



73rd Student Senate
Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee Agenda
DATE | Zoom Meeting ID: 909 196 4098

Call to Order: 6:04

Members Present: Linsky, Tackett, Rowan, Randall, Soto

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Lessard

Guests:

Approval of the Minutes:

- Rowan: **So moved**
- Soto: **So seconded**

Announcements:

- None

Student Comments:

- None

Committee Business:

Discussion and Changes to Rule Two

- Linsky: We got through Rule One last week and we have 14 more to get through. Are there any objections to beginning with Rule 2.2?
- Randall: We should read line by line and start in the beginning and read in its entirety. I will read through Rule Two.
- Rowan: In reference to my written suggestion, I will agree to strike the references of enforcing the “affixing of the Student Government Seal”.
- Linsky: let’s move to 2.2.c. Should we refer to the “Senate President” as “The Office of the Senate President”
- Rowan: I believe that referring to it as the “Senate President” is fine.
- Randall: I agree. We use the terms interchangeably.
- Tackett: Using the term “Senate President” or “Office of the Senate President” is better than the term
- Linsky: The function of saying “Furthermore, they will be referred to as president” makes the document less wordy. This only governs the legislative body so it should not be conflicting



- Randall: If we do that, we will have to amend all mentions of “senate president” across the Rules and Procedure. There are 76 incidents of “Senate President” in the document that will need to be changed.
- Linsky: “President” occurs 139 times. Whatever we choose needs to be uniform throughout. The Clause in 2.2.C. will establish that uniformity. Which term should we choose?
- Randall: I like “Student Senate President”
- Rowan: I agree
- Tackett: I agree
- Randall: Is the Student Senate president the “Chief Legislative Officer” given that we have COGS?
- Rowan: That’s a tough question, but I would agree that they are.
- Linsky: COGS does seem subordinate to the senate as a legislative body. Consider that we don’t have a bicameral legislature and also that COGS doesn’t have the ability to write legislation that applies to the Senate, but the Senate can produce legislation that applies to COGS. Also, the Senate determines COGS’ annual funds. With this dynamic in mind, I would say the student senate president is the Chief Legislative Officer at FSU. Also, should we define the term “Law” in 2.1 to be more specific like “Student Statutes” and “the constitution”?
- Randall: Statues say we have to abide by all state and federal laws, I think we would cover ourselves by using the term “Student Body Statutes/ Constitution of the Student Body” in place of the “Laws”.
- Rowan: I think we are good with 2.1. Randall, can you explain where you see “acting president” in 2.2?
- Randall: Let me look
- Rowan: Over the summer, we experienced certain vagueness about certain powers given to a presiding officer. This rule will define it more and layout their powers. If the senate president is incapacitated, should there be no pro-tempore, can conduct business as normal.
- Randall: Does the language “when the president relinquishes the chair” include absences from the senate president? Wouldn’t that go to Pro-temp? It looks like the president and circumvents the powers of the pro-temp and just relinquishes the chair to someone else.
- Rowan: We should add language to say that “If the pro-temp can not take the chair”.
- Linsky: Take a look at 3.2. The way I read this, the president has the choice to either relinquish the chair to someone other than the pro-tempore.
- Randall: Would this interfere with the end of the year tradition of relinquishing the chair to lame-duck members?
- Tackett: I think we should add the language of the pro-tempore, and they will step down for the tradition.
- Linsky: Why not reference the line of succession as laid out in Rule 1.7?
- Randall: We want the president to temporarily relinquish it for the tradition.
- Linsky: I like adding the language “with the consent of the pro-tempore.” That seems to cover the bases. I do think it is weird that this is the second thing we are hitting in this rule. We should move it to be next to 2.7. That makes more sense.



