



76th Student Senate Judiciary Committee

4/15/2024 | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93210879453>

Call to Order: 4:32PM

Members Present: Chair Srivastava, Vice Chair Lansdale, Senator(s) Souvenir, Emokidi, Smith, Atwood, Foy, Connell, Holliday

Members Absent: Senator(s) Anandjwala, Randall, Bañez, Mani, Pierre Mendoza-Paredes, Cruz

Land Acknowledgement:

Chair Srivastava: 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 pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to their descendants and to all Indigenous people. We recognize this land remains scarred by the histories and ongoing legacies of settler colonial violence, dispossession, and removal. In spite of all this, and with tremendous resilience, these Indigenous Nations have remained deeply connected to this territory, to their families, to their communities, and to their cultural ways of life. We recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land and 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:

- None

Committee Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Senate Bill #48 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein, Lalani, (P) Lento, Salazar, Srivastava (Co)**
- **Senate Bill #50 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Ahuja, Srivastava (P)**
- **Senate Bill #51 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein (P)**
- **Senate Bill #52 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein (P)**

- **Senate Bill #54 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein, Gorelick, (P)**
- **Senate Bill #55 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Cofer, Goldstein, (P) Gorelick (Co):**

- **Senate Bill #48 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein, Lalani, (P) Lento, Salazar, Srivastava (Co)**

- Opening Statement:

- **Senator Goldstein:** Hi guys. So the easiest way I can pitch this to you is gonna be based on the idea of it being kind of an SGA savings account. So currently, we don't really have any savings account we're saving function within student government that does not have control by administration. So it's it's kind of establishing an account that allows us to kind of save for the long term things that we want to do in the future from a five year or 10 year plan or even from a three year plan so we have that money already saved if we want to do anything so if we want to build a park put water fountains on Landis start a new agency we know have the money for it, all those types of things that would fall under this. It's giving us kind of a lot of fiscal flexibility in future years. So we have that money set aside. So whenever there's a chance for a senator is like, oh, I want this money to do X, Y, and Z, but we don't have any money in Senate projects. This is where this would kind of fall into perspective or Senate projects just does not have enough money to fund a project like that. And where this is going to get most of its money from is every single fiscal year 0.25%. So a quarter of a percentage point of the SGA is annual budget will be allocated this through the budget process to the Budget Committee, which that comes out to approximately around \$30,000 a year. To start off the account, I already met with Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs, and she's willing to give us \$100,000 To kind of jumpstart the account here was like a down payment for it. So we'll have that starting. And then we'll kind of every single year past that, we'll get more money for it. So two years from now, we'll have 160k in it, three, three years from now and almost 200,000 in it. So kind of a progressive savings account. And then after this passes, I'm gonna continue to explore options with the student body treasurer and Andy to see if we can eventually make it investment bearing and kind of earn interest on it as well. But that's all I have for that I yield.

- **Senator Lalani:** Just say one thing, just to add on that, that I did that what chair Goldstein said. So just keep in mind, this is a very small percentage of the overall money that we get through that was passed this recent budget deal. So it's always good to have money in a savings account just for a rainy day or for other projects, whatever else we may need. This bill is just essentially encouraging SGA to be proactive, rather than reactive and having something happen. So it's just throwing that money away is just like in case kind of fun. So yeah.

- **Yields with 0:57 remaining**

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

- **Senator Connell:** So this is purely a savings account. Like that's what the purpose of it is. So it will not be touched by any other.

- **Senator Goldstein:** Yes.

- **Senator Lansdale moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Connell seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
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- **Senator Lansdale moves to call the question; Senator Souvenir seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Goldstein:** Unless chair Lalani has anything I yield.
 - **Senator Lalani:** I yield as well. Thank you.
- Senator Lansdale moves to call the question and Senator Foy seconded**
- Vote:
 - Yes: [8] [Vice Chair Lansdale, Senator(s) Souvenir, Emokidi, Smith, Atwood, Foy, Connell, Holliday]
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: Motion to pass Bill #48 [PASSES]**
- **Senate Bill #50 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Ahuja, Srivastava (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Ahuja:** Hi, everyone. Thank you so much for hearing me today. So I'm here to present Bill 50, which I am working on with Chair Srivastava Um, basically what this bill does is that is a statutory revision. So it is going to eliminate Secretary as a major position for agencies and bureaus. So just to give you guys a little background on why I'm doing this, I am currently a member of the of ASU, which is one of the unions for Asian American Student Union. And while serving on their board for the past year, I just noticed some things. And speaking with as our secretary, I also noticed that the work that they put in was amazing, and they do a lot of work for our union isn't so much that they don't, that they aren't able to do anything else. And it was really served as a conflict of interest. And I had like heard expression of wanting to like do other things, but because being an ASU, it kind of limited them and they couldn't really explore other things. So that's when I kind of started having having the idea of bringing this bill up. And then I took the time to talk to every agency and interviewing. So talking to JSU, WSU, I got their feedback and a lot of people in were actually working in those agency spaces felt a very similar way. That being Secretary while it was something they were really passionate about wasn't so time limiting that they weren't really able to do anything else. Um, so that's when I kind of started to put forward this bill. To tell you guys what we've done what both arms chairs Russell has not done in this bill, we have gone ahead and talk to every single agency including BSU, H LSU, ASU, JSU, WSU, all the agencies, we've gone forward and talk to them, talk to their director and their secretaries and gotten their opinion on it. And we have got in backing from all of them, they all agree with this bill, and they are all in pro of it. And we also went ahead and talked to all the bureaus as well, and we got a very similar sentiment from them. We've also talked to Anthony Ben's student body vice president and Dr. Turner, the director of SAI, which is what the agencies fall under. And same thing we have gotten a very similar that

