



76th Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
1.23.24 | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94124739530>

Call to Order: 4:33

Members Present: Senator(s) Carr, Gomez, Hine, Kubiak, Lalani, Vice Chair Larancuent, Nguyen, Pareja, Chair Windlan

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Senator(s) Grant (E), Pu (U), Waller (E)

Guests: Jonus Goldstein, Ella Garcia, Ashton Benjamin, August Kessler

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:

- We will hear candidate Jalisa McEntyre: D&I Institute, Director at our next meeting (1/30/24).
- Today we will be updating our committee Rules of Procedure.

Committee Business:

- August Kessler: Pride Student Union Assistant Director
- Ashton Benjamin: D&I Institute Assistant Director
- Bill #8

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- **Candidate for Confirmation: August Kessler: Pride Student Union Assistant Director**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Kessler: Good Evening my name is August Kessler and I use he/him pronouns. Im a sophomore at Florida State pursuing a major in English, history, and sociology. I am here today seeking to be confirmed

as the Pride Student Union Assistant director for the 2024 Spring Semester. Since arriving at Florida State I have been able to pursue passions in tangible ways that have allowed me to grow and strengthen my abilities. My experiences with the Pride student union have encouraged the growth and within my position I hope to encourage growth in others across campus. Although I have not been previously on board for Pride I have worked with the organization in the past and have gained new ways on campus that have prepared me to take on this role. Since arriving at Florida State, I have involved myself with the Askew Student Cinema. As both a student and employee. My position at the ASLC gives me the opportunity to lead others respectfully, problem solve effectively and communicate with my coworkers to ensure there is a safe and productive work environment. I believe these skills work well in my position as assistant director. Being a member of the LGBTQ+ community since my early teen years has provided me many opportunities to enact and curate safe community spaces. I think a major tenant of the community is connection and I hope to use my position to help facilitate that connection with allies on campus and within LGBTQ+ communities on Florida state campus have prepared me to take on the role of Assistant Director. I will work diligently to maintain my abilities. Thank you for your time!!

○ Round of Questioning:

- Vice Chair Larancuent: So, you said in your application you wanted to create a difference regarding the LGBTQ+ community and I was wondering if you could expand on how you plan on implementing within this role?
 - Candidate Kessler: One of the roles as Assistant Director of the Pride Student Union is PrideU. I hope to use that to my advantage to create better education spaces where we can facilitate conversations both within pride and to the surrounding Florida state community.
- Senator Lalani: What do you think will be the biggest challenge you will face in trying to accomplish that within the Pride Student Union?
 - Candidate Kessler: I think that there is definite pushback against LGBTQ+ identities and I think that is a large issue on creating community on campus but I think it is very important to do so.
- Senator Gomez: With D&I classes being under threat of potential policies being put into play, how do you plan on dealing with this. And ensuring that FSU can provide a place that fosters diversity
 - Candidate Kessler: Even with the elimination of D&I the population of FSU does not change if things go away. I think we should definitely facilitate those communities where we can. I can't give specific ways to do that but I think that continuing to be a visible member of the LGBTQ+ community and using my position both as Pride student Union and just as a queer person on campus

Senator Kubiak moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Gomez seconds

○ Round-Table Discussion:

- Vice Chair Larancuent: I think this candidate has showed us how passionate they are about this subject in particular and their role and how they plan to use this passion and just use it in a productive way that will help a lot of people who are miseducated and with that I think this candidate is a great candidate

- Senator Gomez: I think this candidate is a good fit. I think he wants to do his job. He answered the question which was pretty difficult to answer and I see he wants to promote diversity and yeah.

Senator Hine moves to forward the candidate; Senator Lalani seconds

- Closing statement:
 - Candidate: I just want to thank you all for the opportunity for letting me speak before you. I appreciate your consideration. I will continue to work hard in order to make Florida States campus safe and accepting for every community we have
- Vote:
 - Yes: [8] Carr, Gomez, Hine, Kubiak, Lalani, Vice Chair Larancuent, Nguyen, Pareja
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE KESSLER PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Ashton Benjamin: D&I Institute Assistant Director**
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Benjamin: Hi, my name is Ashton Benjamin and I am honored to be considered for the position of D & I Institute Assistant Director. I am a senior studying business management and minoring in commercial entrepreneurship. I wish to become an e-board in the diversity institute because diversity is a very large part as to why the campus is the way it is today. So as we all know being located on the ancestral grounds of the Seminole tribe of Florida. I think it is very important we keep diversity as the focal point of campus. I really wish to promote that as new Assistant Director. As CDU entertainment coordinator. I plan on enriching entertaining events that help to educate students on multiple topics through things such as lectures, comedy shows, regular entertainment shows etc. I plan on bringing these events to the D&I institute and plan on collaborating with different student unions like Women's Student Union, BSU, JSU, and that's something I would like to do biweekly and to keep diversity a main focus on campus and to really promote as to why it's such an integral point on campus. I really hope to do this during April which is diversity month and to continue pushing that education both of why I want to do events. Bringing in different speakers from different industries that highlight diversity. For example, our president who focuses on education and politics. I would like to do that in different way. Collaborating with SAA on these events. Maybe even doing a diversity campaign by fundraising and making sure it's getting its necessary funding.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Gomez: What do you think is the biggest obstacle is in FSU the recent bill that was passed?
 - Candidate Benjamin: The diversity bill halting diversity from being promoted on campus. It allows student to believe that bigotry is possible on campus and should be allowed. Prevents teachers and students from educating on specific topics that are important to them. I really believe this is a very integral part of campus because we need to keep diversity important.
 - Senator Kubiak: You mentioned in your application you're heavily involved with Club Down Under, the Student Alumni Association, and

homecoming live, so with all those other involvements as well as being a student how you plan on prioritizing time for this role into all of those?

