



75th Student Senate Judiciary Committee

July 19, 2023 at 6:00pm | [<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/95186378372>]

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Members Present: Chair Alvarez, Vice Chair Fitzsimmons, Senator(s) Hiriji, Waldie, Novotney, Hine, Varnon, Mendez.

Members Tardy: None

Members Absent: Baez

Guests: Senator(s) Gorelick, Cofer, Hellman, and Randall Folwell

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:

- None

Public Comments:

- **Mr. Boisvert:** Hey Judiciary. It's good to .be back. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Jackson. I'm the current attorney general. I just want to speak briefly in favor of both of the candidates for attorney, Deputy attorney General, they're both fantastic. They have a really diverse skill set that's going to serve the office well, and

I couldn't be more excited to work with them. I also wanna speak in support of the legislation you're gonna hear today sponsored by Senators Hellman and Gorelick. It's been a major project of myself and the Vice President. This year, this whole summer we've been working on it with the different agency directors. So if you have any additional questions feel free to make a motion to ask me anything about Bill or about any of the other agencies and I'd be happy to answer it. So thank you all for your time.

- **Mrs. Dorman:** Hi everyone, I'm Alexis Dorman and I am the Deputy Director for the Office of Governmental Affairs and just wanted to come on really quick in support of the legislation that we have up today. I encourage you all to vote up on it. It's going to streamline the legislative agenda process and ensure that everybody's voices are heard come FSU day at the capital.
- **Mr. Muniz:** Yeah. Hey, my name is Dan. I'm the director for OGA. And I just also wanted to echo what Alexa said and just support the bill that you guys are gonna be hearing later. Hopefully, you guys see the reform that aims to achieve for OGA. So yeah, I urge you guys to vote up on it. Thanks.

Committee Business:

- **Committee Confirmation:** Ana Gitli– Executive Branch, Deputy Attorney General (4 applicants)
- **Applicant:** Thank you. Hey everyone. My name is Ana Gitli. I am, I guess a second-year law student here at Florida State. I also did my undergrad at Florida State in economics. I at the time an undergrad, I was working at a lobbying firm and I decided that that's kind of what I wanted to do in government affairs, government relations. So I decided to stay in Tallahassee for law. Because we're in the capital, obviously. My focus during law school has been environmental law, but a little bit more broadly administrative and regulatory law. So looking at a lot of state statutes, federal statutes and a lot of municipal things too. So I've been really deep, especially this summer into the regulatory world, and I just wanted to be kind of more involved on campus, which is why I applied to be deputy attorney general, and I am excited to hopefully get to know you all. That's all.

Candidate yields with 2:07 remaining

- **Chair Alvarez:** We will now enter a period of general question for the candidate. Seeing none. I will now entertain any motions
- **Senator Hine moves to enter pro; Senator Mendez seconds.**
- **Chair Alvarez:** We are now in a period of pro would any senators like to speak in pro of the candidate? If none I will now entertain a motion to enter con.
- **Senator Waldie moves to enter con; Senator Hine seconds.**
- **Chair Alvarez:** We are now, in a period of Con, any Senators wishing to speak in Con? Seeing none. Seeing none, we will now enter a vote.
- Yes: [7], **Vice Chair Fitzsimmons, Senator(s) Hiriji, Waldie, Novotney, Hine, Varnon, Mendez.**
- No: [0]
- Abstain: [0]
- **RESULT:** Candidate Ana Gitli **[PASSES]**