they're all behind the bill, they are all interested in it and that they all think that it would be a good thing to have in place. But yeah, if you guys have any questions for me, I'll answer anything specifically if you guys want to know kind of the process of this. Yeah, feel free to ask me questions, but I will give up the rest of my time in closing.

- **Yields with 0:48 remaining**
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - **Senator Holliday moves to amend**
 - **Senator Holliday:** 100.5. A definitions to strike out number four. Yea strike out separate Secretary just the whole thing.
 - **Senator Foy seconds; amendment is adopted**
 - **Senator Connell:** So, I have a question about how removing the Secretary would be beneficial or does having that President hinder anything in any way or is it just for technical reasons?
 - **Senator Ahuja:** So basically, to start a major office really doesn't. The general purpose of it is that doesn't really serve anything other than the fact that you can only have one. So the main purpose of this so like assistant director, director, and treasurer are all major positions. And currently secretary is basically What this does is so that students who are interested in serving in their agency spaces, because Secretary isn't enough, isn't so much work that they wouldn't be able to do something like SGA or Oga, or the President's like, cabinet and all that stuff. This gives those students the opportunity to look into other leadership options on campus, if they are interested in it, because right now, the definition of Secretary being a major office is kind of limiting since that, since that they can't really do any other type of lead major leadership on campus. That's basically what this is. Um, I don't know if I answered the full part of your question. If you don't mind restating it. I'm sorry.
 - **Senator Connell:** Oh, yes, you did answer my question. Thank you.
- **Senator Lansdale moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Emokidi seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Senator Foy:** I totally support this. I feel like Secretary though it is like a really important position. I don't think it's important enough to hinder students from exploring other leadership functions. So I am in favor.
 - **Senator Connell:** I speak in favor as well, because I could see the involvement of these organizations that do not allow students to pursue other leadership roles, if they do have one of the positions to go down unless we enact something like this. So I speak in Pro
- **Senator Lansdale moves to call the question; Senator Foy seconds**
- Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Goldstein:** Unless chair Lalani has anything I yield.
 - **Senator Lalani:** I yield as well. Thank you.
- **Senator Lansdale moves to call the question and Senator Foy seconded**
- Vote:
 - Yes: [8] [Vice Chair Lansdale, Senator(s) Souvenir, Emokidi, Smith, Atwood, Foy, Connell, Holliday]
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]

- **RESULT: Motion to pass Bill #50 [PASSES]**
- **Senate Bill #52 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Goldstein:** Hey guys this is super quick. I know we have a lot in the agenda. So, I'll just kind of run through this one. All this does is make it so if you get money from the Congress or graduate students, you can't get money from Senate and vice versa. We had a few organizations in the past that were kind of double dipping and taking money from colleagues and Senate, which they're supposed to be two separate fiscal budgets. So, I worked with the speaker Congress to graduate students, he really wanted us to pass so there was no double dipping. But if you guys have any questions about it, more than happy to answer I yield.
 - **Yields with 2:38 remaining**
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
 - **Senator Cruz:** I don't know if this is a dumb question. But could this be overruled by Senate? Could this rule be like overruled?
 - **Senator Goldstein:** You could just pass another statute to change it back. But yeah.
 - **Senator Cruz:** Okay, thank you.
 - **Senator Lansdale moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Holliday seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Senator Lansdale moves to call the question; Senator Smith seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Goldstein:** Thank you guys. Also, if you want the committee to go fast, you guys can just motion to pass by unanimous consent. And then if you don't have to go through the whole voting every single time.

Senator Lansdale moves to call the question and Senator Foy seconded
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [8] [Vice Chair Lansdale, Senator(s) Souvenir, Emokidi, Smith, Atwood, Foy, Connell, Holliday]
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Motion to pass Bill #52 [PASSES]**
- **Senate Bill #53 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Goldstein:** Hello, guys. Hi, again, I still have two more after this. So apologies in advance. This is a quick little change. I talked with Andy and a few other people in Senate about. So we've been adding a lot of these new policies for a lot of those entities like class councils, the exact branch, but we haven't really added a way for us to amend those policies if ever we need to. So this is adding a little section that allows Senate by resolution to amend any policies that are made. And kind of the same bill format, we just write a resolution saying we'd like to amend this policy. And this kind of makes it so Joseph would sign it and then that policy would be amended. It allows us still kind of maintain oversight over these

entities without having to have every single change go to the Senate floor. So there's ever a point in time where we want to update something and we don't have to do all of the logistics of changing it and statutes. We can just do it through here. That's it. I yield