- Randall: I agree.
- Rowan: Speaking on Tackett's comment on adding language to talk about Public notice in 2.3, I think we cover that with the amendment we just made in 2.1.
- Tackett: I agree. It seems to be fixed now with that amendment
- Rowan: What is your point Randall on the "still before the body" phrase in 2.8? I think it is defined in Roberts Rules.
- Linsky: It would seem that it can result in abuse of senate procedure outside of chambers.
- Rowan: It is there to comply with Roberts Rules. What about striking the phrase "in debate"?
- Randall: What if they step down and do not debate? The phrase is not relevant.
- Rowan: It would be too broad to get rid of the phrase "to debate".
- Randall: I think we should change it to "if" they relinquish the chair to debate... that way they can not resume until the reason for vacating the chair is solved.
- Rowan: I agree.
- Linsky: I think we should amend or strike the last sentence in 2.8.C. since the presiding officer can theoretically have all the same powers as the elected officials under the current framework, and that is a dangerous idea as it can create a "Lord Protector" situation.
- Randall: They should have powers as determined by the senate president. But I am not sure how to word that. We also don't want the sitting president to be able to sign the legislation.
- Linsky: What do we mean when we say they are only able to "conduct the meeting as the president". Having the phrase "all the rights pertaining to the Student Senate President" would include all of the powers including appointment and committee assignments. What do we call the person who temporarily assumes the chair?
- Rowan: I think "acting president" works.
- Linsky: I'm cautious of giving a self-important title to this temporary position. That, coupled with the possibility that a temporary chair could then appoint another temporary chair (and so on and so forth) creates a dynamic that I am uncomfortable with.
- Randall: I think we should just add "Any senator who temporarily assumes the chair shall only have the power to temporarily preside over meetings".
- Linsky: We should also define that this rule does not apply to the pro-tempore.
- Randall: I agree.
- Linsky: Let's take a 5-minute break and resume at 7:15.
- Rowan: Are we done with 2.8?
- Linsky: I added the word "other" in 2.8.C.
- Randall: I am good with 2.2. In 2.3 we should split it and let the "The president may compel" sentence stand alone.
- Rowan: I agree. Looking at 2.5, it appears that it contradicts statute 405 on impeachment. Positions appointed by the senate president do not serve at the discretion of the senate president. They need to be impeached.
- Tackett: Should we just strike that sentence on impeachment then?



- Randall: Yes let's strike the whole sentence. In 2.6 we should strike the enumerated examples of what pieces the senate president needs to sign.
- Rowan: I agree
- Linsky: We should actually just strike the entire section of 2.6 stating what the senate president does not need to sign.
- Tackett: Should we change "school days" to "business days"?
- Rowan: No, business days would conflict with school breaks
- Tackett: With 2.7, I think it is wordy and we should just state that "the Senate needs to be informed when media is present"
- Rowan: We need to define that outside media is allowed in.
- Linsky: I am okay with cutting that whole section. We don't need it and even if we keep it our rules of procedure are not binding on the general public, including the media.
- Tackett: Statute 203.2 defines the public as anyone not affiliated with the university or SGA.
- Rowan: Let's cut it then.
- Randall: I think this rule should not be defined in Rules and Procedure. It should instead be defined in the Rules of The Chamber. Let's make a note of that.
- Rowan: In 2.7, we have been out of compliance with all these liaison rules.
- Linsky: We are missing about 40% at least of these liaisons. It seems difficult to keep all these positions filled.
- Randall: Let's reduce the seats.
- Tackett: What if we only give RSO's and agencies that meet a certain threshold of AS fees allocated to them to be awarded a liaison.
- Linsky: That sounds like a great approach.
- Randall: What's the magic number?
- Linsky: I haven't the foggiest idea, but we have to make this manageable for Harmon and his successors and quantifying the importance of an agency's liaison by the proportion of student activities fees that it receives from Senate allocations sounds like the right place to draw a bright line.
- Rowan: We should explicitly state that certain agencies, bureaus, executive, judiciary, and several other line-item budgeted RSO's get a liaison.
- Randall: Let's enumerate the 15 agencies.
- Tackett: Should we also explicitly include the Child daycare center to get a liaison? I feel they are important and deserve it.
- Randall: Yes. They are a major part of the university and have specific needs that would benefit from always having a liaison.
- Linsky: I think we should strike the "designee" language in 2.7. D.
- Rowan: Look at 2.7.F., it defines designee clearly and I don't think we need to include it specifically in F.

