requirements for Senate Funding Boards in order to align with current practices.
- **Bill 15 - Senators St Hilaire (P) Folwell (Co)**
  - Clarifying the parliamentary procedure for objections to a PAC or RTAC consent resolution.
- **Impeachment Hearing – Senator Bozeman**
- **Hearing regarding the Legislative Session – various board members**

#### **Old Business:**

- None.

#### **New Business:**

- **Bill 13 - Sponsored by Senator Widmann (P)**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Widmann (P): This is pretty simple; it's just changing one statute for Funding Boards to align with our current practices. It's right there, number three. I think it was just a typo, but it's just fitting with the normal process for anything over \$2000. So normally it goes to a 2/3 vote of Fund Distribution Committee, a 2/3 vote of Finance, and a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate. But in statutes, it says the committee, not the Student Senate, so that's just changing it to fit in with the current practices of student government. There was a typo above that, which is what that's correcting. **Yields with 2:17**
  - General Questioning:
    - Senator Folwell: The only change is in "E.3." of these statutes?
      - Widmann (P): Yes, so I copied the entire section but it's only changing this section right here, E.3.
  - **Senator Folwell moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Casiple seconds**

- Round-Table Discussion:
    - None
  - **Senator Folwell moves to pass by unanimous consent; no objections**
  - Closing Statement:
    - **WAIVED.**
  - Vote:
    - Yes: All
    - No: N/A
    - Abstain: N/A
  - **RESULT: BILL 13 PASSES BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
- **Bill 15 - Sponsored by Senators St. Hilaire (P) Folwell (Co).**
    - Opening Statement:
      - St. Hilaire (P): Hi Judiciary! This is just to clarify parliamentary procedures in regard to the meeting we had where we were discussing RTAC funding and we had a couple objections and we were pretty confused when it came to Rules of Procedure. This basically says that if a consent resolution is objected to, then it will be treated like a normal piece of legislation and will require a majority vote for passage. **Yields with 2:31**
    - General Questioning:
      - None
    - **Senator Folwell moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Brewer seconds**
    - Round-Table Discussion:
      - None
    - **Senator Folwell moves to pass by unanimous consent; no objections.**
    - Closing Statement:
      - St. Hilaire: Thank you guys for passing this, hopefully it passes on the Senate floor, and it'll help with a bit more clarity when it comes to dealing with consent resolutions so I appreciate it.
    - Vote:
      - Yes: All
      - No: N/A
      - Abstain: N/A
    - **RESULT: BILL 15 PASSES BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
- **Hearing for the Legislative Agenda Process**
    - Opening Statement:
      - **Alexis Dorman** (She/Her), Position: "Board Member at Large within the OGA Board"
    - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
      - Senator Folwell: We heard a proposal from the Attorney General today, I want to know if that has been communicated to you today?
        - Alexis Dorman: No.
      - Chair Kariher: How many meetings have there been?
        - Alexis Dorman: Four.
      - Chair Kariher: What day of the week were these meetings?

- Alexis Dorman: We had one meeting last semester on Wednesday at 5:30 PM and the meetings this semester have been on Monday at 5:30 PM.
  - Chair Kariher: When did OGA start planning and discussion legislative agenda?
    - Alexis Dorman: We've discussed legislation since our first meeting, but for compiling the legislative agenda – it really began the past two meetings.
  - Senator Folwell: When was the contract with Pittman Law signed?
    - Alexis Dorman: I don't know.
  - Senator Folwell: Was there a vote to approve the contract?
    - Alexis Dorman: No
  - Senator Folwell: Have you read the contract?
    - No, but it is in our Google Drive.
  - Chair Kariher: Were all board members able to propose bills for the legislative agenda?
    - Alexis Dorman: Yes
  - Chair Kariher: Were you able to vote on all of bills related to legislative agenda?
    - Alexis Dorman: Pass.
  - Chair Kariher: Was the agency advisory council involved in the legislative agenda process.
    - Alexis Dorman: No.
  - Chair Kariher: How many meetings have student leaders and student ambassadors been present?
    - Alexis Dorman: One.
  - Chair Kariher: Has OGA met with RSOs related to student activism.
    - Alexis Dorman: No.
  - Chair Kariher: Has the opportunity for public comment ever been announced at the beginning of the meeting?
    - Alexis Dorman: No.
- General Questions:
  - Senator Folwell: What's your opinion on the attorney general's statement?
    - Alexis Dorman: I do understand the concern with the timeline I feel the turnaround will be very fast with the legislative agenda, but I also want to do things correctly and want to make sure all students have a voice and they are able to express how they feel on bills so I think the pros outweigh the cons in this case and postponing it would ensure we really are taking into account what the Student Body thinks.
  - Senator Folwell: Have you had any other thoughts about ways to go about this or do you think Mr. Thorpe's approach is the best way to go about this?
    - Alexis Dorman: This is an ongoing process so there isn't anything saying that we don't publish this tomorrow, start the polls, and then if the Student Body shows a contrary opinion, we add amendments later. We can do this by not sending it to the officials and then send an updated version to the lawmakers.

