



74th Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee

June 29th, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. EST | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/92911477807>

Call to Order: 7:08

Members Present: Chair Rowan, Vice Chair Harrell, Senator Lois, Vossler

Members Tardy: Anand (E), Clermont (E)

Members Absent: Fermin (E)

Guests: Chair Diaz, Vice Chair Drackley, Senators Dechick, Casiple

Land Acknowledgement – Chair Rowan

- 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:

- Welcome all. We have some confirmations to get through tonight as well as some bills. The first order of business will be a bill by Casiple. I would like to go ahead and note Candidate Wells is currently stuck on the DC metro, so when his time comes we may want to table him for later. We will see how that goes. But if no one has any objections lets go ahead and get this started.

Committee Business:

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Old Business:

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New Business:

- **Bill 55 - Sponsored by Senator Casiple (P)**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Casiple:** Thank you. As Chair Rowan said this is to allow the ASU to fix an issue in statutes. I am liaison to ASU as directed my Chair Diaz. Statues does not explicitly state this but the president would like to add thesefour positions. These would be nonsenate confirmation offices.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
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 - **Chair Rowan moves to enter round-table discussion**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Rowan:** Does statues or language allow for the two positions?
 - **Casiple:** I do believe so
 - **Lois moves to call the question; Harrell seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - **Casiple:** I appreciate you all being here, and I will be looking into it.
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [2] [Harrell, Lois]
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [1] [President Diaz]
 - RESULT: Bill #57 Passes
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Katie Russell – Director of Appointments**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Russel:** Good Evening IA. I have served on this committee before and am excited to be here. I have been nominated as Director of Appointments. I have served in leadership in Senate before. My experience has fully equipped me. Being in IA really taught me about getting the passionate leaders involved. I want to get candidates through this process even faster. I want to work on bringing more diversity.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
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 - General Questions:
 - **Rowan:** You spoke about your goals, how do you want to achieve those?
 - **Russel:** I think getting the process done quicker is to increase communication between leadership and to candidates. I think if enough of us are reaching out, we will make them come through faster. As for expanding diversity in SGA, I have seen a lot of problems I want to work close with the IA chair. I want to make a list of vacancies and work with agencies, and inclusivity to get a variety of candidates. I would also like to work with England to change the application to eliminate bias, by having names at the end of the document.
 - **Harrell:** What does this role do and how has your experience made you good for it?
 - **Russel:** Having worked as IA chair I am familiar with this process. I have also passed bills to make this role easier. I will be working under Chief of

Staff England who will help me along. I want to be held accountable. I really enjoy doing this, and I have the right experience interviewing. I feel I know what this takes and can do it.

- **Kariher:** Have you had any experiences doing any campaign work or student outreach?
- **Russell:** I have served on a campus political party before but am not with them now. Which I believe is good for this role as keeping away biases. I worked with different groups so I know what to look for in roles.

- Closing Statement:

- **Russell:** It is 12:25 a.m. here in London so I will keep it short. I really hope you all have my support. Thank you for your time.

- **Harrell moves to enter round-table discussion; Lois seconds**

- Round-Table Discussion:

- **DeChick:** Hello I am Jake DeChick and I am the chair of the budget committee, I know Russell and she helped get myself and 12 other candidates into office. She reached out to me and others and supported us. I want to speak in support of Russell, she has the idea of what she wants to do.
- **Kariher:** I really can not say enough good things about Russell. She is an amazing person, she has the best work ethic. I have known her through childhood and I know she gets it done. She accomplishes it perfectly.

- **Lois moves to forward the candidate; Vossler seconds**

- Vote:

- Yes: [2] Lois, Vossler
- No: [1] Harrell
- Abstain: [0]

- **RESULT: CANDIDATE Russell PASSES**

- **Candidate for Confirmation: Ninah Gibson – D&I Institute Director**

- Opening Statement:

- **Gibson:** I am Ninah Gibson, I am a second year student. I would like to thank you all for attending this meeting, and my e-board for this nomination. I was accompanied by great people with great backgrounds, wanting to increase diversity and inclusivity. As my experience as a mixed-race middle-class women from the south, I have been ostracized by black folks. I like everyone else has had difficulties presenting myself. I love this organization for creating inclusivity and diversity. I believe the university system does a great job serving this. I hope you all find me to be a worthy candidate.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

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- General Questions:

- **Rowan:** How important is diversity, equity, and inclusivity especially at FSU?
- **Gibson:** We are a large university that is predominantly white, and its not right that down the road there is a predominantly black university that we don't work with. We also don't give our agencies enough attention.
- **Lois:** Given that which you just said, what can we do to be better?

