



**76<sup>th</sup> Student Senate  
Budget Committee  
Friday February 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM | Zoom:  
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/4349728982>**

**Call to Order: 5:32 PM**

**Members Present: Salazar, Meier, Arellano, Barresi, DeVitto, Garcia, Goldstein, McEnery, Rodriguez, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese**

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent: Valderrama**

**Guests: Senator Lalani, Senator Srivastava**

**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:**

- Chair: N/A
- Members: N/A
- Guests: N/A

**Committee Business:**

- N/A

**Old Business:**

- N/A

**New Business:**

- **Bill #14 - Sponsored by Senators Lalani, Srivastava (P)**
  - Opening Statement:

- Lalani: Hey everybody, so we were actually contacted by the deputy Treasurer to enact this bill, and essentially what it does is allow every agency in SGA to allocate their funds up to 30% in the Food category instead of 15%. This is obviously if they choose to do so, basically it's giving them the same amount of money that they usually get, it's just giving them a little more flexibility in how they want to spend it, throughout events and things like that.
    - Srivastava: Just adding onto that, agencies are allowed to use 30% of their budget for food, and bureaus are allowed to use 20%, it's not going to add any money, it's just going to allow them to use it for food, unlike before. It's more effective because agencies, they host events, like I go to a lot of AASU events, and when they host events, they attract people because of food. So, it doesn't add money, it just allows them to use it in a different way. We yield.
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - Goldstein: Hi guys, have you spoken with any of the agencies and bureaus and their exec boards, to see if they have any problems with the current percentage before this change?
    - Srivastava: Yes, we spoke to the HLSU Assistant Director and Treasurer to make sure because they are actually the ones that reached out to Carson to make this change, and then I spoke with Jessica, who is the AASU Treasurer, and Carson said that he was also in contact with all the agencies, and they are all okay with this change.
  - **Meier moves to enter round-table discussion; Rodriguez seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - Goldstein: I think this is a great bill, they've done their homework, they've reached out to the agencies, they've reached out to the Office of the Treasurer, so definitely pass this, this is great legislation.
    - Meier: Yeah, this is great, actually a lot of the bills that have gone through Budget in the past have had to do with Agencies and Bureaus wanting to move money into their food section, just because that's such a big number for a lot of their events, so I think this is good.
  - **McEnergy moves to call the question; Goldstein seconds**
  - Closing Statement:
    - Lalani: Thank you guys for listening, we yield the rest of our time.
  - Vote:
    - Yes: 10 [Meier, Arellano, Barresi, DeVitto, Garcia, Goldstein, McEnergy, Rodriguez, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese]
    - No: 0
    - Abstain: 0
  - **RESULT: BILL 14 PASSES**
- **Bill #16 - Sponsored by Senator Lalani (P)**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Lalani: So this one is just on behalf of the Inter-Residence Hall Council, they're trying to host some events towards the end of the year and plan how their budget goes for the rest of the coming months, and one thing that they noticed is that they had a lot of money in Contractual Services that they weren't going to end up using, and they do have an idea that they'd like to transfer money for. Essentially they're allocating \$1,000 from the Contractual Services category, to the Food category, they'll have

more than enough money left in both of their accounts for this to be feasible, but they thought it was an easier transition. It's for an event they want to hold on the 28<sup>th</sup> I believe, they want to bring a food truck owned by a Black-owned business to honor Black History Month, so I think it's a great event, it's a great idea, so they just need the transaction to do this. Thank you.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - Goldstein: Could you give an outline of the line items in each of their expense categories?
  - Lalani: Currently as I have it, they have \$2,000 available in Clothing and Awards, \$1,750 available in Contractual Services, \$850 in the Expense fund, \$275 in the Food category, and that's it.
  - Goldstein: Yeah, and did they think about partnering with BSU or any other agencies or bureaus on campus for this event?
  - Lalani: I'm not sure, I'm not sure if they fully have the details on that sorted out for the event. But I know for sure that this is what they wanted for the food truck, so they don't have all the ideas as to who they would partner with, but they just wanted to bring out a food truck for Black History Month. But, I'm not sure if they've done any research on that.
- **Meier moves to enter round-table discussion; Barresi seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
  - Valdes-Herrera: Hey guys, I think this is a really good bill, because it's supporting a local business, it's going to bring a lot of recognition to it, a lot more people can start using Black-owned businesses.
- **Goldstein moves to call the question; Vargheese seconds**
- Closing Statement:
  - Lalani: Thanks again for hearing me out, I really think this is a great cause. I yield the rest of my time.
- Vote:
  - Yes: 10 [Meier, Arellano, Barresi, DeVitto, Garcia, Goldstein, McEnery, Rodriguez, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese]
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: BILL 16 PASSES**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- N/A

