



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UCF Student Government
GAP Committee Meeting
SG Conference Room
10/10/2023
4:30 PM
[Zoom](#)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: **4:30 PM**
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum (7): **12/13 Quorum is verified**

Name	Email	Initial	Final
Chair Temple	sgagap@ucf.edu	P	P
Vice-Chair Polera	sgasci9@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Duke	sga_sci2@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Hashimi	sga_sci1@ucf.edu	E	E
Senator Herrera	sga_cah2@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Humayun	sga_chps3@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Kostis	sga_sci6@ucf.edu	E	E
Senator Lacasse	sga_sci8@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Polera	sgacie2@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Richmond	sgsci12@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Sandlin	sgsci13@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Vasquez	sgasci14@ucf.edu	A (P 4:44 PM)	P
Senator Vorn	sga_ba6@ucf.edu	P	P
LJR Representative	sga_ljr@ucf.edu	E	E
Pro Tempore Representative	sga_pro@ucf.edu	P	P
Governmental Affairs Coordinator	sga_govaffairs@ucf.edu	P	E

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1. Approval of the Minutes: [10/3/2023](#) - **Approved by GC**
2. Approval of the Agenda: - **Approved by GC**
3. Open Forum
 - a. JC: SGLC, was here last week. Nice to meet you.
 - b. Kirsten: SGLC. Nice to meet you.
 - c. Liam: Not a senator. Congrats to new senators.
4. Announcements from the Chair-
 - a. Good afternoon, everyone!
 - i. Today won't be dedicated to our working groups, but rather to a broader discussion to certain updates that have come up in the past day or so regarding DATC.
 - ii. GAC Martin and I did meet with Janet Owen and Austin Wilson yesterday to discuss Day At The Capitol initiatives, which we will dedicate most of our New Business to today.
 - iii. Additionally, we got back from Jeremy Kauffman on the UPCC and he has invited myself, Brooke, and President Greenaway to the next policy committee meeting next Tuesday from 12-1!
 - iv. OTD:
 1. In 1911, the Wuchang Uprising begins after a bomb unexpectedly goes off (in the hands of the bomb handler) and begins the broader Xinhai Rebellion, which would see the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the creation of the Republic of China, with Sun Yat Sen as its first President...for about 5 minutes.
5. Announcements from the Vice Chair-
 - a. Vice Chair Polera –
 - a. Good afternoon. It's so nice to see you guys. I hope you're all having a great day and an even better week. Happy to share we have some new senators that joined GAP so make sure to say hi and get to know them. Also shoutout to the SGCLers and Happy Birthday to Kirsten and Lisianna. Love seeing more faces in GAP since it's the best committee. Once again, thank you to everyone who tabled last week. Super proud of the time and hard work you've all been putting in.

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- b. A fun fact: UCF has a program that's directed at senior citizens wishing to continue their educations. The Learning Institute for Elders (LIFE) is a nonprofit organization for Central Floridians who are of retirement age and want to continue learning. They hold lectures Tuesday mornings in the Pegasus Ballroom. Today's lecture was about The Cold War and whether it's still going on.
 - c. Also, I just want to remind you all that you are so loved. You matter, and you are so valuable. This world is a better place with you in it. I am so proud of all of you. I appreciate you all. Remember I'm always here for you guys. If you ever want to talk about anything, whether it's related to GAP or not, feel free to reach out.
 - d. **Recess at 4:39 PM**
 - e. **Reconvened at 4:43 PM**
6. Announcements from Committee Members-
- a. GAC Martin - Happy Tuesday everyone! Yesterday, Ethan and I had a very productive meeting with Janet Owen, the VP of Government Relations here at UCF. Earlier today, I had a meeting with the Judicial Outreach Committee to discuss Downtown Day. We have limited spots available. Please fill out this form as soon as possible if you are interested in attending, or you will unfortunately miss out on this opportunity! **Downtown Day is Monday, November 13th** from 8:30am-4:30pm. We will have a meeting a week before Downtown Day to discuss the event and expectations for participants, stayed tuned for that. I am continuing to work on Day at the Capitol. Let's have a productive meeting and stay on track!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqZLSHJ7znxW95qm3L1eFfGCYxuHOSQqDQ2TIBn5dAKz4EvQ/viewform?usp=sf_link Students can go to faculty Senate meetings.
 - i. Liam: Faculty Senate meetings allow you to speak at certain times. Similar rules apply like Senate. I don't think they do "Move for Non-Senator to speak"
 - ii. GAC Martin: Met with Chair of Faculty Senate. He said if students have concerns, best way for Faculty Senate to hear would be to push through VP Smith. He can voice those concerns. Open forum rules are a little different.
 - iii. Chair Temple: Is DT day only open to senators?
 - iv. GAC Martin: Just SG
 - v. DiChiara: Link for DT day?
 - vi. GAC Martin: It's in this week's minutes.

