76th Student Senate
Budget Committee
Monday, April 15th, 2024 at 4:01 PM │ Zoom:
https://fsu.zoom.us/j/4349728982

Call to Order: 4:01 PM
Members Present: Chair Salazar, Vice Chair Rodriguez, Senators Patel, Mizanin, Devitto, Vargheese, Brown, Pinter
Members Tardy: Nguyen, Holly
Members Absent: Valderrama, Zuckerbraun, Qi,
Guests: Pro Tempore Gorelick, Judiciary Chair Srivastava, RTAC Chair Goldstein

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: Welcome! To all the new members, this is a little bit of a new layout, but we're just gonna roll with it. I'm gonna present the meeting minutes template that we have prepared uh, over here. Can you guys see it? Perfect. Thank you. So, the way that this is gonna work for those who are new to committee structures… for those who have already experienced this bear with me for a second. So, it's very similar to the way senate as a whole operates its just on a much smaller scale. So how it works is we have senators here- or chairs- who are here to present their legislation. How it goes is that they have 3 minutes to their opening statement and whatever they have left over from those 3 minutes goes to their closing statement. After they're done giving their opening statement, however, we will go into technical and non-debatable questions and then after that we will move into roundtable discussion, and then after that we will move to call the question. When the question is called, the senator who was presenting or the sponsor who presented the legislation will have the rest of the time that they left over from their opening to deliver their closing statement. And then we will vote. And if the majority of us say yes then it passes and if the majority of us say no, it fails. And that's basically how it works, its very simple. If you've been to senate already, it's pretty much the same thing just much smaller. So, do you guys have any questions?

- Vice Chair: I just wanna say welcome to everybody! First budget meeting, very exciting. Sorry about my spotty service. Just like Ben said, we're just gonna try this process as smooth as possible but if you have any questions on how this process works, please reach out! And, yea let's get to what we have to vote on today!
- Members: N/A
- Guests: N/A

Committee Business:
- N/A

Old Business:
- N/A

New Business:
- **Bill #47 – Sponsored by Chair Srivastava (P)**
  - ○ Opening Statement:
    - ■ Thank you! This is a simple bill transferring funds from Contractual Services to Clothing and Awards for the WSU so they can fund merchandise collab with AASU for their annual Ampd event. Its an event where local bands and anyone with musical talent wants to come out and play they can play its like a mini concert. They also usually host one big artist but that's more of a reveal thing so I don't know who that is yet but they just wanted new merch for their event so this would fund that.
    - ■ Yields with 2:26 left which goes to closing
  - ○ Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - ■ Mizanin: do they have a date yet for the AAMpd event?
    - ■ Srivastava: Ampd is this Friday so I talked to them on how the timeline would work and this would pass Wednesday, they'd order their merch but if it doesn't get here by Friday, which they said it would but if it doesn't they would check the list of the people who signed in to their event and give it to those people first. Then anything that's left over they would give to people who pass by the AASU room or the WSU room in the Student Union and pass it along that way.
  - ○ **Vargheese moves to enter round-table discussion; Pinter seconds**
  - ○ Round-Table Discussion:
    - ■ N/A
  - ○ **Vargheese moves to call the question; Brown seconds**
  - ○ Closing Statement:
    - ■ I don't really have much to say fund their merch for their Ampd event thank you.
  - ○ Vote:
    - ■ Yes: 7 **[Patel, Mizanin, Devitto, Vargheese, Brown, Pinter, Gorelick]**
    - ■ No: 0
    - ■ Abstain: 0
  - ○ **RESULT: BILL #47 PASSES**
- **Bill #48 – Sponsored by Goldstein, Lalani (P)**
  - ○ Opening Statement:
    - ■ Goldstein: hi guys welcome to your very first budget committee meeting it's exciting I used to be here like literally a few weeks ago! So the Campus Advancement Development Fund… the easiest way for me to explain it to everyone is pretty much a student government savings account. The goal of this is so every single year we're setting aside a

