

University of Central Florida Student Government Association



Operations Review and Sanctions Committee (ORS)
 Student Government Association
 University of Central Florida

UCF Student Union – Senate Workroom
 Monday, October 21st, 2019
 12:00PM

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 12:01
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 11/14

<u>Name</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Final</u>
Chair Custis	sga_ljr@ucf.edu		P
Vice VACANT	@ucf.edu		
Senator Alhaddad	sgachps1@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Bonaduce	sgacreol1@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Brandow	sga_ba3@ucf.edu	A	A
Senator Custis	sga_cah1@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator DiGiacomo	sgacie1@ucf.edu	A	A
Senator Flynn	sga_ecs4@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Goicoechea	sganscm3@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Larsen	sga_nur1@ucf.edu	A	A
Senator Lopez	sgacie2@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Milgram	sga_sci6@ucf.edu	A	A
Senator Oquendo-Beltran	sga_cah3@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Regan	sgachps5@ucf.edu		
Senator Rembaum	sga_ba6@ucf.edu	P	P

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 sga_ljr@ucf.edu

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Senator Rutledge sgaecs9@ucf.edu		P	P
		P	P
Pro Temp Rep	sga_pro@ucf.edu	P	P

- 3. Approval of the Minutes- GC
- 4. Approval of the Agenda- GC
- 5. LJR Chair Elections:
 - a. Nominations
 - i. Sen. Custis
 - ii. Sen. Flynn
 - iii. Sen. Reagan
 - iv. Sen. Rutledge

b. Speeches:

i. Sen. Custis

1. Hey Guys! I'm Emma, and have the pleasure to meet all of you. I'm really glad you are here, not solely at this meeting but at Senate. I have been in student government for quite some time now, and I have been able to see quite some things come to fruition, in that time; but I have also seen that there are many things that have been overlooked in LJR, that if are brought about , it will bring our committee to where it needs to be to best serve our student body. So, right here I have my availability of when I can be in the office to answer any questions that students have, or senators might have. I also have a few goals. My main goals as chair is to maintain transparency and communication with other branches. I also want to ensure fairness within the committee, because obviously LJR presents bills on the Senate Floor, mainly the Chair doing so. I want to see every single one of you, up at the podium, at least once presenting or sponsoring a bill, because what we bring about during Senate, is a representation of what we decide during committee; I don't believe that the Chair should be taking sole credit of what the committee decides, that is why I want to maintain transparency, communication, and fairness for all senators here. I'd be happy to answer any questions during questioning.

ii. Sen. Flynn

1. Hey Guys! My name is Colton Flynn, and I'm a sophomore electrical engineering student, and I started Senate last summer as a signover; so I

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have had a couple weeks off. Last summer I joined FAO and LJR; I found LJR to be the most interesting, because you are really behind the inner workings of Senate that help it run smoothly, and that will be my goal as Chair: just to facilitate Senate and actually helping students. So, when I was in LJR, I became familiar with senate rules and statutes, and that's what we are constantly reviewing; so that's super important. As Chair I would like to increase transparency, and my plan for doing that is, I will be posting the link to our meeting minutes inside the chair announcements in our actual senate meetings, because that was something, over the summer, that people had questions about, they would be like "Why didn't you approve this? Why didn't you approve that?", and that would really keep us accountable to our decisions, and reasoning behind them. AS chair I would also like to remain unbiased when it comes to decisions within committee, because really as LJR, we decided the fate of senator pretty much, because if we don't excuse their second or their third absence, they get removed from Senate, and that's like a big deal. So I would like to make sure that all our decisions are legitimate, and that we are thinking a lot about what we are doing instead of like "Oh like whatever, I don't really like this person" even though that doesn't really happen a lot, we can be really biased, and I would like to keep that at a minimum. And that I can also provide historical context, because I was in LJR during the summer and saw a lot of absences, so I can say, "Oh we didn't approve this because of this situation or this certain circumstance". Also I will try to get all the details of an absence ahead of time, because a lot of times, as a committee you are kind of let guessing as to what the reasoning, if they didn't explain it fully enough in their form that they submitted, so if I see like an issue in the form, I will ask for more details from that senator before we actually see it in committee. And hopefully in doing all of this, we will re-legitimize the committee, because ,honestly, a lot of people do not like LJR, just because "they disapproved my absence for no reason" well we will give a full explanation for the reason. So after all, we decide the fate of people, and we should take it seriously.

