



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UCF Student Government  
GAP Committee Meeting  
SG Conference Room  
11/21/2023  
4:30 PM  
[Zoom](#)

## MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: **4:33 PM**
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum (6): **9/10 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	E	E
Senator Herrera	sga_cah2@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Humayun	sga_chps3@ucf.edu	P	A
Senator Lacasse	sga_sci8@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Polera	sgacie2@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Richmond	sgsci12@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Vasquez	sgasci14@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Vorn	sga_ba6@ucf.edu	P	P
LJR Representative	sga_ljr@ucf.edu	E	E
Pro Tempore Representative	sga_pro@ucf.edu	A	A
Governmental Affairs Coordinator	sgagovaffairs@ucf.edu	P	P

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1. Approval of the Minutes: [11/14/23](#) - **Approved by GC**
2. Approval of the Agenda: - **Approved by GC**
3. Open Forum
  - i. State Representative Anna Eskamani – she/her/hers, State Rep. for District 42. Proud UCF grad. Getting PhD at UCF. There are some really concerning bills being filed. Lots of free speech concerns. HB 599 was filed today, prohibiting the use of pronouns and pronoun trainings. There’s also legislation about child labor laws, gun safety, climate change. Encourages SGA leaders to talk to Board of Governors. 2 rules via the last meeting at UCF: limitation of SB 266 banning DEI programs and political activism. Defn from BOG is far-reaching. Statute is clear that student fees should not be impacted, but faculty will be. There may be challenges with faculty sponsors paid by E&G dollars. Faculty sponsors may feel like they can’t express themselves. The other rule is the removal of Sociology from Gen Ed courses. It was an amendment during the last BOG meeting. Posted 2 BOG letters on Instagram and Facebook. The comments are due Thursday at midnight. Encourages faculty and students to submit comments. The BOG meeting will be on January 24-25 at FSU.
4. Announcements from the Chair-
  - a. Good afternoon, everyone!
    - i. Today will be meeting with the one and only Representative Anna Eskamani to discuss the legislation being seen in the State Legislature to get a sense of what their priorities are this year and to ask questions about certain bills we’ve looked into already.
    - ii. We will NOT be adopting the legislative priorities today and instead we will do so vote next week, that way we can dedicate time in committee next Tuesday to constructing the advocacy agenda.
    - iii. OTD:
      1. In 1918, the Parliament Qualification of Women Act of 1918 is passed, allowing women to become MPs in the British House of Commons.
        - a. Coordinator Burge: Who are you rooting for?
        - b. Chair Temple: Liverpool!

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5. Announcements from the Vice Chair-
  - a. Vice Chair Polera –
    - a. Good afternoon! Happy Tuesday! I hope you're all doing well. I hope you're having a great day and an even better week. Shoutout ELA Richmond for getting Rep. Eskamani to come. I hope you all have an amazing Thanksgiving. Remember to enjoy the break, get some rest, and recharge so you'll be energized for finals. Whether you're spending it with friends, family, or whomever, I hope you practice self-care and reflect on all that you're thankful for. I am very thankful for all of you. Lastly, remember that you are so loved and you matter. I appreciate all of you.
6. Announcements from Committee Members-
  - a. GAC Martin - Hello everyone! Thank you to those that applied for Day at the Capitol. I sent out an email yesterday letting you know that you do not have to be interviewed. If you have any questions, please let me know. [Sgagovaffairs@ucf.edu](mailto:Sgagovaffairs@ucf.edu). Have a happy Thanksgiving and safe travels to those that are visiting family!
    - i. Lacasse: Application was for non-GAP members right?
    - ii. GAC Martin: Everyone has to fill out the application. If you haven't submitted it and want to come, let me know.
    - iii. Vervuurt: Forgot to apply.
    - iv. GAC Martin: Put email in the chat. Will send the questions. Interviews will be Nov 27 – Dec. 1. GAP members have to apply but won't have to be interviewed.
    - v. Chair Temple: Not adopting bills tonight.
7. Announcements from Non-Committee Members-
  - a. None.
8. Old Business-
  - a. Bills
    - i. None.
  - b. Resolutions
    - i. None.
9. New Business-
  - a. Eskamani and the State Legislature

