



**72nd Student Senate
Finance Committee Agenda
June 16th, 2020 | Zoom, Meeting ID: 95127438790**

Call to Order: 6:03 PM

Members Present: Adamyk, Bogle, England, Gnanam (left early for class), Mougey, Porter and Wang

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Pierce (non-excused)

Guests: Senator (non-standing) Sojos

Approval of the minutes: June 2nd, 2020.

- Approval of Minutes from the June 2nd, 2020 Student Senate Finance Committee
 - Senator Porter moves to approve the minutes, Senator England seconds. With no objections, **the minutes are approved.**

Announcements:

- Senator Gnanam: Senator Martin and I are working on an inclusion training, keep an eye out for it, look out for it at the end of the week.
- Senator Sojos: I wish to talk about the 3 bills I sent to the chair in an email.

Committee Business:

Old Business:

- **Bill 39 Sponsored by Senators Leckie and Sojos**
 - Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 807.6K regarding funding board budgets in the fall.
 - Senator England moves to table, Senator Porter seconds, no objections.
 - **Bill tabled in Committee Until first meeting of Fall semester, 2.25, 3.10, 3.31, 4.14, 6.02, 6.17**
- **Bill 57 Sponsored by Senator Sojos and Adamyk**
 - Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 807.6 clarifying advertising regarding RSOs.
 - Adamyk Removes himself as a sponsor from bill
 - Senator Porter moves to table, seconded by Senator Wang, no objections.
 - **Bill tabled in Committee Until Fall, 3.10, 3.31, 4.14, 6.02, 6.17**
- **Bill 58 Sponsored by Senator Sojos**
 - Amending Student Body Statutes Chapter 807.6G clarifying funding to organizations.
 - Senator England moves to table, seconded by Senator Porter, no objections.
 - **Bill tabled in Committee Until Fall, 3.10, 3.31, 4.14, 6.02, 6.17**

New Business:

- No new Bills



- **Round table discussion about potential legislation:**
 - Senator England moves to have a roundtable discussion about potential legislation. Senator Gnanam seconds. No objections, **So Moved.**
 - **Discussions of Bill 39**
 - Chair Adamyk: Since Senator Sojos is here tonight, let's discuss with him about the bills he has that are tabled, starting with Bill 39. Chair Adamyk reads the bill.
 - Senator Mougey: This concerned me when it was passed.
 - Senator England moves for a non-senator to speak, Gnanam seconds, no objections, **So Moved.**
 - Senator Sojos: The reason I wrote this bill is because in the statutes, RTAC and PAC are exempt from budget, but this is saying you can't spend more than 50% of the budget than is allocated for you in one semester. Usually there's more requests in the spring semester, it's better that PAC and RTAC chairs are trusted to not go overbudget. It's not always good to get rid of it but it is better than nothing. I think that for this bill I will leave it tabled until we can come up with a solution to overspending.
 - Senator England: I am ok with this bill. One thing I didn't like was this technically wasn't a violation. We have this problem of overspending, the question is whether or not this statute needs to be put in place, but is this the right way to go about it? It puts us at square one, not a fan of 50% thing, but there has to be something else. I am ok with passing this; however, I would want to see something replacing it with.
 - Senator Sojos: To fix this, I wrote other bills to prevent overspending, As RTAC liaison I would go to meetings and see over allocation, groups given more money than was requested. If we ask for 4 people to a room, but can't do cost per head, it's hypocritical.
 - Senator Mougey: If 50% is the limit in fall and spring, putting that cap on it will not show if they had enough money that year. It won't give a fair representation of when money was spent and when it ran out during the semester.
 - Senator England: Firstly, it is a fact that spring is more popular a semester in fall, more trips, more events. When this 50% was picked it was arbitrarily picked, but I don't think enough thought was put into it. The money is not spent 50/50, whether it should be is another question. I think that because this semester got nuked, there's a lot of leftover money being swept. PAC and RTAC got a top up from central reserves after spring break, but never received it due to coronavirus. There's a lot of money being swept. When sweepings [committee] rolls around, I'm hopeful we can secure some of that money.
 - Senator Gnanam: To my knowledge, not much money from RTAC was swept due to cancellation fees. There was a lot of payouts on SGA's end. A lot of PAC money was swept, there's not as much PAC money as we think, because close to \$10,000 got swept from PAC.



