

76th Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee June 11 at 6:00pm | https://fsu.zoom.us/j/91800223451

Call to Order: 6:04pm Members Present: Chair Mastali, Vice Chair Slager, Senator Ball, Senator Carr, Senator Fronczak, Senator Seminario Members Tardy: 0 Members Absent: 0 Guests: Faisal Lalani, Isabella LoBianco

Land Acknowledgement: The Student Government of Florida State University acknowledges that it's located on land that is the ancestral and traditional territory of the Apalachee nation, the Miccosukee tribe of Florida, the Muskogee 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 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:

• Welcome to our first IA meeting!

Committee Business:

None

Old Business:

• None

New Business:

- Candidate for Confirmation: Carson Mann, Executive Branch, Events & Student Programming Coordinator
 - Opening Statement:
 - <u>Candidate Mann</u>: All right. Firstly, I'm super honored to have even been approached and offered this position in the first place. I understand the competitiveness of this position and the importance this role plays in the

agenda of the executive branch. As some of you may know, I've only just begun my journey in the SGA world. Let me say how much of a pleasure it has been to work with so many great individuals and work with the student body. I know I've not held much time in student government, but I'm so incredibly excited to get my feet wet in this new experience and continue to foster positive relationships within the student body. As events and student programming coordinator, I will ensure I have a student's best interest in mind for every decision and event I plan as it is, sorry, as it is essential to remember what we were doing this all for, and it's to better the experience of the students at MSU. This will be an extremely valuable experience that I know I will not be perfect at, but I'm hoping that all the obstacles thrown at me and the rest of the executive branch's way during this term will not just be overcome but used as a learning lesson to improve upon collectively as a team.

- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Carr: What are some specific organizations within like the FSU community that you'd like to partner with in this position?
 - Candidate Mann: Yeah, of course. I don't know if I know you guys aware I'm in SAE and I joined that freshman year. I just recently lived in the house this past year, so I've gotten super close with everyone involved in that chapter. So I definitely want to use my connections in the chapter as well as use them with the connections they have with other fraternities and sororities on campus, and to really be kind of like the right hand man for whatever we can do as the executive branch for them, as they do make up, you know, a great deal of people at FSU and are generally super involved within SGA and other clubs and organizations on campus. So I definitely want to foster and maintain the positive relationship we do have with Greek life. So yeah, that's one area. I think a really big area that we can improve upon is reaching out to incoming freshmen and incoming transfers that you know don't really know what student government is, or, you know they're just, they're kind of scared going into a new experience in a new school. So I think us making strides to really build a good foundation with those incoming freshmen, incoming transfers, to make them feel more comfortable so they can be more involved with us in the future. Yeah.
 - Senator Carr: So I know you're talking about freshmen and everything, but do you have any like specific, like programming ideas? You have Greek life and freshmen and everything around that?
 - Candidate Mann: Yeah, so I've done a little bit of brainstorming, and I've talked with Anthony about, you know, what is realistic, as far as setting up events and everything, I think, just from the start, beginning of the year, just setting up tabling events throughout Landis, or Wherever we get approval from FSU, and, you know, just having them come up to us and kind of just explaining what SGA is and how they can get involved. And you know, what our goals as a team are going to be throughout the year, and how they can, you know, get more involved that way. And then for fraternities and sororities, I definitely want to at least go to one chapter meeting for every fraternity sorority, hopefully relatively

early, early on in the year, to get the name out and, you know, share ideas and what we're planning on doing for the year, and also how they can get involved and help us accomplish our goals for the upcoming school year.

- Vice Chair Slager: I was going to ask a question myself, if you could speak a little about what motivated you to apply for this position.
 - Candidate Mann: Yeah of course, going into this whole forward and SGA thing was, you know, definitely, it was definitely tough and out of my comfort zone, as probably most of you guys experienced, as it's, you know, a lot easier to not get involved and kind of just do your own thing and hang with the friends that you already have. But I definitely wanted to you. You know, expand my, my friend group, and see what I'm able to accomplish the school year. I definitely don't want to just go to FSU for academics. I definitely want to, you know, try to make it a better place than when I first started at at FSU and, you know, and to work with such great people and actually do stuff for the school, because I think that's super important to give back to such a great school that either we can all agree upon, as you know, definitely it's just such a great school, but yeah, definitely building a better relationship with the student body and working with people that are like minded and we can actually accomplish stuff to better our school.
- Senator Carr: So I know you talked about Greek life and freshmen, but obviously there's some students that go to campus a lot like they live on off campus apartments and that kind of stuff. How do you plan on engaging them?
 - Candidate Mann: Yeah, for sure, that is a little bit tricky, you know, and there's, there's a great deal of students who are in that situation, and I'm aware of that. So I guess the big thing is just increasing our social media presence. I know it's kind of cliche, and, you know, it's easier said than done, to get students even follow Instagram accounts. It's easier said than done, but I think being active with it and definitely nailing, nailing in the idea that they can get involved with all of our goals and organizations on campus easier than they think, and, you know, just showing, like, for example, we could have personal stories on our Instagram story, sharing our positive experience with it and what we've done and what we hope to accomplish. But yeah, definitely social media presence, is what I think would be the best way to reach those students.
- Closing Statement:
 - <u>Candidate Mann</u>: It's all good. I just want to say thank you guys so much for giving me the opportunity and asking really good questions. I appreciate it.
- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; VC Slager seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - None
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; VC Slager seconds
- <u>Vote:</u>
 - Yes: 5; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Ball, Carr, Fronczak, Seminario