certain amount of money for future projects anything that student Senate deems would be a good thing to save for so it's creating that process now so in 5-10 years from now we have that money set aside for projects that we want to do or if we ever have a huge budgetary shortfall that we want to be able to fix on our own we have that money set aside so the way it's currently set up is that about the 0.25% of the annual budget so that will be about 30 K ish per year unless our annual budget changes. That will be what will be allocated to this every single year during the budget process by you guys so if you scroll later down on this bill it is outlined it's called the cab fund that's how it will be allocated in the budget process and then kind of the usage of funds is there's a kind of a process the bill will go through with Senate 1st. I'll go to you guys the budget committee which will have to pass by 3/4 majority vote then I'll go to student life just so they can read it, get their hands on it see if it's needed for the student body then if it's fixing a budgetary shortfall it'll go to the Finance Committee kind of just to a check with budget and then after that it'll go to a 2/3 vote of the Senate and then after that, the president and the treasurer both approve it by signature and that's pretty much everything I have I can answer any questions you guys have
- ■ Lalani: Let me say one thing if I can just real quick. Chair Goldstein said just to emphasize it again this is a really small percentage obviously of the overall budget that we got and it's just always good to have funds whether it's for an emergency or any other future project this is just kind of forcing SGA to be proactive instead of reactive in case if we need it for you know whatever reason in the future yeah just wanna emphasize that that's it.
- ■ Yields with 1:10 to closing
  ○ Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - ■ Mizanin: is there a precedent for this in SGA?
    - ■ Goldstein: so, there is kind of some precedent with the central reserves account. SO this is creating our own savings account that is under our jurisdiction instead of always having to work with administration to pull out of the insurance policy. So that's kinda reserved for lets say the union's roof blows off, that's what that fund is used for. But if we want to… maybe one year we don't have enough money to fund all the agencies , we can pull from this account to fund all the agencies. Because administration doesn't see not funding the agencies as a budgetary crisis see not funding the agencies as a budgetary crisis and said we probably would so that's kind of where this comes into play
    - ■ Holly: What are some examples for future projects that we would use this funding for?
    - ■ Goldstein: yeah so for an example we already kind of like pseudo contributed to the MPHD park that's kind of getting built over by the Morris center and in future if we have this kind of large capital savings we could fully build a park ourselves and we won't have to rely on like the student foundation to fundraise and do all these other things with external entities. We want to do stuff we have that capital to build it and be like a key primary stakeholder in the project. I know we gave about $5000 from Senate projects to that park and we're not really a key stakeholder in it but if we ever want to do something like that I know there's a bill last Senate where they voted on a resolution trying to get the university to increase the amount of water fountains on Landis that could be a project

with this. Things like that: large scale infrastructure or developmental or even beautification projects that need to occur on campus
- Holly: Who will decide what this will be used for? Will it go through senate, or…?
- Goldstein: yeah so in the bill it kind of outlines our process so any senator will be able to write a bill and then that bill will kind of go through like a committee step by step process of going to budget, then student life and then the full Senate and it kind of has a few checks and balances in there where the goal is for you to work with the student body treasurer and student body president prior to even putting up the bill because they kind of have to have signature over it. The general goal is to make sure that almost everyone in Senate gets their hands on and gets a say that's why it goes to budget, student life, and finance. It's kind of just up to the normal process
- Brown moves to amend 422.4 adding section C "The Congress of Graduate Students shall be given the opportunity to contribute to this fund, should COGS contribute to this fund, COGS shall have voting representation on the Budget Committee during the usage of these funds" Rodriguez seconds, Goldstein finds friendly

- **Brown moves to enter round-table discussion; Pinter seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
  - N/A
- **Devitto moves to call the question; Vargheese seconds**
- Closing Statement:
  - Yielded
- Vote:
  - Yes: 7 [Vargheese, Patel, Devitto, Brown, Mizanin, Pinter, Nguyen]
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: <mark>BILL #48 [PASSES [AMENDED</mark>**
- **Bill #49 - Sponsored by Chair Srivatava**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Hey everyone it's me again this is transferring $2000 from expenses to food to fund their carnival themed event and their banquet. Their carnival themed event is on the 23rd it's from 11 to 2. Their banquet already happened but I submitted this resolution way before and just inauguration and all of that kind of messed it up so but this funding is going to go towards a carnival themed event and yes that's all I have thank you
    - 2:30 to closing
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - Mizanin: How did they end up covering the event if it has already passed?
    - Srivastava: I'm gonna be super honest with you, I emailed Ali she's the director and she said she already covered it before this passed so I'm not really sure how they did that but this funding is not going to go towards that because that cost is covered already maybe they figured out a way to fund it prior to sending me that email that they needed this transfer to happen, however this funding that we're just going to pass right now is for the carnival that's going to be happening in like a week or two
  - **Vargheese moves to enter round-table discussion; Mizanin seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - N/A

