



75th Student Senate

Student Life Committee

Friday, September 16th, 2023 at 2:15 pm | Zoom ID: 662 691 0906
Meeting Recording Link: [video1482886388.mp4](#)

Call to Order: 2:16 pm

Members Present: Chattelier, Dos Santos, Barrett, Garrison, Newsome.

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Syska, Sparling, M.Brown, Pruim.

Guests: 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 recognize this land remains scarred by the legacies of violence and removal, we recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land, and we 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:

Committee Business:

- Resolution #65

New Business: Resolution #65

RESOLUTION #65 : Sponsored by Senator Diaz (P) Behar, M. Brown, Garcia, Humberg, Lento, LoBianco, McEnery, Randall, Sparling, Staveski, Valdes-Herrera, Windlan (Co)

Supporting the recommendations of the 2023 Local Fees Committee.

- Opening Statement (5 mins):

As folks know, the Student Body Treasurer came to speak to Senate on Wednesday. We pay as students, fees in a part of tuition, a athletics fee, a health fee, and an a&s fee. For those of you who don't know, the a&s fees are what come to SGA. It is paid for per credit hour, multiplied by the number of credit hours you are taking. The amount that we pay in tuition has not increased in about 10 years. The last time that it increase was in 2012-2013 during that school year. The rate of inflation since then has been 32%, and as we are all aware the price of basically everything has increased since 2012. Due to inflationary policies and such, which is fine. However, the amount we have paid in tuition has not been related to that increase. Many of the things we pay for in student government have become more expensive, t-shirts have become more expensive, minimum wage has gone up because of constitutional amendment in 2018. This resolution is made for the purpose of when Dr.Hecht and President Hitchcock. go to President McCullough with these fee increases, they can say that we have support from the student senate to do this. I'll yield with that and I am happy to answer any questions about it.

- Technical Non-Debatable Questions:

Meuiner: How is this going to affect the student body as a whole with this increase in price?

Diaz: Typical in-state student will increase tuition by \$25.00. Bright futures will most likely cover this. However, there will be some secondary affects of that because bright-futures will have to pay more, so they may increase SAT requirements and such to make up for the increase in tuition that students will have to be paying. However this will again be going back to the students that services students need.

Khosh: Can you give us some examples of the services students will be receiving with this increase?

Diaz: Yeah so I would particularly look at the memo for that info. I am person who knows mostly about the A&S fees because that goes to SGA but the other details for other services, can be found in the memo. Things like this increase would also allow us to pay our student workers more, so whether that be in the union, or in the rez, we can increase the wage in which those people are paid. It could also potentially also allow us to increase funding for all of our agencies or lobby through offices such as the office of governmental affairs and increasing the budget for that. It can allow us to have more advisors in SGA, and increasing a budget for that can help us address our concerns. We can make the senate chambers look prettier, or with an increase in senate project money we can do more with that. So it is up to the budget committee as to what they want to do with that extra 5%, but hopefully we would have some guidance on how to do that.

Khosh: Can you talk about how this will be advertised and be made known to students?

Diaz: Sure. I don't have a great answer to that but what I will tell you is that the process from here is that now that local fees has made their recommendation, it will go to president McCullough, he will look over it, edit it if he would like, and then next to the board of trustees. There is public notice for all board of trustees meetings, I know Treasurer Bowling put a local

fees post on Instagram. We can reach out to folks in the executive branch and even the legislative branch, to talk about outreach and how we can make students more aware about this before it hits the board of trustees. Students can do public comment at the board of trustees meetings just like they can in senate.

Dos Santos: If President McCullough signs this, would this go into effect in the 2024-2025 school year?

Diaz: It is not just President McCullough that needs to sign, it is also the board of trustees. But to answer your question it would be in the 2024-2025.

Meunier: Have the other Universities been introducing increases to their fees?

Diaz: I don't have the best answer for that, but as a quick example our A&S fee may be lower than the University of Florida, but that may be accommodated by a difference in services. For example, in my opinion we unfortunately fund the leach, so our A&S fund may be higher than UF, but they don't have to pay for their gym. So we would just need to look at the difference in services within these universities. I am not the one that has done the research on this, but I can tell you someone that has done this is Policy Director Folwell, and Eli-Mckown Dawson, and I am sure President Hitchcock could talk about this for hours. So I am just here to back them up when this is sent to higher authority.

Khosh: I assume there is something in the memo about how this will affect out-of-state students.

Diaz: Out of state and in-state students pay the same A&S fees, so this will affect both students the same. Out of state students simply pay more because they pay a separate fee for being out of state. For whatever reason, they pay the extra fee, because as an in-state student, your parents pay taxes to the state of Florida, but an out state student does not pay those taxes, so they pay the fee which helps fund the university. So I hope that helps clarify.

Barett moves to enter round-table discussion; Khosh seconds; no objections

- Round-Table Discussion:

Khosh: Yeah so just a comment from me, I feel like this is something I need to read a little bit more about. However, I would support an increase just because of the services that students need and will continue to need. Especially with the increasing amount of students we are bringing into the university. I also feel like one of the major goals for the university at this point is to increase our rankings at a national standpoint and in order to do that, things such as this are very necessary. There also hasn't been an increase in a very long time, as Adam was talking about in senate. I think I am gonna go ahead and read the memo for some more information, but I am gonna go ahead and vote yes today. I also feel like Treasurer Bowling has been very open and a wealth of information as this process is going on, and anyone has had concerns or questions has had multiple opportunities to address them.

Meunier: I think that this is basically housekeeping. By upkeeping the university as more students come in and what vice-chair Khosh said, we need to keep growing as university. So I support this as well.

Khosh moves to call the question; Newsome seconds; no objections

Closing Statement:

Thank you so much. Yeah there have been alot of political reasons as to why there hasnt been a fee increase in the past 10 years. Particularly, the last two governors have made it clear that they did not want a tuition fee increase, and somewhat threatned fire (which is their right) to fire members of the board of trustees if there was to be a tuition fee increase. Folks on the board of trustees, havent always felt comfortable supproting a tuiton fee increase out of fear for their job. I am totally comfortable saying that publicly, it is just a matter of politics. It is unfortunate when poltics gets in the way of public universities and public institutions in my opinion. President Hithcock says that the political situation is sitting in a point where this could happen, and from what I have seen the 72nd senate is the last time a resoluton like this was presented. You could have almost copy and paste because the reccomended increase has been the same since 2012. But yeah, I feel like this is something that needs to happen and I hope you can support.

Diaz:

Sponsor yields with 19 seconds.

- Vote:
 - Yes: 5
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0

- **RESULT: RESOLUTION #59 PASSED**

Unfinished Business:

None

Closing Announcements:

I really appreciate your conversation today and asking all the questions, it really helps us know what we are voting on.

Next Meeting: 9/22/2023

Adjourned: 2:40 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two lines. The first line is a stylized 'L' followed by several loops, and the second line is a more continuous, flowing script. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the signature.

Signature of Chair, Luke M. Meunier