



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

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 5:30pm | Zoom ID: 937 1197 2014**

**Call to Order:** 5:30pm

**Members Present:** Pro-Tempore DuChêne, Chair(s) Kariher, McMahon, Bettley, Pedraja, Carter, Wyatt, Widmann

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent:**

**Guests:** President Diaz, Senator Walden

### **Land Acknowledgement: Pro-Tempore DuChêne**

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 recognize this land remains scarred by the legacies of violence and removal, we recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land, and we 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:**

- Pro-Tempore:
  - Some of our committees definitely need some improved attendance, so if that's a problem for your committee, let's chat sometime soon to discuss how we think better attendance can be facilitated for you all.
- Judiciary: Chair Kariher
  - Committee met on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and passed Bill 7 and Bill 9.
- Internal Affairs: Chair McMahon

- Committee met on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and confirmed three candidates, and passed Bill 11.
- Budget: Chair Bettley
  - Committee met and it went well, we had full attendance. We just did budget orientation.
- Finance: Chair Pedraja
  - Committee met and we were able to pass Consent Resolutions 9 and 10, and RTAC funds.
- Student Life: Chair Carter
  - Committee met and we passed Bills 11 and 12, and passed Consent Resolution 10.
- Programming Allocations: Chair Wyatt
  - Committee met and passed Consent Resolution 10 which funded the Audio-Production club, FSU Best Buddies, and Special Olympics at FSU.
- Resource for Travel Allocations: Chair Widmann
  - Committee met and created Consent Resolution 9 and it is a total for just over \$7,000 and it funds four organizations.
- Members of the Public
  - None

**Committee Business:**

- **Confirmations:** None
- **Bills for Consideration:** None
- **Resolutions for Consideration:** None
- **Suspension Hearings:** Senator Marcus Walden, Senator Lucas Bozeman
- **Censure Repercussion Hearings:** None
- **Leave of Absence Requests:** None

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:** Senator Walden Suspension Hearing, Senator Bozeman Suspension Hearing

- **Suspension Hearing: Senator Lucas Bozeman (Undergraduate Studies Seat #7)**
  - Declaration of Absences
    - Senate Meeting Unexcused Absence 11/16/22 = 1
    - Finance Committee Unexcused Absence 11/29/22 = 2

- Senate Meeting Unexcused Absence 11/30/22 = 3
    - Finance Committee Unexcused Absence 1/17/23 = 4
    - Senate Meeting Unexcused Absence / Financial Certification Suspension 1/18/23 = 5
    - Finance Committee Unexcused Absence / Financial Certification Suspension 1/20/23 = 6
    - Finance Committee Unexcused Absence / Financial Certification Suspension 1/24/23 = 7
  - Opening Statement (3 minutes)
    - Waived
  - Question Period (15 minutes)
    - Waived
  - Closing Statement (Remainder of Opening Time)
    - Waived
  - Deliberations (15 minutes)
    - None
  - Chair Kariher moves to call the question, Chair Widman seconds, no objections
  - Vote on Forwarding to the Judiciary Committee for Impeachment Proceedings (Yae to Forward, Nay to Unsuspend)
    - Yes: #7, Chair(s) Kariher, McMahon, Bettley, Pedraja, Carter, Wyatt, Widmann
    - No: **None**
    - Abstain: **None**
  - **RESULT: SHOW SENATOR BOZEMAN IS FORWARDED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE FOR IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS**
- **Suspension Hearing: Senator Marcus Walden (Undergraduate Studies Seat #9)**
    - Declaration of Absences:
      - Senate Meeting Unexcused Absence 11/16/22 = 1
      - Student Life Committee Unexcused Absence 11/22/22 = 2
      - Senate Meeting Excused Absence 11/30/22 = 2.5
      - Student Life Committee Unexcused Absence 1/17/23 = 3.5
      - Senate Meeting Excused Absence / Financial Certification Deadline Passed 1/18/23 = 4
      - Student Life Committee Unexcused Absence 1/20/23 = 5
      - Senate Meeting Excused Absence / Still Not Financially Certified 1/25/23 = 5.5
    - Opening Statement (3 minutes)

- Good evening, everyone. I would like to elaborate to everyone what Pro-Tempore DuChêne was saying about the certification. I did it over winter break. I don't know what went wrong, but when I submitted it, I got a message on GroupMe a little bit later saying I didn't complete it. I went back and checked, and I don't know what the problem is that didn't let it go through. I have been meaning to get back around to it, but I have just been so busy with classes and midterms, and I have a lot of going on with my family. My parents are going through a divorce, and it has been really hard on me, and I have been trying to deal with everything up here with school, other organizations, and my family and it has been really difficult. I find myself lacking at time, but I am still trying to do everything I am supposed to be doing within these organizations, I am just finding it difficult at times. I am just trying to restabilize myself to be better again.
  - Question Period (15 minutes)
    - **Chair Kariher:** Would you be able to come back to Senate full-force now or would you still need a temporary leave of absence to get back on your feet and situated again?
      - **Senator Walden:** I think I would need a temporary leave of absence. I just started counseling and it is going well but I am still not in the right head space to be fully involved and I do not want to impede on senate with my inability to be fully committed.
    - **Chair Widmann:** Do you have any current time constraints that would conflict with you attending your committee or Senate meetings?
      - **Senator Walden:** No, my classes don't overlap with any senate meetings.
  - Chair Pedraja moves to enter deliberations, Chair Carter seconds, no objections
  - Closing Statement (Remainder of Opening Time)
    - I think I have said everything I need to say so I am good for now.
  - Deliberations (15 minutes)
    - **Chair Widmann:** I have divorced parents as well, so I understand the struggles that can come from that. That is something I face often, so I understand where the Senator is coming from. What I am leaning towards now would be either granting another single absence or a leave of

absence where the Senator could get themselves in the right headspace to continue as a Senator.