- **Committee Confirmation:** TJ Patten—Executive Branch, Deputy Attorney General (4 applicants)
- **Mr. Patten:** Alright. Hey friends, my name is TJ Patten as she just said. I've been forward to fill position of deputy Attorney General. I'm just gonna ramble a bit about myself. So you guys know who I am. So starting off the bat, my college career did not exactly go the way I first expected it to. I came to FSU with plans to be an Astrophysics major with lifelong goal of being an astrophysicist and working for NASA. As I got a little deeper into the major I realized sitting at my desk all day doing physics and math wasn't for me. No disrespect, but it just wasn't my path. I wanted to do something more, where I can interact with the world around me and leave an impact. Leave an impression on people's lives as well as the campus. So I switched to a double major in political science, criminology. I joined a fraternity, joined student government through the Student Union Board and a sort of fire was lit under me to become the best possible version of myself. Because at that point everything had changed for me. I wasn't sure of my future anymore. Didn't have a plan so put my head down and went to work. Disciplined in hard work, dedication, and the stunning personality that I possess. I had given away for me to achieve leadership positions. I was an RA in student housing. I was the Vice Chair of Student Union Board. I was eventually elected to the Executive Board of my fraternity and recently I was elected to be a student senator for the collage of Criminology, I learned so much about myself and what it took to be a leader through these experiences, from how to hopefully hold myself accountable and to what I feel is most important to learn how to listen and listen, to understand, not just listen to respond. And to be able to incorporate other suggestions, and solutions to issues that maybe I don't have the solution for. I basically grew into a leader that I always wanted to be. So with this, I'm gonna bring the absolute best of my abilities to this role and I'm beyond excited to work with Jackson, Jack, Nina, and Adam, all of you in literally anybody else that would ever want or need my help. So I won't let you guys down if I'm going into this role. Alright. Thank you all so much.
- **Candidate yields with 1:00 remaining**
- **Chair Alvarez:** We will now enter period of general questions. Are there any questions for the candidate? I'll ask you a question. Are there any like specific goals that you have for your position? At all.
- **Mr. Patten:** Yes and no. As in almost specific pieces of legislation. Obviously as an RA, like something that I'm really interested in doing is improving the air quality in dorms because I can't tell you the countless amounts of residence who got sick from finding mold in their dorms. But a little more nonspecific. I feel like my job is just to make Jackson's job easier, just to make his life easier. I love that guy. I'll do anything for him, so just be in his right hand, man.
- **Senator Hirji moves to enter pro con; Senator Waldie seconds.**
- **Chair Alvarez:** We are now in a period of pro would any senators like to speak in pro of the candidate? Senator Mendez.
- **Senator Mendez:** Yes. I would like to speak in pro of the candidate in question, I mean from his determination, his ambition, and I've worked hand in hand with him. From the way he presents himself to his work abilities are all exceptional and I just can't think of a better person to fulfill this role.

- **Chair Alvarez:** Thank you Senator Mendez. Any other senators looking to speak in pro? Seeing none we will now enter a period of Con. Are any senators looking to speak in Con? Seeing none. I will entertain a motion to call the question.
 - **Senator Hine moves to call the question; Senator Mendez seconds.**
 - **Chair Alvarez:** Candidate you have 1:00 left for your closing statement.
 - **Mr. Patten:** Thank you guys so much. I appreciate you guys taking the time to be here. Listen to me ramble on I hope you have a great day today. **Candidate Yields with 52 seconds remaining**
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- Yes: [7], **VC Fitzsimmons, Senator(s) Hiriji, Waldie, Novotney, Hine, Varnon, Mendez.**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [0]
 - **RESULT:** Candidate TJ Pattern **[PASSES]**
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- **Senate Bill #67 – Gorelick and Randall (P):** A revision is made to the Student Body Statutes: 100.5, 908.2, 908.7. This bill makes several changes to statutes concerning the Office of Governmental Affairs, making Board of Directors no longer a major office, updating the Board of Directors Selection Process, and overhauling the Legislative Agenda process.
 - **Senate Bill #74 — Cofer (P):** A revision is made to the Student Body Statutes: Chapter 914. Removal of the Student Council for Accessibility Advocacy (SCAA) from Student Body Statutes (SBS) as a result of Executive Order 7804's creation of the Student Accessibility Commission.
 - **Senate Bill #72 — Gorelick and Hellman (P):** A revision is made to the Student Body Statutes: TITLE X. This chapter shall create uniform guidelines and operating procedures for Student Government Association-sponsored entities known as "Agencies." The purpose of the Uniform Agency Act is to establish a common set of rules and roles for all agencies under the Student Government Association, ensuring a unified approach to serving the diverse student body. Each agency, while maintaining its unique identity and focus, will adhere to these uniform rules, promoting consistency, fairness, and transparency across all agencies.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Bill #67 - Sponsored by Senator Gorelick and Randall (P)**
- Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Gorelick and Randall (P):**
 - **Senator Randall:** Alright, cool. Thank you. Hey guys, I've spoken to most of you about this already, but for those of you who I haven't yet Bill 67 is a bit of an overhaul of the general process of the office of Governmental affairs myself. This comes about as a direct result of the chaos and unpredictability that surrounded the OGA last year, where it became clear to all parties involved that change has to occur in this process. So the new Director, Deputy Director and Assistant