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7. Announcements from Non-Committee Members
 - a. Hurst: Was senator for summer. Will be coming back in the Spring. Will be back in Spring. Today is World Mental Health Day. Take breaks. Will be back on Saturday for a couple hours.
 - b. Cairos: This Saturday?
 - c. Hurst: Yes. Will be on campus most of the day.
 - d. Neda: For the SGLCers, I'm Neda. Grad assistant, advises senators. Applying to med school this cycle. Appreciates everyone's support. Say hi!
 - e. Chair Temple: What med schools did you apply to?
 - f. Neda: Got into West Virginia. Waiting to hear back from some more.
8. Old Business-
 - i. Working Groups:
 1. Legislative Working Group - Temple, Polera, Vasquez, Richmond, Yalamanchili, Humayun, Duke, Herrera
 - a. [2023 DATC Information](#)
 - i. For this group, your focus will be on finding information that outlines **why these priorities are concerns for students in order to outline our Resolutions**. After we collect this information, we will work on the bills, which must be seen on 1st reading by 30 November. I want to remind this group that we are explaining these issues as student issues, so it would be advisable to be judicious in your wording.
 - ii. [LWG Working Doc](#)
 1. **Civil Rights**
 - a. **LGBTQ+ Rights** – Herrera, Yalamanchili
 - b. **Reproductive Justice** - Laurel, Andrea, Yalamanchili
 2. **Education**
 - a. **Bright Futures** - Richmond
 - b. **Immigrant Students** – Vasquez
 - c. **Administration** – Funding for UCF
 3. Public Welfare (Social Welfare, Healthcare, etc)

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- a. **Living Insecurity** (Housing + Food Insecurity) - Ethan
 - b. **Gun Violence Prevention/Public Safety** – Ethan, Cooper (SGLCer)
 - c. **Mental Health** – VC Polera, Richmond, Humayun
 - 4. Environmental Concerns
 - a. **Climate Change** – Vasquez
 - b. **Infrastructure** - Yalamanchili
 - 2. Electoral Working Group - Sandlin, Lacasse, Yalamanchili, Vorn
 - a. Relatively more simple: Find the candidates and find the polling places in Lake Nona.
 - i. [EWG Working Doc](#)
 - b. Bills
 - i. None.
 - c. Resolutions
 - i. None.
9. New Business-
 - i. I wanted to go over some updates regarding our meeting with Janet Owen yesterday, specifically their priorities, how we can go about specifying *our* priorities and how to properly communicate them. From there I wanted to discuss with you strategies for these. Moreover, now that legislation is being filed, we ought to set the grounds for how many bills we want in total, and how many per section.
- b. Bills
 - i. None.
- c. Resolutions
 - i. None.
10. Member Discussion-
 - 1. GAC Martin: Janet Owens is VP of Govt Relations. Lobbies for UCF and works for UCF. She’s great. Met her during Legislative Scholars. When applying for the position, talked to her a lot about DATC. Wanted to set up a meeting to learn about her perspective. She had

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some helpful advice and info for us. Gave info about projects administration is going to lobby for. Appropriations and funding. Gave advice for our priorities. She had good insight. In the past, we've been broad about certain topics. Open for interpretation. Janet gave good advice to be super specific. Instead of vaguely talk about policy, make sure to be specific and relate to universities.