- **Chair Wyatt:** Thank you Senator for sharing, I am really sorry that you are going through all this. I agree with Chair Widmann that maybe we could look at a leave of absence. I am not sure what that would look like, I believe the Senator started in the Fall, so I don't know if we could do a leap of absence for the semester and pick it up in the Summer or Fall. I am not sure what that would look like, but I think it would be a good option.
- **Chair Pedraja:** I think with the Senator's position, I agree with the previous Chair. One or two absences would be good. Or a leave of absence if he applies.
- **Chair Widmann raises a point of information to Pro-Tempore DuChêne**
  - If we were to grant a one-month long leave of absence to the Senator. Can we do more than one leave of absence if we needed to?
    - **Pro-Tempore DuChêne:** It is whatever the Senator requests. In this meeting we can move it as we see fit. There is no rule against granting another leave of absence.
    - **President Diaz:** In the Summer senate, we overhauled leave of absences. It has to be longer than a month, shorter than three months. I believe Chair Kariher was involved in that.
- **Chair Kariher raises a point of information to Senator Walden**
  - Are you going to be here over the summer?
    - **Senator Walden:** Yes, I will be here.
  - I would be open to giving the Senator more absences. In the beginning I was a little concerned just because sometimes I feel like there are things that are out of our control, but we still need that seat filled. But I think since the senator will be here this summer and next fall it will give them plenty of time to represent their constituents.
  - Chair Wyatt moves to call the question, Chair Widmann seconds, no objections
  - Vote on Forwarding to the Judiciary Committee for Impeachment Proceedings (Yae to Forward, Nay to Unsuspend)
    - Yes: **0**
    - No: **7 (Kariher, McMahan, Bettley, Pedraja, Carter, Wyatt, Widmann)**

- Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: SHOW SENATOR WALDEN IS UNSUSPENDED**
- New Absence Deliberations (5 minutes)
  - **Chair Widmann:** My personal recommendation would be to grant two more absences to Senator Walden. I think that is fair. I am not sure if mental health days would be still available.
- **Chair Widmann raises a point of information to Senator Walden**
  - **Chair Widmann:** How long would you need?
    - **Senator Walden:** I would need three to four weeks.
  - **Chair Wyatt:** Would a leave of absence work better for you?
    - **Senator Walden:** I am not sure, how long is a leave of absence?
    - **Pro-Tempore DuChêne:** It can be anywhere between one and three months.
  - **Chair Kariher:** I would like to move that if we were to grant a leave of absence, we make it conditional that Senator participates in summer Senate and they cannot take a summer leave of absence.
  - **Chair Widmann:** I agree with what the previous chair said, I think that it would be best in this situation. I would recommend grant a one-month leave of absence while giving two more absences on the condition they serve in summer senate.
  - Chair Kariher moves to grant the Senator two additional absences, Chair Widmann seconds, no objections
  - **Senator Walden is granted two additional absences**

**Chair Kariher moves to unlock the calendar to enter Leave of Absence Deliberations for Senator Walden, Chair Pedraja seconds, no objections**

- **Special Leave of Absence Request (Student Body Statute 405.6):** Senator Walden (Undergraduate Studies Seat #9)
  - **Effective Wednesday, February 1, 2023**
  - **Expires Monday, March 20, 2023**
- Senator Statement (3 minutes):
  - Thank you everyone for taking the time to listen to me today. I really do appreciate the back and forth in trying to find something that works for me. Thank you.
- General Questioning for the Senator:

- None
- Round-table Discussion:
  - **Chair Kariher:** Can it be included or noted that the Senator cannot take a leave of absence for the summer?
    - **Pro-Tempore DuChêne:** I am trying to think of the best way to do this because the Pro-Tempore just tracks this. I think it is best practice, I am going to include this in our Rules and Procedures. Please let us know your thoughts.
    - **President Diaz:** It is already included in the bill that a leave of absence is not extended into summer. And if that Senator Walden wants to take a leave of absence he can through a proper request.
    - **Pro-Tempore DuChêne:** I think this request has to do with the agreement to unsuspend on the premise that the senator will not take a summer leave of absence.
    - **President Diaz:** That may conflict with statutes.
- **Chair Widmann raises a point of information to Senator Walden**
  - Do you understand that if granted this leave of absence, you will have to serve in the Summer Senate?
    - **Senator Walden:** Yes, I do.
- **Chair Widmann moves to call the question, Chair Carter seconds, no objections**
- Vote (2/3 threshold):
  - Yes: **7 (Kariher, McMahon, Bettley, Pedraja, Carter, Wyatt, Widmann)**
  - No: **0**
  - Abstain: **0**
- **RESULT: SHOW SENATOR MARCUS WALDEN IS GRANTED A SPECIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM 01 FEBRUARY UNTIL 20 MARCH 2023**

**Unfinished Business:**

- None

**Closing Announcements:**

- **Pro-Tempore DuChêne:** Thank you all for being so flexible and working to solve this here and now. It was effective, good work!

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 5:30pm on Zoom**

**Adjourned: 6:09pm**

*P. DuChêne*

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**Signature of President Pro-Tempore Patrick A. DuChêne**