



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

**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 5:30pm | Zoom ID: 937 1197 2014**

**Call to Order:** 5:34 PM

**Members Present:** Pro-Tempore DuChêne, President Diaz, Chair(s) Alvarez, Salazar, Burton, White, Meunier, Humberg, Seeger

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent:**

**Guests:** Samantha Randall, Senator Benjamin Jones

**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 my very last Rules Committee meeting as Pro-Tempore! This is my last official engagement of my role, after finishing up Homecoming Planning Commission this afternoon. I'll still be finishing minutes and sending emails into next week, but otherwise, this is it! Let's make it a good one, and a special thanks to Chair Alvarez for filling in for me tonight as Pro Tempore. My last day as Pro-Tempore will be May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. That also means that if President

Diaz has to relinquish for any reason, she will be President and Chair Salazar will act as Pro-Tempore.

- President Diaz: It is your unofficial duty as a committee chair to be notifying bill sponsors when their legislation is coming up. When you are announcing your committee meeting times, please @ the bill sponsors in the GroupMe to let them know their bill is going to be read. Patrick did this well when he was the student life chair. For example, “Chair Meunier, you have a bill in Student Life today at 11AM on Wednesday.” Let them know to show up. You can call them, either by taking a little stretch break to call or text them to get them to present their bills. That would be really helpful.
- Judiciary: Chair Alvarez
  - Committee met Thursday at 8pm and passed bill 52, 56, 57 and resolution 44.
- Internal Affairs: Chair Salazar
  - Committee met Monday at 5:30PM and we forwarded 7 candidates, and we tabled 1 because she did not show up.
- Budget: Chair Burton
  - Committee met last Thursday at 6:00 PM. We passed bill 43 and bill 51 was amended.
- Finance: Chair White
  - Committee met Tuesday at 6:15 and adopted our rules and procedures.
- Student Life: Chair Meunier
  - Committee met at 10:00AM today (Wednesday) and passed resolution 38 and 42.
- Programming Allocations: Chair Humberg
  - Committee did not meet. I did talk to Austin and got everything switched over. You can now reach me at the PAC Gmail.
- Resource for Travel Allocations: Chair Seeger
  - Committee did not meet. I received the Gmail from Marshall Widmann but I still need to step myself up.
- Members of the Public
  - No announcements from the public.

#### **Committee Business:**

- **Confirmations:** Samantha Randall for Student Senate Division of Undergraduate Studies Seat #7

- **Bills for Consideration:** None
- **Resolutions for Consideration:** Resolution #42, Resolution #44
- **Suspension Hearings:** Ben Jones – FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Seat #3
- **Censure Repercussion Hearings:** None
- **Leave of Absence Requests:** None

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:** Samantha Randall Confirmation Hearing, Resolution #42, Resolution #44, Senator Jones Suspension Hearing

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Samantha Randall for Undergraduate Studies Seat 7**
  - Opening Statement (3 minutes)
    - Hi everyone, for those who don't know me my name is Samantha Randall. I am a first-year majoring in Behavioral Neural Science. I am super excited to be entering the SGA space and in a more official capacity through senate. I am currently involved on campus with university ambassadors, presidential scholars, and the programming committee for the mental health council. I kind of always knew that I wanted to be involved in SGA in some capacity. Thankfully, through some incredible people that I met at the beginning of this year I was able to go to a bunch of events and started attending senate. I'm sure you all have seen me lingering in the back during Senate meetings. Over that time period I was able to complete the legislative certification. I feel that I have a solid grasp of senate rules and procedures because of this. I am ready to hit the group running and get involved in legislature and engaging in debate. I will also be involved in summer senate. I definitely want to increase the visibility of Senate. I know some people didn't even know Senate existed here. I want to make us more visible through tabling at market Wednesday or do events that would boost senate outreach. I was also thinking of creating a clothing donation cite on campus, similar to food for thought. I would like to still focus on mental health here on campus and helping to deal with the very contradictory mess that is statutes. I am really excited to get into this space and work with everyone.
  - Question Period
    - Chair Alvarez: Which committee would you be interested in participating in?
      - Randall: I think Internal affairs would be interesting. I would love to see all the people coming through, especially during the summer.

