



75th Student Senate Judiciary Committee

March 21st, 2023 | <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/99918927976>

Call to Order: 6:03 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Kariher, Vice Chair Maglin, Senator(s) Rivers, Newsome, Chatellier, Crusey, Brewer

Members Tardy: None

Members Absent: Senator(s) Casiple (excused), Alvarez (excused), Folwell (excused)

Guests: Senator Birdsong, President Diaz

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 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:

- Chair Kariher: I'm just going to say that nice seeing everyone, again, glad we're all here. We're reaching the end and there's not a whole lot of legislation, which is kind of rare. But if you guys have any ideas or anything, you want to work on legislation wise, feel free to come to me.
- Vice Chair Maglin: Super excited for another meeting. We only have what, like, three judiciaries left? Wow. Anyway, excited for a great meeting. Thank you, Senator Birdsong, for coming.

Committee Business:

- **Impeachment Hearing** – Senator Birdsong

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Hearing for the Impeachment**

- Opening Statement:

- Senator Birdsong: Well, first of all, I hope you all enjoyed your Spring Break. I want to begin by apologizing for even taking up your time here. I feel like I'd definitely let you all down and Senate as a whole down. And most egregiously, let down my constituents of undergraduate studies. I've had very inconsistent attendance in my committee meetings. And, you know, when I joined Senate, the expectations were clearly explained to me and I knew what my role was, and I feel like obviously, I know that the Senate does very important work, especially through committees. Just unfortunately, this semester, I feel that I definitely bit off more than I could chew. I had to learn a tough lesson in time management. And that's something that I didn't really understand until being here right now seeing something that I so greatly value, and seeing how my actions have led me to this position that I never wanted to be in. I absolutely don't want to fail myself, the people I represent, or the Senate. Like I said earlier, we do very important work. So yeah, I just want to apologize for that. And I can affirm that, if, you know, things go well for me after this hearing and if I'm allowed a second chance—to really show myself and prove that I can give this commitment that I've made, and that I chose to sort of bring onto my course load so that I can commit to it, and that I can be a faithful and good representative—that I will do everything in my power to not only be present, but to actually set forth important work and play my part in being a part of this team that we are as senators. I definitely value that. And yeah, I just I promise that to you all. And I promise to myself that moving forward, this isn't something that will happen again, I will always be in attendance, and I'll be the best senator that I can be. And with that, I yield.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

- Vice Chair Maglin: Did you attend the rules meeting that would have forwarded you for impeachment or not?

- Senator Birdsong: No.

- **Vice Chair Maglin moves to enter General Questioning; Senator Rivers seconds; no objections**

- General Questioning

- Vice Chair Maglin: Do you have any class conflicts with your committee's time or with Senate?

- Senator Birdsong: Well, I don't have any specific classes that are slotted during that time. Every once in a while, I'd have a conflict. I mean, honestly, I want to take full accountability. Because if I were able to, you know, manage my time and just communicate more effectively. I was sick for a large portion of it. I've been very sick all semester, I had strep throat for a couple of weeks and that had me out. Just other commitments like work and things like that, that have kind of conflicted, but I failed to communicate that to my committee. And so that's what's kind of landed me in this position.

- Chair Kariher: Do you have any, like legislative initiatives or anything that you What is something that you're like wanting to accomplish?

- Senator Birdsong: Sure. Well, I've been in talks with Senators Sinclair, McIntyre, and Adonis to write some future legislation. They wanted to amend some things in statutes, clarifying some

redundancies and doing things like that just kind of trying to streamline our legislative process. So, I've been working on that. And I'm definitely open to go on some more legislation. Honestly, I had a very slow start in Senate, but I really do look forward to kind of ramping it up and being a part of our processes. I've reached out to Jack Folwell, and we're in communication now. So that could be on some possibly co-sponsors and legislation with him as well. So those are all things I'm looking into. And I honestly, I'm not just saying that to keep my position. I do plan on being a very involved senator, throughout the rest of my term.