- Senator McFarlane: You mentioned that you supported waiting to pass this, but my question is why weren't these surveys put out earlier?
  - Alexis Dorman: I wouldn't say I fully support postponing the legislative agenda, but I understand the pros of doing that and Jason and the Attorney General talked about it at the beginning of the meeting and the poll will be sent out tomorrow morning.
- Senator Alvarez: Were you able to vote how you wanted on the bills that were added to the agenda?
  - Alexis: Yes, when discussing the amendments on Monday.
- Senator Alvarez: Has the OGA Director said anything to suggest Senate amendments won't be lobbied for or prioritized on FSU Day?
  - Alexis Dorman: He told us that if there are too many amendments then it would be impossible to get to all of them.
- Senator Alvarez: Did you have equal opportunity as other board members to debate and propose the bills on the legislative agenda?
  - Alexis Dorman: Board members had equal opportunity to speak on bills that stuck out to them.
- Senator Alvarez: Do you feel like the legislative agenda reflected the views of the student body?
  - Alexis Dorman: Publishing a poll tomorrow morning will reflect the viewpoints of the Student Body, and OGA has tried to put something together that will reflect FSU and the students that go here.
- Senator Casiple: Do you think that one week is ample time to get proper input from the student body? How will the OGA publicize the survey to reach the most students as possible?
  - Alexis Dorman: One week is ample time because there are nine members at large, plus the directors, so assuming everyone publicizes this to their respective communities on campus, enough students will respond to get an adequate reflection of the opinions of the Student Body.
- Senator Brewer: Can you elaborate on what the voting process looked like within OGA?
  - Alexis Dorman: For the initial voting process, it was more like "are there any objections?" and then we voted on Monday it was more of a formal voting process.
- Chair Kariher: What was the process like before Monday?
  - Alexis Dorman: A bill would be discussed and then it would be asked if there are any objections.
- Chair Kariher: We received reports that the OGA Director said that "Senate would ruin the Legislative Agenda". Is this true?
  - Alexis Dorman: I have nothing to say on that.
- Vice Chair Maglin: Why is the OGA waiting until now to involve the student body in its Legislative Agenda?
  - Alexis Dorman: I cannot answer that.
- Senator Folwell: Do you believe that the general legislative response, specifically referring to the resolution calling for an investigative board for Mr. Puwalski is proportional to the statutory violations?
  - Alexis Dorman: I believe that Senate's concerns are valid, and that OGA should have involved the Student Body during the process of forming the legislative agenda, and I understand

concerns regarding meeting minutes, but I believe this can all be worked out, but also, I know it's within Senate's jurisdiction and you are able to decide what the proper course to take is.

- Chair Kariher: Were you given any direction on how detailed the minutes should be?
  - Alexis Dorman: I asked if minutes needed to be a transcript and was told it could be bullet points.
- Closing Statement:
  - Alexis Dorman: OGA is an important Bureau and I understand the concerns of Senate, and how we should be more connected with the Student Body.
- Opening Statement (Name, Pronouns, Position)
  - **Eric Babchin** (He/Him/His), Position: "Board Member at Large within the OGA Board"
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - Chair Kariher: How many meetings have there been since your confirmation?
    - Eric Babchin: Four
  - Chair Kariher: When did OGA start discussing and planning the Legislative Agenda?
    - Eric Babchin: As soon as we started meeting.
  - Senator Folwell: For Ms. Dorman's answers to the technical non-debatable questions align?
    - Eric Babchin: Not all of them.
  - Chair Kariher: Was there a vote to approve the contract?
    - Eric Babchin: No.
  - Chair Kariher: Were all board members able to propose bills for the Legislative Agenda?
    - Eric Babchin: Yes.
  - Chair Kariher: Were you able to vote on bills proposed for the Legislative Agenda?
    - Eric Babchin: Yes.
  - Chair Kariher: Has OGA polled the student body?
    - Eric Babchin: No.
  - Chair Kariher: Was the agency advisory council involved in the Legislative Agenda process?
    - Eric Babchin: To an extent, yes.
  - Chair Kariher: How many times have they met with the OGA board?
    - Eric Babchin: Well, I'm in an agency so I think that counts.
  - Chair Kariher: How many meetings have had student leaders or community ambassadors present?
    - Eric Babchin: All of them because I'm on the JSU Board.
  - Chair Kariher: Has OGA met with RSO's related to student activism?
    - Eric Babchin: I can't answer that.