Budget would also be an option as it can be very chaotic, and I would want to help with that. Especially with all of the requests from the Union and Campus Rec requesting insane amounts of money.

- Chair Humberg: What exactly are the steps that you can see to get your ideas through?
  - Randall: I have been attending senate for months now. I think I am ready to start writing legislation. I have been on the third floor a lot speaking with the agencies and bureaus and other SGA affiliates to work with to make different ideas happen.
- Chair Meunier: Are you looking for any leadership positions in senate if you get your seat?
  - Randall: I would like to either be a Chair or Vice Chair or be a liaison. I know that a few of those are still available.
- Diaz: What does your time commitment look like, and will you be able to give enough time to Senate and our committees during our term.
  - Samantha Randall: I am really passionate about Senate. I tend to focus a lot of my energy towards things I am passionate about. Making change on campus is something I am really passionate about. I am willing to dedicate myself to this cause.
- Closing Statement
  - I think I have pretty much covered everything in my opening statement, and I yield my time.
- Round-Table Deliberation (15 minutes)
  - Salazar: I think that she is really articulate. I like a lot of her ideas and the way she carries herself. I am happy to see she is staying in Senate for the summer and leaning towards IA. An issue we have in committee is people don't speak up, and I feel she will be able to speak up during our committee meetings and make a difference.
  - Alvarez: The candidate has been very proactive during her time, for example her completion of the legislative certification. She was very eager to learn more about the impeachment process. I think she will be able to balance her time commitments with Senate. If her time commitments do cut into Senate, I feel as though she will communicate with us affectively.

- Humberg: She is always in Senate. She wants to be a part of the legislation, not just to put Senate on her resume, but to make a difference. I think she is ready for this.
    - Meunier: It is clear to see she is motivated. It really shows commitment, and I am excited to hear from her.
  - Diaz moves to call the question, Meunier seconds, no objections
  - Vote:
    - Yes: **8**
    - No: **0**
    - Abstentions: **0**
  - **RESULT: SHOW THAT SAMANTHA RANDALL IS FORWARDED TO THE SENATE FLOOR FOR CONFIRMATION TO THE 75<sup>TH</sup> STUDENT SENATE**
- **Resolution #42 - Sponsored by Senators White and Lento (P)** – Resolution praising Florida State University’s recent advancements and commending the current administration’s dedication toward furthering these gains. **(Tabled in Student Life 19<sup>th</sup> April, Passed in Student Life 26<sup>th</sup> April)**
  - Opening Statement (5 minutes):
    - Chair White: This bill was written by Senator Dale, but he is up for confirmation today. I will be presenting this resolution on his behalf. The bill is congratulating FSU for all of the hard work they have done rising up through the rankings over the Years. FSU has climbed from 24 to 19 among the best public universities in the nation. It also talks about the athletic accomplishments while also acknowledging how highly ranked some of our programs are.
  - Question Period:
    - Chair Salazar: I hate to be so blunt but why is this necessary?
      - Chair White: I always believe in thanking people for things and acknowledging the achievements our university has made. Our goal for our executive branch is to improve our rankings so I believe this goes along with that goal.
    - Chair Alvarez: How do schools move up in rank?