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b. Bills

- i. **Move to Informal: 4:42 PM**
- ii. GAC Martin: GAC, plans DATC. Do you have any advice for how to effectively lobby for our issues knowing we may receive pushback?
- iii. Rep. Eskamani: First time at The Capitol was at DATC. Thank you for your leadership. Back then, SG was restricted in what we could talk about. UCF Administration is operating from a place of fear. They're afraid of getting their funding cut from the state. To answer your question, look at the letters submitted to the BOG. Tried to speak a language that is translatable to different political persuasions. By talking about the economic impact and competitive nature of students being critical thinkers, employment rates, etc, it may resonate more with my colleagues. Higher Ed doesn't work without diversity. Consider messaging points that speak more to a conservative audience. In regards to LGBTQ+ issues, storytelling is very powerful because of the disinformation that surrounds them. Be specific with the rhetoric you use. Story of self is very helpful in regards to social change. The goal is to have the story in 3 minutes or less.
- iv. GAC Martin: That's very helpful. Sen. Pizzo mentioned the storytelling strategy when he came to campus. We will try to implement the storytelling at DATC.
- v. Rep. Eskamani: These conversations need to be had if we're going to be successful with the legislature.
- vi. Chair Temple: We wanted to talk about some specific legislation. HB 193.
- vii. Rep. Eskamani: There's lots of unknowns. We might know more when analyses go up. We file HB 193 every year when establishing renewable energy goals. We don't have any goals in the state of FL. This would establish a modest goal of 2040 to become 100% renewable energy based. We're creating a task force for workforce and job development. Really important issue to push, but the power of special interest has consistently stopped it. Trying to bridge the gap between lawmakers and advocacy groups. Sen. Berman is the Senate sponsor.
- viii. Chair Temple: How should we advocate for this bill?
- ix. Rep. Eskamani: There are a few approaches. Encourage other legislators to co-sponsor priority bills. Easy but meaningful ask. Has been assigned to 3 committees. Another step is to contact the Chair, VC, and Ranking Member

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and ask them to agenda the bill. Another bill is going after freedom of speech. Difficult subject. Rise of Islamophobia and Antisemitism. Lots of politicization of this. This bill would attempt to deport students and punish in-state students with out-of-state students. HB 465 and SB 470. Freedom of speech must be protected. No hate speech will be reduced by trying to ban it. People must be educated on why the speech is hateful. The bill specifically calls out pro-Palestinian organizations. Politicians should not be dictating appropriate speech.

- x. Lacasse: From Maine. HB 279. Public safety is one of our priorities. Considering how much of an issue that can be, is there anything specific you think we should know before going into those conversations?
- xi. Rep. Eskamani: So sorry to hear that. Each of us has lived through some experience with gun violence. Several bills will be filed around gun violence. 2 amendments sponsored last year did not pass. The number one cause of death by firearms is suicide. There are policy approaches that can be taken to prevent this. Files it in honor of people we have lost. 2A is paramount, but doesn't prohibit common sense regulations. In approaching this topic, be ready for typical 2A talking points. Reference other states that have done this, U.S. history, and rates of mass shooting in other countries with restrictions. New data is coming out to back up our positions. Republicans used to argue there wasn't enough data, so now there's more data. Personal stories are really impactful. Other perspective is that law enforcement agrees these weapons shouldn't be readily available.
- xii. Chair Temple: Do you still have time?
- xiii. Rep. Eskamani: I still have time!
- xiv. Coordinator Burge: Has SB 144 and your bill HB 193 in the legislative research notebook. Has been sitting in on GAP meetings. Wants to bring in an economic angle to these goals. Wants to find common ground with Republicans that don't care about environmentalism side of things.
- xv. Rep. Eskamani: Encourages data on job growth. Homeowners willing to pay expense for solar installation because over time they make the money back. Utility companies don't make money when people become energy-independent. There were huge donations behind it, but the governor vetoed it. Plug in the job growth. There's really good data comparing fossil fuel jobs to renewable energy jobs. They pay well. Fears can be debunked. Dropped