2. Chair Temple: Priorities from Gov't Relations: appropriations. They're going to request funds from state govt. Breakdown of 40 mil dollars. They want funds to renovate certain buildings for students. Biggest priorities are Research 2, Howard Philips Hall. Not uncommon for us to talk about appropriation bills. We've done it for College of Nursing. There's no specific bills right now. These approps would go under Education. We can research more about DIH and what improvements can help.
3. GAC Martin: Janet made a good point. We have a lot of UCF alumns in power and leadership in State Capitol. House Education Chair is UCF Alum. In Senate, we have some connections. Extremely important to maintain those relationships. Must be respectful in Tallhassee.
4. Chair Temple: How we approach this Session will be very different from last year. This Session, we're seeing these bills newer. We have a bigger say in what bills can be voted on. More leverage on the matter. Must be strategic on how we approach bills and how many bills we reference on docket. Today is a strategy meeting moving forward. EWG will probably have another week. Legislative research should be done. Want to see how many bills everyone wants for each priority and how we want to approach them. Some will be easy but some will be controversial. Want to provide context. Last Session was nightmare organizing legislation. Timelines were messed up. We have bills being sponsored now that we can start looking into. Wants to make sure how many bills we have will be sufficient to make arguments. How many bills should we have overall since we have 4 given areas with 10 subsections. That's going to be a lot of legislation. May get influx of legislation or none for certain policy areas.

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5. Sandlin: Are we talking about bills we're going to take to Capitol.
6. Chair Temple: Max we're going to take with us.
7. Sandlin: We agreed upon no more than 13 bills, right?
8. GAC Martin: Think it was 15 bills.
9. Sandlin: There will probably be a lot of bills that crossover. Weed through twice as much to narrow it down to 15 bills that cover as much as possible.
10. Chair Temple: 30 then 15?
11. Sandlin: 20-25 bills then pick from those.
12. Lacasse: Initially looking at priority bills. Will depend on how many bills are actually filed within the categories we want to cover. Will likely be overlap. Prioritizing what is of the most importance. Comes down to capacity. We don't want to advocate for too many bills. Depends on how much one person can advocate on a bill.
13. ELA Richmond: Important to narrow down topics then seeing what legislation is put forth. Important to ask students their take on policy issues. We don't know students' focus. More conversations with tabling for narrower scope for legislation.
14. GAC Martin: Usually, meetings are 10-15 minutes. 3-4 minutes per person. 4 people per group. 1 priority per person. Important to keep in mind with amount of bills. Want to be effective. Last year was almost 30 bills.
15. Chair Temple: Want to make use of time and tell legislators reasons not just stats. Want to discuss if the above list will be used or if we should change it, like Richmond suggested.
16. Lacasse: Based off survey, the list is solid. It's not as representative as we would like. Working with what we've received, these issues are top priorities.
17. ELA Richmond: Wants to expand conversation to specific concerns.
18. Liam: As First time in college student, my biggest concerns coming into college were Bright Futures, Safety, Rights as queer individual. Wants to implore Chair and committee to not exclude those topics.
19. Hurst: Wants clarification on how many bills for DATC.
20. Chair Temple: 15 or so.