iii. Sen. Reagan

1. Hey everyone! I'm Ryan, and I am running for LJR chair, because I think that this committee does a lot of good and has a lot of impact, not just on the Senate but also on all Student Government, with all the rules and regulations that this committee sees. I think that one of the biggest things that I would like to focus on as chair is getting everyone's input and working collaboratively in fixing the impeachment and removal statutes,

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as we saw in the last year, there are a lot of issues with it, and it is an incredibly time consuming process, and not very efficient for every party involved. Another thing that I would like to do is when handling absences is to transition all the request into knightconnect; that way all the senators that have requested their absences can see if they have been approved, denied, and what is the actual status of those, as well as getting updates if the committee has more questions or needs more information; and then with those request, keeping a tracker for the senate to see, of what the reason was, what the request was given for, and if the request was approved or denied, and why? This will be more transparent with the Senate and with LJR, and our reasoning. Another thing that I would like to do is ensure that everyone is held to the same standard, as far as their statutory requirements, and so working with the Speaker and the Pro Temp in creating an accountability calendar for when everyone needs to have their specific duties fulfilled: list what time to come to senate, times of training, attending retreat, diversity training, and things of that nature. And also creating a legislation workshop, and a review calendar for all senators; so we can sit down review, and discuss different statutes every week and look for irregularities, and compare statues that have different information depending on what you are reading, since two statues may conflict. Like a situation that we have right now, where statutes three (3) and eight (8) don't exactly match up in terms of financial training, so something that we can work with ORS in the future.

iv. Sen. Rutledge

1. Hello everyone! I'm Alex Rutledge, I am a computer science major, I am a first year member of Senate and this university. Obviously, because of that, I don't have the experience that any of my contenders do, when it comes to this committee or SG in general, but what I do bring is a new light; in that I have previous experience with Robert's Rules of Order, in the way that meetings are typically done outside of this body, and so I have a fresh perspective whenever I'm in meetings; seeing how things are done and the way that we have become accustomed to running things, may not be the most efficient, and may not be the most effective for maintaining the rights and powers of each individual. An example of this is last week Thursday at the meeting in the committee elections, when it came down to the actual elections, for I believe it was E&A, one of them, I think that we can all agree that just having five senators go up there and we vote on each one individually, may not be the most representative of the thoughts of each individual voting member, I think that a rank system

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in this circumstance be more effective. So yeah, I bring a fresh perspective that I think is important when looking at rules and regulations because Student Government is nothing without the rules that we abide by, but also not moving past that, I want to see more of what the other branches and other organizations see their perspective on the way that we work, to make sure that not only are we are abiding by our own rules, and making sure that we run efficiently, but that in the process of reviewing these rules, and making these changes, that we aren't compromising our persona, and their perspective of us in the process; because often in student government, on any level, we get kind of caught up in what we want to be changed, and don't really get into the perspective of others, especially outside organizations, and so keep that constant line of communication is really essential to making sure that is never compromised.

c. Questioning:

- i. Pro Temp Davis: If you had to describe the committee of LJR in one adjective, what would it be?
 1. Sen. Flynn: I would say integrity, because we need to uphold the statutes with integrity, and we need to make sure that everything works together nicely so it needs to be strong and have integrity, and we need to uphold integrity using absences, other actions.
 2. Sen. Reagan: I would best describe it as impartial. This committee has a lot of jurisdictions, when it comes to impeachment, censures, absences, things of that nature, where we know someone or think of someone outside of what's presented in front of us, should not have any impact on our decision. We should only use information in front of us to make our decisions to the best of our abilities.
 3. Sen. Rutledge: I'd say the goal of the gold standard as far adjectives to describe this committee would be effectivity. So making sure that every process that we have authority over is aligned in a way in our statutes that makes it so that they can run effectively and what their purposes, and the process that defines them are.
 4. Sen. Custis: Alright mine would be excellence, which is a tenet of the UCF creed. I feel like that is all encompassing the goals that we will accomplish as LJR, and I feel like it's all encompassing in what LJR should strive to become.
- ii. Sen. Alhaddad: As potential chair, what would be your overall demeanor, if you could choose one? Casual or professional?
 1. Sen. Reagan: Overall I think that we should be professional, especially when we are in committee. I do think that there is a time to be casual, and

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have fun and do these things when we are not necessarily in the middle of committee with business and trying to accomplish a goal. I think that this can be achieved by maybe doing activities outside of committee that can be casual; this would be a way to balance both.

