

## THE SEVENTY-SIXTH STUDENT SENATE

Calendar: March 7, 2024

Location: Senate Chambers

Time: 7:30 pm

### Call to Order:

- Pro-Temp Gorelick calls the meeting to order at 7:37PM.

### Pledge of Allegiance:

- Conducted.

### Moment of Silent Reflection:

- Conducted.

### Land Acknowledgement:

Senator Daley: 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.

### Roll Call:

- Refer to attendance.

### Verification of Quorum:

- Verified.

### Corrections and Approval of the Journal:

- None.

### Student and RSO Comments:

[https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b9EVvRotPr4y03r](https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9EVvRotPr4y03r)

- *Director of World Affairs Program*
  - Good evening, first of all thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. I am the director of the World Affairs Program. I am here tonight to ask the senate to amend the budget bill to address what I believe is an error in zero funding SAP. This org was specifically created for orgs like WAP, that cannot use RTAC and PAC for their unique funding needs. Being forced to rely on RTAC would increase costs to our program, and would only meet a portion of our needs. This would force us to limit our travel, limiting our ability to win awards,

and decreasing our ranking. This also limits abilities to provide programs to FSU students. We already operate with a third of the budget that every other university in the top 20 has, except we out perform them constantly. Speaking for our organization and our stakeholders, we believe this decision will jeopardize our decision in the following ways. Firstly, it will limit students having access to this organization, beyond the World Affairs Program. Without this funding, and our current funding structure of SAP, our organization will be unable to maintain the level of opportunity that it provides students at a financially accessible level. Secondly, RTAC will not meet the needs that this organization, as our funding needs are unique to the SAP category and operate on a fundamentally other level than other RSOs to receive funding through RTAC. Our conference date is decided nearly a year in advance, and the lack of being able to attend a conference would knee our ranking. SAP funding is essential in making sure we can continue to provide students with these opportunities. I along with WAP members am here to ask you all to amend the budget deal to continue our nearly 40 year partnership with SGA. Thank you.

- *Madelyn Severy - Vice Director of the World Affairs Program*
  - Good evening and thank you for allowing me to speak. I am the Vice Director of the World Affairs Programming. The World Affairs Program has been one of the most enriching experiences at FSU, but it has not been my only one. This time last I was appointed as a student senator, representing the College of Undergraduate Studies in Seat 2. While I may have served on a different committee than you, I became a senator for the same reasons as you, and that was to serve the student body. Not only did we come for the same purpose, but we took the same oath to support and defend the constitution of the universities student body. When we raised our right hand to take this oath, we promised to provide quality leadership and accountability to SGA. By zero funding SAP, the budget committee threatened to walk back on their promise, to represent and advocate for the student body. SGA would no longer be representing their constituents. I am disappointed. The WAP means a lot to me, and to the members here. It gave me opportunities to travel and network. Allowed me to develop my debate skills, and gave me chances to grow. I am urging you to support an amendment to fund SAP. Thank you.
- *Collin Murell - Assistant Director of Programming and Finance for the World Affairs Program*
  - First and foremost, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here. The WAP is internationally ranked 8th. I am here today to express my emotions regarding the lack of funding for SAP. Senators, that ranking of 8th is only made possible through SAP. The Dean of COSSP has described the WAP as *Inaudible*. We pride ourselves on this, as state schools are usually over looked on this. We want to promote the excellence the driving force that FSU shows inside and outside of the classroom. The SAP funding that we received

this year was able to send students to 5 conferences across the nation. 3 of which we won the entire conference. Personally, I have been able to travel more at my time at Florida State in WAP, than I have in my 19 years alive. On behalf of WAP, I am urging you to amend Bill 2024 to fund SAP. I ask you all to ask yourselves about the impact zero funding this has. Thank you.

- Lauren Yukom - *Student in the World Affairs Program*
  - Hello everyone, thank you again for allowing us for your time tonight. I really appreciate everything you all are doing. I would like to emphasize that growing up my family did not have the resources to travel and network for opportunities in the future. However, for the WAP, my perspective in the past 6 months has truly changed my life. Already, through SAP, I have been able to attend 2 conferences, and through one of them I had the opportunity to speak to leaders in my field. This would not have happened without SAP. Now I know I am not just speaking of myself when I say, any FSU student can join this program, and understand what we have to offer. I would also like to bring up an important point. We have a letter from the Dean of Social Sciences basically backing up the amendment to the Bill 2024, where we can have more direct funding from SAP. Once more, I just want to say thank you all for your time, and we appreciate it. Thank you.