- **Gibson:** I am appreciative of what the inclusion and agencies do. I believe we don't do enough with Florida A&M. If that answers your question.
- **Kariher:** Your minor is computer science, can you explain more?
- **Gibson:** I cannot. I do not have much to share.
- **Rowan:** How would you work with the other groups on campus?
- **Gibson:** I feel like we should continue to establish ground with the inclusivity groups and the like. We do not have a lot of exposure, and a lot of people want to be a part of this institute. I think with exposure to other RSO's and Senate could help.
- **Diaz:** Do you think the institute should be added to statutes?
- **Gibson:** That is something we are struggling with because we did not have much of a budget. I feel like we do deserve that platform if we want diversity and inclusion to be a part of FSU
- **Burton:** Do you think the Student Government is a diverse community, what can SGA do to be more diverse?
- **Gibson:** SGA is diverse, there is diverse experience within FSU and I believe that not all is being represented well. There is less focus on people of lower social status such as minorities and those in the Care program.
- **Rowan:** How has your role with student publications informed your role?
- **Gibson:** It has allowed me to get familiar with the organization of SGA and statutes. It has allowed me to see the change that is being done within SGA. I believe this will allow me to promote multiculturalism here at FSU.
- Closing Statement:
 - **Burton:** I hope you take what I said into consideration, everything I said.
- **Lois moves to enter round-table discussion; Vossler seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Burton:** I think Gibson is a wonderful candidate. She is very passionate, and I urge the committee to pass her.
- **Lois moves to forward the candidate; Harrell seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: [4] Harrell, Lois, Clermont, Vossler
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE Gibson PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Kaitlynn Adams – Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- Opening Statement:
 - **Adams:** Good Evening. I am starting my third year at FSU. Through my past years at FSU I have been able to explore my passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through many organizations I have learned my position as a white female to use my privilege to enhance the experiences of others. Those who need diversity and inclusion do not get into it. I would implement a Seminole history learning class, an indigenous studies building, and required inclusivity training in freshman orientation. I would also implement identity based counseling because mental health is important.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

- General Questions:
 - **Clermont:** Tell us more about your background.
 - **Adams:** Through the social justice LLC in freshmen year I found my passion. I applied for E-board with DEI, and so every week we have a new topic we study. I create programming based off what I learned, and I used this to get close with minoritized communities on campus. We are the checks and balances system of my sorority that upholds DEI.
 - **Rivers:** I want to know your personal definition of diversity.
 - **Adams:** Identity revolves around race, age, religion and many other things. Diversity means everyone should be included.
 - **Rivers:** How did you incorporate diversity and inclusion in your sorority?
 - **Adams:** The National office made a change and we took advantage of that by creating a committee for inclusion.
 - **Rivers:** Were you able to get feedback with people from this?
 - **Adams:** The main criticisms was they wished meetings were longer to get more information. Post surveys were positive.
 - **Clermont:** How will the underrepresented communities be supported
 - **Adams:** All my identities as a white woman gives me privilege. I want to connect with leaders in identity-based agencies to find out issues on campus. I believe we need to talk to people specifically.
 - **Kariher:** What leaders are you meeting with?
 - **Adams:** The identity based agencies first. FSL as well. I have been getting input from those in fraternity and sorority life. We have been reaching out to many different organizations.
 - **Kariher:** That is a little bit alarming, do you think that engaging in these organizations that have high costs is fair. How do you grapple with that? And make it accessible?
 - **Adams:** Those organizations already limit lower income students. I believe that ensuring scholarships are made to help them is a priority.
 - **Lois:** How will you work with greek life counsels and identity-based agencies together?
 - **Adams:** These organizations should bring each other together. I would talk with the leaders of these organizations to engage them together. I would love to continue education in these organizations. I would go to the FSL and find what the best way to engage these organizations would be. I want to talk to these leaders and find what they think is best.
 - **Rivers:** Do you have any other experience in working with Diversity, Inclusion and Equity outside of the institute and your sorority.
 - **Adams:** My political and civic engagement would support this as well as I have protested for BLM and Planned Parenthood.
- Closing Statement:
 - **Adams:** I would like to reiterate my thanks for you all listening about my involvement and passions. Thank you for your time.
- **Lois moves to enter round-table discussion; Clermont seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Burton:** I wanna highlight that the previous candidate: Gibson eats, sleeps, and breathes diversity and inclusion. I do not believe this candidate has that and urge everyone not to support this candidate.
 - **Lois:** I would like to say that someone does not have to be born into a community to understand it.

