



**76th Student Senate
Budget Committee
February 16th, 2024 at 5:30 PM | Zoom:
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/4349728982>**

Call to Order: 5:32 PM

Members Present: Chair Salazar, Vice Chair Meier, Senators Arellano, Barresi, Goldstein, McEnery, Rodriguez, Valderrama, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese

Members Tardy: N/A

Members Absent: Senators DeVitto, Garcia

Guests: Student Body Treasurer Adam Bowling

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:

- **Bill 20 - Tabled**

New Business:

- **Bill 21 - Sponsored by Senator McEnery**
 - Opening Statement:

- McEnery: Ok so this is essentially just a transfer from Pride Student Union Expenses to Pride Student Union Clothing & Awards, they're getting ready for Pride Week and Lavender Graduation, so with the math their Treasurer did they would use all the money in Clothing & Awards as of right now, they'll zero out, so they're moving some money from Expenses to Clothing & Awards so that doesn't happen. Very simple, it's just so their accounts don't hit zero. With that, I yield.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - Barresi: How much will be left in their fund after moving?
 - McEnery: In the Expenses account?
 - Barresi: Yes.
 - McEnery: I'm not sure, but I can ask them for Wednesday.
 - Salazar: I'm going to ask a quick question, how much money did they receive in Sweepings, if any?
 - McEnery: I can look, I know they received some, but I know that all went to expenses just like HLSU did.
 - Goldstein: Point of Clarification, they received \$10,000 in Sweepings.
 - **Meier moves to enter round-table discussion; Barresi seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - N/A
 - **Rodriguez moves to call the question; Goldstein seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - McEnery: I will get the number for Expenses for Wednesday, but that's it, thanks!
 - Vote:
 - Yes: 8 [Meier, Arellano, Barresi, Goldstein, Rodriguez, Valderrama, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese]
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1 [McEnery]
 - **RESULT: BILL 21 PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

- **Bill 20 - Tabled**

Closing Announcements:

- Salazar: So, did you guys all receive Andy's email with a whole bunch of information? So yeah, things just keep getting pushed back, but we're fully intent on this being our last postponement of training and hearings. All these organizations have already been filling out the Sign Up Genius and stuff, so their times are already being locked in. Training, I don't know if you guys got the email from Andy today, about the specific breakdown of training, but I'm going to share it right now just so we can go through it together. So right here you'll see my beautiful little inbox, and right here you can see that at 11 AM we have our Welcome Introduction, and keep in mind all of this is taking place in the Senate Chambers, if you guys have any friends from other committees, if you have any friends from outside of Senate who are keen on learning more about the Budget process and what we do, tell them to come around, it's completely open to the public. Then at 11:15 we have our balancing simulation, a little practice thing with Mr. Andy Johnson. Then we'll have our Budget Basics and our overview of the Budget, and then our overview of SGA Accounting, then our full fiscal year SGA 2025 Budget Outlook, and then Vice Chair Meier and I will wrap it up with an overview, and what to expect. We'll have ready a whole breakdown of who is presenting what and when. It's my goal to have you guys

come into every day of presentations knowing who you're going to hear from and what they're requesting. Also, someone who is going to be joining us for these proceedings as well is the honorable Student Body Treasurer Adam Bowling. So Treasurer Bowling did you want to add, I was just going to talk about how Budget trainings are going to look, it's still going to be 9-5, Thursday, Friday, and the following Monday, and the presentations are going to be broken up into two hour sections, there should be four organizations presenting in each two hour block, each being given thirty minutes to give their presentation, and take and receive questions. Treasurer Bowling, did you want to add to what I was saying about this postponement and the amount of money that we'll have to allocate.