- Chair Kariher: Has the opportunity for public comment ever been announced at the beginning of an OGA meeting?
    - No because nobody ever shows up to them.
  - Senator Alvarez: Other than JSU has any other organizations been represented?
    - Eric Babchin: Yeah, we also have other members involved in other organizations.
  - Senator Alvarez: Has any other member of an organization participated in meetings who are not members of OGA?
    - Eric Babchin: No because nobody ever showed up.
- General Questioning:
  - Senator Alvarez: Were you able to vote how you wanted on the bills added to the Legislative Agenda?
    - Eric Babchin: Yes.
  - Senator Alvarez: Has the OGA Director said anything to suggest Senate amendments won't be lobbied for or prioritized on FSU Day?
    - Eric Babchin: No.
  - Senator Alvarez: Did you have equal opportunity as other board members to debate and propose the bills on the legislative agenda?
    - Eric Babchin: Yes.
  - Senator Alvarez: Did you feel like that the legislative agenda reflected the student body's viewpoints and priorities?
    - Eric Babchin: Yes.
  - **Senator Brewer moves to extinguish the rest of the time in General Questioning, Senator Folwell seconds**
- Closing Statement:
  - Eric Babchin: So it's my understanding that when we were confirmed by Student Senate we had the trust of the Student Body, and we are diverse because most if not all minority groups are represented on the OGA Board.
- Opening Statement:
  - **Jason Puwalski** (He/Him), Position: "Executive Director of the Board of Office of Governmental Affairs"
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - Chair Kariher: How many meetings have there been since your confirmation?
    - Director Puwalski: I believe four meetings with the entire Board.
  - Chair Kariher: How many meetings have there been without the entire Board?
    - Director Puwalski: I shouldn't have said that, just four meetings. Two people getting coffee I guess if you want to consider that a meeting if you want to count that—not that that has happened—but there's been four meetings.
  - Chair Kariher: What days of the week were the meetings?

- Director Puwalski: Depends on the semester. Last semester it was Wednesdays and this semester it's Mondays to accommodate class schedules.
  - Chair Kariher: When was the contract with Pittman Law signed?
    - Director Puwalski: That was before I was even confirmed and before I was even nominated by the Student Body President to my understanding. I believe that the Student Body President and the former Director were involved in that. I had no part in that. \
  - Chair Kariher: Were there any bills mentioned in the contract?
    - Director Puwalski: It is a long contract, so I'd have to look through it, but to my knowledge there's no bills mentioned in it—it's just a normal contract there isn't any proposed legislation in it.
  - Chair Kariher: Has OGA polled the student body?
    - Director Puwalski: I'll answer that in the next section.
  - Chair Kariher: Was the Agency Advisory Council involved in the Legislative Agenda process?
    - Director Puwalski: They are now.
  - Chair Kariher: How many meetings have student leaders or community ambassadors been present?
    - Director Puwalski: Those aside from members of the Board, just one.
  - Chair Kariher: Has OGA met with any RSOs related to student activism?
    - Director Puwalski: Not formally, but I can elaborate in the next section. There hasn't been a formal meeting where they have been invited or have shown up.
  - Chair Kariher: Has the opportunity for Public Comment ever been announced at the beginning of an OGA meeting?
    - Director Puwalski: I don't think so.
  - **Senator Brewer moves to enter General Questioning, Vice Chair Maglin seconds**
- General Questioning:
- Senator Folwell: Obviously there have been a lot of allegations of statutory violations recently. Has anybody brought the things that Senate brought forth to you prior to the resolution to form an investigative committee was put on First Reading?
    - Director Puwalski: If I understand what you're saying correctly, the first that I heard about the resolution was after I had gone home after the meeting last week. I had gotten a text that was like "hey, heads up, this happened". Then, I still wasn't aware of what the allegations were because they weren't specified in the resolution. So, no, before the resolution was introduced, no one had said anything to me or brought any concerns to me.
  - Senate President Diaz: I'm not going to ask about allegations or anything, but do you think that there is a chance that the resolution is substantially changed or modified by delaying the legislative agenda passing and polling the student body?
    - Director Puwalski: I don't anticipate it substantially changing, no. I think that the Legislative Agenda we have now—of course we're putting out that survey and we'll see what happens, and of course