#### Special Introductions:

- None.

#### Report of Senate Officers:

- Jason Gorelick - *Pro-Temp*
  - Cofer will be here soon, which will count towards quorum. Have your iclicker ready!

#### Messages from the Executive Branch:

- Adam Bowling - *Student Body Treasurer*
  - Now that everyone has had some time to review the budget bill, I am here to answer any questions you may have!
  - Senator Srivastava
    - We are increasing funding by 4% every year and not increasing tuition, what are we cutting from?
      - So, we are not cutting from anything in particular, it would be the administration's responsibility to find sources to fund Campus Rec and the Union. They have promised to fund these, and it is in writing. We are not cutting, we are just expanding what is available to us.
  - Chair Lento
    - Are there any other organizations that currently can only get their funding from SAP right now?
      - So, in statutes, if organizations do not receive funding from SAP, they are eligible to receive funding from PAC and RTAC. So next fiscal year, requesting will be done from PAC and RTAC, like others do.

- Thank you guys so much for coming to this! It is very important to make sure we pass this budget bill. I look forward to see what you guys do next!
- Jack Hitchcock - *Student Body President*
  - This is kinda crazy! Hopefully this is my last time, speaking to the senate as a student and on behalf of the executive board. First of all, congrats to everyone who got elected yesterday. It is very important that you end up running to represent the student body, your age group, your college. So first off, round of applause for that. Remember if you just got elected, remember your commitment to the student body. Number one, I am so proud of everyone that worked so hard to get that budget, so thank you to everyone who made that possible. It definitely was not easy, but I wanted to thank y'all for that. I think it is very important to remember that organizations can opt into that SAP funding, and if they did not they could still do PAC, RTAC, and organization fund. They are able to explore the other choices as well, that all other RSOs are able to explore, including sweepings. I just wanted to say that. Thank you!

Messages from Agencies, Bureaus, Affiliated Projects, and SGA Organizations:

- None.

Messages from the Class Councils:

- None.

Messages from the Congress of Graduate Students:

- Speaker of COGS - Jack Rowan
  - Good evening senate. For the second time this week! As a reminder, COGS budget week is the week of March 25. Come out to see how our funding process works! We will be hearing about a broad sweep of this campus! Moving to the budget. It was an honor to serve on the budget committee this year. I want to give a few thanks: McEnery, Goldstein, Bowling, Salazar, Meier. This budget is a great budget. We are seeing across the board increases. This is a fantastic budget, it will increase money to the RSO's. There are all great ways to make sure this money is going back to the student body where it belongs. Keep in mind the student body as a whole. We want to make sure that every single student has a way to get SGA funding. I highly recommend this budget! Thank you to everyone on the committee for working on this and going through the process. Thank you!

Messages from the Judicial Branch:

- None.

Messages from the Union Board and Campus Recreation Board:

- None.

Report of the SGA Accounting Office: Remaining Balances: Senate Projects \$19,023.44, PAC \$32,865.92, RTAC \$22,757.86, and ORG Fund \$10,738.24

**\*\*do not reflect changes made in the 03/06 Senate meeting**

Report of Senate Liaisons:

- None.

### Report of Committees:

- Judiciary
  - None.
- Internal Affairs
  - None.
- Budget
  - None.
- Finance
  - None.
- Student Life
  - None.
- Rules
  - None.
- Legislative Ad Hoc
  - None.

### Senate Confirmations:

- None.

### Consent Calendar:

- None.

### Bills First Reading:

- None.

