



## **76<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Student Life Committee**

**March 1st, 2024 at 4:30 PM** | <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4961896428>

**Call to Order:** 4:32PM

**Members Present:** Brown, Blackwell, Castellanos, Kleinmetz, Hair, Khosh, Kleinmetz, Olsen Galvan, Simkins, Stuart

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent:** Daniely, Gutierrez, Syska, Weston

**Guests:** Hine, Goldstein, McEnery

### **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:**

- Few meetings left
- Election season
- Chair & Vice-Chair elections

### **Committee Business:**

- Resolution 27
- Resolution 28
- Resolution 29
- Resolution 30

### **Old Business:**

- Bill 24
- **Resolution 27 - Sponsored by Senator Khosh**

- Opening Statement:
  - **Khosh:** So this resolution is just acknowledging that this year and this February/March is celebrating 200 years of Tallahassee, this resolution kind of mimics the one that was passed in the Senate in the house in the Florida legislature. And this was an idea that OJ had and I'm just championing that for them. So yeah, this resolution just celebrates that and sends a resolution to some Tallahassee state leaders, the mayor, just celebrating 200 years of Tallahassee and the three wonderful, higher education institutions that we have here.

**Brown motions to enter a period of roundtable; Castellanos seconds**

**Castellanos moves to pass by acclimation; Kleinmetz seconds**

- **RESULT: RESOLUTION #27 PASSES**
- **Resolution 28 - Sponsored by Senator Hine**
  - Opening Statement:
    - **Hine:** Hey, guys. So basically, March is National Social Work Month. So I just wrote this resolution to celebrate that and like the work social workers do, the theme of this year's National Social Work Month is empowerment. So like, that's kind of like the theme of this resolution is like Empower social workers. And it also is, at the very bottom, I am encouraging federal and state legislators to pass legislation that supports social work safety and possibly increase pay for social workers because they don't make that much. He doesn't know that. But yeah, that's basically all this resolution is doing. Happy National Social Work Month.

**Kleinmetz motions to enter a period of roundtable discussion; Brown seconds**

- Round-Table Discussion:
  - **Khosh:** I think this is awesome. Senator Hine, I know you do so much with the School of Social Work and that they do a lot for the university. So thanks for bringing this to student life today.
  - **Hellmann:** I really appreciate this. This is like, really awesome to see my mom is a social worker. So this is something that's really cool to see being worked on right now.
- Vote:
  - Yes: [8] [Brown, Hellmann, Castellanos, Stuart, Kleinmetz, Hair, Olsen Galvan]
  - No: [0]
- **RESULT: RESOLUTION #28 PASSES**
- **Resolution 29 - Sponsored by Senator Castellanos**
  - Opening Statement:
    - **Castellanos:** I just want to start by saying Happy Women's History Month to us. And this resolution advocates for the reinstatement of the Black Lives Matter mural in Tallahassee, and mirrors that page as a powerful symbol of unity, diversity and equity. This mural is a vivid expression of

the ongoing fight against racial injustice and a celebration of the diversity within our communities. And it has played a crucial role in fostering dialogue and promoting positive change. With this resolution, I just want to emphasize the significance of bringing back the mural, while also acknowledging that like all lives matter, I just don't want to leave it as black lives matter. But I do want to bring this back just to let you know, because black people have gone through history and a lot of things. So I just want to emphasize that all lives do matter. But, you know, I want to bring the Black Lives Matter movement back. Thank you.

### **Kleinmetz moves to enter general questioning; Blackwell seconds**

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
  - **Brown:** Forgive me for not knowing but was this like a painted mural at the intersection?
  - **Castellanos:** There were two women from the City of Tallahassee that had the idea. So they came up with the design, and then they sent it to the city commissioners in which it went through the process of getting, you know, painted on the street.
  - **Brown:** Is this no longer painted there anymore? Like was it painted over?
  - **Castellanos:** It was established in 2020. But I guess through overtime, it has just worn off. And they haven't repainted it again. So is this still like, is there but not there? In a way? It's just faded off?
  - **Brown:** Have you talked to anybody who possibly would be in charge of doing something like that and repainting it over?
  - **Castellanos:** So um, I did speak with pro temp and our advisor, Andy, and they told me like, this will be like a long, you know, step. So the first thing I have to do is pass a resolution and if this does pass, then I have to contact these people directly.
  
- **Kleinmetz moves to enter round-table discussion; Brown seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
  - **Brown:** I think this is a great resolution and has a lot of potential to do something good and valuable within our community. So I like it a lot. Good job sponsor.
  