as Alexis mentioned earlier and as we've discussed as a Board, the Legislative Agenda process is a very fluid process. If we pass it tomorrow, it doesn't mean it's over tomorrow. If we pass it three weeks from now, it doesn't mean it's over at that point, right, it can keep going. However, I think that the collaboration between what we proposed as a Board—plus the amendments that the Senate has proposed to us—I think with those two things in combination which each other, I don't see much change being made to that, even with any student input or anything.

- **Senator Folwell moves to allow non-senator President Gabadage to speak, Senator Brewer seconds.**
- Senator Folwell: I wanted to ask to President Gabadage if you had any comments on the general questions that have been asked so far?
  - President Gabadage: I wanted to clarify one thing on the record regarding Senator Folwell's previous question towards the OGA Director which was: were any of the allegation made aware to him? I think that just like him, we were both made aware of any of this the first time after I was sent the resolution, so I wanted to clarify that—after it was passed.
- Senator Folwell: Have you changed any of the ways in which you're operating OGA in response to the judicial board resolution that was submitted last week?
  - Director Puwalski: That my resolution to my knowledge didn't specify what the concerns were, it just said "conduct" which is very broad. However, we have been in contact with the Advisory Board, each agency has conducted their internal process—statutes says they have an internal process, so each agency can do it however they'd like. So, they've each submitted to me who they want to be their liaison, so we've been in touch. And then as we've explained earlier, there's that survey that's going to be going out tomorrow.
- Senator Brewer: Prior to these allegations that the resolution stated, as the Executive Director of OGA was there anything you implemented to significantly change the way OGA operates compared to years past and prior directors? Unrelated to the resolution, was there anything you implemented in OGA that significantly changed the way OGA operated in years past?
  - Chair Kariher: I have a follow-up to that. During your confirmation speech, you said that you were going to change the structure to have rules be more specified like for social media and that kind of stuff. Did that ever come to terms or is the structure of OGA the exact same as before?
  - Director Puwalski: I think the question earlier was asking if I had significantly changed anything—I wouldn't say that that was a significant change. Certain people are tasked more with research, certain people are tasked more with social media—that's how our Board operates. I don't think that's a significant change from last year and I can't speak to years prior because I don't know about years prior to last year. I don't think that's a significant change, but

people do more of one task than they do another based on what they're interested in and what their strengths are.

- Senator Alvarez: Just to start, did you express that Senate would “ruin” the Legislative Agenda to your Board or anyone else?
  - Director Puwalski: No. What Alexis mentioned earlier when she referenced what I mentioned at last Senate meeting, was that I said if there's a ton of amendments added to it that makes the Legislative Agenda like ten pages, it would certainly be my intent to discuss all ten pages with every legislator we meet with, but it would be incredibly difficult especially seeing as how most of the meetings we are going to get with legislators are going to be about fifteen minutes. I've never expressed the sentiment that anything would be “ruined”, but there is a concern that if it's too much, we're not going to get everything. I never said that Senate or anyone would ever “ruin” it.
- Senator Alvarez: I want to talk a little bit about your communication with your liaison. Have those communications been consistent?
  - Director Puwalski: I mean I don't know how you want to define consistent, but throughout the process of you know, introducing the legislation, yes.
- Senator Alvarez: When your liaison has reached out to you specifically have you responded in a timely manner?
  - Director Puwalski: There hasn't been much communication that she has sent to me directly, I think it has been mainly in the context of introducing legislation and yes, I think I have responded in a timely manner.
- Senator Burton: I wanted to follow up on the last question where you said we communicated consistently and introduced legislation. What communication has there been outside of maybe this week where I received the Legislative Agenda and then was told I had to submit it in less than twenty-four hours?
  - Director Puwalski: Yeah, like I said it has been within a very short timeframe, but within that timeframe I think it has been consistent and I have responded.
- Senator Folwell: Knowing what you know now, and if you had the ability to change the way things have gone, would you change anything you've done in the past as OGA director and what would that be?
  - Director Puwalski: I guess hindsight is twenty-twenty, so if I could change anything to make this week a little bit better so I wouldn't have to deal all of this on top of the Legislative Agenda, my only regret is that this time is taking time out of the time we could be putting toward the Legislative Agenda and that has always been my primary concern. Making sure that we fulfill that statutory duty and making sure that we're submitting that Legislative Agenda, so my only regret is the time and mental space that this process is taking away from the attention that I can give to that. Going forward with this, that's going to continue to be my primary concern making sure that we have a good agenda that's representative of what the students want and an Agenda that's collaborated on by us and the Senate. Of course, I will be