### Resolutions First Reading:

Resolution 33                      Sponsored by Cofer, Gorelick (P) Arellano, Baressi, DeVitto, Garcia, Goldstein, McEnery, Rodriguez, Salazar, Valderrama, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese (Co)

The Memorandum of Understanding Activity and Service Fee Annual Allocation Between the Florida State University Student Government Association, Florida State University Division of Student Affairs, and Florida State University Division of Finance and Administration, commonly referred to in the 76th Student Senate Chamber as the "Budget Deal." **(Tabled 3.6)**

- Chair Meier
  - Moves to place on second reading.
  - Chair Bevis seconds.
  - No objections.
- Opening Statement
  - So we need first, before we pass this budget, we need to make sure that the senate agrees with the budget deal, to ensure that the budget has been accurately dispersed. Until this deal is signed, we will not know if the Campus Rec and Union Board will be funded by administration, that is why we need it on second reading.
- General Questioning

- None.
- Pro Con Debate
  - Senator Goldstein
    - Just vote yes!
  - Chair Bevis
    - Moves to call the question.
    - Senator Randall second.
    - No objections.
- Closing
  - I yield.
- Voting Results
  - 38 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.
  - Placed on second reading.
  - Senator Goldstein
    - Moves to unlock the calendar and move resolution to second reading.
    - Senator Kleimetz seconds.

Bills Second Reading:

Bill 2024                      Sponsored by Meier, Salazar (P) Arellano, Barresi, Cofer, Devitto, Garcia, Goldstein, Gorelick, McEnery, Rodriguez, Valderrama, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese (Co)  
 The Budget Committee's recommendation for the FY 24-25 SGA budget allocation. **(Passed Budget Unanimously 2.27. Placed on Second Reading 2.28. Tabled on Floor 3.6)**

- Opening Statement
  - So we were given a budget of \$1.189M to allocate from everything here, agencies, organizations, funding boards, etc. We went through every single organization that came and presented and listened to their request, and did the best job we were able to do to fairly and evenly disperse this funding. It is broken down into different category and line items. Everything was cut basically, because we just don't have the money for it. We made cuts where we saw fit. We did not really cut OPS wages, because they do a lot of work, and they only get paid for 10 office hours a week. For some of these, we gave them a raise from last year, bc they are expanding. WSU got a raise from last year. We made significant cuts in a lot of areas. The only one left untouched was the Supreme Court, because they ask for a small amount. Everything is about the same. Pubs got the money they requested, because without that they would not be able to run. Same thing for WVFS. PAC and RTAC did receive a \$10,000 increase. COGS, this is the amount that we cannot touch, \$1.2 million. Constitutionally they have to receive half of all A&S fees from graduate students. Union and Campus Rec and Student Engagement agreed on this number, because we cannot decide the dispersion of this. We only had \$1.189M to work with. This is the culmination of hard work over a month. Something that wasn't easy to do, but I am very proud of this work. It was a lot but we answered a lot of important information. I could not do any of this without Vice Chair Meier. Just addressing a couple of things that people may have questions about. So the reason why you may see that we cut the BSU OPS wages, we unfortunately did not have the budgetary situation to fund this front desk member. I wanted to touch on Homecoming and the Golden Torch Lecture Series, we cut significantly, because

the amount of money we have for them to bring in the headliners, all the money they did not use the year before rolls over.

- General Questioning
  - Chair Velazquez
    - Can you address what people were talking about at the beginning of senate with the SAP program?
      - So we decided to zero fund the SAP funding board, because we wanted to make increases in other funding boards, such as the organizational fund, PAC fund and RTAC fund. This would essentially give organizations that request for SAP, they can opt out of SAP Funding and request from all three of these and from sweepings. Because of this, we believe these organizations would benefit more by requesting from one of these three funds or sweepings instead of through SAP. They have access to more money, and they are still an RSO, so what gives them that extra platform to take from a special pot of money, that is separate from what all other RSOs request from.
  - Chair Lento
    - What are the other organizations are a part of SAP? Are they aware of the zero fund?
      - They are aware of the zero fund. Historically, the primary source of funding for WAP was SAP. We have had smaller funding from case competition, but majority from WAP.
  - Senator Hine
    - What is the SAFE connection under affiliated project? Why were they zero funded?
      - They have vans around campus, we are not funding them anymore, we used to, they are now being funded by TAPS, so they have more money and are suited better there.
  - Senator Goldstein
    - Moves to amend. Under funding boards on proviso, under RTAC. strike the whole thing under RTAC. "For the fiscal year, 2024-25 RTAC shall not expend more than \$500, per student, for each request that it funds, and no more than \$15,000 in total for an RSO within the fiscal year. This provision may be waived by a unanimous vote of the senate finance committee."
      - Senator Anandjiwala seconds.
      - No objections.
      - Found friendly.
        - Opening
          - I yield.
        - General Questioning
          - None.
        - Pro Debate
          - Chair Bevis
            - I just want to speak in pro of this amendment. I work with the budget committee for this. I just want to thank you for being in constant communication with me for this! I love it!
        - Con Debate