- No: 0
- Abstain: 0
- RESULT: CANDIDATE MANN PASSES
- Candidate for Confirmation: Serena Petit, BSU Director
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Petit: Okay, thank you. Good evening, everyone. I'm so honored to be with you, with you guys tonight. Um, the reason why I feel as if I should be the Black Student Union agency director is for two reasons. Um. And one of them is my experience. I have been with the Black Student Union since I was a freshman, and not just as a member, I was also on the executive board coming in, and with that, I've been able to see BSU grow and change in numerous ways, specifically this way, because we've never done this before. So I've been a witness to that, and in my pursuit of becoming director of the agency, I've been able to compile everything that we've done wrong or what we could do better for this, for the 2024 the 2025 academical year, to be successful. I also want to say that my passion is definitely there for the organization. It has been where I've met all of my mentors, as well as I've gained my own mentees. I've poured so much hours and time in this organization, and I genuinely believe that I would be the best one to lead as the BSC director of this agency, I plan to uphold our traditions and our values of providing black students on campus within social life. I plan to build those genuine connections with our affiliate organizations, also known as cobalt organizations. I also plan to expand upon our relationships with our Black Alumni, because that's very important, and also reach out to other spaces on campus, because I know we've had problems with that in the past, but yeah, with that being said, I do love this organization with all my heart. I want to see it successful, and I am now open to any questions that anyone might have.
 - Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Carr: So you talked a little bit about, like, some of the issues that BSU like, faces like, but then like, the FSU community, like, what are some challenges that you guys face, like, outside of, just like the general FSU community.
 - <u>Candidate Petit:</u> Why do you say outside of the FSU community? Do you mean off of campus or, I mean,
 - <u>Senator Carr</u>: You can kind of interpret it however you want, and it's more about like, how you plan on, like addressing those and like providing for them.
 - Candidate Petit: So one issue that I know we've had in the past is specifically, like our budget situation, we've had issues with that, where certain people at our organization, they didn't know exactly how, like the Senate process worked, or how things like that worked, or even meetings like this, so I really want to make sure we have someone who is reporting that to us, because we want to be as caught up as possible. Another issue that we've had is like having a disconnect between ourselves and the black alumni that have attended Florida State University, and I've already rectified that, because as soon as I was chosen as a candidate for BSC director. I already established those relationships. I've already

been in contact with them to plan the homecoming week and stuff like that. But yeah,

- Senator Carr: Do you think that like we as like SGA would be able to help you with, like, understanding the whole budget process and all along, or all the stuff that goes along with it.
 - <u>Candidate Petit:</u> So how could SGA help us understand that? Sorry, my connection is a little off,
- Senator Carr: I'm just more of like, do you think that you could use us as, like, a resource to be able to help you understand, like, the whole SGA process and everything? Because I'm sure, like, a ton of us would not mind, like, taking the time to, like, teach you guys.
 - <u>Candidate Petit:</u> Yes, for sure, that is actually something that I was planning on working on is definitely setting up a meeting, just so like, we're not in the dark of how certain things work. Yeah, I already have a meeting set up with Anthony. This is, like, the success of BSU. Because I really, really, really want to ensure that, like, there's nothing on the dark about because we want this year to be successful, as we know SGA does as well.
- <u>Closing Statement:</u>
 - <u>Candidate Petit:</u> Okay, I won't use the full minute. I just wanted to say thank you everyone. I really appreciate it. And yeah, have a good rest of your night.
- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; VC Slager seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Carr: I want to speak in pro of this candidate, I think she knows everything that she wants to do, and she seems really excited and motivated. She knows how to get things done from just this conversation, when I can tell that she's really prepared, and I think she'd be great.
- VC Slager moves to call to question; Senator Carr seconds
- <u>Vote:</u>
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball
- RESULT: CANDIDATE PETIT PASSES
- Candidate for Confirmation: Mahogany Williford, BSU, Assistant Director
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Williford: Hello everyone. And I first, I want to start by saying, Excuse me, my background, I just got off of work, but my name is Mahogany Williford. I'm an upcoming senior major in political science with a minor African American Studies, and I would like to be confirmed as assistant director for the Black Student Union. I believe that I would be the best candidate, because, as my director said, Serena, I've been involved with BSU since a freshman. The Black Student Union has provided me with endless opportunities just being able to network with so many different people different organizations that I am currently a part of, and it just has created the space that I've needed to become the leader that I wanted to be. So when it came for me to have the opportunity to apply for assistant director, I just knew that this is exactly what I wanted to do, in order to pour back into the organization that poured into me with my past experience that I've had in executive board positions, I knew the

different things I would like to implement um, some of the main things being making sure that we keep open line of communication between executive board and our student body, making sure that we allow them to have um, to have certain um opportunities to like have to have the opportunity to help us make decisions, basically like when it comes to events for them at the end of the day, everything that Black Student Union does is for our students. So making sure that they have the opportunity to, you know, have their voice heard, is very important to me, also making sure that we increase our community engagement and advocacy efforts and just upholding our mission statement is very important to me, so just making sure that I implement that and just keep that part of my why for becoming assistant director is very important to me. And thank you guys for hearing me.

- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Carr: What do you think has like best prepared you for this role that you're applying?
 - <u>Candidate Williford:</u> Last academic year, I served as the president of the Black Box Student Association, and I feel like this organization in particular just molded me to become the leader necessary to be over an agency which is a very big deal as serving as president of that organization, you know, I developed a new sense of leadership style for myself. So just build like building those people skills, management skills and social skills was very important. And I feel like everything that I've gained from that opportunity and also being in that org since a freshman as well. I just have all the tools I need necessary to lead not only the executive board, but the student body as well.
 - Senator Carr: So you were saying that you were in the Black Law Association, I think Right, correct. So, like, over some Okay, so like, what challenges did you face in there? And like, how were you able to overcome the challenges that you faced?
 - <u>Candidate Williford:</u> I feel like our biggest challenge as an organization was just trying to find out different ways to get creative, the same type of event, you know, mixers, minglers, game nights, so just getting really creative and just diving into, you know, the career-oriented organization that we are was kind of like our learning curve in the beginning, but eventually we got a hang of it, and spring semester was way better for us. And yes, I thought that was my biggest challenge, but we overcame it very well.
 - Senator Seminario: So, you touched a bit on about like your overall goals for goals for BSU for the next academic year. What would you say is like your most important or most specific goal that you have currently for BSU?
 - <u>Candidate Williford:</u> I believe, like something that's very near to and dear to my heart, implementing next year is making sure that we take advocating for issues that impact not only the black community, but other communities on campus as well. Very serious. I feel like, you know, just making a post on Instagram is enough to be out there speaking to people, also like making sure that the student body is aware of what's going on, the different

steps they could take. I feel like that's something that I want to take very serious, just making sure that everyone's made aware, at least at the bare minimum, of what's really going on in the breakdown of things.

- Closing Statement:
 - Candidate Williford: Oh, I don't have anything to say, just thank you guys for taking out the time to hear everyone in here. And I look forward to working with y'all SGA, different agencies this upcoming year.
- VC Slager moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Carr seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - None
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; Senator Fronczak seconds
 Vote:
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE WILLIFORD PASSES**

• Candidate for Confirmation: Jaylene Molina, WSU, Assistant Director

- Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Molina: I would first like to apologize about the scary lighting. I am in London, and my flat, I just blew up the fuse with my laptop charger, so we are trying to get that fixed, but I have my flashlight, and I promise I am more than capable of answering all these questions in here, and I appreciate you guys bearing with the visual conditions. But just to speak a little bit about my experience at WSU over the past year, I was membership coordinator, and with that, I gained so much fulfilling leadership experience and fell in love with this organization. And I just love working with an agency that has the potential to really make such a positive and necessary change and just be a great resource for all of everyone on campus, regardless how of how they identify. And I think that's just very needed, and with that, Emma is absolutely incredible. So working with her this past year has been really great, and I know we're going to make a great team potentially. And I think it would be totally something that can bring WSU forward, which is, in my opinion, something that needs to continuously develop, because it has such a potential to be an even stronger org. In this past year with membership, we've seen such a drastic increase, and that's obviously at the forefront of what we're trying to do, make people know about the agencies, connect with agencies, and personally, I've worked with different areas in the scope of things like the Student Alumni Association, DSOs like that, but also making meaningful connections within the student government sphere. So I plan in the future to potentially work with Senate, and we this is literally a phone call filled with strong women leaders on our campus that I think I want to give them a resource to become more educated, gain leadership skills and really connect with one another in the future, and that makes me super passionate about this position and definitely looking forward to all the potential it really has. I relinquish the rest of my time. Thank you.

• Round of Questioning:

- Senator Carr: What do you think has most prepared you for this potential role?
 - <u>Candidate Molina</u>: I definitely think my role as membership coordinator has given me experience in the aspect where I've overseen an entire committee of really dedicated, really intelligent, capable, strong women leaders. And I think that's a necessary skill in an assistant director position, as you're kind of that right hand man with leading an executive board of, again, strong leaders. And I think it also helps you become the face of something. Advocate for something, being the membership coordinator, working with outreach to kind of do that on a bigger scale for the entire org.
- Senator Fronczak: What like initiatives Do you have? Like internally, like, within your executive board, and then like within the whole like organization?
 - Candidate Molina: I think one great initiative that we have is obviously our owl organizations, and we do work with we're trying to implement more of a mentor mentee with our women's initiative, which is a program usually run by the assistant director, which I would like to reestablish and make more emphasize so all of our kind of co sponsor co sponsored more or our organizations that we kind of are able to teach them the SGA process, connect them with the right people, build them up. But also on that individual scale, find women who can mentor other women. I think that's really helped me with my leadership journey. And also just finding women individually to get more involved, find that connection in SGA, maybe, and just really in FSU as a whole, to find that place and understand how they can grow here, outside of just academics.
- Senator Carr: Do you have some ideas for like because you were talking about more like SGA, but like ideas of like organizations that, like women, can decide to join like if they were interested in like law or education or different like areas on campus?
 - Candidate Molina: Yes, that's such a great question. I think that is when a professional development is obviously super significant within WSU, and something we specifically allocate parts of eboard to emphasizing and part of that obviously comes with working with other organizations. I know we've worked with women in pre law on an event that I personally helped plan, and the entire event was based on connecting professional development organizations. That's just one black future female attorneys was also a part of it. So implementing that diversity, so you're hearing from different perspectives and uniting women of all backgrounds, and that's definitely something we want to continue within our political development, professional development, so women are able to be educated and find these lesser known RSOs maybe that are need, the resources need, the people that WSU can provide with what we have.
- <u>Closing Statement:</u>
 - <u>Candidate Molina</u>: Thank you guys so much for bearing with me. I'm incredibly passionate about this position and this entire org. This is just

the craziest thing that's me right now, with the power going out, but I couldn't say how much WSU is just so close to my heart, and I know that next year, it's just going to become even bigger, even better, and hopefully work to support all of these wonderful women in these calls, and just really become more of a recognized organization on this campus and utilize all of the amazing potential that SGA kind of pours into the agencies and WSU particularly, but thank you guys so much.

- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Seminario seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - <u>Senator Carr</u>: I'm going to speak in pro of this candidate. She seems really enthusiastic and well prepared for this role, so I'm excited to see everything that she will do.
 - Senator Fronzack: I will also speak in pro of this candidate. I've worked with her with the Student Alumni Association, and she's an incredible leader, and I'm really excited to see what she'll do in this position
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; VC Slager seconds
- <u>Vote:</u>
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball

• RESULT: CANDIDATE MOLINA PASSES

• Candidate for Confirmation: Shia Coughlin, MHC, Executive Director

- Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Coughlin: I'm sorry I'm losing my voice. I will do my best, but I wanted to thank you all for inviting me today. So my name is Shaya, and I'm a fourth year senior majoring in behavioral neuroscience, so I'm on the pre-med path, and I plan to specialize in psychiatry. I've served as the Mental Health Council's director of programming for the past year and a half, which has been my most fulfilling FSU involvement to date. So my greatest accomplishment in this role is recharge with MHC, which is our annual finals week event each spring semester. So I came into my director programming interview having this event entirely planned, which may be over ambitious, but it was more than rewarding watching it succeed and recur. So I look forward to every recharge with MHC we will host in the future. And then, as for my executive director goals. I like to group them into three different categories, and that is community accountability and advancement. So for community, I hope to ensure that everyone within the council knows each other's name and can recognize faces around campus. So to do this, I hope to plan more internal bonding events and retreats to foster a sense of trust and support and for accountability, I want to host more mental health trainings for all members, be more transparent about our internal processes and have clear expectations about the commitment MHC requires, while still being understanding of individual circumstances. And then lastly, I hope to expand MHC's reach both on and outside of campus for advancement. So. This will include incorporating an ambassador program, expanding MHC to other universities to help them adjust to our sunshine day resolution that we just passed through the Florida Senate, and creating a mental health and safety manual with FSU resources for students to

reference. So I could go on about the specifics of these goals, but I hope this gives you a bit of a clear summary, and feel free to ask me any follow up questions, if you would like to hear more details.

- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Carr: What originally motivated you to become part of MHC?
 - Candidate Coughlin: I have about 1,000,002 reasons why I wanted to be a part of MHC, and I think it all boils down to, I've had a lot of experiences with mental illness, both in my own life and just in the lives of my friends, and it's something that is so widespread, and everyone suffers with it at some point in their lives, whether it's diagnosed or just, you know, a bad day, it's always something that we need to be consciously paying attention to, and especially In college, when you're moving away from your family and you're working so hard, you know, worried about your future careers and your schedule so packed with classes, I think that it's very valuable to incorporate a lot of mental health programming and outreach and advocacy in your day to day. So mental health counsel and just being able to do that has been so fulfilling the last year and a half. So, yeah, that was the initial reason for why I applied and why I chose to stay
 - Senator Carr: Yeah. Um, so whenever you're talking about, like, outreach and like, sorry, I'm like, losing my voice, okay, um, so whenever you're talking about, like outreach and everything else with it, how, what have you found to work the best so far, like in your time.
 - Candidate Coughlin: I think as the director of programming, or the former director of programming, that's where most of my experience lies. And just like seeing how the events played out. And so with recharge, with MHC, for example, we had 5000 people come. So both years just about and then last, this past fall semester, that's a lie. Spring semester, when was it fall? Sorry, we had our Valentine's Day carnival and so, like, that was a huge hit as well. And I think we had about 5000 people go to that. So all of those events, and just having, like, you know, all the whole campus come together and just step away from school and the stress of exams, just throw some axes on land a screen, or grab a hot dog and jump in a bouncy castle like it really introduces them to our organization, and they'll follow our Instagram and join our aroup meet, and then they'll see the little things that we do, like the little journaling events, and when we go on Legacy Walk and we chalk all these affirmations at 8pm so I think that has been the most successful like outreach from my experience. But then again, we also individually reach out to agencies and bureaus and other campus organizations, and they'll reach out to us. So I know, you know, collaborating with the leadership institutes and agencies has been so valuable as well.
 - Senator Fronczak: I know, like, the transition, like, from like, freshman year going into college is really tough, and I know a lot of people really struggle with their mental health. So what kind of initiatives or things do you have to kind of like target those, like incoming new students, transfer students, people that are kind of new to campus?

- Candidate Coughlin: Certainly. So we actually worked with the Freshman Leadership Institute previously, and that was a huge hit, and I absolutely loved doing that. So I think just continuing those collaborations will be valuable. But another resource that I want to have is the ambassador program. So this is going to target kind of the newer classes. So one of my you know, initiatives is the Mental Health and Safety Manual, which is just this allinclusive, like 30 page manual with every resource FSU offers for mental health and safety. And so to be an ambassador, you take this, you know, make yourself aware of everything that FSU has to help you with your mental health. And I think that's going to be really valuable for these new students, because then they're going to have that in their back pocket throughout their, you know, rest of their four years. And just, you know, being an ambassador, I think, will help them get their foot in the door if they want to get involved. And, yeah, I don't know, just, I'm so sorry. I'm like, losing my voice and dying right now. I'm so sorry. But yeah, no, I think those are my two main ones. And like, the ambassador is continuing working with the Leadership Institute.
- Closing Statement:
 - <u>Candidate Coughlin:</u> Thank you guys for your time and consideration, but I won't take up any more of your time,
- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Seminario seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Carr: I think this candidate, or I mean, speaking from this community. She seems really well versed within the community that she outreaches to, and she has prior experience, so I think she'll be a great as well.
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; VC Slager seconds
- <u>Vote:</u>
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball
- RESULT: CANDIDATE COUGHLIN PASSES
- Candidate for Confirmation: John "Grady" Anderson, Executive Branch, Secretary of Collegiate Affairs
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Anderson: Everybody, thank you for taking the time to meet with me today. My name is Grady Anderson. I'm a rising third year student, double majoring in political science and interdisciplinary social sciences. So as the secretary of collegiate affairs, my main responsibility would be to serve as a policy advisor to the president with regards to the Board of Trustees, which he is a member of, and the Florida Student Association, which is an advocacy group for all of the students in the state university system. So with that in mind, I would like to detail some of my qualifications. I have served. I have worked over a year in the Office of the Provost, and in that time, I have performed some policy analysis, including on university key pieces of legislation for them from the 2023 legislative session. And I created a table with every single Board of