speaking with President Diaz to see whether that will be tomorrow or in a future Wednesday meeting. Anything that I can do to make sure that this Legislative Agenda is the best that it can be and that I can give my full attention to is what I would do.

- Vice Chair Maglin: I asked this question to Ms. Dorman, and I'll ask it now to you: why is the OGA waiting until tomorrow or this week to get a survey out to the student body and why this wasn't in the initial plan for the first draft of the Legislative Agenda?
  - Director Puwalski: Like we said, the Legislative Agenda process is a very fluid process—it's not like the process ends tomorrow or whatever Wednesday the Senate passes it. We're still in the middle of the process and after the Board—which is made of a diverse student population—submitted legislation to it, then it went to the Senate and the Senate is made of a diverse student population, made up of all colleges across campus. Now we're going to see what the students think as well. They elected us and they appointed us to do our jobs and so we're going to see if we've done right by them by submitting that Legislative Agenda survey.
- Senate President Diaz: Out of curiosity, because again this is kind of the first time I'm hearing the idea of surveying now, what does that survey look like and where do you think it'll be posted. What does that look like?
  - Director Puwalski: So, it'll be posted tomorrow, and it'll be on our social media—we have a Link Tree, and we think that will be the best way to do it. It'll be advertised on our account so that folks know that it's in our Link Tree. I can't guarantee that this specific part will be done tomorrow—THAT will be done tomorrow, let me clarify. I'm also going to reach out to the webmaster, Ben Young, to make sure that it can get posted online. I can't force Ben Young to do it tomorrow, so if that takes another day after that, we'll see what happens with that. It will be on the Instagram tomorrow.
- Closing Statement:
  - Director Puwalski: Look, I don't have much to say just a few things to clear up. Like Nimna and I said earlier that whole contract thing—I wasn't involved in that, no members of my Board were involved in that. That was before us, that was something that we inherited, so there's really nothing we can do about that—whether we like it or not. But I do think that PLG has been very helpful in helping us out and doing things with the legislature. I think that has been very helpful, but we had no part in that. This process—I appreciate that senators want to do their job—but this process is taking away from things that we do need to be doing for the Legislative Agenda, and like I said, that has always been my main focus, so I want to make sure that we have a really good Legislative Agenda this year. This year's Legislative Agenda—and I alluded to this in last week's Senate meeting—it's formatted a bit differently: it has specific bill numbers so we can see the tangible goals that we're going after instead of just saying we support this idea, we're saying that we support this specific bill number, sponsored by this person, here's the title of it—anyone can go look it up and see the exact text of the bill, so I like how it's formatted this year. The only other thing is that I've heard the word

“allegation” thrown around and I think I was able to elaborate a little bit on it—whether I had heard about any of these allegations or whatnot prior to the resolution being introduced. That was not brought to my attention, so I can tell you if anyone, a senator or a Board member, had brought concerns to me we could’ve done our best to rectify that and possibly a resolution may not have had to be filed in the first place. I think that the Student Body President, Nimna, also touched on that where he wasn’t made aware of it either. Had I been made aware of it, we would’ve certainly done our best there, but you know, just in the last couple of days is the first that I’m hearing of it, so that just makes—especially right now—this hearing a difficult situation for me because some of the things I’m just hearing now. I just hadn’t been aware of these things earlier, so that’s all I have to say.