- Senator Sojos: In the fall, I doubt there'll be trips, and what if trips are only allowed in the spring? The 50% won't make sense, I will be willing to work on ways to give this money back to the students.
- Senator England: I agree, Greek life and student orgs will start back up in a controlled manner, this could actually pose a lot of trouble. I agree with Sojos, there won't be much spent this fall. This means we can use this money in the spring, this statute to be repealed is in the way about this
- Chair Adamyk: All unspent funds in the fall can be spent in the spring.
- Senator Sojos: My point is that if we want to give it all away, we can't until spring, we can only touch half the money.
- Senator Gnanam: Theoretically, yeah, we couldn't touch RTAC. We could write a bill transferring money from RTAC to senate projects, something can be worked out.
- Senator Sojos: I agree, some projects from senate that can benefit students can be done maybe COVID relief.
- Senator Porter: I agree with this bill, but to me it speaks to a deeper issue of funding boards having their budgets strangled. It's a cultural issue. These funding boards are the way for students to tap into SGA resources, every time we take money out of funding boards for senate projects or paid positions. It's a problem of priorities. This will be a problem until we realize that students should get what they say they want.
- Senator England: Bold suggestion, looking at the draft strategy sent to board of governors, we can use SGA money for PPE (personal protective equipment) from PAC and RTAC that was budgeted for Fall and doing a joint project with exec projects, ask if they want to collaborate. Together both branches can donate toward the university buying PPE.
- Senator Porter: On spending with corona, we need to focus more long term. Corona won't be an issue hopefully in a year or two, we don't need to just look at short term. On the other hand, SGA shouldn't be spending money on something that is the university's responsibility, this money should be going toward extracurriculars
- Senator England: We as SGA have an obligation to students. It is FSU's responsibility, but maybe some things had to be scrapped to provide PPE. The money we put towards it will go towards student and will affect them. Money for masks for people to go to school, we didn't think we'd be here but here we are. We have an obligation to support.
- Senator Sojos: Maybe the money can be for defibrillators around campus, something like that.
- Senator Porter: Nothing came of previous efforts to do that.
- Chair Adamyk: Doesn't EMS carry defibs?
- Senator Porter: Yes, they have portable ones.
- Senator Gnanam: As a note, all of us are in the mindset to work for the students efficiently. As PAC chair I am looking for this money will affect students long term. A project that was being worked on had to do with more online licensing, which affects inequality issues. I think there are a lot of good senators on this call are wanting to spend this well.
- Chair Adamyk: Discussion is always helpful, each of us have our own ideas, any discussion that could lead to legislation is good.



- **Next bill 57 is discussed.**
 - Chair Adamyk: This one was debated for a bit, had to table it due to an issue of interpretation that we felt needed more discussion.
 - Senator Sojos: The reason why we wrote this was because RTAC had a lot of people having trips with 100 people and asking for \$10,000, they'd advertise after, RTAC would ask, how do you know it's a 100 people? The 100 was only an estimate, wasn't sure the 10,000 was for 100 people. Advertisement is helpful for them and for us.
 - Senator England: I was not paying attention
 - Senator Sojos: Repeats himself, we think you should advertise before you come to us so we're not just giving money away if the amount they estimated was incorrect.
 - Senator England: If they advertise which may actually cost some money, plus putting up flyers, what if they don't get the funding? Then they'd have to advertise again that the event is cancelled. It's not enough of a reason to not support this, but I think this is a good idea. At the same time, I'm worried about what if they come, RTAC doesn't fund them, then what happens?
 - Senator Sojos: We should loosen up a little on our definition on advertising, have more freedom for that, if a group is short on money they can use social media to advertising, RTAC wouldn't have ever paid for advertising, even if we gave them the money or not
 - Senator England: If this passes, we need to get this into the RSO 101 finance training, "hey you can spend your own money on flyers, but that doesn't guarantee you SGA money." We need to make people aware of this, people won't see this.
 - Senator Sojos: I know that that's something KP (Senator Gnanam) was worried about, making it clear. Me and her will work together to work with RSOs to make sure people are educated.
 - Senator England: RSO finance training workshops were helped out by former PAC chair, that would be a good opportunity to advertise statutes. This will only work if people know about this.
 - Senator Gnanam: I think another important thing in this bill, this is something that caused me massive emotional trauma, this mostly came into issue with Turning Point USA. Because there was an issue with flyers. Making sure that they're advertising that the SGA is credited for funding them. You come into this place where there's thousand of flyers, but none said paid by SGA, it's a grey area.
 - Senator Sojos: Maybe a good solution is emphasizing that the flyer option is not needed, social media and other methods can be used, this can be done in the workshops. For a lot of these groups bringing in speakers but there's Golden Tribe lecture series, but I never hear that they get much input from students. We could unite with them and work together with them. It's not always what all students want to see.
 - Senator England: Golden Tribe is for the entire student body, speakers for everyone, many of these RSOs want to do their own things as well. College Republicans or Democrats might want to specifically bring Republican or Democrat speakers. Golden Tribe is more broad,