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21. Hurst: Is there a way to look at bills that are more focussed on students than politics?
22. Vasquez: Agrees with Hurst. Learned a lot during tabling. Lot of concern about housing and workers rights. Made situation and topics more real for students. 22 topics on form. For students to value housing and workers rights above others, it was interesting. Wants to blend info from tabling with info we already have. We should be able to have bills that support the topics. Doesn't want to waste time on policy issues without bills.
23. Kennaugh: Numbers game at the end of the day. Want to include both ends of the political system. Important to pursue both.
24. Chair Temple: How should we go upon doing that? We need to remain nonpartisan.
25. ELA Richmond: Representing students. Important to talk to all students not just our friends. Striking up conversations with everyone about large broad topics and finding bills that pertain to that.
26. Chair Temple: Statutorily required to remain nonpartisan.
27. Lacasse: Doesn't think Richmond was saying we should be partisan. Agrees with Richmond. The only thing we can do to be representative is to have conversations. That's the whole reason we do the survey. Reflects what the students want. To go out of our way to find other topics, we're targetting something rather than being representative. Continue having conversations with students. Use input and work with it.
28. JC: Agrees with Lacasse. Important to use survey rather than aiming to be super nonpartisan. Talk to people. More tabling. Don't think about if its partisan.
29. Liam: Wants to mention from legal standpoint. Nonpartisan doesn't mean looking at issues by one party. If constituency is mostly liberal and those are the issues they give you, overrepresentation is partisan.
30. Hurst: Survey can only take us so far. Recommends we put our own beliefs into point. If you're elected and your beliefs lean one way and students believe in you, you should be able to do those things.

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31. Kennaugh: To echo Hurst, we are bringing middle ground issues not trigger ones. Don't think survey is representative.
32. Vasquez: Success with legislators deals with topics. They already know how they're going to vote.
33. ELA Richmond: We should see legislation that will benefit UCF and students.
34. Liam: Disagrees with Kennaugh. Form sent out to students was anonymous. Given that, even if you're in political minority, you have no reason to leave out any concerns.
35. JC: Is the main priority of legislation to make UCF community better or overall Florida better?
36. Chair Temple: UCF community. Could transpire to FL. Mix but main priority is student body as a whole. Have been conservative responses on survey.
37. Kennaugh: Even when you go to ballot box, you're gonna be nervous when you vote. Could lead to bias survey with insufficient views.
38. Duke: It was anonymous. There are probably issues with survey. Pushed out survey to random groups.
39. Wagen: Won't change legislators' minds. Does that result in GAP choosing not to advocate for that because difference won't be reached?
40. Lacasse: Partisan discredits diversity of thought. Certain issues aren't partisan. Don't want to do a disservice to constituents.
41. Liam: Adding on to what Lacasse said and adding personal info, reproductive justice isn't partisan. 70% Floridians think abortion should be legal and accessible. Desantis won by more than 60%. TO support reproductive rights isn't partisan issue on the ground. You could argue LGBTQ rights are partisan, but that discredits the people to which the issue affects.
42. Demarla: Give brief overview.
43. Chair Temple: How to approach legislation and priorities.
44. JC: How was survey formatted?
45. Chair Temple: Check off policy issues and open response. Asked how they want SG to discuss priorities. Stat info about SG.

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46. Kirsten: When approaching questioning students about what they want, the only way to get nonbiased answers from both sides is by not using trigger words. Not about shying away from what things are about. It's about not putting people into a corner by attacking any sides.
47. Hurst: Suggests we focus on things we can advocate for. If there's things we agree on that won't get passed, we write resolutions to show support.
48. Vasquez: Agrees with Hurst.
49. Chair Temple: We need to talk about how we're going to implement things. We're going to have to write legislation. How should we implement what we just said today. We need better representation and need to be effective. Don't want to go up and talk to brick walls.
50. Damarla: There's a notes section where they explain topics. Maybe if we reflected on that. GAP has to be bipartisan but reflects values of students. We're supposed to reflect views of students. Is concern questions in the first place might hint at bias?
51. Chair Temple: Kinda.
52. Lacasse: The concern isn't wording; its that no student feels excluded when we advocate for them. Don't want to show bias. Want to best represent students. Do we want to get more viewpoints or have more conversations?
53. Chair Temple: Also need to figure out which subjects would be most effective.
54. Damarla: Issues can be solved by more surveying. We have leading topics. Maybe 2nd part to survey: How do people feel on these topics? Making sure there's correct phrasing about leading students to pick certain answers or making it open-ended. Want to respect committees' time for research. Might as well have research on both sides. 2nd part is what they think about the policy.
55. Hurst: Concerned about survey. Limited on time. Concern is that more surveys will waste time. Suggests going through filings of bills that were recently sponsored and we all agree on. Wants to be productive.