#### **Closing Announcements:**

- Salazar: So one thing I wanted to brief you guys on, that Andy and I kind of touched on in Wednesday's meeting, let's address the elephant in the room: Budget Week has been postponed. What's happening now is, Student Body Treasurer Bowling and Student Body President Hitchcock are trying to come to an agreement with the school's Chief Financial Officer, with Kyle Clark, in order to find a way to make sure we don't have to worry as much about Campus Rec and the Union and overhead, which are things you probably have already heard about. Campus Rec requested 6.9 million dollars in funding for this next fiscal year and Union requested around 6.5 million dollars. After overhead, we have about 13 million dollars to spend, if you do the math, that's like all of our budget. So basically what the deal is kind of looking like, is Kyle Clark will find a way to take care of the Union, Campus Rec, and overhead, he'll just take that off our plate. We'll have our own 3 point something million dollars of money to just allocate in the next

fiscal year's budget. We're trying to figure out right now how much money we will have to allocate, what that 3 point something will be. So that is why, they're going to meet with Kyle Clark on Wednesday and that's why we wanted to push it back because we don't want to deliberate and have all these hearings, and try to figure out how much money we're going to give to each org, when we don't even know how much money we're giving out ourselves. It just makes sense to push it back, after meeting with Andy, Adam Bowling, the rest of his staff, Vice Chair Meier and I came to the conclusion that it's best to just push it back two weeks, to well after they meet with Kyle Clark, so that we know for a fact how much money we'll have to spend. The new tentative dates are Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> for training, it'll only be one day because for this deal, we won't have to go on those field trips, because we won't be funding Campus Rec or Union anymore, so that will be the day for training. For presentations, it'll be the same, 9-5, in two hour blocks. Presentations will be February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, that's a Thursday and a Friday, and Monday February 19<sup>th</sup>. February 20<sup>th</sup> will be deliberations, and the 21<sup>st</sup> will be deliberations if we need them, if we have an overflow. All this will be in person in the Senate Chambers, deliberations will also be like 9-4:30 depending on how long we need. But yeah, that's what the current budget breakdown is looking like. Also, something that I've been in talks with Andy, the financial staff as well, Vice Chair Meier is also very well aware of this because- surprise, she was in the meetings, as she should be. I'm going to put together a proposed thing where we submit just like a completely empty Budget breakdown, and it would just be the fiscal year, 2024-2025, completely empty, and I'm going to submit it. And then hopefully, by the 21<sup>st</sup>, it'll be completely filled up, hopefully it'll already be past first reading on the floor, and by the 21<sup>st</sup> it'll have all the numbers and everything, and pass that night in Senate. So it's a little weird, in my time in Senate I've never seen something like that, but the bill has to be on first reading, as per statutes, for at least five business days in order to be passed by the Senate. So if it is introduced by next Wednesday, that gives us a good span of time to fill in all the information we need to fill in, and it could just pass that night when we conclude our deliberations. Does that make sense? If not, I completely understand, and let me know if you have any questions.

- Rodriguez: I have a detail question, if it does go through that Campus Rec and Union are covered by the chief financial officer, what would happen to the bill that we just passed regarding Union and Campus Rec becoming non-voting members of this committee for Budget Week? Would they still be in on the hearings?
- Salazar: Yeah, they would, just keep in mind, they would not be voting, they would still be able to comment, and they can ask questions, but they don't vote.
- Rodriguez: Got it, and also, more of a technical question, let's say hypothetically, if one of us has a two hour shift in the middle of this 9-5, is that okay, and what is the dress code for these deliberations?
- Meier: Yeah, it's completely casual, you don't have to dress up like you would for Senate, also, feel free to come and go as you need to, but only for things you absolutely have to attend. So if you have, say, a lecture, maybe try and ask the professor if they can send you notes or a presentation for that rather than attending it, because it's really important that we meet quorum for these meetings, especially since we moved the whole Budget process from 4 days to 3 days, so now the presentations are a lot more concentrated. We'll be having during these days a completely packed schedule, so it's very important that you attend as much as you possibly can.
- Salazar: Any other questions? Have a great weekend, stay safe!

**Next Meeting: Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM**

Adjourned: 5:53 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

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Signature of Chair