- Chair Kariher: Are you going to be serving over the summer? Are you going to be present here over the summer?
 - Senator Birdsong: Is that something that can be done virtually?
 - Chair Kariher: No.
 - Senator Birdsong: No, I won't be able to then.
- Vice Chair Maglin: If you're not impeached, will you have perfect attendance in your committees from this point forward?
 - Senator Birdsong: And that's something that I can definitely affirm. I've recently I joined a commitment that just actually finished up last week, that was very, you know, time-consuming. So, I can definitely devote the rest of my term to having perfect attendance. And that that's a promise I make to you and to myself as well.
- Chair Kariher **POI** to President Diaz: Are you going to have a virtual option this summer?
 - President Diaz: I don't know if I'm serving the summer myself. Depends on different factors in my life. But yeah, I guess we can have Zoom. I don't see the issue with it. If we want to do that to make things more accessible for folks in the summer. But you would need to be taking three credits, regardless of summer classes.
 - Senator Birdsong: I plan on taking summer classes. So, if there's a virtual option, I'll definitely serve in that manner.
- **Vice Chair Maglin moves to enter Roundtable Discussion; Senator Brewer seconds; no objections**
- Closing Statement:
 - Senator Birdsong: Okay. Yeah, thank you. I just want to once again, thank you for hearing my case. I did make a commitment when I joined the Senate that I did plan on fully carrying out and honestly, I failed. I wasn't being present in the meetings like I should have been—and that's something that I totally recognize and absolutely do plan on changing in the future. I'm adjusting the way I've balanced my priorities and my time management, and I also plan on being very involved as a senator, once I am, you know, participating more. I feel that impeaching me would do more harm to the student body as I feel that representation is always very important. But a part of that representation is having present representation. So obviously, if I expect to be serving in this capacity and doing justice to the people that I represent, I need to be present. But I really do hope that you all, give me the second chance don't impeach me or forward me for impeachment because I really do think it'd be a mistake. I plan on being a very active senator and I look forward to proving that to you. Well, with that I yield.

- Roundtable Discussion:
 - Senator Brewer: So I can absolutely attest to everything Nate just said, he's a very close personal friend of mine. I know he's had several personal issues that he's been dealing with throughout the semester. At the end of the day, there are always going to be things. Obviously, some are in his control, and some are not. For the things that have been in control, he took full responsibility and lay out a plan to correct his mistakes going forward. And I have full trust that he will. He is a very determined individual who I think, as in his own words, just got caught up all this semester. So, I will not be voting to forward him for impeachment. And I recommend you all do the same.
 - Vice Chair Maglin: I agree. I mean, I think it means a lot when people actually do show up to their impeachment hearings, because if they don't, I think that pretty much gives us an answer. But if they try and actually fight for their spot in the Senate, I think that shows that, you know, the senator cares for their position. I will say that Senator definitely was made aware of the Rules meeting several times, so I don't know if it was just a matter of not checking email or just, you know, forgetting or ignoring. I don't know, I mean, not a great look. But at the same time, like I think that showing up to this was especially important.
 - Chair Kariher: I was on the Rules Committee when we all like voted on this. And really, it was just like, you know, where is he? Because the only time we've ever forwarded people is just when they don't show up. Usually, if you show up, make a case for yourself, we'll go: "if you come and present yourself, like we're going to give you another chance". And I think the email gets sent out once or two or three times—there's like a whole email chain that Patrick is on top of.
- **Vice Chair Maglin moves to call the question on Impeachment; Senator Brewer seconds**
- Vote:
 - Yes: 1, Senator Rivers
 - No: 4, Senator(s) Brewer, Newsome, Chatellier, Maglin
 - Abstain: 0
- **RESULT: Senator Birdsong IS NOT Forwarded for Impeachment**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- Chair Kariher: I want people to write legislation because it's a fun and, I don't know, it's our role as judiciary to be critical of our statutes and always be trying to make them better. So, I really hope that like, you know, start maybe writing some legislation. I know, it's kind of hard, like at the beginning of Senate, you're still trying to get warmed up, but it would be awesome.
- Vice Chair Maglin: Yeah, another slay meeting, obviously. Yeah, like what Chair Kariher said, we're the people who are pushing legislation through the Senate right now. We're going to be gone in about three Senates. So, I am excited to hopefully see you all push some cool things. Even if you don't push one piece of legislation till the very end of your term like I did. You can at least, you know, kind of be thinking on things to work on. And

even if that takes you a while, at least you're doing something good in your role. So, I'm excited to see you all tomorrow.

Next Meeting: March 28th, 2023

Adjourned: 6:37 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cole Kariher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signature of Chair Kariher