



75th Student Senate Rules Committee

Wednesday, 29th March 2023 at 5:30pm | Zoom ID: 937 1197 2014

Call to Order: 5:35pm

Members Present: Pro-Tempore DuChêne, Chair(s) Kariher, Representative Dale (for Budget), Pedraja, Carter, Widmann

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: McMahon, Bettley, Wyatt

Guests: Riya Patel, Luke Meunier, Nathaniel Birdsong

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 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:
 - Welcome to the second to last Rules Meeting before Inauguration!
- Judiciary: Chair Kariher
 - Judiciary met and passed Bill 37 unamended, Bill 38, unamended, Bill 39 tabled.
- Internal Affairs: Chair McMahon
 - None
- Budget: Representative Dale

- We passed the bill that would change statutes to fit state law for the budget process.
- Finance: Chair Pedraja
 - Finance met at 6:15 pm last night. We passed Bill 39 unamended.
- Student Life: Chair Carter
 - Student life met last Friday at 3:00. We passed Resolution 30 unamended.
- Programming Allocations: Chair Wyatt
 - Committee did not meet.
- Resource for Travel Allocations: Chair Widmann
 - Committee did not meet. Still working on Vice Chair Gummerman on our guide to SGA funding. We are optimistic on finishing it before inauguration.
- Members of the Public
 - None

Committee Business:

- **Confirmations:** None
- **Bills for Consideration:** None
- **Resolutions for Consideration:** Resolution #30
- **Suspension Hearings:** Nathaniel Birdsong New Absence Allocation, Luke Meunier – College of Fine Arts Seat #1
- **Censure Repercussion Hearings:** None
- **Leave of Absence Requests:** None

Old Business:

- None

New Business: Resolution #30, Sen. Birdsong New Absence Allocation, Luke Meunier Suspension Hearing

- **Resolution #30 - Sponsored by Senator Patel (P), Senator Pedraja (Co) – A resolution commending the Florida State Career Center for their continuous work on student development and highlighting the different opportunities students can utilize. (Passed in Student Life 24th March)**
 - Opening Statement (5 minutes):

- I spoke with the director of the Career Center and she was concerned about how students aren't using their programs anymore. Their attendance is getting low. So I recommended I could write them a resolution. I yield.
 - Question Period:
 - No questions
 - Kariher moves to enter deliberations, Pedraja seconds, no objections
 - Round-Table Deliberation (30 minutes):
 - Widmann: Yeah, I support this. I think that the Career Center and some of these projects like Professio-NOLE are incredible. They're a great way to connect students with employers, and as somebody who is going to be graduating soon, mostly of next year, I am actually reaching out to them so yeah, I love this program.
 - Kariher: As someone who uses the Career Center all the time, I love this Resolution. Because, first of all, I don't know if y'all know this, but y'all can join a Canvas page and submit your resume a bunch of times and they'll just edit it and give you feedback. Cover letters - you can do that pretty much with anything. And then also, I don't know if y'all know about this either - Nole Network is basically like LinkedIn for FSU alumni. And there are so many jobs on there and so many great resources. So, promoting them and commending their work is something I fully 100% support.
 - Pedraja moves to call the question, Widmann seconds, no objections
 - Closing Statement:
 - Thank you guys for your support. I means a lot. Thank you.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: **5** Kariher, Dale, Pedraja, Carter, Widmann
 - No: **0**
 - Abstentions: **0**
 - **RESULT: RESOLUTION #30 PASSES FOR FULL FLOOR CONSIDERATION**
- **New Absence Deliberation: Senator Nathaniel Birdsong (Undergraduate Studies Seat #3) as Unsuspended in the Committee on the Judiciary**
 - Widmann moves to let Senator Birdsong, a non-committee member speak. No objections.

- Unsuspension Only: New Absence Deliberations (5 minutes)
 - Widmann: Are there any time constraints that you may have had regarding going to your committee or going to senate had been resolved?
 - Birdsong: They have been resolved actually, I'm excited to say that they're no longer a conflict and so I'm pretty flexible. I'm currently on Internal Affairs. I do intend to keep my position on that committee, as that time does kind of work pretty well in my schedule now.
 - Kariher: I was wondering, did you attend Senate last Wednesday and attend Internal Affairs last Monday?
 - Birdsong: Yes, I did.
 - Pedraja moves to grant the Senator 2 additional absences, Kariher seconds, no objections.
 - **Senator Birdsong is granted 2 additional absence(s)**
- **Suspension Hearing: Senator Luke Meunier (Fine Arts Seat #1)**
 - Declaration of Absences
 - Senate Meeting Unexcused Half-Absence 11/30 (0.5) = 0.5
 - Student Life Committee Unexcused Absence 1/17 (1) = 1.5
 - Senate Meeting Unexcused Absence 1/25 (1) = 2.5
 - Student Life Committee Unexcused Half-Absence 2/3 (0.5) = 3
 - Student Life Committee Unexcused Absence 2/10 (1) = 4
 - Student Life Committee Excused Absence 2/17 (0.5) = 4.5
 - Mental Health Day #1 2/22 (0) = 4.5
 - Senate Meeting Excused Half-Absence 3/08 (0.25) = 4.75
 - Senate Meeting Excused Absence 3/22 (0.5) = **5.25**
 - Opening Statement (3 minutes)
 - Thank you Rules committee for being able to meet. I'm frankly very embarrassed and ashamed that I've allowed myself to gain this amount of absences. This semester has been very hard for me, just with everything I'm involved in on campus with traveling with the skeet and trap team, honors in the major. I'm also a new Senator. I've had a longer than usual adjustment be to understand how the Senate works. And it's been absolutely, this has been my busiest semester yet. And I wasn't expecting that taking on the role as a senator. And a lot of has happened through my life right now, especially during the semester. I just kind of want to talk

about some of some of the absences that I that I missed. Whether it's traveling to tournaments, traveling for spring break, and my car broke down when one of the Senate meetings so it was hard harder for me to kind of get to those get to meetings or that kind of thing. Sometimes I was on a plane, sometimes I was at a tournament and I just wasn't able to be at those meetings. I know as a Vice Chair, it's extremely important that I'm there. And I'm ashamed of myself that I've allowed myself to get to that point and kind of take that position for granted. I'm really trying this semester. Thank you. I waive.