- Adam Bowling: Yes, so I just got off a meeting with Senate leadership, President Hitchcock, Ben and Jona were also there, had to leave a little bit early. So basically we've been trying to negotiate with administration due to the rising costs of not only Student Engagement which covers things like Accounting, Andy's job, Dr. Williams' job, but things like an increase in Campus Rec and the Union. Just doing a little back of the napkin math, we would probably, given the current Budget and the increases to Campus Rec and the Union, to avoid a veto we would have to fund them almost completely, and potentially we would be around \$600,000 to \$3,000,000 in the hole. Knowing this, and trying to avoid this, we've been trying, a concerted effort, to make a deal with administration, to get some activities and services funds available to be allocated to Agencies, Entities, Organizations, to ultimately make sure that we can fund people properly. And those negotiations unfortunately have been delayed, but we have been working hard to get that amount. I will say that it's changing on a daily basis, and there's a lot of moving parts to this, but for the sake of full transparency, I want to be here to answer any questions you guys might have, and see what I can do to clear anything up, because I know we've delayed Budget twice, and I know that's very frustrating, it's frustrating to me, Ben, Jona, but that's just the situation we're in right now. So I wanted to answer any questions you might have, regarding this process right now.
- Goldstein: What's the best case and worst case scenario you're looking at, with what administration gives us?
- Adam Bowling: So, if you look in the Budget line items there's a total SGA number, and that number includes COGs, not including COGS, they came to us with a number of about 1.1 million, which is exactly the same as what we allocated last year. Now, the reason that we have a problem with this, is that inflation, rising costs, rising minimum wage, these costs necessitate a rise in this budget as well. We're trying to get them to essentially allocate more either with a 4% CPI increase or something like that. So, best case scenario is if we can get a number of total SGA that is more indicative of the 1.8 million dollar requests, not including Campus Rec and the Union. Worst case scenario is that we're unable to come to a valid conclusion to this deal, which means that we would have to stick to that 14 number, which is unfortunately, currently due to the lack of a fee increase, unactable at this time. So, Senate leadership, exec, none of us are interested in being as far in the hole as we are. That would be the best and worst case scenario there.
- Goldstein: If you guys do come to a deal, where else would that deal go to be approved. Does the Senate get a say in that deal?
- Adam Bowling: Yeah, it would be reviewed as a memorandum of understanding signed by President Hitchcock and brought to Senate by Resolution. I just want to again emphasize the power of the veto, unlike real Congress, we can't overturn that veto, but that's something we need to be very conscious of while we make our allocations, because cutting Campus Rec and the Union, I know that might be something that

Senate is in favor of, but administration is certainly not in favor of cutting the operations for those at this time. Any other questions? If you have any, feel free to text or call me, normal business hours please, I'm very tired. Just want to emphasize that this is a collaborate effort between SGA leadership, Senate leadership, and exec, we're all working very hard and we're all to say the least a little bit frustrated by how this has been going. With that, I really want to thank you guys for the work you've been putting in and for your understanding. We're not going to delay this again, so we're trying to get this done as soon as possible, and make a decision that's going to help student organizations in the long run. With that, I'll hand it back over to Chair Salazar.

- Salazar: Right, so that was a lot, sometimes this process gets convoluted and all over the place, but it's my goal, it's Vice Chair Meier's goal, it's Treasurer Bowling and his team's goal to make sure that all this is as transparent as possible. So to reiterate, if you need anything clarified, we are here to serve as your resource. Vice Chair Meier would you like to add anything?
- Meier: Yes, I'm very glad that Treasurer Bowling was able to be on this call, because he explained it much better than I could have, but it has been a very difficult process so far, and there have been a lot of attempts to communicate, and a lot of attempts to make sure that the Student Body benefits the most from this process. So, thank you guys so much for bearing with this, and for keeping your schedules open, I really appreciate it, and thank you to Treasurer Bowling and to Chair Salazar, and Andy has also been very helpful in this. So I want you guys as a committee to know that we're all on your side, even though this is a really confusing thing, and we have rescheduled two times, we are really trying to make sure that this is the best situation that we can possibly make out of it.
- Salazar: Seconded, so long story short, hopefully by Wednesday we'll have a solid number that we can present to you guys, so we can know how much money exactly we'll have to allocate, but if that's not the case, we're just going to keep going. The amount of money these orgs are requesting is not changing, so we're still going to hear them out, think about what we could possibly take away, depending on how much money we get to spend, but that's Wednesday's problem. As for now, get ready, Wednesday we'll know what's happening, and come Thursday, we'll know what these organizations are talking about, we'll be fine. We got this guys. If I have this mentality, I don't understand why you guys don't, we will be fine, we have our resources here. Everything has been done correctly on our end, so it will be fine. I love you guys, thank you for sticking through this, so much has been going on behind the scenes, and a lot of it has just been out of our control, but we'll make it through, we're all here to support each other. Take care you guys. Any questions?

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 21st at 11:00 AM (Budget Training)

Adjourned: 5:51 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signature of Chair