Director saw this as the best way to create a more smooth and effective lobbying process that gives the senate a greater say in OGA's activities and keeps the board accountable to give kind of a brief explanation of what the bills language itself actually means. The most major change is the addition of what we're calling the policy proposal. This will be legislation drafted by the OGA board and submitted to the Florida legislator as a direct response to a survey sent out to the entire student body asking what issues they are most passionate about. OGA's focus will primarily be on lobbying for Florida legislatures to adopt this policy proposal Senate will have the opportunity to approve or disapprove the proposal giving them a pretty large influence on the process while still giving OGA enough discretion to properly do their job? What was known as the legislative agenda in past years. Is becoming what we call legislative stances which will once again be drawn directly from the survey sent to students and included in the full packet that is given to legislatures once students are lobbying, they're lobbying for so many different initiatives was proven nearly impossible last year. So we made it so that OGA board has less any binding mandate to lobby for the socialization simply because we do not have the means, however. This will still allow for student voices to be heard, with the primary focus for lobbying just being on the policy proposal. Additionally, the selection process of the Board is expanding to the Assistant Director and Deputy Director in an effort to avoid any corruption, with a director having kind of unilateral control over the student lobbyists chosen. Expanding this responsibility and ensuring that power is not consolidated and allows them to bring in additional individuals such as the OGA liaison staff or anyone else deemed appropriate. Finally, we're moving OGA board members from being a major office is meant to increase the board. The fact is OGA's board has only been a major office for around a year now and in speaking with board members before and after the change we realized that the effort to make the board more effective actually had the opposite effect. Often those individuals who do hold manager offices, such as the Big Four, agency or Bureau, for example. It includes some of the most prominent activists for those groups of people on campus, so it only makes sense to include them in this process. Other time commitments ought to and should be a consideration and selection, but making it a major office. Those two restrictive, this change allows for increased representation and effectiveness in the space. We're aware that this is a pretty major change but the OGA director team is confident in these changes. So with that, I welcome any questions at all. I will also hand it over to the other primary sponsor in case he has anything else to add.

- **Senator Gorelick:** Yeah. So, hey guys. What I've been telling the past committees we've talked to and have seen, this Bill is that if this is something that you know, Daniel, Alexis, and Zori want, I think it's something that, and that they think will work. I think it should be our duty and kind of, you know, letting them kind of have this opportunity to get this done. I also think that this allows for Senate to play an important role in the OGA space with you know if. Policy or if something comes in that the Senate doesn't deem fit or you know that won't work, it could be something that can be sent back and fixed and things like that. So I don't think one particular group of people gets a certain amount of power with this bill and what is being you know. Mentioned in the bill, but yeah, thank you guys so much.

Yields with 1:45 remaining.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

- Round-Table Discussion:
 - **Vice Chair Fitzsimmons:** I could be mistaken with this but I believe the Office of Governmental Affairs has the ability to create a legislative agenda for any session in the Florida Legislature. To me, that seems pretty major in scope. Is there a particular reason they should no longer be considered a major office considering their ability?
 - **Senator Randall:** Yea. So the change to OGA board of directors being a major office happened in the 73rd Senate, which was kind of on the basis that would help them be more effective in their lobbying, but kind of speaking to board members both before and after the change and after this year being the most chaotic and unpredictable in OGA lobbying history, we kind of thought about it and making board of directors of the major office kind of causes what you would call like a brain drain as a lot of the effective lobbyists hold a lot of the other major offices on campus. And despite them kind of all being large and time-consuming positions, those people are going to often be the most dedicated and inclined towards lobbying and that want to get involved in that really want to dedicate that time to both of the positions that they're being able to hold and we don't really think that restricting them from doing so is going to be the most effective in the OGA space. So yeah, that's kind of the answer to that.
 - **Senator Hine:** Yeah I just have a question. Could you like describe senates role in this new setup?
 - **Senator Randall:** Yea, Definitely. Firstly, for the selection process on the OGA liaisons, which is myself at the moment, would be involved with this selection process of board members at large as well as any other people that want to be appointed. So if another Senator was to be appointed, let's say, that would kind of give us more of a say just being involved and we have made the liaison a non voting member of OGA as a whole to kind of increase that connection and in terms of kind of the actual photos of the agenda as a whole with the policy proposal. So the Senate will kind of have time once a draft of that has been written up to make suggestions to OGA. It'll kind of be in like a round table thing during special introductions where we can make suggestions and tell them our opinions on everything. And then from that, OGA will go back, make any edits that need to be made and then bring it to send it to be either approved or disapproved. So we have a very large say if we disapprove it, they've got to go back and fix it again until it's kind of to Senate's liking and then we approve it. And then with legislative stances, we're going to have more control over that as well because instead of just kind of immediately going on, second reading it is going to go through the committee process so that people really have time to kind of look at it, scrutinize it and add things, take away things kind of whatever they want to do. So yeah.
 - **Chair Alvarez:** Any other questions for this for the sponsors
 - **Vice Chair Fitzsimmons motions for Pro Con; Senator Hine seconds**
 - **Vice Chair Fitzsimmons:** Just going into it, I was kind of against it, but it definitely seems like the Senators did their due diligence and with OGA's approval, I'm definitely in support now.
 - **Senator Waldie:** Yeah, so hey, I am listed as a Co-sponsor on the bill. I looked over this and tried to see any holes I could find in this about a week ago, but it is very reassuring to see how in support of it the OGA leadership in the next upcoming year is and seeing that you guys are still actively taking precautions to even the minor holes I could find in this somewhere along the way. I think overall it is a very. It seems like it's going to be a much more streamlined process than it