- Chair Khosh objects.
- Chair Velazquez
  - I think we have already went over this, a large bit of us are against this, they have other funding. I hope you all join me in voting down on this.
- Chair Khosh
  - Ok so, I just wanted to start by saying that I really do understand the frustrations of the World Affairs Program. I personally have seen first hand the work that the students in the program perform. I understand how important it is to put FSU on the map, up against other privileged universities. The work that these students do has not gone unnoticed, as well as the fact that they have over 100 people in their RSO. With that being said, the fact of the matter is that the long and hard work that the work of the budget committee has completed, this is the decision that they had to come to and it was not an easy one to make. This budget committee and this group of students would not have done this, if they did not think it was the best decision to make. As a program, they can raise plenty amounts of money with fundraising, because as stated early they are an RSO, and they have more than average as an RSO. We see RSOs come in here every week, and with 115 members they have more than enough. They have plenty of connections and capabilities to get the fundraising they need. The person making this amendment also did just join our senate last week, and with all due respect, they are also a little bias to this statement. With that, I hope you will respect the budget committee and the work that they did and notice that this RSO can still do great work.
- Senator McEnery
  - I second everything the previous senator said.
- Closing
  - Thank you for all the valuable points that have been made. I do want to respond to just a few things. Although I did just join the senate, that does not effect the fact that I have been a part of the World Affairs Program, and seen how senate funding has helped it. The loss of zero funding organizations that largely rely on funding of SAP, this will drastically affect the impact of the WAP. There are many different organizations that will be affected by this zero funding. I don't make this solely for their benefit, but I make it in effect to all these organizations. I am not here to attack those who worked on this budget, I completely understand their work and commend them.
- Voting Results
  - 1 yes, 31 no, 7 abstentions.
  - Does not pass.
- Chair Velazquez
  - Moves to enter pro
  - Senator Larancuent

- Seconds.
    - No objections.
  - Pro Con Debate
    - Chair Velazquez
      - Great job to everyone! Overall, great deal!
    - Senator Goldstein
      - I would just like to give a shoutout to Chair Salazar, huge shoutouts!
    - Senator McEnery
      - I want to shout out everyone involved, it was a great experience. This is such an amazing experience, I can say, I promise every decision was made for a reason, and we had reasoning for everything thank you.
    - Chair Windlan
      - This is the best of a bad situation. We are not receiving enough funding, and I hope that changes, but for now this is great!
    - Senator Randall
      - This has been months in the making, you all took so much time out of your day to discuss this budget, so I just want to commend you all for this!
    - Chair Khosh
      - I want to really commend everyone that worked on this. This is making the best out of a bad situation. The students that work on this can't change what we are given, so they did the best they could!
    - Chair Velazquez
      - Moves to enter con.
      - Senator Kleinmetz
        - Seconds.
        - No objections.
    - Senator Anandjiwala
      - Moves to call the question.
      - Senator Perry
        - Seconds.
        - No objections.
  - Closing
    - None.
  - Voting Results
    - Done by roll call.
      - 40 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention.
      - Bill 2024 passes.

Resolutions Second Reading:

Resolution 29      Sponsored by Castellanos (P) Ahuja, Anandjiwala, Brown, Carr, Chinn, Daley, Emokidi, Garcia, Gomez, Hine, McEnery, Meier, Lalani, Larancuent, Lento, Olsen-Galvan, Randall, Randall, Rodriguez, Souvenir, Tran, Vargheese, Windlan, Zuloaga (Co)  
 This resolution will serve as the first step in respectfully asking the City of Tallahassee to repaint the Black Lives Matter Mural at the intersection of Gaines St. and Railroad Ave. A mural that served as a symbol of unity against systemic racism. **(Referred to SL 2.28. Passed SL Unanimously 3.1. Tabled on Floor 3.6)**

- Senator Anandjiwala

- Moves to table
- Senator Goldstein seconds.
- No objections.
- Tabled.