sometimes RSOs want to bring more speakers that are aligned to their missions and values. Shouldn't turn people away if they want that.

- Senator Sojos: My point was that we could link RSOs to do this, they could help arrange things not actually take their budget away.
- Senator Adamyk: did we ever get Terry Crews [speaker for Golden Tribe lecture series]?
- Senator England: It was going to happen after spring break.
- Senator Gnanam: I feel the need to explain this again, my point wasn't about using social media or flyers, the biggest grey area is to advertise if it was paid for by SGA beforehand. There's already some grey area about this normally.
- Senator England: We require RSOs when they have flyers to advertise saying Paid for by SGA or have SGA logo.
- Senator Sojos: That only applies if they have SGA pay for the flyers.
- Senator Gnanam: Regardless, if it has PAC funding it must say SGA funded, TPUSA got a pass cause they'd been advertising. That is how it had to come down to, if you're specifically requesting before that they advertise, are they going to be asked to redo their advertising? In statutes according to precedent what we have done is we require that RSOs advertise that it was paid for by SGA. If this rule changes, if they've already started advertising, now that they have received funding. Where is the line?
- Senator England: And the flip side, if they say paid for by SGA and they don't get funding what happens?
- Senator Sojos: In statutes, 802.6A says all advertising materials paid for by ANS fees must have SGA logo, but otherwise the materials don't need it.
- Senator Porter: We're getting too in the weeds, let's move on.
- **Committee moves on to discussions of Bill 58.**
 - Senator Sojos: I trust that we should not give them more money than they request, some groups would come in and ask for 800, the committee would give them more money than was requested.
 - Senator Mougey: So we had done this because they requested more or because we thought they needed more?
 - Senator Sojos: They were given more based on a decision that the committee would make.
 - Chair Adamyk: I have heard myself of this because a price came up.
 - Senator Mougey: Is it because the price came up from when they requested it?
 - Senator Sojos: What they request is what we should go by, not doing so causes us to run short on money by the end of the year. It's a bad call, leaves us short at the end when we give more than they ask.
 - Senator Mougey: Wasn't sure if they requested more or if RTAC did it.
 - Senator Sojos: Of course the org isn't going to say no to more money, I could look it up, it's multiple cases of this happening.
 - Senator Gnanam: I can't speak for how this affects RTAC but PAC has a lot of small finance rules most don't know. Senator England and I fought over this once, some rules say that one some orgs will give a number, but



don't quote using SGA official vendors, they're tabled if they don't have that. The initial application number is no longer correct if this happens. Those small rules also change how they need to be funded for their request. It could be a small amount over, it could be more fiscally responsible to do it another way, I've been against this from the beginning. In the air of minimizing spending issues I understand where this comes from but this will do nothing but hurt organizations.