- Chair Kariher: I will say—just a quick point: on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> I did email the Director the concerns that we had, so that’s not true.

- Opening Statement:
  - **Deyona Burton** (She/Her), Position: “Senate Liaison for OGA, Vice Chair of the Budget Committee”
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - Chair Kariher: When were you appointed to OGA Liaison?
    - Senator Burton: During President Hunter’s term, she had appointed me first and then President Diaz again. So I want to say probably in the Fall semester.
  - Chair Kariher: When was the first time that you reached out to the Director of OGA?
    - Senator Burton: Right around that time I has tried to make some phone calls. Realizing that they probably didn’t have my number, I tried texting each of the individual—I guess the “top” three directors—and then I was put in a group chat maybe in October or November.
  - **Senator Brewer moves to enter General Questioning, Senator Folwell seconds.**
- General Questioning:
  - Senator Folwell: Do you feel that the amount of communication that you received was conducive to you doing a good job as OGA liaison?
    - Senator Burton: Absolutely not. I reached out several times and that was around the time I believe one of the directors, who’s now graduated, was still there and we had dates set, but they always got changed or something happened and there was no follow-through. So we never really sat down and talked about anything and then I ended up meeting Mr. Puwalski at the JSU Banquet—and that was very brief. I received legislation the following week, or later that week. I received legislation twenty-four hours before it had to be submitted, so, no. As far as actual conversation goes, maybe one conversation and that wasn’t really a conversation.

- **Senator Folwell moves to extinguish the time in General Questioning, Senator Newsome seconds.**
- Closing Statement:
  - Senator Burton: I'm sure that all of us on this call are very passionate about politics and more so passionate about Florida State as a whole. I'm very fortunate to be a college student and even more fortunate to be a leader. So, having this position means a lot to me in Senate and being a part of OGA, so not receiving feedback and literally having to speak with admin about some concerns and not receiving any feedback—and the feedback that I do receive is discriminatory is concerning. That wasn't brought up in any of the questions, so I didn't know where to bring that up at. There have been multiple efforts on my part that have been documented. There's been meetings with admin and with people who are even on this call. I'm not really sure what goes on from here but on the note of postponing and delaying the Agenda, I wasn't really able to read in its full entirety before having to submit it. I wasn't even notified that we wanted to delay it and as the liaison, I think it's my direct concern what happens to legislation that has only my name on it. So to everybody here, I wish I was more part of the conversations, I'm in the group chats, I do check my email, and I'm not even in the Judiciary Committee, but I'm here. Please use your resources and please be mindful that we're all students and I have taken time out of my day to be here so thank you for your time.

**Unfinished Business:**

- **Impeachment Hearing – Senator Bozeman**

**Closing Announcements:**

- Chair Kariher: I'm glad that we were able to get this done because like our advisors say: the real work gets done in committee. If this hadn't been done in committee, I know we would've been asking questions for hours tomorrow night during Senate. I'm glad we got through this and used our time as efficiently as possible. I want to say thank you for everyone who has come I really appreciate student engagement and student engagement in all of these issues. I really appreciate everyone's dedication to making sure our statutes are being upheld regardless of precedent and everything else.
- Vice Chair Maglin: Thank you everyone for having a great meeting and asking the necessary questions and thank you to our guests for answering those questions and being here for that. I'm proud to be in a committee that really takes the time to address the needs and problems of the student body.
- Senator Folwell: I wanted to thank everyone that was here, especially those not in the committee. This is a very stressful thing for those directly involved and those not, so I sincerely appreciate you guys being here with us and like Vice Chair Maglin said, taking the time to answer the question we had because I personally feel a lot better now and I'm glad we got to do this. Thank you all and see most of you tomorrow.
- Senate President Diaz: I don't know if I should say it out loud or if it should be another conversation, but can Director Puwalski, Attorney General Thorpe, and Senator Burton stay after adjournment to talk about tomorrow and the Agenda because I don't know what's happening tomorrow and I'd appreciate it.

- Eric Babchin: I wanted to thank the committee for letting me speak and come on here.
- Dr. Williams: None at this time, thank you.

**Next Meeting:** February 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

**Adjourned:** 7:29 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cole Kariher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" and "K".

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**Signature of Chair Kariher**