- **Kariher:** I want to see candidates that actually represent inclusion. As IA you should do better, and reach out to people like confirmed candidate Russell to demand better candidates.
 - **Clermont:** I appreciate her concern for greek life and personally I think a main focus should be the other agencies and communities that deserve to be heard I do not believe she is doing that.
 - **Rivers:** I want to commend the nominee for her work, my concern is when it comes to picking people that are representative of the school especially as a PWI.
 - **Burton:** I want to agree with Rivers, Clermont, Kariher the candidate has done a really good job, although she isn't right for this position. It is about experience in life not just what is on paper.
 - **Harrell:** We need to look beyond the color of her skin and see this. She is a woman who has lived that life, especially when it comes to recent events. I do not believe the color of her skin should invalidate her experiences especially when she has already put in so much work.
 - **Diaz:** I would like to highlight that anti-discrimination laws are in place, and it is against code of conduct and state and federal law for which we are governed to say things that are discriminatory. I am not making any accusations, but tread lightly.
 - **Rowan:** I have not heard anything that violates the anti-discrimination laws.
 - **Kariher:** I apologize for any confusion I was not trying to say that the color of your skin is in any way in part to making her a good candidate.
- **Vossler moves to forward the candidate; Lois seconds**
- **Vote:**
 - Yes: [2] Harrell, Lois
 - No: [1] Clermont
 - Abstain: [1] Vossler
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE ADAMS PASSES**
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- **Candidate for Confirmation: Adam Bowling - Deputy Treasurer**
 - **Opening Statement:**
 - **Bowling:** Hello everyone, I was the former chair of the finance committee. I have had a lot of opportunity to learn about the position and role I serve. I believe Deputy Treasurer is the most normal progression. I will serve as an RSO first advocate ensuring they are represented. I want to create more transparency regarding ANS fees. I feel like this has been underrepresented. The point of SGA is to help the student body and RSO's.
 - **Technical Non-Debatable Questions:**
 - **Harrell:** What are ANS fees?
 - **Bowling:** Activity and Service fees.
 - **Rowan:** Are you financially certified?
 - **Bowling:** Yes
 - **General Questions:**
 - **Lois:** How will you make this information more available?
 - **Bowling:** I would call for an audit or the allocation of ANS fees. I would then send it out for the student body. I believe an avenue for casual and critical viewers

- **Rowan:** Should fees be raised? What would your strategy be to raise ANS fees?
 - **Bowling:** I would give examples of how the economy is not in a good spot, we should be discussing with the fees and groups why ANS should receive the lions share, is because we have not seen increases in years. Student leaders are working on very tight budgets.
- Closing Statement:
 - **Bowling** I want to say I look forward to representing the student body any way I can. I look forward to hearing your deliberations.
- **Harrell moves to enter round-table discussion; Lois seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Lois:** I like his ideas and what he wants to do with the PDF. He has my support.
 - **Clermont:** He seems very knowledgeable.
- **Clermont moves to forward the candidate; Lois seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: [4] Harrell, Lois, Clermont, Vossler
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE BOWLING PASSES**
- **Vossler moves to table Rodney Wells – Director of External Affairs; Lois Seconds**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Maggie Gahan – Executive Advisor**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Gahan:** Hello. I am the candidate for executive advisor. The goal is to create cohesion within SGA. I have had an opportunity to build relationships within external facets of SGA.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
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 - General Questions:
 - **Vossler:** Can you describe a previous leadership positions that you believe has helped you?
 - **Gahan:** I have served in relay for life and I am chair of Forward. I have had the opportunity to build relationships and have found that SGA is daunting. I am an intern at a political consulting firm. This has given me the tools to work on advising, my role in SGA.
 - **Rowan:** Are these tasks that are already handled through other roles?
 - **Gahan:** This is something I questioned before. I truly believe this role is one to supplement, this year we do not have an executive assistant. This role can cover some of that. I believe that there are things that is an exec perspective. I would like to be the glue. The chief of staff will be working hard and the advisor should be supplemented there as well.
 - **Rowan:** Even though we have all these roles already, we also need an advisor to double up these duties?
 - **Gahan:** We have seen things fall through the cracks in previous administration. Every person plays a vital role, but as an advisory role I can ensure everyone is supported. This role gives me the opportunity to see what needs to get fixed and do them. This role would not be made if it wasn't necessary.