Discussion and Changes to Rule Three

- Rowan: Let's look at Rule Three, it should be easier.
- Randall: We should return to the 3.4 amendments when we look at Rule 7 and discuss the larger function of this ad-hoc. Besides that we need to change the



uniformity of mentioning the “Student Body President” and we will be done with Rule Three.

- Linsky: Let’s take a five-minute break and reconvene at 8:25 to start and finish Rule 4.
- Linsky: Going back to 3.2, I think we should just strike “for the duration of the absence” - it is redundant.
- Rowan: I agree

Discussion and Changes to Rule Four

- Linsky: Let’s look at 4.2.
- Rowan: Let me explain why the defender can not defend the legislative body. The attorney general is explicitly stated as representing them. General Counsel’s office in Jacksonville represents the city.
- Randall: If the current sitting senate president got sued, they can go to the supreme court and request the same appointed representative.
- Rowan: Looking at *Bynam V. SGA*, there is precedent showing that SGA needs an officer of the senate with the same stakes in the game.
- Randall: That implies that the current defenders of students don’t have their client’s best interests in mind. I think personal representation is the best way to go.
- Linsky: If we include this, it does not stop people from getting individual representation, but I don’t think we can make the parliamentarian the official legal representative of the legislature - that would have to be a statutory provision or even further a constitutional amendment. Again, there is nothing in our rules of procedure - made for the senate by the senate - that can force the judicial branch to accept that the parliamentarian is the official legal representative of the senate. That’s the judiciary’s domain - constitutionally speaking. So let’s cut this.
- Randall: The parliamentarian should not be held to the same expectations as a law student.
- Rowan: I agree we should not have the parliamentarian as the counsel, but we need somebody. Let’s move to 4.3.
- Randall: I want to strike the provision that makes the press secretary advertise a weekly calendar of SGA-funded events. The press secretary should confer with the senate president and decide what and when to publish the events.
- Tackett: Should we change the word “weekly” to periodically?
- Randall: Well, a periodical could lead to just a dump of information at the end.
- Rowan: I am okay with striking. We should not be deciding on social media strategy.
- Randall: 4.3.A is not needed. There is no paperwork needed, just communication with the webmaster. Let us just strike this. Let us move on to the Clerk Rule 4.4.
- Rowan: This rule deals with senate procedure on election ballots. Let’s not touch this.
- Randall: What if we change “Ballots” to “Documents”.
- Linsky: This is an exact copy from the statutes. We should leave it for the most part but I am okay with cutting “in the chamber”.
- Randall: We need a way for the public to be able to see the internal movements of the legislation pieces.



- Rowan: We have the initiative tracker, and we know how that went.
- Randall: I want to add “the records can be requested by the public at any time for any reason”.
- Rowan: I think that it is already stated in statutes and inferred since this is a public entity.
- Randall: We need to explicitly state that this is available to the public, especially since we are moving to the canvas page. Why is the provision to ensure that senate contact information is available to the public?
- Rowan: I am not sure, we can strike it.
- Randall: I do not think there are any issues with 4.8.
- Linsky: It appears we made it through rules 2 through 4. This seems like a good stopping point for tonight.
- Rowan: **I move** to adjourn
- Tackett: **So seconded**
- Linsky: Any objections? Seeing none, we are adjourned.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Unfinished Business:

- None

Final Announcements:

- None

Date and Time of Next Meeting: June 10th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Adjourned: 9:17 pm

Meeting Recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xh44Zf_SEHiE_ahrjc5VWw-yyZCQSopx/view?usp=sharing