2. Sen. Rutledge: I also agree with Reagan here; within the actual business meetings, when we are deciding on legislation, on whether it is going to pass or not, that's a professional setting, and it will never become casual no matter what the business is, or who I am friends with. Outside of the meeting, I am casual; I want to make sure that I can establish a relationship with everyone within the committee, and making sure that everyone is comfortable to approach me, no matter what the situation, or the conflict that may arise inside of actual business meetings; I am as casual as you can get.
 3. Sen. Custis: As they both said, it is a mix of both. There is a time to be casual and a time to be professional. There is a difference between personal relationships and professional working relationships, and I believe that we need to understand that, especially when it comes to absences. I know in the past some senators have gotten the short end of the stick, because they are not friends with the LJR Chair, and so they won't be excused for something that someone else will. I believe that in regards to meetings, the Chair needs to be professional, and hold all senators accountable for the same thing.
 4. Sen. Flynn: So I would say professional, especially because like I said before, we decide the fate of senators, and we should take this professionally and seriously.
- iii. Sen. Goicoechea: What is your favorite part of the Student Body Constitution? Why?
1. Sen. Rutledge: With me, I think that especially from an LJR perspective, my favorite part of the Student Body Constitution that we abide by, is our amendment process; Making your that is one that isn't easy to get through, obviously it takes a long process of just introducing the amendment, making sure that it passes the actual senate body, and then giving it to the students themselves to approve, within elections. Making sure that it is a process that mimics our state constitutional process is really important, because it shows how legitimate we are as an organization, and how high we see our own constitution as something that we don't what to see it change often.
 2. Sen. Custis: So my favorite part of the constitution is the franchising aspect of it; if you guys need a reference it is 1.03, but the reason I find

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that to be important is because it essentially states that all students attending the University of Central Florida have the ability to vote on an election, and that's why we are here; we are all elected to be here. And ensuring that all students can vote, ensures that the results of the elections are holistic of the viewpoints of the student body.

3. Sen. Flynn: I know that it is kind of basic, but I like the preamble, because it gives the reason behind the constitution. "Why do we have it? Why is it here?" Because as an engineer, I always want to know "Why? Why are we doing this? Why are we here?" We are here to represent the students, and that's why the preamble.
 4. Sen. Reagan: My favorite part is Article I: The Student Body; it talks about "why we are where here?", makes sure that students know they have rights, and are able to participate in student government, and reminds all parts of student government that they are here to represent students, and ensure that every student's voice matters.
- iv. Sen. Bonaduce: How do plan to better communication?
1. Sen. Custis: Alright, this goes back to my goals, but the biggest thing for me in regards to communication is being able to communicate with the other branches, and in order to do that you need to have representation in this committee; so currently, the executive branch has representation via the attorney general sitting ex officio on this committee. For those who don't know, ex officio means that they can sit on this committee as a member, as a non-voting member. Judicial doesn't have that representation, and this is something that I have been talking about with the chief justice and also with the external assistant Christina Garafola about. Quite literally, we are the legislative, judicial, and rules committee, and so what I would like to see done in order to have that open communication is to have the chief justice, or a designee, be able to sit as an ex officio member here, to enhance communication between both. In regards to absences, what I want to do is keep a physical binder of attendance at meetings, and if they do miss, statutorily, the LJR chair has to provide in writing when the senator has an unexcused absence. I would like to extend this to the senator. Sometimes they are not aware of it, sometimes they don't check their emails. Sharing this information in writing to the senator will ensure they are aware of their absence and that they have the right to appeal it.
 2. Sen. Flynn: My focus is more with Senators and their absences. I would like to make open communication by, as I said, posting our minutes in the announcement section in the agenda. That will give our committee

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legitimacy, and will show our reason behind everything. I would also like to keep an electronic tracker, of our process, and our record. They could look in the drive and see our system.