- **Yields with 2:15 remaining**
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
- **Senator Lansdale motions to pass bill by unanimous consent**
- **No objections made to motion**

RESULT: Motion to pass Bill #53 by unanimous consent [PASSES]

- **Senate Bill #54 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein, Gorelick (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Goldstein:** So this is kind of this is in combination with the next bill is kind of redoing the way that sweepings process functions. So it's going to be removing sweepings in combination with Bill 55, which we'll get to after this. And then that money that normally would have been in sweepings, is gonna get allocated to the next year's budget. And then from that money that we're kind of getting in the next year's budget from sweepings, we're now creating this RSO budget Fund, which I'm gonna pitch it to you guys, it's kind of a stable version of sweepings. For those of you don't know what sweepings is, every single account at the end of the year, no matter what is going to get swept like that's how it already happens. It all gets swept in this one big account this past year out of around like \$900,000 in it, so a little under a million dollars. And then that's all reallocated through a sweeping process. But that process is really long and tedious. And it's not really efficient. And it's a lot of undue stress on organization. So reapply again and do a lot of extra legwork to go to a bunch of lead deliberation processes. Because it's kind of condenses that process to happen in the fall. And the Budget Committee will run this process in the fall. So then they'll do the RSO budget fund in the fall and then the normal budget process in the spring. And this allows kind of RSM to have a stable way to get funding every single year, year in year out. And they want us to rely on going to pack and our tack and all that stuff and worrying oh my gosh, our Tech's gonna run out of money. So we need to do this and do go do a bunch of legwork. So it kind of allows them to plan in advance, get their whole budget for the entire year approved on set. And they don't have to worry about kind of mid year trying to see if they can even go on the trips that they want to go on. So it's kind of gives a lot more freedom for our souls to do what they would like to do and not have to worry about the stresses of pack and attack and having to go to pack and are attacked and financed on the Senate floor. This kind of allows them have their own separate budget process. It also creates a nice little feeder ground for ourselves to eventually want to become agencies or bureaus. They can get budgeted for a year or two through this process and then kind of be like, Hey, we got budgeted in the past for the RSO budget fund. Now we kind of really want to get elevated to agency or bureaus data. So it's kind of a nice little pipeline that it creates. And then I also would like an amendment to be creative. So if someone wants to motion to amend, that'd be amazing.
 - **Yields with 1:13 remaining**

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
- **Senator Lansdale motions to pass bill by unanimous consent**
- **No objections made to motion**

RESULT: Motion to pass Bill #54 by unanimous consent [PASSES]

- **Senate Bill #55 - Sponsored by Senator(s): Goldstein, Gorelick (P)**

- Opening Statement:

- **Senator Goldstein:** Hi, guys. So as I talked about earlier, this is kind of getting rid of the old and antiquated sweepings process, making it into a new process where all that money just goes back on the budget. And then the Budget Committee is able to actually truly allocate where they need where they think it needs to go. A lot of the problems with sweepings in the past is campus departments like the College of Fine Arts will come and request money from our sweepings thing, which I talked to the Vice President Student Affairs, Dr. Hecht. And she said, that's not really the intended purpose of ANS funds, and I agree with her. And as function it'd be going to things that directly benefit students. So our Essos agencies bureaus is things that students see that real tangible impact of a lot of those campus departments will ask their dean or their, their head of their department for money, and then they'll say no, and then they'll come to us kind of begging for money from the students because they think the students are going to give it to them. So it's kind of a poor way of doing it. So kind of turning this back into our budget process allows the Budget Committee to only give it to budgeted organizations, and then giving extra money now for the RSO budget fund to exist and operate, and then also kind of giving us even more cash flow to allocate to the campus advancement and development fund for our savings account. So overall, this is going to give us tons of more money to work with without it just going to useless projects that we don't really ever see the benefit of, but I'm more than happy to answer any questions and on the floor. This will be considered an omnibus bill, because if you look under how many student by statutes, it changes, it changes about like 14 different statutes. So it will require a two thirds vote on the floor. But there's just a heads up but I yield any questions you guys can let me know.

- **Yields with 1:37 remaining**

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
- **Senator Atwood motions to pass bill by unanimous consent**
- **No objections made to motion**

RESULT: Motion to pass Bill #55 by unanimous consent [PASSES]

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair Srivastava:** That was a really great meeting everyone thank you all for joining today and I look forward to seeing you all Wednesday. We usually don't have that many

bills but because of inauguration it piled up. I'm glad everyone participated and talked today.

- **Vice Chair Lansdale:** We got through that meeting really fast today normally we don't have that many bills on judiciary, but I think since it was all piled up since inauguration we had more than normal. I look forward to seeing you all Wednesday.

Adjourned: 5:03PM

Geetanjali Srivastava

Signature of Chair [Name]