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56. Duke: Likes the idea of a second survey. First survey was more general. Lots of concerns about stances on issues. Think 2nd survey could alleviate concerns.
57. Wagen: How much time and resources does committee want to spend on surveys? They don't get lots of responses.
58. Liam: How many responses have form gotten?
59. Chair Temple: 237. Atleast 200 from tabling and survey.
60. Lacasse: How much time will survey take to make? Have it out there and continue working on research. Good way to see what side people stand on. People fill it out in the background while we focus our efforts on pairing bills. We can only work with what bills have been filed on. See how it lines up with people's views.
61. Chair Temple: Want to remind committee there is a timeline for legislation. Have to be submitted to Senate by 30 Nov.
62. Hurst: Looking at priority survey. 154 responses. 70k students at UCF. Not great percentage. More surveys will not get better response. Narrow it for next year. We're not going to get much more responses with new survey. No point to new survey.
63. Damarla: After 1 day of tabling, we got over 100 more responses. If we keep it up and focus on outreach, it won't take that much time. Don't want to give up on students. We still have two months. If committee delegates, it won't be that big of a deal. Doesn't want to give up on students and stop now. Maybe in the past there weren't a lot of responses. Wants GAP to be a place poeple look up to. Going to need both sides of each issue. After learning what students want, we pick and choose. Values outreach. Wants students to see we're supporting them.
64. Richmond: Agrees with Damarla about 2nd survey. Even if there's not many responses, we'd still be hearing from students. Not too many people expanded on stuff in survey or during tabling. We need expansion for representation.
65. JC: Agrees, we need students' stances on issues. Draft legislation early and ask students if that represents them instead of waiting until closer towards the deadline.

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66. Liam: Thanks Chair for ability to speak throughout meeting. GAP doesn't draft legislation, just says how people should vote on it.
67. Chair Temple: We write legislation that details priority, not legislation that people in Tallahassee see.
68. Liam: Agrees with Richmond and Damarla. If we look at margin of error, from population size of 68,442, sample size on conservative size. While this seems insignificant, margin of error is relatively small and representative. Doesn't think we should discount survey responses. SG's job is to prioritize students.
69. Hurst: Responses from last year?
70. Chair Temple: 110
71. Hurst: so it's doubled. Low on behalf of students. You were elected to represent constituents and use best judgement. You should say what you think is important without constantly referencing the survey.
72. Chair Temple: Research we've done and legislative priorities from last Session, we didn't send surveys. Researched UCF and Orlando and based judgement off of that.
73. Lacasse: Agrees with that. For gaps from survey, that's what we're here for. Survey first but we shouldn't be too concerned that we're not representing them all. Don't be too concerned. We're doing all that we can. When we have cutoff for responses, don't feel like it's not enough because we fill in the gap. We should move on to more new business.
74. Chair Temple: We'll make judgements as we go. We have plenty of info and research. There's always advantage of framing issue.
75. Vasquez: Good idea to keep surveying. Better to have even 500 than just the 200 we have now. Makes bigger impact. We were only outthere for 2 hours and got around 100 more responses. Richmond mentioned we should get more insight on people's stances. International students really cared about international issues.
76. Wagen: has done lots of tabling. In all of tabling experience, promo items correlates with responses.
77. Chair Temple: Moving on.
78. Demarla: Do you ahve an idea of what you want to do for the next week? Voting for next steps?

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- 79. Chair Temple: Wants to sharpen research methods. Entering phase where legislation is coming in.
- 80. VC Polera: Don't think anyone reserved space to table.
- 81. Chair Temple: We'll continue with outreach.
- 82. Vasquez: Can't do full time.
- 83. ELA Richmond: Can't do full time.
- 84. Vasquez: Can table before 11:30 PM and after 1:30 PM.
- 85. Demarla: Will check.

11. Miscellaneous Business-

- i. Do we want to continue Market Wednesday tabling?
- ii. Vote: Continue outreach-opposed-abstained **9-0-1**

12. Final Roll Call: **12/13**

13. Adjournment: **5:57 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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