- Chair White: It's based on your graduation rates, acceptance rates, what careers your graduates get. It's also based on the prestige of the professors and campus.
  - Alvarez: How does that impact what the Exec is able to do?
    - Chair White: I just know that Exec wants to bring up our rankings into the top to recognize we are a top university. They just proposed the Student Advancement Committee with an executive order.
  - Chair Humberg: In your resolution, are you saying we are ranked in the top 20 for our athletics program, campus wishing to explore and participate in?
    - Chair White: It is saying our athletics programs are usually ranked in the top 20 consistently.
- Round-Table Deliberation (30 minutes):
  - Chair Salazar: I do not see this resolution is necessary. We know this university is good, and this college still has a lot of problems. I haven't agreed with all of the lobbying, and I really don't like this resolution.
  - Chair Alvarez: There is a lot going on here and it is excessive. I think if we want to address certain aspects of FSU we should, like the MAG Lab, but putting all of this together is not necessary. FSU is not all perfect, so just highlighting the good things is not right.
  - Meunier: I understand our university is not always the best, but we should still have school pride and thanking the people that got us to this place.
  - Diaz: Sometimes I'm that guy. I don't like things that waste time. I try my best to be impartial. Why not do it? I don't see an issue putting to paper celebrating our school.
  - Chair Humberg: I agree with Sam, and Meunier. I also think it is important to acknowledge our administration. The only thing I don't love is that this resolution focuses a lot on sports. I'm not loving the "Work hard play hard" verbiage in the resolution. I still agree to acknowledge the university.
  - PT DuChêne: The reason this resolution is coming to Rules today because this resolution "commends" the student body president's commitments to the objectives stated above and looks forward to their

work. Is President Hitchcock dependent on our strongest possible support of our language to support these goes. What are these goals. 28:43

- Chair White: In the first Whereas clause, it talks about how we have improved as a university as a whole by helping us recruit better students. It allows us to grow as student leaders and allow FSU to run as a premier institute to achieve their goals.
- Chair Burton: The whole reason SGA is here to solve issues and recognize people. Why is so much of the verbiage have to do with sports? If this doesn't mean anything, then why pass it?
- Chair Salazar: I know that the university is using a lot of money to create a new practice field for the football time, but maybe they should focus on the students that may be drowning in student debt or build another parking garage. FSU could better spend their money. If this resolution is a waste of time, why are we talking about this resolution?
- Chair Humberg: Point of clarification, when Sam said it was a waste of time, he meant to say it was a formality. I don't see this a waste of time, but this is not a pressing matter.
- Diaz: I have seen many resolutions in my time, and I have no problem putting to paper that we support efforts of our university to increase our image and rankings in the US, Either through athletics or academics. Not through more parking garages though. I do not mind it.
- Seeger moves to call the question, Meunier seconds, no objections
- Closing Statement:
  - I'll add much better answers for my next resolution. This resolution is pretty simple. It just acknowledges the strides our university has taken to move us up in the rankings. I understand the questioning of the sports parts and I will confirm with the sponsor of this resolution before senate on why it was included. I know that sports do influence students to come to that university. I have friends that were fascinated with a certain college during our college fair because that school was doing so well in a certain sport, and they now go there. Recognizing the accomplishments our university has made in every field is all amazing concepts our university has made over the years. This resolution recognizes that and are some of the reasons that draw students here.

- Vote:
  - Yes: 3
  - No: 4
  - Abstentions: 1
- **RESULT: SHOW THAT RESOLUTION #42 DOES NOT PASS**
- **Resolution #44 - Sponsored by Senators Salazar and White (P), Senator Patel (Co)**
  - To amend the Student Senate Rules of Procedure to help our committees work more effectively. **(Passed in Judiciary 20<sup>th</sup> April)**
    - Opening Statement (5 minutes):
      - White: This resolution moves the financial officers forwarding to the Finance Committee to review the candidates that come from the executive branch. By doing this would change 8 to 11 confirmations per year to the Finance committee who have to know the finance code and make possible amendments to it. By doing this eliminates some of the confirmations that would go through internal affairs as we saw this week with 10 candidates. It ensures each candidate receives the high standard through the confirmation process we are accustomed to.
      - Salazar: I like this resolution because we literally just had a meeting in internal affairs and my vice chair and myself were just stressing out about the minutes. It took my vice chair at least 4 hours to get the minutes done. By moves some candidates to a committee that does not have much to do would be a win, win. It helps IA with shorter meetings, and allocates some of the workload to a welcoming committee. I'm not trying to put my work onto another committee, but it would help to lower our long meeting times.
    - Question Period:
      - Chair Humberg: Out of the candidates in the last IA, how many of those would have been financial candidates?
        - Salazar: None of them were, but this would help in the future when there does come a financial candidate.
      - Chair Humberg: Do you worry that if we open this flood gate IA's responsibilities may be diminished?
        - Chair White: We did have this thought. The Finance committee directly relates to the finance code that these candidates have to follow when they get appointed to their positions. IA by nature receives director candidates. That is what the committee is for and will continue to do.