- Senator Sojos: I don't think it's fair to say that they (Registered Student Organizations) don't have the knowledge.
- Senator England: Don't confuse financial certification with financial literacy, I took the test, god knows how I passed, but am I the most financial literate? Probably not.
- Senator Sojos: I don't think its fair to assume their doing things wrong, they passed the same test we did, denying them because their quote is wrong is bad, maybe helping them when they're doing stuff wrong I don't think they'll ever be able to do it themselves
- Senator Wang: One concern is with travel and everything, plane tickets always change, what if they come to RTAC and their quote isn't an accurate reflection because the rate changes. I understand where this is coming from.
- Senator Porter: I don't think its fair to tie RTAC and PACs hands behind their back. Let them make their decisions, I trust them and if they make a call, we should respect their judgement. It's not fair to ask them to cut people but say they can't raise it one more dollar than was requested
- Senator England: This is potentially something to hide our own shortfalls, we as finance committee, I don't like the word shall not. I think it's a good idea to advise PAC and RTAC, but I do think they should actually have the power to still go over it, but we could add something that it's extremely necessary.
- Senator Sojos: Maybe with a 2/3 vote.
- Senator England: That is an option.
- Senator Sojos: I am open to that in the fall, that helps us both be happy with the bill.
- Chair Adamyk: This is all good to keep in mind for the fall.
- Senator Mougey: Maybe we need to be aware of what the original request was and what PAC and RTAC did, shall not is a strong and heavy word.
- Chair Adamyk: This is just to save us some debate for the fall.
- **Other ideas**
 - Senator Gnanam: Something I will work on is the voting threshold for consent resolutions, which are wonky with specific things. It makes debate on financial resolutions harder.
 - Vice-Chair Bogle: I pose the question of: can we make any sort of legislation to force more communication between the chairs of PAC, RTAC and the Finance Committee? One issue I'd seen reviewing the minutes for last spring in preparation for running for vice-chair is that lack of information within the Finance Committee is a chronic problem.



- Senator Mougey: PAC and RTAC have always done a good job of sending things, in my experience it's if Finance is looking at it.
- Senator Gnanam: I don't send them to Finance directly, I put all of the organization's flyers in a Google Drive that I sent to committee members when I had big requests for PAC. It allowed for easier dissemination of info. Maybe RTAC and PAC members could be ad-hoc members of finance, that never happened. We had a lot of attendance issues, Senator England and Former PAC Chair Alex Harmon wanted to work on something similar.
- Senator Porter: KP (Senator Gnanam) and Fabian (Senator Sojos), maybe sitting down with vice chairs to ensure that minutes are better, and what the committee was thinking at the time was lost would be good. Some of the minutes were really bad.
- Senator England: Towards the end of the half semester, it was increasingly becoming more common that PAC and RTAC were meeting hours before finance. The chairs were literally running from meeting to meeting. Being better organized is good, as well as more people signing up for PAC and RTAC, we can tell our friends and contacts to sign up for them. It's a double-bladed sword we can solve together.
- Chair Adamyk: This has been a longstanding penultimate problem, getting people to sign up for PAC and RTAC.
- Senator Gnanam: I do have a plan in place.
- Chair Adamyk: In terms of communication, all of you are on an outlook email group SSFC, you can send in resolutions into that. Fabian and KP should be in that group.
- Senator Mougey: It could be cool to meet with other finance committees, it would be cool to see how other universities do things.
- Chair Adamyk: Keep in mind that not every SGA has a finance committee. Some make no sense at some schools, maybe FSU makes too much sense.
- Senator England: I don't want to open a can of worms; this would be a big change. One thing that Treasurer Hall mentioned to me, he is interested in seeing finance and budget merge. He mentioned that it would be interesting to see them both merge because they both deal with finance money. Budget a lot of the time doesn't meet outside of budget week, budget chairs will say that business will not meet. This would be a huge deal and not something we do overnight, this might happen at the end of the 72nd or 73rd Senate.
- Senator Sojos: Treasurer Hall said that maybe they could be like central reserve, come and go as needed.
- Senator Mougey: Since budget doesn't have much business, we can funnel their members to PAC and RTAC.

○ **END OF ROUNDTABLE**

- **PAC Consent Resolution –**
 - PAC does not meet over the summer.
- **RTAC Consent Resolution –**



- RTAC does not meet over the summer.
- **Confirmations and Nominations –**
 - None

Unfinished Business:

- None

Final Announcements:

- Chair Adamyk: Senate has been hectic, regardless of what happened and what may happen, I want you to know that I'm very happy to have you all on finance, we can put aside the drama and get the work done we signed up to do. Feel free to reach out to me if you need it. I want you all to always feel like a welcome member of the senate and finance committee.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

- TBD

Adjourned: 7:13PM