- **Rowan:** I want to shift this to the platform points, does this not fall on the chief of staff?
 - **Gahan:** These bring out really important questions. This role is about cohesion and ensuring accountability. This is an advisory role which will allow me to take an opportunity to help. I am not taking the responsibility to take away, but to be the in-betweens. There is no expectation that things are going to fall between the cracks. But I will be there to be accountable for these things.
 - **Harrell:** I agree with you that this is a support role and that you will be making sure everyone is cohesive and accountable. How will you ensure that everyone is on the same page and doing their best? What experience do you have that could help you with this?
 - **Gahan:** Yes as an intern for a consulting firm I know about holding candidates accountable on a large scale. Project trackers are effective, but conversations are important and having a role that looks at this. I would also suggest looking into the possibility of using outside counsel to promote accountability.
 - **Rowan:** How do you want to pay for outside counsel?
 - **Gahan:** I am not able to speak into that at this moment, this is something to think about and look into. I think its important to have accountability
 - **Harrell:** You were saying this is more theoretical right?
 - **Gahan:** I want to look into it right, this is all about accountability
 - **Rowan:** We want to deal with something that is accountable? So you are not the spearhead of this project?
 - **Gahan:** I want to be held accountable myself, I would love to if I was asked.
 - **Vossler:** How will you specifically keep cohesion in the executive?
 - **Gahan:** Last year they had a retreat, you do not have to be friends to work together but knowing each other is important. Having an advisor come in and speak to each other could also be a great way. Maintaining communication is also important.
 - Closing Statement:
 - **Gahan:** I cannot say how thankful I am to assist and help. I would love to have a conversation with you all and speak with you, please reach out.
 - **Vossler moves to enter round-table discussion; Harrell seconds**
 - Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Harrell:** I would love to speak in favor of her. At first I looked at this position and was confused on its purpose. But having looked into it further and listening to Gahan I know that she will do very well ensuring cohesion.
 - **Vossler:** She answered these questions very well, and has had great experience.
 - **Vossler moves to forward the candidate; Harrell seconds**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [3] Harrell, Lois, Vossler
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: [1] Clermont
 - **RESULT: CANDIDATE GAHAN PASSES**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Juan Bustamante – Director of Sustainability**

- Opening Statement:
 - **Bustamante:** Good Evening to the chair, vice chair, and all. Through my time at FSU I have become very involved in the communities on campus. We are growing university however our environmental footprint is going down. We are doing a great job, but we still must continue to help.
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
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- General Questions:
 - **Lois:** What specific things will you do?
 - **Bustamante:** We need to get the word out about how to ensure that student participation is promoted. We can utilize market Wednesday and the new union to help this.
 - **Rowan:** Have you looked into the main issue with food waste? What are our methods?
 - **Bustamante:** We are getting the ball rolling to create a volunteer signup, that will get food waste back to those who need. Once I start volunteering I will learn more about that.
 - **Rowan:** Walk us through the recycle bike program?
 - **Bustamante:** We rent out bikes to people during the semester, we loan out the bike for a semester.
 - **Rowan:** Do you think funding can get us more bikes on campus or making the cost reduce?
 - **Bustamante:** I would look into this further because things are blurred.
- Closing Statement:
 - **Bustamante:** As we know student participation has been trending downwards. I go in with an expectation to set the bar high.
- **Lois moves to enter round-table discussion; Clermont seconds**
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Clermont:** He is very knowledgeable about the position. I looked at his application and know he will do well.
 - **Lois:** I like this candidate he knows his stuff.
- **Lois moves to forward the candidate; Vossler seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: [4] Harrell, Lois, Clermont, Vossler
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE Bustamante PASSES**

- **Lois moves to pick candidate wells off the table, Vossler Seconds**
- **Candidate for Confirmation: Rodney Wells – Director of External Affairs**
 - Opening Statement:
 - **Wells:** I have served in many different roles here at FSU and before. I am excited to hear your questions.
 - Technical Non-Debatable Questions:
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 - General Questions:
 - **Clermont:** What will this role be?
 - **Wells:** I want to cultivate relationships with outside sources to help serve the exec board.

- **Closing Statement:**
 - **Wells:** I would love to have your support in this role.
 - **Lois moves to enter round-table discussion; Clermont seconds**
 - **Round-Table Discussion:**
 - **Lois:** I think this candidate is a very good candidate I believe in him.
 - **Clermont:** You seem very knowledgeable about the role.
 - **Lois moves to forward the candidate; Vossler seconds**
 - **Vote:**
 - Yes: [4] Harrell, Lois, Clermont, Vossler
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **RESULT: Candidate WELLS Passes**