- Chair Alvarez: How many financial nomination positions are there in the agencies and bureau in total.
    - Chair White: Somewhere between 8 and 12 candidates.
  - Chair Alvarez: Will all of these nominations be happening at the same time every year?
    - Chair White: I can direct this question to President Diaz.
  - Diaz: Most of the treasurer nominees come in the fall. This is more preparing for the fall compared to anything happening right now.
  - Chair Alvarez question to President Diaz: Do you see this becoming an issue for confirmations that IA would have to do in addition to these financial nominees.
    - President Diaz: I can talk about that in debate.
  - Chair Humberg: I was in the Finance committee, but Spencer, do you think the Finance Committee will be overwhelmed in the fall?
    - Chair White: I don't believe so. Resolutions pass pretty quickly in our committee, and I don't think any Finance meeting has lasted more than 35 or 45 minutes.
  - Chair Humberg moves to strike "Whereas: The Internal Affairs often time gets overwhelmed by the amount of confirmation hearings that need to take place, and", Chair Alvarez seconds, no objections.
  - The Sponsor finds this amendment friendly. The amendment is adopted.
- Round-Table Deliberation (30 minutes):
    - Chair Alvarez: Point to President Diaz, do you see any issues with an absurd amount of Finance confirmations during the summer that may overlap with any other IA confirmations?
    - President Diaz: I do have an issue with internal affairs having 15 candidates to confirm in one meeting. I had this same problem as chair in the 74<sup>th</sup> Senate. This is why I originally proposed this Resolution to Chair Pedraja who was Finance Chair at the time. It was a lot to deal with when candidates from Homecoming, from agency directors, to bureau directors, to officers of governmental affairs. That alone is 12 people, and there are other stragglers from cabinet. It was a lot to deal with at the time. I do not think this will be a problem that internal affairs is delegating some of their

authority to those who statutorily have to look at the finance code. These are the people that have oversight over the finance code, (referring to the members of the finance committee) and for them to ask questions about their competence about the finance code, I am personally fine with.

- President Diaz: Point, just to clarify something, this would not include folks included in cabinet.
  - Chair Humberg moves to amend to add, "e. Forward or deny all **nominations for agency, bureau, and affiliated project nominees for financial officers, excluding Cabinet officers.**", Chair Alvarez seconds, no objections
  - The sponsors find this amendment friendly. The amendment is adopted.
  - Humberg moves to call the question, Meunier seconds, no objections
  - Closing Statement:
    - Salazar: IA meetings go really long when you are interviewing people. In the fall, we could see as much as 10 or 15 people up for candidacy. If we can delegate a small amount of this work to a committee that might not have much to do would really help internal affairs. It makes sense to send certain candidates to the Finance Committee since their members have to manage and read the financial manual already. It just makes sense to me.
  - Vote:
    - Yes: 6
    - No: 2
    - Abstentions: 0
  - **RESULT: SHOW THAT RESOLUTION #44 PASSES FOR FULL FLOOR CONSIDERATION**
- **Suspension Hearing: Senator Ben Jones (Engineering #3)**
    - Declaration of Absences
      - Senate Meeting Unexcused Half-Absence 11/09 (0.5) = 0.5
      - Finance Committee Unexcused Absence 11/29 (1) = 1.5
      - Senate Meeting Unexcused Absence 3/08 (1) = 2.5
      - Finance Committee Unexcused Absence 3/21 (1) = 3.5
      - Finance Committee Unexcused Absence 3/28 (1) = 4.5
      - Senate Meeting Unexcused Half-Absence 4/06 (0.5) = 5