- **Kleinmetz moves to pass the resolution by acclimation; Brown seconds**
  
- **RESULT: RESOLUTION #29 PASSES BY ACCLIMATION**
  
- **Resolution 30 - Sponsored by Senator Khosh**
  - Opening Statement:
    - **Khosh:** This is a very special resolution to me. It doesn't have any co sponsors on it. Because to be honest, I was a little nervous to reach out to people about it. So I decided it would just be me, but like, that's always amenable if like anyone feels super strongly about it, but like, that doesn't really bother me. I was just saying why I don't have any. So for those of you who know or don't know, I am Iranian. My parents are from Iran. And growing up, I would go back and forth between here in Iran. I speak

English and Farsi. And it's a big part of my identity and who I am. Um, growing up, I felt like I had to, like hide that. And honestly, my parents kind of told me and my sister to just for safety, they were worried about us. Going through middle school and elementary school, I got a lot of comments from people that would like to call me a terrorist, if I ever tried to express where I was from. So for a period in elementary school and middle school, I pretended that I was Christian. And that I was like white, and I even bought a cross from Claire's and would like to wear it. Now realizing that that's like, disrespectful, but I was so scared to like, just be who I was, because of what I would hear from other people that I was like, literally pretending to be someone I wasn't. So now like through high school, and in college, I've tried to, like, celebrate that part of myself and just, you know, realize that there are always going to be people like that, and that I can't just hide who I am for that sake. So the month of March is Persian New Year. It always lands on a different day in March, but March is just like a very historical month for Persia and Iran. Iran is one of the oldest countries in the world. So it's over 3000 years old. It was like one of the first countries ever. And all of my family lives there. I don't have any family here besides my parents and my sister. So that's why we did a lot of traveling back and forth. But yeah, there aren't a ton of Iranian students on campus in general, and those that are there, you know, are not frequently celebrated or have any spaces that they can really join. You know, when I came to Florida, I saw all the awesome agency spaces we have, and I don't really feel like I fit into any one of them besides the Women's Student Union, of course. And that's not a diss on our university in any way. But I just want to, you know, recognize Iranian students, Middle Eastern students, even because it's really hard as a Middle Eastern person sometimes because people will, like, think you're white, and you'll like, feel like you're supposed to like to play into that but it's just really hard. Sometimes, and a person like me who's, like, involved in leadership roles. I just feel like I'm representing such a large group of people that I, you know, I'm usually the only person who's Middle Eastern or Iranian in the room. So this resolution is just celebrating that, and celebrating those students on our campus. And working towards a future where less people feel like I do and opening up that space for more students.

- **Castellanos moves to enter round-table discussion; Brown seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
  - **Castellanos:** I really like this resolution. And I feel like this is something really serious for you. And I like that. I also understand where you're coming from, like, there aren't many Armenian students, as you mentioned, but I'm kind of glad that you're, you know, just up there doing it for them. So I like this resolution.
  - **Simkins:** I think this bill is or this resolution is super cool. I didn't know the Persian New Year was during March. That's like, really awesome. I think we should 100% go ahead and recognize that because I think that also helps our outreach towards Persian students on campus and potential version students and Iranian students that want to come to FSU as well.

- **Olsen Galvan:** I just commend you on being really brave and like sharing how difficult it has been growing up.
  - **Hair moves to pass by acclimation; Brown seconds**
  - **RESULT: RESOLUTION 30 PASSES**
- **Bill 30 - Sponsored by Senator Goldstein**
  - Opening Statement:
    - **Goldstein:** So in short, the campus called Polls Commission will kind of be there to evaluate the like pulling questions for the student body at the end of every single election ballot. Right now, they're just four generic questions that are kind of like a 90% Approved 10% disapprove split, that they've been like that for the past like five years like it has not changed. So I spoke with Andy, our advisor to try to figure out a better way to gain insight on the student body and how SGA can improve, and then also new ways to poll the student body that other campus departments can utilize. So that was the context behind creating this. It'll be a personal commission that will mainly be elected officials, like senators, members of the executive branch, someone from OGA. And then the supervisor of elections will chair it and their entire goal is to pretty much come up with questions that are more pertaining to the student body.
    - **Castellanos moves to enter general questioning; Brown seconds**
  - General Questioning:
    - **Brown:** Is it the student body president who appoints the people to the commission?
    - **Goldstein:** Yes.
    - **Brown:** And you've spoken to the student body president about it as well?
    - **Goldstein:** He was sick during the time I met with him, but I met with his designee that deals with his commissions, Jackson Boivert, and he was favorable of it.
    - **Blackwell:** I'm not sure if it's in the bill, but who currently besides these like polling questions right now? Is there some kind of condition as it is?
    - **Goldstein:** No one. They're just set up as four basic questions, and if there's any additional questions that need to be added, it requires 1000 Students signatures to be added to the election ballot, which is kind of a tedious process, that would be the kind of avoided so students don't have to put up like 1000 signatures every single time they want to add a question. The Senate can change this on a regular basis, have this Commissioner been formed to be able to do stuff like this.
    - **Khosh:** Point of information, the executive branch added like five questions, the ballot that people will be seeing on Wednesday, and they only needed 200 signatures from the student body to do so. So Senator Goldstein, have you talked to them about this bill and see how they feel about it after they went through that process?
    - **Goldstein:** I met with Jack Falwell and I met with Spencer Greenwood, who's the Supervisor of Election s. And they both said, I actually had Jack Falwell read over this bill. He's the current policy director for the executive

branch. And he said, This is a great idea. So they don't have to go through a tedious process like this again, sorry, with the 1000 number. I just remember sponsor telling me 1000, but it could have been 200 per question.