- ○ **Vargheese moves to call the question; Brown seconds**
- ○ Closing Statement:
  - ■
- ○ Vote:
  - ■ Yes: 7 [Vargheese, Devitto, Patel, Brown, Mizanin, Nguyen, Pinter]
  - ■ No: 0
  - ■ Abstain: 0
- ○ **RESULT: [BILL [#49] [PASSES**
- ● **Bill #54 - Sponsored by Goldstein, Gorelick (P)**
  - ○ Opening Statement:
    - ■ Goldstein: hi guys so in essence of this, this kind of goes in combination with the following bill (bill 55) but the way I'm gonna pitch it to you guys is it's uh… a lot of you guys are new senators you won't understand this either but we have a process called the sweepings process where everyone at the end of the year, all their accounts get swept in this big pot of money and then that money gets reallocated. So bill 55 is going to be getting rid of that and then having it go back to the main budget and this RSO budget fund is creating a version like a more stable version of sweepings so it's kind of taking that money that would have been allocated through sweeping process and now just giving it out directly to RSO through the RSO budget fund allowing RSO to have a much more stable way to get funding for the entire year so they would come to this committee um which would be hosted by you guys the budget committee in the fall it would be similar to the normal budget process that occurs in the spring just happening in the fall and they would hear RSO applications for those that want to be budgeted for the entire year and this would kind of put less stress on PAC and RTAC and allow RSOs to have a more stable reliance from us and not have to kind of gamble whether or not PAC or RTAC will run out of money or they won't get what they want from them and kind of supplementing the fact that sweepings won't exist anymore because a lot of RSOs tend to rely on sweepings for funding throughout the year etcetera so this is kind of replacing that process with a much more stable process that kind of mimics the process of sweeping but without the I don't know unreliable nature of it. I'm also going to be hearing 2 amendments from my senator in the committee so and I'll find both of those friendly in advance thank you
    - ■ Yields with 1:29 to closing
  - ○ Amendments:
    - ■ Brown: Amends 815.4 A.2 adding section e. "The Chair(s) of Senate Funding Boards" and changes 815.4 A.2d to "The ~~Deputy~~ Student Body Treasurer, or designee"
    - ■ Sponsor finds them friendly
    - ■ Pinter seconds
  - ○ Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - ■ N/A
  - ○ **Brown moves to enter round-table discussion; Varghese seconds**
  - ○ Round-Table Discussion
    - ■ Rodriguez: Yea I just want to make a comment commending the sponsor for this very well-explained bill. This will make it easier for RSOs to get the money that they need so I think that this is very well structured.
  - ○ **Devitto moves to pass by unanimous consent**
  - ○ **RESULT: BILL 54 (PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT)**

- **Bill #55 - Sponsored by Goldstein, Gorelick**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Goldstein: This is the sweepings bill I was referring to earlier so as I kind of described earlier the sweepings process is really instable it really only ends up going to like the areas that we don't want it to go to almost 60% of the previous sweepings go to the university departments that should not even really be receiving A&S money. I met with the vice president for student affairs doctor Amy Hect and she fully agrees with the fact that most of the time a lot of university departments will come to sweepings after already asking their Dean or program director for money and then the Dean will say no and then they'll come to sweepings to see if they can convince students to take our money from us so that's kind of where sweeping ends up going which is not really the right place for it to go. So this is kind of taking that chunk of money for sweepings and turning it back into our budget process for the next year so we get to keep all of our money and it's not going to outside agencies that don't really need it and also gives us more money and the following budgets to give more to agencies more bureaus more to everything else because we'll have more of that money. The rest of this bill is kind of just striking the word sweepings from everywhere else so it'll end up being an omnibus on the floor because it's touching like a bunch of different statutes but other than that more than happy to answer any questions.
    - Yields with 1:56
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - N/A
  - **Brown moves to enter round-table discussion; Vargheese seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - N/A
  - **Brown moves to pass by unanimous consent**
  - **RESULT: BILL #55 <mark>(PASSES BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT)</mark>**
- **Resolution #42 - Sponsored by Goldstein**
  - Opening Statement:
    - Goldstein: Hi guys so this is kind of a quick fix to move those agency transfer bills onto the consent calendar so we can kind of bypass that really elongated process of doing pro con debate doing all that stuff for stuff that's gonna end up getting passed regardless. I don't think there's been a single agency transfer bill failed since even before the 72nd senate so it's been almost six years that I can even go back and there's been nothing that has failed so if we green light it anyways, we might as well just put it on the consent calendar so we don't have to do a whole round of debate and asking questions that were already asked in committee. So this is allowing it so it only specifies stuff from Senate projects to not be placed in the consent calendar but any other transfer funds can be placed on the consent calendar so that's kind of all that does if there's any questions more than happy to answer but it's pretty simple so I yield
  - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
    - N/A
  - **Patel moves to enter round-table discussion; Vargheese seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - N/A
  - **Brown moves to pass by unanimous consent**

- ■
  - ○ **RESULT: RESOLUTION #42 <mark>(Passes By Unanimous Consent)</mark>**

Unfinished Business:
- N/A

Closing Announcements:
- Salazar: Great first meeting if you guys have any questions about anything that we went over today like anything like when it was like processes or anything like that. Maybe I could do better as chair or maybe vice chair Rodriguez can do better as vice chair, just let us know and then that's basically it. I believe our next meeting will be next Monday because next Wednesday is our last Senate meeting of this semester and then we're all out of here so yeah just one more meeting. Thank you guys for showing up I appreciate the engagement here and there especially from those newer senators keep it up! Talking a lot in committee as well as like it's a really good way to just build the courage to start talking a lot when we're on the Senate floor on Wednesday nights so I do highly encourage it. Vice chair Rodriguez, do you have anything to add?
- Rodriguez: Great first meeting! Again, like Chair Salazar mentioned, if you have any questions at all about anything that was talked about today, please feel free to let us know and reach out! We wanna make sure that you know what's going on so please let us know.
- Salazar: Ok, does any other senator have anything they'd want to say? No? Well, in that case we will see you on Wendesday for Senate and next Monday for our next meeting at 4 pm. Take care, guys!

Next Meeting: Next Monday @4

Adjourned: 4:40pm

Signature of Chair Salazar