- Opening Statement (3 minutes)
  - The reasons for those tardies are because I have a 9:15 PM Orgo Chem recitation and near that area of time a lot of the RTAC and PAC meetings were extinguished. I took an opportunity cost to not to show to those meetings. I never imagined that I would not have any more excused absences left. It is defiantly a failure there on my part. I would like to say classes are coming to a peak and I am here. I am active in senate, and I like to think my presence in senate makes a difference. I think 2 absences should be returned to me. I will be showing to Finance more. I would like the Rules Committee to consider that I regularly meet with constituents, and I have a resolution with the college of engineering I hope to push through soon.
- Question Period (15 minutes)
  - DuChêne: Are you aware all you have to do is text me when you know you will be absent, and I can excuse it. Or just telling your Chair you won't make it to Finance?
  - Jones: Actually, one of my tardies I said I was going to be late, and it was never resolved.
  - Alvarez: For the other unexcused absences did you not reach out?
    - Senator Jones: There was only one time I reached out when I knew I was going to be late because I didn't fathom ever having a total 5 unexcused absences. I let them know that I was at work at TMH and was going to be a little late for the one time a contacted my Chair. So, the answer is no.
  - President Diaz: Were you aware you could alter your committee assignments if you knew you could not make their meeting times?
    - Jones: I was not aware that I could alter my committee. I saw it as my 9:15 recitation, it is a better opportunity for me to study through so that I could have the best grade on a quiz or something like that.
  - Chair Humberg: So, your recitation is at 9:15PM?
    - Jones: Yes, 9:15PM.

- Chair Humberg: Finance meets at 6:15, so you just decided to study through it?
- Senator Jones: Yeah, because I really needed to. It's cramming.
- Closing Statement (1 minute and 26 seconds)
  - Senator Jones: Finance didn't have much to do since PAC and RTAC were extinguished. I would also like you all to consider 5.6B absence which states that the Chairmen has to let their members know 24 hours ahead of time to show up to a meeting. I would appreciate 2 more unexcused absences, but I doubt I will need them.
- Deliberations (15 minutes)
  - Chair Salazar: I know the Senator personally, and he strikes me as one of the most passionate people in Senate. Yes, he has been late, but it is not intentional. He didn't know he could get his absences excused but now he knows. I think he should get the 2 additional excused absences.
  - President Diaz: Point of information to you Senator Jones, I am in the Finance chat, but I don't have time to look at it every day. Was the previous Chair not communicative about the meeting times and how does that play a role into why you were absent?
    - Senator Jones: That was the most recent Finance meeting with the new Chair in play.
  - Chair White: Point of clarification, you were at the most recent meeting.
- Humberg moves to call the question, White seconds, no objections.
- Vote on Forwarding to the Judiciary Committee for Impeachment Proceedings (Yae to Forward, Nay to Unsuspend)
  - Yes: 0
  - No: 8
  - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: SHOW SENATOR JONES IS UNSUSPENDED**
- Unsuspension Only: New Absence Deliberations (5 minutes)
  - Chair White: We should give the Senator 2 additional absences since he did not know he could get his absences excused. He also has his two mental health days.

- Salazar moves to grant the Senator 2 additional absences, Salazar seconds, no objections.
- **Senator Jones is granted 2 additional absences.**

**Unfinished Business:**

- None

**Closing Announcements:**

- Thank you all for your hard work. It's been perhaps the most fulfilling part of my time here at FSU to work alongside you all as your Pro-Temp and as a Senator. Have a wonderful final Senate meeting of the semester, a smooth finals week, and a wonderful Summer break. Much love to you all. If you need anything, I will remain Pro-Tempore until May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Next Meeting: TO BE DERTIMED BY 75<sup>th</sup> SUMMER SENATE PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE**

**Adjourned: 6:38PM**

*P. DuChêne*

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