



**75<sup>th</sup> Student Senate**  
**Student Life Committee**

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 5:00pm | Zoom ID: 986 4178 1288**

**Call to Order: 5:00pm**

**Members Present: Chair Pedraja, Vice Chair Arellano, Senator Shah, Senator Schwartz, Senator Sparling, Senator Mason**

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent: Senator Kerley**

**Guests: Joseph Cofer, Billy Grayling, Ariana White, Noah Kirchmey Baez**

**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 settlers- 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 Pedraja: Welcome Mason to our awesome committee. If you have any questions throughout the committee meeting don't hesitate to raise your hand.
- Members of the Public
  - None

#### **Committee Business:**

- **Resolution 51:** A White is the primary sponsor. Do we have A. White or a Co Sponsor to talk about the bill?
- Senator Sparling: I'm here to co-sponsor.
- Senator White: Sorry, I just got on the call, I stepped out.
  - Opening Statement (5 minutes):
    - Senator A. White: Thank you. I just want to start off by saying hello to the Student Life Committee and then thank Lauren Sparling, Senator Sparling for sponsoring my bill for me last week, my name is Ariana White and I'm a native of Tallahassee and a proud Seminole. I have lived at FSU for as long as I can remember and want to see it become a better and livable place for all students. I was accepted through care admission and later into Unconquered Scholars. Care is for Pell Grant eligible first generation college students and unconquered is a program specifically for students who have experienced homelessness or relative care in their youth. I have seen first-hand health food insecurity and how it negatively impacts someone's life as a resident assistant. I once had a student who lived. In Norman Hall. It is typically a hall that's known for having more wealthy students come to me upset because they had no access to food and had no idea how they would eat during finals week. I walked them to the food for thought pantry, which is unfortunately empty due to the time of year and low donations. Snap, previously known as food stamps, can ultimately change someone's college experience for the better. Food is a necessity that should be prioritized over academics. But when tuition and textbooks and technology costs so much mentally and financially, food will become a lesser priority for your wallet. I was so excited to hear that staff would be accepted on campus in 2021 when I heard a terminal could be added to the pod. But I did not use the terminal for nine months as a direct result of poor advertising. I only knew that it was going there because of the fallacy Democrat article and an Instagram post that SNAP and EBT was coming to campus. But I did not know when it would actually arrive. Last fall, I asked trading post one of the rumors Snap locations if it was accepted, they told me no. I then asked if Pod accepted it. They told me no again. I assume I received this response because I just didn't know any better. When I called the Seminole Dining in January, I was also given the same response. Upon actually going to the pod, I

was too embarrassed to ask again and there was no signage advertising the terminal, so I did not use SNAP on campus. Lo and behold, it was available at Pod. You might be wondering why I didn't just Google it. Well, I did. At the time, there was no mention of SNAP terminals on any FSU website going into the summer. I made it my goal to add verbiage to an FSU website about SNAP. At the time, it was not on DSST or the official list of pay accepted payments for the pod on the single dining website. I met with the food with that pantry as a stakeholder who, and they ultimately did add it to their website a few weeks after our conversation. That was after my submission of this bill, so that will be an amendment needs to happen because they decided that it was something important enough to add to their website after our conversation. I also called Seminole dining, but they would not answer my questions, which is why this bill is still needed, because if I, someone who knows their way around campus and has even been a campus resource as an RA and now a senator cannot find a snap or EBT terminal, how will a freshman? How will a transfer student? How will a student in need? Please vote on this resolution to create new print advertisements of the pod and to add snap to the website description of Seminole Dining's accepted form of payment at the pod. Thank you. And I yield the rest of my time.

- Question Period:
  - None
- Senator Sparling moves to enter round table discussion, Vice Chair Arellano seconds, no objections.
- Round Table Discussion:
  - Senator Sparling: I think this is a really cool bill or resolution. I think it's definitely needed on campus. So, like people know more of like what is offered, and it can be like more accessible to the people that need it. So yeah, definitely in support of the bill.
  - Senator Schwartz: Can I propose an amendment? Yeah, so it should read: "there's currently only one EBT terminal location on the Florida State University campus and then I think the rest is fine.
  - Chair Pedraja: Do we have a second?
  - Senator Sparling: seconded.
  - Chair Pedraja: Does the Sponsor find it friendly?
  - Senator White: Yes.
  - Chair Pedraja: Do I have any objections? No. Without objections, the amendment is adopted, do we have any other amendments?
  - Senator Sparling: Yes, so I make a motion to amend. In the 6<sup>th</sup> whereas class, it says that the University Department of Student support and Traditions website doesn't list where to find EBT terminals on campus and they actually do now. So, I think that we should be able to drag through that.

- Chair Pedraja: Do I have a second?
- Senator Arellano: Seconded.
- Chair Pedraja: Does the sponsor find it friendly?
- Senator White: Yes.
- Chair Pedraja: Do I have any objections? Without any objections, the amendment is adopted.
- Senator Arellano moves to call the question, Senator Sparling seconds, no objections.
- Closing Statement:
  - Senator Baez: Yes, thank you so much everyone for giving us the opportunity to bring this resolution to you all. This is something that Senator White and I have been discussing since the beginning of summer Senate. This is something we both are extremely passionate about, especially because we are both RA's. I'm currently working in the traditions complex, which is comprised of upperclassmen. Even upperclassmen do not know about where SNAP EBT terminals are located on campus, and I've been an RA now for two years and before this whole conversation that I've had with Senator White, I myself didn't even know where they were located. Even when I was talking to my higher ups and within housing, they did not even know. So, we really do think that this is a resolution that really needs to be addressed and with that I yield the remainder of my time. Thank you guys so much.
- Vote:
  - Yes: 5
  - No: 0
  - Abstentions: 0
- **RESULT: RESOLUTION #51 Passes.**

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- None

**Unfinished Business:**

- None

**Closing Announcements:**

- Chair Pedraja: It's been a pleasure to serve as your chair. If you need anything, my new email is [epedraja@usf.edu](mailto:epedraja@usf.edu). Y'all have my number as well so don't hesitate to contact me to ask any questions in regards to student government or just life in general.

**Adjourned: 5:16 pm**

Signed,

Edward Pedraja  
Chair of the Student Life Committee