- **Bill 48 - Sponsored by Senators Diaz (P)**
 - **Opening Statement:**
 - **Diaz:** This was a bill that was crafted in the spring. Essentially, I was the Chair of IA, and vice-chair. This committee is responsible for reviewing bureaus. In this committee leaders come to us and explain what they do. We, through deliberation, determine bureaus whether they need to make changes or be taken out altogether. I have been speaking to President Gabadage if this will need to be taken down.
 - **Technical Non-Debatable Questions:**
 - **Harrell:** Does this have anything to do with the office of sustainability?
 - **Rowan:** No
 - **Vossler moves to enter round-table discussion; Lois seconds**
 - **Round-Table Discussion:**
 - **Lois:** I think this candidate is a very good candidate I believe in him.
 - **Clermont:** You seem very knowledgeable about the role.
 - **Closing Statement:**
 - **Diaz:** I recognize that the administration previous did not want to fill this position, if the current does I will take action, that is to call back this bill.
 - **Vote:**
 - Yes: [4] Harrell, Lois, Clermont, Vossler
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Bill #48 Passes**

- **Bill 49 - Sponsored by President Diaz, Russell**
 - **Opening Statement:**
 - **Diaz:** Just to reiterate this allows us the opportunity to improve bureaus. However, statutes is not very clear about this. So, I want to bring this statute as it is concrete.
 - **Technical Non-Debatable Questions:**
 - **Harrell:** Was IA in unanimous agreement of this?
 - **Diaz:** I can not speak to that as to I do not know, everyone that is on as Co-sponsors wanted their name on the bill.
 - **Round-Table Discussion:**
 - **Lois:** I think this candidate is a very good candidate I believe in him.
 - **Clermont:** You seem very knowledgeable about the role.

- **Ananad:** Could you reiterate the summary of this bill, and what are the benefits?
 - **Diaz:** This last spring we went through this process, we bring in the leadership of the seven bureaus and see their progress report and see how they are performing. It is not elaborated on and so we want to add this in statutes. It gives us guidelines.
 - **Ananad:** What are the pros?
 - **Diaz:** Clarity, the rules used to give clarity but this is concrete.
 - **Harrell:** Will this bill go any further?
 - **Diaz:** It goes to Judiciary tomorrow.
 - **Rowan:** Would we need to change rules if we do this?
 - **Diaz:** Statutes are binding, if we wanna change rules we can do that.
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 - **Harrell moves to call the question; Vossler seconds**
 - **Closing Statement:**
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 - **Vote:**
 - Yes: [5] Harrell, Lois, Ananad, Clermont, Vossler
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Bill #49 Passes**

- **Bill 57 - Sponsored by Senator Diaz (P), Senators Garner (Co), P. Rodriguez (Co), Suarez (Co)**
 - **Opening Statement:**
 - **Diaz:** You guy can really read this bill for yourselves. The leadership was heard and they had a massive say in this. It erases committees that it is not active. This last part is unconstitutional, so we are doing something about that.
 - **Technical Non-Debatable Questions:**
 - **Harrell:** What part is unconstitutional?
 - **Diaz:** The last part at the bottom that was.
 - **Round-Table Discussion:**
 - **Lois:** Any organization cleaning up their processes is good.
 - **Ananad:** Please reiterate the unconstitutional language
 - **Diaz:** The language at the bottom that was struck out is unconstitutional, so we are fixing it.
 - **Harrell moves to call the question; Vossler seconds**
 - **Closing Statement:**
 - **Diaz:** I do not know how complex an advisory counsel would be as we have a lot of affiliates. I do not know want them to be responsible for a lot of committees they don't use.
 - **Vote:**
 - Yes: [5] Harrell, Lois, Ananad, Vossler, Clermont
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT: Bill #49 Passes**

Unfinished Business:

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Closing Announcements:

- **Rowan:** I would like to see this a lot, we did very good. I am wanting to see us keep this time. What are your thoughts on committee meetings upcoming since we are running out of time? We will need to have this conversation in the chat. I do have some legislation next week, it will likely be coming through this committee. The first bill is to abolish the mental health council and have the exec appoint cabinet positions, limiting bureaucracy. The second is to abolish student council for accessibility advocacy on the same grounds. A bill to clarify the creation of bureaus. Thank you all.
- **Harrell:** I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. I also ask that you all be respectful of the candidates, we need to be mindful of everyone's feelings and the language we use.
- **Diaz:** Just like Vice Chair Harrell said, let be respectful to everyone I do not want to get sued, or chair sued. But thank you all.
- **Rowan:** It would no be my first time in front of the Supreme Court and probably not my last.

Next Meeting: July 13th @ 7:00 EST

Adjourned: 10:11

Jack Rowan

Signature of Chair Rowan