



MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 3:00 PM
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 8/11

| Name | Email | Initial | Final |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|
| Chair Yalamanchili | sga_ljr@ucf.edu | P | P |
| Vice-Chair Hurst | sga_sci5@ucf.edu | P | P |
| Senator Datilus | sgacie4@ucf.edu | A | A |
| Senator DiChiara | sgacie5@ucf.edu | P | P |
| Senator Hameed | sgaecs7@ucf.edu | P | P |
| Senator Shah | sga_med1@ucf.edu | P | P |
| Senator Nadella | sgachps4@ucf.edu | A | A |
| Senator Patel | sga_sci10@ucf.edu | A | A |
| Senator Pohlmann | sgasci11@ucf.edu | P | P |
| Senator Rivera | sgsci15@ucf.edu | A | A |
| Senator Sandlin | sgsci13@ucf.edu | P | P |
| Pro Tempore Representative | Sga_pro@ucf.edu | P | P |

3. Approval of the Minutes: [LJR 07-06](#) approved by GC
4. Approval of the Agenda: approved by GC
5. Open Forum
 - a. None

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*

Chair Yalamanchili sga_ljr@ucf.edu



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UCF Student Government
LJR Committee Meeting
SG Conference Room
07/13/2023
3:00 PM

6. Announcements from the Chair-

- a. Hello everyone! Today we'll be going over four absence requests, one blanket excuse, seeing Resolution 55-03, and going over the Student Body Constitution. I hope your day has been splendid, and I look forward to have a great meeting.
- b. This Day in History – July 13, 1930 – The first FIFA World Cup began today, 93 years ago, in Uruguay's capital Montevideo. (Winner:

7. Announcements from the Vice Chair-

- a. Hello. We will be holding vice chair elections next week.
- b. Please drink water and eat something. Sleep at some point.

8. Announcements from Committee Members-

- a. E&A Rep – We started looking at tite six statutes and seing if we wanted to change things. Nothing so far.
- b. SBA Rep – Last week in SBA we had a legislation workshop. (Hurst Will upload the recording later)
- c. GAP Rep - GAP had a discussion on legislation. Chair Temple talked about different types of legislation and how people can use their different strnegths in Senate. Temple made inspiring statements (sure...)

9. Announcements from Non-Committee Members-

- a. Brodie – I know there has been discussion to apply the absence policy. Hoping to sit down and talk with leadership to see if we can make it better. Havent thought about it much but we are going to look and make sure we are folowing statutes.

10. Old Business-

- a. Bills
 - i. None.
- b. Resolutions
 - i. None.
- c. Absences
 - i. None
- d. Blanket Excuses
 - i. None.

11. New Business-

- a. Bills
 - i. None.
- b. Resolutions 5/7/7

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*

Chair Yalamanchili sga_ljr@ucf.edu



- i. Resolution 55-0x - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XbXkLB-VeRVX62YaSA1ZhhvBsez1oprTjDUG3_s5Rsw/edit
 1. Speech
 - a. Yalamanchili: The gist is that there is a little known rule in Senate attendance policy that if a senator is present for initial and final roll call, but does not vote for at least 75% of votes, they get half and absence. This bill aims to repeal it, because I do not believe that voting is an accurate representation of peoples participation in a meeting. This provision is also difficult after voting records are released, as each persons voting record has to be calculated, and there tend to be between 6 and 8 votes in the summer, and that would increase in the fall and spring. Because of this rule, three senators are being dismissed. One of the senators emails me as they could not sit at their computer for three hours, and as they were driving and could not vote. Additionally, when you are on zoom on your phone, sometimes the polls fail to show up. I feel it is unfair. In some senate meetings, 7 votes have been done, and if you vote on less than 5 votes you would be given half an absence. Voting isn't an effective way to ensure accountability. A senator that is paying attention is more accountable than a senator that is just voting but not paying attention. This is not an accurate way to measure participation. I am writing this bill to get rid of the provision, as I believe that this rule gives more possibility for senators to be dismissed.
 2. Questioning
 - a. Sandlin: I am wondering if you figure that the participation could be replaced with something else?
 - b. Yalamanchili: yes, I have some ideas, but that would be something LJR would need to decide. Last session, Speaker Hall said that he did not approve of Senators leaving for hours at a time in the middle of meetings. There could be some provision for if someone leaves a meeting for a long time during a meeting, I could see that being something we could

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*



penalize. Not sure for how long and would need to figure that out with LJR.

- c. Hameed: Is this rule always a thing?
- d. Yalamanchili: this was past at the end of the last session and has only been in place for a few months
- e. DiChara: could you possibly understand that senators not being held accountable for not doing the job they were elected to do. Could be seen as lazy
- f. Yalamanchili: no, as this was not the case before the rule was put into place. The issue last session was more that they were abstaining on bills they were not supposed to. This was a solution for a non-existent problem. Senators are doing more than voting, like committees, speaking on legislation, writing and amending legislation. There are more ways to participate than just voting. I don't believe that this is how senate should run.
- g. Hurst: How can we check participation?
- h. Yalamanchili: we have cameras, and they are on most of the senate during the fall. It is hard to see the faces in the back, but you can see if they are leaving the room or if they are coming back and when. I think we can detect that.
- i. Damarla: Were senators able to file an absence request?
- j. Yalamanchili: no

3. Debate

- a. Damarla: I think there is a good intention in this bill, however I want to disagree to show the side. A lot of people would leave during fiscal legislation, as they would rather debate on advocacy legislation than fiscal. We promised to represent 1000 people, and when we don't vote we are not accurately representing them. Voting is a way to express an opinion. Tracking time away would be more difficult than looking at the voting record. Additionally, senate absences could have given requests for reasons, but because people were not aware of them. Us realizing this so late is part of the problem, but going forward we can be more proactive in letting people know of their absences. This was passed after a whole year of

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*



session, and removing this only after a few months doesn't seem useful, but we could look at this again at the end of the fall semester.