- Question Period (15 minutes)
 - Kariher: Are you planning on taking classes at FSU over the summer?
 - Meunier: No, I am not.
 - Widmann: Have you considered switching committees?
 - Meunier: My Fridays are usually pretty open. I don't have classes on Friday. I do have meetings here and there. Some of the reasons why I've missed some of those, those Student Life meetings is because of traveling to external events with the Florida State Sports Club, and I haven't been able to attend those meetings. Just before Spring Break, I was traveling. I was on a plane I couldn't make it to those meetings, and I love Student Life. Chair Carter has been amazing. And she's really helped me out trying to learn how to navigate everything and I love it and I'm still sad and mad at myself that I've allowed myself to miss that number of meetings.
 - Kariher: Is the sports team you are involved in; do you see yourself freer for the rest of the semester?
 - Meunier: We just had our national competition. Last week we were in San Antonio. And that was the final tournament. It was nationals it was at the super amazing venue, and I submitted my excused absence, but I didn't realize that it would still count as a 0.5 absence and that is my fault as a senator of not kind of looking deeper into that. So yeah, we've had our last tournament and I will absolutely be free for free the rest of the entire semester.
 - Dale: Moving forward, do you plan on staying in a vice chair position?

- Meunier: Yes, I do plan on remaining in that sort of position. I know that Chair Carter is moving on because she's terming on. She passed the chair responsibilities to me for one of the meetings. Being a new senator, this was a great experience for me. And it's something that I want to maybe look forward to as vice chair having that experience to hopefully move on to like a chair experience. Granted, I believe that that next semester, I will allocate time and my mental health might be a little bit better to handle that sort of position. But at the moment yes, I'm still trying to remain in a vice chair position.
- Widmann: Point of information to Pro Temp, how many of the committee absences were excused or not excused?
 - DuChene: There's two unexcused absences, two full unexcused absences, and then one excused absence. That's from Student Life.
- Carter moves to enter deliberations, Kariher seconds, no objections
- Closing Statement (Remainder of Opening Time)
 - Meunier: Thank you again. I am sorry that we even have to meet about this. As a new senator, I'm getting used to it. And just thank you guys, and I appreciate your time. And happy birthday, Marshall.
- Deliberations (15 minutes)
 - Carter: Luke is a sweetie. I think everyone knows this. And as you mentioned, it is difficult to you know, sort of get adjusted. I will say with a lot of the Student Life absences. A lot of it was due to travel. I just wasn't made aware ahead of time. And again, like that is a learning curve. So that is the reason why those were unexcused. Yeah, I think one of the things that my Vice Chair mentioned, just in terms of his mental health, are also very valid. I went through like, a significant breakup, like last year and straight up just didn't go to class for like two weeks. It's honestly a wonder he's been able to give me my minutes on time and, you know, come to the meetings that he has been, so I honestly applaud him for that. And I know that, you know, after this experience, he will continue to work hard at his position and do well at it.

- Widmann: I am in favor of granting additional absences and not suspending or not forwarding to the Judiciary Committee. Life is hard. Sometimes. I think we can all attest to these time commitments or a lot in some cases. So, I think it's important to prioritize your mental health. Excuse me and I don't think he should be punished. He is, of course, a new senator as well. And there is a little bit of a little bit of a learning curve. So, I will not be voting to forward. Thank you.
- Pedraja: As the President Pro Temp said, we don't really make it clear about, excused, unexcused absences and orientation. So, I think that's something that we could do better as leadership where for the future leadership, we have a new slate of Senators coming in. I'm totally in support of granting additional absences. So yeah.
- Dale: I was just going to share the sentiment of everyone else. Seems like this was a non-intentional mistake that was made. It doesn't seem like he was trying not to do his duties and doesn't seem like it would be an issue. So, I also would say not to forward him to judiciary.
- Kariher moves to call the question, Widmann seconds, no objections
- Vote on Forwarding to the Judiciary Committee for Impeachment Proceedings (Yae to Forward, Nay to Unsuspend)
 - Yes: **0**
 - No: **5 Kariher, Dale, Pedraja, Carter, Widmann**
 - Abstain: **0**
- **RESULT: SHOW SENATOR MEUNIER IS UNSUSPENDED**
- Unsuspension Only: New Absence Deliberations (5 minutes)
- Pedraja moves to grant the Senator 2 additional absences, Widmann seconds, no objections.
- **Senator Meunier is granted 2 additional absences.**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- It has come to my attention that the party leadership of Forward FSU is conducting internal interviews for who will be “allowed” to run for Chair, Vice Chair, and Pro-

Tempore positions after inauguration. I would like to state for the record that I find this extremely inappropriate and consider it meddling in the internal affairs of the Senate. It is not up to an internal party leadership committee to *christen* who will run for or become the Chair or Vice Chair of a committee; that's up to the members of the committee, and I encourage all SGA parties to leave our incoming Senators alone on these matters. The same goes for replacing me. It's up to the Senate to elect who replaces me and if there are multiple people from a party who wish to run for a position, it's not up to party leadership to say that they no longer get to. That's all, thanks.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 5th April 2023 at 5:30pm on Zoom

Adjourned: 6:05pm



Signature of President Pro-Tempore Patrick A. DuChêne