Governor, Board of Trustees, FSU policy and their corresponding Florida statute. So I've literally looked at every single policy that he and I will be dealing with. And then last year, I also served as the CO Director of Legislative Research FOR THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS. So I was responsible for tracking legislation, disseminating information on legislation and making one pagers and delivering those to the board as well. So I'm very well versed in the policy that I will be dealing with. Some of my personal priorities for the position is to work with the President and his role as a member of the FSA to amend the bright future summer residency requirement from nine credit hours to six, because the nine credit hours is not in congruent with the full time for the summer for bright futures. And then, in that same vein, I kind of want to do an internal audit of all of the FSU and Board of Governors and Board of Trustees policies to see if there are any that can be amended to better serve students. And I've been in talks with other Cabinet officials to get a food locker on campus to make the food pantry more accessible to students.

- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Carr: I'm not sure if I missed this or not, but having previously worked with our current student body President?
 - <u>Candidate Anderson:</u> Yes, so he and I lobbied together at FSU Day at the Capitol two years ago, and then we've continued to work together since then.
- <u>Closing Statement:</u>
 - <u>Candidate Anderson</u>: Thank you guys for hearing me out and I waived the rest of my time.
- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Seminario seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - <u>Senator Carr</u>: this candidate is so well prepared, and he just sounds so amazing like so overqualified. I would love for him to be this role, and I speak with him.
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; Senator Seminario seconds
 Vote:
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1, Senator Ball
- RESULT: CANDIDATE ANDERSON PASSES
- Candidate for Confirmation: Ella Windlan, Executive Branch, Secretary of Sustainability
 - Opening Statement:
 - <u>Candidate Windlan:</u> Hi, Internal Affairs Committee. I first wanted to just thank you guys for having me tonight. I know what it's like to be in your shoes. I used to be in the internal affairs committee back when I was in Senate, and I was actually Chair of the Committee up until my term ended in spring. So obviously, I'm here to interview for the executive branch cabinet for the position of Secretary of sustainability. So I first want to talk about a little bit about what sustainability means to me, because I think that's pretty relevant here. So for me, sustainability means creating a world where everyone has the capacity to live authentically, have their

needs met, but ultimately to thrive in whatever that means for them, and where that capacity is an unlimited resource. And in order for something to be sustainable, it has to be long lasting, and it has to work that way. So obviously, a lot of the emphasis is placed on environmental sustainability. but really, sustainability stretches like so far beyond that and has so many implications, which is one of the reasons I'm excited for this role, because I really want to be able to work with all these people and all these amazing different roles within Student Government to realize, to really get sustainability the push that it deserves. So I want to talk a little bit about some of my ideas for the roles, a little bit about some of my gualifications and inspirations, and then I'll leave you guys for guestions. So in terms of some ideas, I have, like, a million written down, and I just keep thinking of more things, but I'll just go through it very briefly. Some of them are really specific, and some of them are more just like broad in general. But one is recycling in dorms. We have the infrastructure and resources to have really good dorm recycling, to have a really good dorm recycling system, but right now, the information that's provided to students, on directions, on what you can recycle and how to go about doing that is really not where it should be, and it's really fixable problem, if anything could be right off the bat, easy thing to do. Another thing I want to do. I was a big part of adding a permanent food donation bin in streisure library, and the librarian staff is really eager to get one interact too. I want to help facilitate that. I want to work with senates for that. Oh, another thing I want to do is I want to do a walk slash bike slash bus to school day where we organize a bunch of different sustainability related initiatives and organizations on campus to all table outside of the union or somewhere around campus to encourage students to walk and utilize underutilized resources like our bus system, our parking garages are always crowded, but our busses, our busses are almost always empty. Those are electric busses. We could be saving a ton of emissions that way. Another thing continuing on, the work of my predecessor, Colby galwick, who I have met with many times, serving as liaison for sustainable campus within Senate and also when. I was applying for this role. I went to talk to him. He received the ocean friendly certification for Seminole Cafe, and we're pretty close to getting the requirements to receive the same thing for Swanny, which would mean money for FSU. Am I running out of time? Yeah, there's like five seconds. So wait. I'll cover more on the questions, I'm sure. But as you can see, I have lots of ideas, and I can't wait to time, sorry.