3. Sen. Reagan: In terms of communication, I think that implementing the tracker of why an absence was questioned, and why it was approved or denied, will help to be transparent with the Senate. Also bringing in the Executive Branch to discuss Title IV, or Judicial with Title V is incredibly important. I also think that when we go to update Title XIII, which is the agencies and departments, making sure that they are heard, even though they are not the most available, they are not the ones we see all the time. Bringing everyone into the conversation before legislating things and passing them, and taking into account all perspectives.
4. Sen. Rutledge: I like to tie this back to what I said the quality that embodies LJR so effectively communicating; obviously, we want every branch, and organization to be current with all the legislation or statutes that affect them, and legislations in general, but that's not really reasonable. My goal as Chair would be to make sure that whenever there is any legislation that we are debating, that affects a certain group outside of senate, that we make sure that some voice of that body is a part of that deliberation. So as you said, the attorney general is an ex officio member of this committee, but not every rule and statute that we are going to be implementing and deliberating on, is going to affect the executive, and yes the attorney general we want to be as current as possible on the rules, but that doesn't necessarily require them to know the day of every single time, but it may be required for a bill that may be affecting the Judicial Branch, how it works or is established, we want someone from that branch to be a part of it. So making sure that whenever we are looking at a Bill, before a meeting takes place, as Chair, I would do a quick overview of everything that we will be discussing, and if I see something that is going to be reaching outside of our branch specifically, that a member of that branch, community, or organization has the opportunity to be present.
- v. Sen. Oquendo-Beltran: What would you do to ensure that the Special Senate Sessions runs efficiently/effectively?
 1. Sen. Flynn: I would just make sure that everyone stays focused on the matter at hand, and make sure that everyone is notified about it, and are present. I wasn't there that impeachment hearing, so I can't really speak on the issues with that, but I would make sure that everyone's concerns who were there, I would talk to them and see if we can make it more beneficial for the other senators.

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2. Sen. Reagan: In regards to the impeachment hearings, the one that we saw I believe in February or March, was that communication was an issue. I think that a lot of it stems from individuals not knowing what was expected from them, and that made it inefficient, and so if there was one to arise, I would like to a meeting with the Speaker, the Pro Temp, LJR as a whole, the Attorney General, both parties involved, and make sure that everyone knows exactly what the procedure is, and what information would be relevant, what would not be relevant, and to keep basically everyones' eyes on the prize, and only talk about matters and discuss matters that are relevant to the procedure.
3. Sen. Rutledge: I am a first year member of this university, so I don't have previous experience with special sessions, but from what I heard from the impeachment inquiry that went on in February, one thing that needs to be explicitly declared is the rights of every party involved, so that going into it they know not only what they're capable of doing on their behalf, whether you are part of the LJR committee, or the senator that the impeachment inquiry is being done for. You know what your rights and your powers within that process is; and being a new senator, I am not just going to act like I just know everything going into it, I am going to rely upon the experience of the members that have been on this committee for multiple years, and senators that have been within this body for four or five years, because obviously I don't have the body of knowledge that they do. So making sure that I have open communication with them, so I can have their input, because I definitely don't want to come off as a new counter block that thinks they know everything, because I don't, I know much less. I just think that I have a way of facilitating this committee in a way that will make it more effective.
4. Sen. Custis: The removal hearing was on March 7th, I remember it. Going off of your question in regards to special sessions, so this is a conversation that the LJR chair needs to have with the Senate President and the Pro Temp; there are certain statutes and limitations that need to be followed such as the hours of when a special session can take place, how it can come about. This is also a conversation that needs to be had with the Sergeant of Arms; historically that has been a position that hasn't necessarily been taken seriously, and the Sergeant at Arms is not only responsible for decorum within a meeting, but also responsible that the senators are there; so sitting down with them and developing a plan of how to approach the matter will be beneficial in this situation.