- b. DiChiara: as stated before, senators have more responsibilities, but it is not difficult to vote. If we do pass this, we would need to figure out a time limit and see how long they were gone. It feels like we are adding more restrictions. Emergencies happen. How do we deem how long is too long?
- c. Sandlin: Seeing as there are senators at risk because they were not adhering to the rule, of course this could be made difficult as we are virtual, but reasons for why people were absent can be explained and brought to LJR. This is not a big rule, but I don't think it is useless.
- d. Yalamanchili: four senators are being dismissed today, three because of this provision. 2 of them had .5 absences accrued. If someone has two absences and one .5 absence, they would be dismissed. I believe that this is an overregulation. People are coming to senate in good faith. Medical emergencies should not be seen by LJR. I don't see the benefit in looking into the behaviors of senators. This was not the larger issue of last senate, and this did not impact the senate at large. It creates extra work, especially considering that senators tend to vote yes, but that is not the best representation of your constituents.
- e. Damarla: I don't think this is the solution.

4. Vote

- a. 1/7/0; his resolution does not pass

ii. Do we want to adopt 55-xx?

1. Vote

- a. 0/6/2; the resolution is not adopted.

c. Absences -

i. Austin Lauziere

1. Speeches

- a. Yalamanchili: For 7/20, saw last week and postponed for documentation, we now have this documentation. He will be

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*



visiting his family, and while he could zoom into the call but would prefer to spend some time with his family. Flight itinerary is attached in the powerpoint.

2. Questioning
 - a. Damarla: Unfamiliar, the precedent sheet are family vacations part of it?
 - b. Yalamanchili: No, but we had pre-planned trip provisions but this is not pre-planned in my understanding
3. Debate
 - a. Damarla: I would like to hear someone else, leaning toward accepting and as he was recently added to senate, there is a chance that this was a pre-planned vacation.
 - b. Hurst: as we do not usually allow for family vacations, and as he could choose to participate but doesn't want to, I would say no to this
 - c. Sandlin: Agree with Hurst
4. Voting
 - a. 1/6/1; absence is denied
- ii. Matthew Hochfelder
 1. Speeches
 - a. For 6/22 as he was in New York at a concert, the gates opened at 6. Sent supporting documentation of the concert ticket and its timing.
 2. Questioning
 - a. Hameed: Was this sent within 10 business days
 - b. Yalamanchili: This was sent on 7/6 so it was 9 days later, which is within the time frame
 - c. Sandlin: How far in advance as this planned?
 - d. Yalamanchili: we don't know
 3. Debate
 - a. Hameed: As part of our precedent sheet, we don't excuse concerts, so I will be voting against
 4. Voting
 - a. 0/7/1; absence is denied
- iii. Ajay Patel
 1. Speeches

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UCF Student Government
LJR Committee Meeting
SG Conference Room
07/13/2023
3:00 PM

- a. For 7/6 for final roll call, as he had technical difficulties, I was in my car and the mic could not be activated or type in the chat. He provided documentation
2. Questioning
 - a. Sandlin: is there any proof of him being on the zoom?
 - b. Brodie – I can pull that data
 - c. Neda – I remember everyone seeing Ajay and Damarla saw him, but he was marked as absent
3. Debate
 - a. Sandlin: we know he was there, and we know why he couldn't respond, so I will be voting in favor.
4. Voting
 - a. 8/0/0; absence is approved
- iv. Erick Castillo
 1. Speeches
 - a. No form, but sent an email that gave details of his absence. For initial roll calls of 6/22 and sent the request on 6/29. He has a lab that prevents him from being there for initial roll call. His schedule is attached and is a part of the powerpoint.
 2. Questioning
 - a. none
 3. Debate
 - a. Hamed: since Summer classes, especially for labs give limited time slots, I can see the problem.
 - b. Sandin: as he gave us his schedule, I think it is appropriate for us to give him this approval.
 4. Voting
 - a. 8/0/0; absence is approved
- d. Blanket Excuses
 - i. Erick Castillo
 1. Speeches
 - a. For the remaining initial roll calls of the summer session as he is part of a lab that prevents him from being on time to Senate.
 2. Questioning
 - a. none

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*

Chair Yalamanchili sga_ljr@ucf.edu



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UCF Student Government
LJR Committee Meeting
SG Conference Room
07/13/2023
3:00 PM

3. Debate

- a. Hameed: Since we just approved the previous request for the same reason, voting in favor.

4. Voting

- a. 8/0/0; blanket excuse is approved

12. Member Discussion-

- a. Damarla: this is an important discussion, and we will talk about suspending this rule for the summer in senate exec
 - i. Yalamanchili: I think it is a great idea
 - ii. Sandlin: I agree
 - iii. Hurst: I don't.

13. Miscellaneous Business-

- a. Review of the Student Body Constitution - <https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/05/Constitution.pdf> (postponed to next meeting)
- b. Icebreaker – What is your favorite food of all time and why?
 - i. Hurst: all of them
 - ii.

14. Final Roll Call: 8/11

15. Adjournment: 4:12 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

*This meeting is held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee through the UCF Student Government.*

Chair Yalamanchili sga_ljr@ucf.edu