Resolution 33      Sponsored by Cofer, Gorelick (P) Arellano, Baressi, DeVitto, Garcia, Goldstein, McEnery, Rodriguez, Salazar, Valderrama, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese (Co)  
 The Memorandum of Understanding Activity and Service Fee Annual Allocation Between the Florida State University Student Government Association, Florida State University Division of Student Affairs, and Florida State University Division of Finance and Administration, commonly referred to in the 76th Student Senate Chamber as the “Budget Deal.” **(Tabled 3.6)**

- Opening Statement
  - Great, so as you all know, the reason why it's taken so long for us to get through the actual budget process, is because of ongoing negotiations. This is honoring the deal that we struck with administration, for us to not have to work on allocating the over \$12 million that was requested by Campus Rec and the Union and Student Engagement. So that was pushed over, to figure out a way to fund them. This left us with a little over \$1 million to be able to allocate to everything else. This is honoring all of that now, and then we will get to the big little budget deal after this. While this agreement would allow us to have over \$1 million to allocate to our student agencies and bureaus and organizations, we are still in a very tight budgetary situation, but we are still going to be able to fund most of these organizations to the point of operation. But the most important part of this deal is that we are going to still be able to fund the student body activities. We yield.
- General Questioning
  - None.
- Pro Con Debate
  - Pro-Temp Gorelick
    - This is the best deal that we are going to get. Study Body Treasurer Bowling, Chair Salazar, President Cofer, Student Body President Hitchcock, Vice Chair Meier, they did not work this hard for something like this to not pass. I have never voted on something, but I will be voting on this and voting yes, so I hope you do the same.
  - Chair Khosh
    - I wanted to speak in pro of this. Last time we talked about this, I asked lots of questions, to give everyone a little more information on this process. I hope the questions that I and others asked, clarified for you all. I hope you all vote yes, because it has been worked on very hard.
  - Senator Anandjiwala
    - Moves to call the question by voice vote.
    - Senator Kleimetz
      - Seconds.
    - Pro-Temp Gorelick objects.
    - Senator Anandjiwala
      - Moves to call the question.
      - Senator Kleimetz

- Seconds.
- Closing
  - We yield.
- Voting Results
  - 41 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.
  - Passes.
- Senator Anandjiwala
  - Moves to return to the order of the day
    - Chair Bevis
      - Seconds
    - No objections.

Unfinished Business:

- None.

New Business:

- None.

Statements of Dissent:

- None.

Closing Announcements:

- Chair Salazar
  - I want to thank everyone in this room! Everyone made this possible, and I could not do it without you all. This is one of the hardest things I have ever done in SGA! I love you guys so much, and let's give a round of applause!
- Vice Chair Meier
  - I want to thank y'all sm for being here on a Thursday. I think it makes me very happy that you all care about this, and have decided to come tonight and give this money out. I wanted to highlight, when we were going through training, Andy Johnson told us that it's not just numbers, it's a way to create change and enact policies.
- Senator Emokidi
  - Want to say congrats to everyone on this process. Everyone is very happy. Thank the WAP for coming out and speaking on behalf of their organization whether or not it happened the way they wanted, they still came out!
- Senator Rodriguez
  - Want to echo what previous senators have said. During this budget process, I got to witness so many people ask good questions, give presentations, and it gave me an insight on how RSOs function. It was an experience I would never trade, congrats to everyone!
- Sienna Burns - *Press Secretary*
  - I want to commend everything the budget committee has done!
- Jason Gorelick - *Pro-Temp*
  - Congrats to the budget committee, proud of all of you! LCP come see me. Love you guys, wear your seatbelts!
- Joseph Cofer - *President*
  - Guys we are continuing to be efficient. I will say I am so proud of you all! Thank you for being attentive and being here!

Advisor Announcements:

- Thank you Mr. President, we have a budget! Not only do you have a budget, but you know what it is going to be for the next four years! Congratulations! I just want to say, this was an excellent, high quality, very respectful debate tonight. I really want to commend the WAP for coming extremely well prepared! I am such a nerd for public policy stuff like this! This is what policy is and I love it, and you guys did a great job! Other than that, celebrate responsibly tonight, but celebrate well! Get some rest, and enjoy spring break! I love you all and I am proud of every single one!

Final Roll Call:

- Conducted.

Adjournment:

- **President Cofer adjourns Senate at 9:18PM.**