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- vi. Sen. Goicoechea: What one initiative would you introduce to the committee that would make it a better committee?
1. Sen. Reagan: The one initiative that I would want to implement immediately would be the accountability calendar. I think that the start of the session is a great time to get everyone on the same page, and really start off with the same expectations for everyone. I think that the problem that we saw last year, and last session was that nobody was held accountable to anything, until really maybe spring, when we started having issues with individuals not doing their jobs, and then we wanted to implement things, and start going for punitive actions, but we have no history of doing for us to go back on, so “maybe this person has done this training thing or two, while this other person hasn’t, now they’re being held to the same standard, even though they are in two different pages”. So I think starting getting everyone on the same page, having clear same expectations and moving forward with that would be ideal.
 2. Sen. Rutledge: The first thing that I will implement as chair is to have to do with absences, obviously, as Flynn has been saying absences are the one thing that we have direct control over, as far as deciding a senator’s fate essentially; and so whenever absences are brought up to our committee, making sure that no matter the outcome, the senator knows the implications of an unexcused absence, and whenever we decide an appeal is still unexcused, or a senator that never gave us any forewarning, we need to make sure that whenever they are told of their unexcused absence that we give them that paper that they know the implications that if they miss another meeting again, because it is a very fast escalation; only three meetings, and you are not a senator anymore, so making sure that it is clear to every senator, no matter their experience, or no matter their background, so that we don’t fall into the trap of miscommunication causing a senator to being in a situation where they could have avoided if they had the information beforehand.
 3. Sen. Custis: Obviously LJR has jurisdiction over the Constitution, the Senate Rules, and Statutes, except for Title VI which is under E&A’s jurisdiction, and Title VIII which is under ORS’s jurisdiction. I know that a lot of you guys are new here, so I would like to have one on one’s with you guys going over each of them, to make sure that you are aware of the governing documents in place, so that you know what to change; in order to change them, I want to see the delegation of statutes, so we should all be responsible for knowing all the governing documents here, but it can be a lot so say “Sen. Bonaduce you are responsible for Senate Rules I, II, and

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III". So that you can see all the changes you want to bring and then bring them to the committee to see them holistically, and see if we all agree on those changes and then bring it forth the senate floor. Obviously you want to be alone in this, so I will be working with you guys, and anyone that wants to be involved in a certain rule or title will be eligible to do so, and ultimately seen that we have accountability on every single thing that we are overseeing.

4. Sen. Flynn: My initiative would be to do what we've been saying this whole meeting. To increase communication with other branches, and with senators as well.

d. Debate:

- i. Sen. Rembaum: First off, all of you are doing a great job, all of you are more than qualified to take this position. One thing that I really liked was when Emma brought up the judicial side, and how they should have a representative here. I think it was a smart idea, and it should be implemented, because we are LJR, we are dealing with rules, and that is also what they deal with, so I think it would be smart for them to have the option to have a representative here.
- ii. Sen. Goicoechea: To be honest, in the beginning I was torn between a few candidates, but as it got closer to the end, I started to get attached to one particular candidate, that's Emma. Just based on the way that she presented herself, she came in dressed up, she has a very professional resume with a lot of experience, a lot of responsibility. She is very dedicated to her work, she has been here for a while. I haven't been in LJR before, but I can say over the years, I don't think that there has been a female chair in quite a long time, so I think that in terms of diversity and inclusion she would probably make an excellent candidate, so I urge you to vote for her.

e. Voting:

- i. Sen. Custis 7
- ii. Sen. Flynn 1
- iii. Sen. Reagan 1
- iv. Sen. Rutledge 1
- v. Final: Chair Custis

6. Announcements from the Chair-

- a. Thanks! I am happy to be here, happy to work with you guys, and I would really like to see what I said to be implemented. I would also like to see what they said implemented as well, because the ideas that they had weren't bad. Anything that you guys would like to bring about as well, I'd be more than receptive to hear.

7. Announcements from Committee Members-

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- a. Pro Temp Davis: This week, the DPTs should be getting appointed by Thursday. If you are not in the Groupme, please let me know. Please complete your financial training, you have 10 academic days. Will have office hours posted shortly. Diversity training make-up will be scheduled soon.
8. Announcements from Attorney General N/A
9. Announcements from Non-Committee Members
 - a. Advisor Brodie: Not a lot. Just some paperwork for the newly elected Chair.
10. Old Business-
11. New Business-
12. Member Discussion-
 - a. Sen Alhaddad: Are we keeping the meeting time right here, noon on Mondays? Or is that open to discussion?
 - i. Chair Custis: I will set up a when2meet on Groupme, and work with Pro Temp Davis to set a time that all of us, or the majority can make.
13. Miscellaneous Business-
 - a. Vice Chair nominations:
 - i. Sen. Goicoechea
 - ii. Sen. Rembaum
 - iii. Sen. Lopez
 - iv. Sen. Reagan
14. Final Roll Call: Same as initial
15. Adjournment: 12:42 pm

Key:

P - Present

A - Absent

MTD - Move to Debate

MTV - Move to Vote

MTA- Move to Amend

PP - Postpone

PPI - Postpone Indefinitely

GC - General Consent

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