- **Candidate Benjamin:** I was on homecoming council last year so I am no longer a part of homecoming and I was also previously on SAA and decided to continue focusing on CDU since that is the main involvement I do on campus. I absolutely love it because I get to plan events on campus with a large variety of different types of events. Since that is my main focus right now as a senior at FSU. I believe that adding Diversity Institute Assistant Director won't be an issue since I can dedicate time to both instead of having multiple heavy involvements. I made sure to stop doing those so I can focus on these 2.

- **Senator Nguyen moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Lalani seconds**

- Round-Table Discussion:

- Senator Hine: So, I actually know this candidate very well and I can promise you he is very experienced in FSU and every organization that he has been a part of he has dedicated a lot of time and energy. Every event he has ever put on has been amazing. I absolutely believe he will thrive in this role.
- Senator Gomez: I also think this is a fantastic candidate. I love his answers to my question and it really opened my eyes and made me realize that this is a big issue and can lead into even more bigotry so.
- Vice Chair Larancuent: Yeah, just echoing what the last two senators said, this candidate answered all my questions before I could even ask them and he seems very prepared for this role so they definitely have my vote and I think this candidate is great.

- **Senator Nguyen moves to forward the candidate; Senator Gomez seconds**

- Closing statement:

- Candidate Benjamin: Thank you to everyone for the kind words and even considering me and allowing me to speak in front of you today. Thank you all so much

- Vote:

- Yes: [8] Carr, Gomez, Hine, Kubiak, Lalani, Vice Chair Larancuent, Nguyen, Pareja
- No: [0]
- Abstain:[0]

- **RESULT: CANDIDATE BENJAMIN PASSES**

- **Bill #8: Sponsored by Senator Garcia**

- Opening Statement:

- Senator Garcia: Hey everyone, so one of the biggest questions I get from people is what I do in SGA. I think that a big issue is that people don't know what we're going to do before we do it. Like they don't know what bills were going to discuss unless you have a friend or a close connection you may not be aware of the legislation we are debating on that day. If that is something important to you, you don't have the advance notice to be able to schedule yourself accordingly so you can show up to these meetings. So, what this bill does is that it basically publishes the legislative agenda. Which is the agenda us senators receive in advance and my thinking is that if we receive it in advance the public should as

well. I work within the capitol and one of the biggest things with committees is that they publish that agenda in advance so that people can prepare to go to these meetings. Hopefully to increase transparency and have people show up.

- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Gomez: I just have a question on when in advance this would be posted like is it a week ahead before
 - Senator Garcia: Yeah, so I put 24 hours in advance but I put “or in accordance with when it is received by Student senate. I know we don’t always receive our agendas in advance so I would be open to a different interpretation. I feel as if 24 hours is a good amount of time so that the senate clerk is still able to fulfill their responsibilities and it doesn’t put too much strain on them. It gives people enough time for people to plan around that
- **Vice Chair Larancuent moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Lalani seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Hine: I think this bill is a great idea. I mean we have that portion in the Senate meetings for public comment, but nobody is usually there because they don’t know what we’re talking about. So, I think this is our opportunity for them to know what we’re talking about in the meetings.
 - Senator Lalani: Yeah, I personally agree with what the previous senator said. We always talk about how Senate needs to be transparent just in general or with SGA as a whole. I think this is a greater step in doing that. There isn’t any problem in letting the public know what’s on our agenda or what’s coming up and I think it will be great to have more communication on that end
 - Senator Gomez: I think this is a great way to facilitate communication with the student body and think this is the perfect place to do that.
 - Closing statement:
 - Senator Garcia: Yeah, like y’all said I hope this will improve senate transparency. Not everyone knows what’s going on with us and this will engage people. I hope you guys pass it
- **Senator Hine moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Kubiak seconds**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [8] Carr, Gomez, Hine, Kubiak, Lalani, Vice Chair Larancuent, Nguyen, Pareja
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: BILL 8 PASSES**
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- **Vice Chair Larancuent moves to amend Internal Affairs Rules of Procedure; Senator Lalani seconds**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [8] Carr, Gomez, Hine, Kubiak, Lalani, Vice Chair Larancuent, Nguyen, Pareja
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: SECTION 2 AND 3 ARE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS**
 - **Section II:**

B. Unless a different date and time are set by the Chair pursuant to section (A) of this rule, committee meetings shall be held at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesdays during the regular session of the Student Senate. This shall be considered the regular meeting time at which committee business will be completed.

H. The chair or the presiding officer over the committee shall entertain a motion to update the rules of procedure every semester.

- Section III:

B. 3. Any Senator(s) present who are not committee members may ask any additional questions not previously directed to the candidate by the committee, if a committee member entertains a motion to allow a non-member to speak.

Unfinished Business:

- None.

Closing Announcements:

- None.

Next Meeting: 1/30/24 4:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 5:07 pm

Signature of Chair Windlan:

Ella Windlan