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something in the chat. List of current bills that have been filed that intersect with environmental policy. HB 107/SB 28. Sounds good on paper but will require those who drive EVs to pay a \$200 annually registration cost, then \$250 annually after 5 years. FL relies on sales tax. Gas tax funds road improvement. As more people move toward hybrid or electric vehicles, it acts as revenue. There needs to be an equitable replacement. \$150-\$200 is recommended especially when you're trying to encourage people to transition to Electric Vehicles. HB 433. Workers are struggling with extreme heat and impacts. This says local governments can do their own ordinances on these issues. Bad policy that should be on your radar. had some controversy over fossil fuel pipelines. She doShe doesn't think we should build anymore. Guarantee we will be tied to fossil fuels for another 20 years. Projects are bonded and we won't stop using them until the bond is paid off. We need renewable energy infrastructure, not fossil fuels. al gas is not a renewable resource. We can't keep producing meat the way we are. If you ban and criminalize it, we won't be innovative. Cattlemen don't want competition. The other issue is how FL can receive money from DC that Desantis vetoed. FL needs to stop rejecting these dollars.

xvi. Vervuurt: Regarding the Resilience committee, how can that be leveraged for policy? It's run by 2 Republicans.

xvii. Rep. Eskamani: Thank you for your passion and commitment. So much of the political debate around this issues is based on misinformation. When talking to conservatives, you have to talk about climate change in a different way. People can be so triggered by words. Consider ways that you can talk about something without saying that specific word. Resilience is a word Republicans are okay with. Very engaged with FL Springs council. Does amazing work with DEP. Went to community hearing for rulemaking on FL springs. There are regulatory schemes to make it harder to expand solar.

xviii. Vervuurt: There are issues between STEM and Humanities. Has been trying to use that connection. Is unionizing the best option?

xix. Rep. Eskamani: Very pro-unionizing. Unions should exist because they create an environment that benefits workers rights.

xx. Vervuurt: Are there ways to mitigate Desantis replacing BOG members?

xxi. Rep. Eskamani: Doesn't see a statute to revisit BOG. As SGA, you have a direct connection to BOT. There should be 1 on 1 meeting, an intentional

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effort to get commitment from BOT members. Show up to BOG meetings! Contact chancellor. Submit public comments. BOG members are not used to students showing up to their meetings. You can bring students to BOG meeting at FSU in January. Even a small car of students makes a difference to show unified opposition. There is no university without students. You won't recruit or retain top talent for students or faculty. Nobody has to stay here. Culture wars are class wars. Fighting for students and alumni. Fighting for faculty so they feel like they can be themselves versus feeling censured.

- xxii. Vervuurt: Got kicked out of BOG meeting.
- xxiii. Rep. Eskamani: They cut people off. SGA should write a letter to BOG to express disappointment and ask them to create more time. Call people in before you call them out. Engage proactively. Celebrate your small wins.
- xxiv. JC: What would you say are good angles to lobby against legislation?
- xxv. Rep. Eskamani: A few tactics are translatable. Re-examine language and use storytelling. Everyone has a lane. Some engage in direct action. They make the noise. Some have data to point out problems with bills. Some build bridges and give amendments. Ask yourself what role does SGA play. It is not necessary to be everything to everyone. Delay, Amend, Destroy. Delay is stopping the bill from moving. Session is only 60 days. Amending bills speaks for itself. Files petty amendments that will never pass but may shift the narrative. Try to amend legislation to prove a point. Destroy means you ask questions on the bill. Craft questions to ask the bill sponsors. Develop questions to pull apart bills. They get cited in lawsuits.
- xxvi. Lacasse: What's the best way to reach out to you?
- xxvii. Rep. Eskamani: [Ana.Eskamani@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Ana.Eskamani@myfloridahouse.gov). Willing to come to campus for other opportunities. That email goes straight to her phone. Has not been keeping up with DMS on social media.
- c. Resolutions - Not to Be Seen Today, Will Be Seen Next Tuesday
  - i. Resolution 55-XX [Resolution Expressing the UCF Student Body's Support of Legislation that Directly Affects Civil Rights]
  - ii. Resolution 55-XX [Resolution Expressing the UCF Student Body's Support of Legislation that Directly Affects Education]

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- iii. Resolution 55-XX [Resolution Expressing the UCF Student Body's Support of Legislation that Directly Affects Environmental Concerns]
- iv. Resolution 55-XX [Resolution Expressing the UCF Student Body's Support of Legislation that Directly Affects Public Welfare]
- v. **Move to Formal 5:50 PM**

10. Member Discussion-

- i. None.

Miscellaneous Business-

- I. None.

11. Final Roll Call: **8/10**

12. Adjournment: **5:50 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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