- <u>Round of Questioning:</u>
 - Senator Carr: Do you want to go ahead and tell us some more about like, the ideas that you have?
 - Candidate Windlan: Yes, sure. Thank you. Okay, so then next on my list, I want to this is an idea I talked about with one of our staff within Swanee specifically that works specifically within sustainability. They the Food Recovery Network with swani, where they get leftover food and they box them up and they send it to the food for thought pantry, and it's really popular right now. They use disposable materials, but food for thought pantry leader really, and people at swani are looking to try to use some sort of student government funding, potentially, to use reusable containers. That's another thing I'm interested in working on. I'm interested in, oh,

working with PIRG fleet or the perg free plastics initiative. I think that that working with student government, with them would be a nice continuation. I want to organize student government led trash cleanups with Garnet and gold goes green before game days, as well as reaching into that broader Tallahassee Community as that's part of my role, or that's part of my requirements for this role. For example, Elder Care Services right down the road from Tallahassee has an amazing community garden where they really serve the community. They do Meals on Wheels. I'd love to see like FSU getting out there more and helping also. Uf, just this year, the student government launched a green New Deal. So I feel like it's only fair that we do one too. So to me, can't let them one up us in that capacity. And yeah, so there's just a lot of things on campus that I think sustainability could really be applied to, and I really want to be a part of that process. I've been working with sustainability since I came here to campus. So, yeah.

- Senator Seminario: So out of all of the experiences that you've touched on, what would you say is the one that best qualified you or best prepared you for this role?
 - Candidate Windlan: Okay, I know your guestion is just one, but I'm gonna say maybe. like two different things, because there really are two that are really fundamental for my inspiration for this. The first one is probably the most obvious, serving in the student government incentive as liaison for sustainable campus. I started to realize the impact that you really could have within that space, and the amount of passion there is for sustainability across campus, and not only with sustainable campus people with people from other sustainable organizations, such as the environmental service program, which I've been an active member of since I stepped foot on campus, and there's just a lot of really cool organizations. So I think in that space, I really learned how to be something that the executive branch is really important is to liaise between different parties that are all interested in the same goals, and getting those people together. Then, then my second answer would be, for the past year, I've been an intern at the Center on better health and life for underserved populations, which really gets into that broader definition of sustainability. It really has been the most life changing experience of my life, being able to work with Dr. Ralston to do public health research and community outreach, to really focus in on that Tallahassee Community and mitigating health disparities that affect people all around where our college is, and working with the community ambassador program and BHL in that way, has really given me a broader sense of the larger areas of need in the Tallahassee Community, and how FSU can really be a part of creating necessary changes, which I think is part of looking at any institution with love is wanting to be an agent of change and creating a better space every single day. So yeah.
- Senator Carr: So you were talking about all these ideas and whatnot. I just don't understand, like, the whole process, or I just don't know, um, how do you, like, get the funds to be able to do these things? I guess is more what I'm asking.

- Candidate Windlan: All right, so there's a couple different ways that this can work. A lot of the projects that I'm suggesting don't need funding, but in that case, executive branch is allocated funding for projects that we all agree on how to spend. So that's part of it. There's also, like Senate projects money. So I obviously want to be a big if I were to receive this role. I want to work with Senate a lot, because there's so many great. Ideas that come out of Senate, especially relating to sustainability and really working to pull those resources together to make projects happen, for sure, but a lot of the things that I'm talking about, they don't need funding. They just need action. They need volunteers. So yeah.
- Closing Statement:

None

- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Seminario seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Carr: So I've known Ella for a while, but I never knew she was so passionate about sustainability, and all the ideas she has are just amazing. I am so proud of her, and I think she's going to do absolutely amazing in this role.
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; VC Slager seconds
- <u>Vote:</u>
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball
- RESULT: CANDIDATE WINDLAN PASSES

• Candidate for Confirmation: [Sydney Malveaux, Executive Branch, Press Secretary]

- Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Malveaux: Hello everyone. Thank you for being here this evening. My name is Sydney, Malvo. I am honored to have been selected and have this opportunity to advocate for my confirmation in the press secretary position. I have been involved with a variety of organizations on campus, but as I enter into my senior year, this position is very important to me, because of the applicable experience I will gain related to my major and my passion. My goal has always been to make an impact on campus wherever I could, and I applied for the press secretary position to pivot into utilizing my leadership, marketing, social media and people skills to help the broader student body and give back to the school that has shaped me into the woman I am proud to be despite my most recent involvement being unrelated to Student Government, I believe my experience as a regular student at Florida State will aid in my ability to provide what the student body desires to see and hear from SGA. As far as leadership, this past year, I serve as the CO captain and president of the no less major at dance team, which was founded in 2022 my freshman year. And I believe this leadership experience in accomplishing something that's never been done before, has shaped me into a person that is able to generate creativity while leading and motivating others to support one mission. I believe this skill is vital to the press secretary role as a representative of the executive branch to outside media outlets. I am

looking forward to supporting the executive branch's goals across the board, but some personal goals I plan to prioritize, in this position, our outreach and awareness to the student body, such as highlighting diverse voices, educating students on how much SGA actually does, and leveraging social media, of course, and other communication outlets, as the platform to succeed. Thank you. That is all I have.