- **Khosh:** These three designees from the student senate, do you feel like this is going to be something that may take up a lot of a senator's time?
  - **Goldstein:** No, it will be a total of about 2-3 meetings.
  - **Brown:** just to clarify, 100%,, this is just creating questions? It's not like looking over the questions and like looking for responses and trying to figure out something from those responses? It's simply creating questions.
  - **Goldstein:** Yes, the entire job of evaluating the results of the ballot is the Supervisor of Elections.
  - **Khosh:** And I see that the Senate has to approve the questions by two thirds vote?
  - **Goldstein:** Yeah, that's just in compliance to how it already says in the Constitution that if anything, needs to be added to the ballot that the student body hasn't done by petition, like what the exact branch had orchestrated, that it has to be done by like Senate to the Senate has to approve it.
  - **Khosh:** And I see you're striking these questions down here. So does that mean that this commission plans on taking these questions off the ballot and replacing them?
  - **Goldstein:** Yeah, so it'll have that one generic question the very beginning, just so there's always a standard question no matter what. But just so there aren't like 17 questions on the election ballot, those three other constant ones that have not provided very, like fruitful results, according to Andy and Spencer, they wouldn't be able to be replaced by like, they just wouldn't be on there anymore. And the commission would be responsible for every semester coming up with like three to four questions to replace those. But the commission could make as many or as little as they want, depending on the topics of the semester, it's kind of up to SGA as a whole on what they want to do. It also just makes it so students don't have to answer questions that aren't really pulling accurate information. Because as I talked to Andy, the past five years, there hasn't been any change in the numbers, but a 90/10 split for every single election. So there's not really a point in continuing that up for questions that they all answer on the exact same.
- **Hair moves to enter round-table discussion; Brown seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - **Blackwell:** I think this is awesome. I really do think that it just provides more transparency and allows people from all different sectors and agencies of student government, a say in you know, different policies and and what goes on and like just really pulling the student body. I think That's a really good point what Goldstein was saying, what hat the author is saying with you now it's a 90/10 split. What's the point of doing these if we're not going to get new data just see the same things over and over again with the same questions. I think it really depends on a yearly basis so we should be getting fresh questions. We should be getting people that

you actually like from all different corners of SGA that can ask you so I think this is great. Thank you.

- **Brown:** Going off what the previous senator stated, this bill is really well thought through. It really does provide the transparency aspect and this is what is best for the student body.
- **Brown moves to call the question; Blackwell seconds**
- Vote:
  - Yes: [7] [Brown, Castellanos, Hellmann, Stuart, Hair, Olsen Galvan, Simkins]
  - No: [ (vote count) ] [voter names]
  - Abstain: [ (vote count) ] [voter names]
- **RESULT: BILL 30 PASSES**

### Unfinished Business:

- **Bill 24 - Sponsored by Senator McEnery**
  - Opening Statement:
    - **McEnery:** So essentially, this is a project Ive been working on with transportation services for a while now unfortunately. It isnt exactly what I went into meet with them to do but this is the best solution we have. So essentially right now the only way to see the bus/bus schedules is to either look it up online or use the Translock app. This app is super glitchy, it takes forever to load. So I want to come up with a way to make it easier, because a lot of people also don't realize that the app exists or where to find the bus routes. So I came up with this solution to get sticker QR codes that will say "Bus Map" on them that we can attach to already existing bus signs, that way people will realize this is where the bus maps are, this is where I can see the routes. Im hoping over time we can work towards a more permanent resolution, but this is just to establish some precedent saying that this is a problem so future senators can continue the work.
    - **Castellanos moves to enter general questioning; Brown seconds**
  - General Questioning:
    - **Brown:** So the number you are requesting from senate projects will fund enough stickers for every bus stop?
    - **McEnery:** Yes, both on campus and off campus.
  - **Hellmann moves to enter round-table discussion; Hair seconds**
  - Round-Table Discussion:
    - **Hellmann:** I think this is a really good idea. I haven't taken the bus before but I have friends that have, and they said the app just does not work. I think this is such a great idea.
    - **Simkins:** This is great. As an engineering senator, the engineering campus is just so far away from campus. There's a lot of students who don't have cars and are forced to take the bus there. I have a lot of friends and classmates who just straight up don't go to class because if they miss the bus or they don't know the schedule. So having this will help them actually get to class and plan their schedules better.

- **Olsen Galvan:** I just want to commend the senator because I know she's put in a lot of work, and I know it's not the end result she wanted but it's what we need.
- **Castellanos moves to pass by acclimation; Olsen Galvan seconds**
- **RESULT: BILL 24 PASSES**

**Closing Announcements:**

- **Here for you all!**

**Next Meeting: 3.9.2024**

**Adjourned: 5:07PM**

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**Signature of Chair [Name]**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yasmin Nash", written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.