is much more capable of ensuring that the student body is being heard in this important legislative process.

- **Chair Alvarez:** I would also like to say a couple I was definitely. Um, not for this in the beginning, but I did see, like, going through all the verbiage, that there are a lot of ways that it allows for more checks and balances, especially with Senates involvement that's going to be allowed. So I think everybody's done a really, really good job writing this. I'm glad to see that our current board is very much in support of this. That was one of my main concerns, so. Umm. I'm glad everything's going well.
- Closing Statement:
 - **Senator Mendez motions to pass by unanimous consent; Senator Hine seconds**
 - **No Objections**
- Vote:
 - **RESULT: Bill 67 [PASSES BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT]**
- **Bill #71 - Sponsored by Senator Cofer(P)**
- Opening Statement:
 - **Senator Senator Cofer(P):** Hello everyone, so basically what bill 71 does is if you're not familiar SCAA, it's currently in statutes. Its a bureau What that means is because it is in statutes it is very rigid, everything that youve seen that we change the statute has to go through a committee, has to go from Senate, etcetera and there hasn't been a lot of participation. In SCAA recently and there are not any members that I'm familiar with that or that the administration is kind of familiar with. So the student body president's cabinet created the Executive Order 7804 establishing the Student Accessibility Commission. What this is, is essentially SCAA, but on the executive branch side, it's a Commission that they can control. There's already a chair appointed they are already granting participation open for all students and it makes it more flexible allowing because previously SCA, SCAA as a Bureau statute had to go through senate to make any changes. Where as this on the executive side, as Commission is more flexible, they can make changes as they need. They don't need necessarily a treasurer position. They could just have general body positions and do any outreach that they deem necessary. So this bill essentially gets rid of SCAA, the first one I mentioned, from statues, to be more aligned with the executive order. I know there's a lot of abbreviations. Kind of confusing. It's an alignment bill. It's already happened. It's just making sure this doctor reflects appropriately. But yeah, please ask me any questions. **Yields with 3:45 remaining.**
- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

None

- **Senator Waldie moves to enter Pro Con; Senator Hine seconds.**

None

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- **Senator Mendez moves to pass by unanimous consent; Senator Hirji seconds.**
- Vote:
 -
 - **RESULT: Bill 71 [PASSES UNANIMOUS CONSENT]**

- **Bill #72 - Sponsored by Senator Gorelick and Hellman (P)**

Opening Statement:

- **Senator Gorelick and Hellman (P):** Hey everybody, we have spent a lot of time perfecting this bill. Student Body Vice President Nina Chong met with all of our outgoing agency leaders at the end of last semester to get feedback on ways that we can improve the agency space. We used advice from these leaders and we draw up changes to the agency statutes following this. Attorney General Jackson has met with all current confirmed agency directors to finalize one set of statutes that we call the Uniform Agency Act. This act will highlight the four confirmed positions in the mission statements of each agency under one uniform statute. This will allow all the agencies to run a lot smoother and more efficient. As you can see by the bill, the original statutes were 70 pages. They're also very confusing and hard to follow along. Everytime an agency wanted to add a board position such as membership chair. There would have to be an amendment to the statutes and it would have to go through the Senate. This act would allow agencies to create their own set of rules and procedures on top of the uniform statutes. This bill will also make it easier to keep track of and work with their affiliates personally as a member of the Jewish Advisory Council. This will extremely benefit the way we work with organizations such as NOLEPACT and JL, which helps provide a safer space for students on campus. I've also heard more feedback from the Pride Student Union Director, so I wanted to have a motion during roundtable to amend the bill. **Yields with 3:41 remaining.**