- <u>Round of Questioning:</u>
 - Senator Seminario: Thank you. And you mentioned earlier that you had or that you wanted to expand. I believe it's what I heard, but if you would like to elaborate, but I believe I heard you mentioning connecting with media outlets in the community. I would like to know any current connections you have with media outlets in the FSU or Tallahassee Community, or any plans that you have to expand them.
 - Candidate Malveaux: Yes, so while I was on the Nolettes, I got to do a newspaper article for the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. So I have, like, an internal contact with one of the amazing women there that definitely is wanting to get more involved with FSU, as far as her personal journaling career. And I know in the application for press secretary, they mentioned wanting to have better relationships with fsvu, which is the page that. That you know has news on a lot of orgs, so I don't have any connections with them specifically, but that's something that I've been working toward, and that's part of the challenges that I am excited about with position, with this position, putting myself out there to work towards gaining connections with more media outlets.
 - Senator Carr: So I know you were talking about FSU, but there's also, like, other newspapers that kind of have very polarizing views and do affect students and other readers, opinions and whatnot. How would you plan if you were to get in contact with these people who are in charge of these outlets, and like, how would you plan to, like, start the conversation? So hey, like, this is what the direction I think you should go in, if that makes sense. Yeah.
 - Candidate Malveaux: So I definitely think that being the representative of the executive branch is something that I definitely keep in mind when contacting whoever I'm contacting, I feel like it depends on who it is, whether it's a student that is the part of that organization, or whether is it, it is a professional representing a company, etc. but mainly making sure that I check in with the people you know, the President, Vice President, the Treasurer, depending on what I'm reaching out toward or for, and making sure that I have the vision and that I communicate that vision from the start so that someone knows, like, Okay, this is what she wants. This isn't a random person reaching out, so establishing credibility immediately, and then just making sure that transparency is there, but that too much information isn't given. And my favorite point of action is to set up a meeting immediately, not talking too much over online communications, but setting up a meeting so that we can discuss further. Because interesting story, I actually was talking to Jackson about the no less dance team that I was on, about something for the team, and he mentioned this position, so I applied for it. So I believe that setting up

meetings always leads to more opportunities just because you're having that conversation in the intimate setting, where you're able to find not just an opportunity for what you came for, but also more opportunities that that other party might have for you. So yeah, that's something I would That's my strategy, as far as that.

- Closing Statement:
 - Candidate Malveaux: Yeah, thank you all again for your time being here this evening, I'm looking forward to hearing the results of your decision, but just know that I always support FSU, and I feel like I have a point to prove with this, and I'm really dedicated to the mission, not just of the executive branch, but of Florida state as a whole and thank you all so much.
- Senator Carr moves to enter Round-Table discussion; Senator Seminario seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - None
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; Senator Seminario seconds
- <u>Vote:</u>
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball
- RESULT: CANDIDATE MALVEAUX PASSES
- Candidate for Confirmation: Reghan Chartrand, Executive Branch, Events & Student Programming Coordinator
 - Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Chartrand: Hi everyone. Thank you guys so much for being here and for your time. I was previously on the Senate leadership team, so I know all about how long these confirmations can take, and I really appreciate you bearing with all of us through this. My name is Reagan Chartrand. Don't worry about the last name. Nobody gets it right. I did not take it personally, and I'm truly honored to have been offered the position of events and student programming coordinator. I first want to speak a little bit about why I initially applied for this position, and then few goals and ideas that I've had prepared for it. So to start off, I've been interested and involved with SGA since beginning at FSU as a freshman. I'm now currently a rising junior, majoring in marketing and minoring in English on a pre-law track. I spent a year serving in the legislative branch as the student Senate's parliamentarian, and I've been this year, I've taken sort of step back from SGA, and I have explored other areas on campus, other organizations that I've been a part of, and just my general interests. And I know you guys have heard this over and over again, but the reason that I initially applied for this position is to largely encourage student interest within SGA and the FSU community as a whole, one of the best ways to facilitate student engagement is through events, and so I want to bring new ideas to event planning that are both exciting and relevant to students, but specifically, my break from SGA this year and focusing a little more of my time on other organizations and other involvements has really opened My eyes to so many different areas of campus, and with that the potential to reach so many more students. This year, I've been involved with a lot of the campus, on campus, fashion magazines,

fantastic people. I've been involved with her campus. Like I mentioned. I'm a pre-law student, so I'm involved with a lot of pre law organizations, women, pre law, Phi Alpha Delta, and there's so many amazing, beautiful organizations that we have on this campus with so many dedicated people, and they all have their own amazing, fantastic events. But one of the biggest things that I noticed is that a lot of the success of these events was entirely dependent on collaboration. I mean, the more these organizations would collaborate with each other or with other people, other groups. Ultimately, the more student outturn there was, and the more engagement there was. And so that's basically kind of the pinnacle of what I want to focus on this year, potentially as events and student program and coordinator, is communication and collaboration. Those are the two biggest things that I think we really need to focus on a lot more. I mean, obviously SGA, we are so huge of an organization, and we have a huge responsibility with overseeing so many agencies and bureaus and organizations, and with that, there's really just endless opportunities for events. And I have some specific ideas for events, but I don't know how I am on time, and I would love to answer any questions you guys have about those so thank you.

- Round of Questioning:
 - Senator Seminario: So you mentioned in your statement having a lot of new ideas and different initiatives to for collaboration, I have a question for you on what specific organizations or spaces on campus do you plan to collaborate with? I'm not sure if I missed that in your opening statement, but if you would like to just repeat it or be a bit more specific and details, if you have any specific goals with certain agencies on campus?
 - Candidate Chartrand: Yeah, absolutely. And you didn't miss it. I • ran out of time when I wanted to mention some of specific goals. but two organizations that I think have really come to my mind when I thought of position this year and this position is the Mental Health Council and the women's Student Union. Those are both really big, really blossoming organizations, and as you've seen tonight, there are great, capable people who are going to be in charge of these organizations, but specifically, and having served on the legislative branch in the past, and seeing the inner workings of the initiatives that these organizations have brought to us and then brought to life, they're fantastic organizations filled with fantastic people, and I would love to see more specific events planned with us and them, really, with the goal of just outreach and a bigger outturn of students. We also, as SGA, we have the ability to provide funding where it's needed for a lot of these organizations. I mean, that's a lot of what Senate does. A lot of what you'll hear this year is agencies coming to you asking for money and funding for their events. And I really I want to be at the forefront of that. I want to meet those organizations. I want to meet with their heads. I want to hear everything that they need, and I want to help them accomplish their goals, also within reason and within our own resources. But those are two organizations that come to mind, as far as, like, my own specific experience, I was involved with her campus this year, which, if you are unaware of