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

Senator Waldie: OK. So I know you mentioned in your opening statement that this makes it easier for agencies to especially add positions and things like that to their executive board as they need them. Is there anything in the bill itself that regards how agencies go about formulating this, these rules and procedures for changing them down the line or is it just kind of left up to the agencies themselves?

Senator Hellman: This is going to be left up to the agencies and a lot of the agencies already have a lot of drafts of what rules and procedures they wanna have. And they've been talking to Attorney General and the student body Vice president and their ideas are great. And as someone who's involved in two agencies like I know that everything that they've been doing has been super great work and it just really does give them more freedom to be able to add positions that are necessary like just add in even a communications chair to help with the Instagram. Otherwise, we would have had to completely go through the Senate and change the statutes.

Vice Chair Fitzsimmons: Yeah, so you mentioned how they could basically add on top of pre-existing rules. Does that also, for lack of a better term, mean they can also bypass some already existing rules?

Senator Hellman: No. No, they will not be able to bypass any of those statutes that are added as those are the uniform statutes that they must follow. So the major positions, director, AG, secretary, treasurer, those will also go through the Senate and they're creating their rules and procedures on top of this uniform statute, not in place of, not in front of, it's on top of it, and so they must all still follow the uniform act.

- **Senator Hiriji moves to enter round-table discussion; Vice Chair Fitzsimmons seconds.**
- Round-Table Discussion:

- **Hirji motions for Amendment:** Or it's gonna be clause 1000.5 Section A7. I would like to change the language. To all overarching responsibility and maintain accountability for all actions undertaken by the agency and its board members within the organization.
 - **Senator Hellman finds friendly**
 - **Amendment adopted**
 - **Senator Hine moves to enter pro con; Senator Waldie Seconds**
- None**
- **Senator Waldie motions to call the question; Senator Hine seconds**
 - Closing Statement:
 - Senator Gorelick and Hellman (P) -
 - **Senator Hellman:** Yea, I just wanted to thank everybody for hearing us out and listening. And I'm gonna let Jason say a few words.
 - **Senator Gorelick:** Hey, guys. So just to kind of make it clear once again that agencies will have to follow statutes. It's not just them getting like rid of it because of this. This is just allowing them, you know, to have a little bit more freedom in creating their own rules. But statutes will always come first, and they do need to, you know, follow them. So, yeah, I hope you guys. Like the bill and vote in favor of it. And yeah, thank you guys. **Sponsors yields with 3:08 remaining.**
 - Vote:
 - Yes: [6] **Vice Chair Fitzsimmons, Senator(s) Hiriji, Waldie, Novotney, Hine, Varnon.**
 - No: [0]
 - Abstain: [1] **Senator Mendez**
 - **RESULT: Bill 72 [PASSES]**

Unfinished Business:

- None

Closing Announcements:

- **Chair Alvarez:** Great job everybody. I love that everyone was so vocal today. That is my favorite. But yes, great job everybody. We also have Senate right after this at 7:30. So make sure to log on to that because still counts towards attendance even though we're at the very end of the summer sessions. So, again. Thank you everybody for being part of my committee. I loved having you guys, even though we didn't meet very often. But yeah. Any words from our vice chair?
- **Vice Chair Fitzsimmons:** It was a privilege and an honor being my first term and hopefully I'll be seeing you all next semester for my last semester.
- **Senate President Cofer:** I just want to say congratulations to everybody in your very last judiciary meeting. I know it's been a long summer going through all these meetings and Senate committees, but thank you all so very much for being engaged and participating in voting with cameras on. That's awesome. As the chair said, there is Senate meeting at 7:30 on zoom. Please be there and engaged. Then our last meeting next week in the Senate chamber. So thank you guys so much and congratulations.

Adjourned: at 6:45pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Alvarez', written in a cursive style.

Signature of Chair Alvarez