what her campus is, it's basically, it's an all women's organization where we do our own published articles which are really relevant to the college experience. Experience and the FSU experience. And one unique thing that I've seen her campus do is interview candidates around election season. And I think that if we connected a little more with organizations like her campus, we got some articles featuring student leaders, featuring possible candidates, really making the student body more aware of the great, amazing people that we have at the heads of these organizations and the heads of student government, it will encourage more people, hopefully, to become involved and of the importance of student governance as a whole.

- <u>Closing Statement:</u>
 - I'm just going to say thank you guys for being here. I appreciate your time. I yield with my time.
- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Seminario seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - Senator Carr: She seems very well versed and knows exactly what she wants to do if she gets this position. I think she'd be amazing in this role, and I cannot wait to see what she does.
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; Senator Seminario seconds
- Vote:
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball

• RESULT: CANDIDATE CHARTRAND PASSES

• Candidate for Confirmation: Morgan Gahan, MHC, Assistant Director

- Opening Statement:
 - Candidate Gahan: Thank you. Good afternoon, and thank you for taking . the time to interview me today. My name is Morgan Gahan, and I'm a rising third year student pursuing a dual degree in international affairs and religion after being appointed as one of the first one voters to the Executive Board of the Mental Health Council last year, I'm here today to interview as the candidate for the assistant director position, and this next year, I hope to focus on intentionality within our programming outreach and advocacy endeavors to ensure that each Mental Health Council initiative provides a feasible positive impact on our campus communities. Such initiatives include programming to focus on mental health days of significance, such as mental health awareness month in October, and intentional collaboration with other campus organizations to ensure that our resources remain spent on opportunities to discuss mental health. I further hope to utilize opportunities for expansion of the Mental Health Council on an on and off campus this year, for instance, the continuation of work to expand the council's positions for committee members and ambassadors will ensure the ability of students to remain involved with the organization, and finally, in a harness, in harnessing the momentum of the recently passed sunshine day State Senate Resolution, I would like to use my term as assistant director to coordinate the expansion of mental health councils across the state to enforce the finalization of the

mental health of mental health days in university calendars. After serving as the Director of Marketing for the Mental Health Council for the past year and a half, I'm confident in my understanding of the council's internal operations and opportunities for expansion if granted this opportunity, I'm excited to see all that we may accomplish in the name of bettering our campus community. And thank you again for your time and consideration.

- <u>Round of Questioning:</u>
 - Senator Carr: All right, so I know you talked about some more, I feel like it was more of a broader sense, like your goals. But I guess like, like, I feel like more Florida and general, like, you know, you're expanding to different kind of parts of like, mental health community, um, I think more specifically, I'm wondering what impacts you want to have on the SSU cannabis itself that makes. And so just, like, more specific goals for like, programming wise
 - Candidate Gahan: Yeah. um. so I feel like the past year and a half • that I've been on the Mental Health Council. We were the executive board tasked with the revitalization of the council and our initiatives. So we did spend a lot of our time and energy on just building our name on campus through just like different events, to have people out and see what we're about. So we did gain a lot of following and notability on campus. So and this next year, I want to be really, like intentional with our programming, so that our events and like the marketing that we put out is all really solely based on mental health on campus. So a lot of what I want to do is have events on, like, specific mental health days, and then use those days to connect students with resources such as having, like, the Center for psychological services come and table to our events, but a lot of just being really intentional in what we're doing on campus, so that whenever a student comes to our event or visitors or Instagram page, they'll see immediately, like the resources that we have on campus.
 - Senator Seminario: My question is, how do you plan to work with the affiliated organizations or the other agencies within FSU, or do you have any planned collaborations with them?
 - Candidate Gahan: Yeah, so we're waiting for the rest of our executive board to be appointed before we go ahead and start planning our events for this year. But we, in the past year, have had a number of collaborations and events with other organizations, and we ended up making a process where, because we were getting so many requests, we have other organizations email us, and then we'll go ahead and see if we can come to their events. Also, in the past year, we have talked about planning like finding your community event where we can invite out all of the student agencies and identity based organizations to help share with students or other organizations that may be helpful in improving your mental health, just in the way of like finding your own community on campus.
- Closing Statement:
 - <u>Candidate Gahan</u>: I just want to say thank you again for your time and consideration. Also thank you for working with me to put me on the

schedule so that I could come to this interview. But yes, I really appreciate all of your time tonight.

- Senator Carr moves to enter round-table discussion; Senator Seminario seconds
- Round-Table Discussion:
 - None
- Senator Carr moves to forward the candidate; VC Slager seconds
- <u>Vote:</u>
 - Yes: 4; Vice Chair Slager, Senator(s) Carr, Fronczak, Seminario
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1; Senator Ball
- **RESULT: CANDIDATE GAHAN PASSES**

Unfinished Business:

• <u>Chair Mastali:</u> There's two candidates that we will be hearing for the first time tomorrow in Senate, hopefully so we'll enter IA and then confirm the people that we heard tonight.

Closing Announcements:

• None

Next Meeting: June 25 at 6pm

Adjourned: 7:31 pm

Signature of Chair Mastali:

Matalie Marteli