UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 2:16 PM

2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 4/6

Name	Email	Initial	Final
Chair Yalamanchili	sga_ljr@ucf.edu	Р	р
Vice-Chair Traynor	sga_cah3@ucf.edu	P	р
Senator DiChiara	sgacie5@ucf.edu	P	Р
Senator Hameed	sgaecs7@ucf.edu	P	Р
Senator Luthra	sga_med1@ucf.edu	A	Α
Senator Pohlmann	sgasci11@ucf.edu	Р	Р
Pro Tempore Representative	sga_pro@ucf.edu	P (at 2:20)	A

3. Approval of the Minutes: 2-22-2024 Approved by GC

Approval of the Agenda: Approved by GC

- 5. Open Forum
 - a. None
- 6. Announcements from the Chair
 - a. Hello everyone! Today we'll be looking over two internal bills, seven absence requests, and having a discussion on integrity in absence submissions. I also wanted to let you know that a censure will be seen next week, and wanted you guys to be prepared for that.
 - b. Happy Leap Day!!
- 7. Announcements from the Vice Chair
 - a. None

UCF Student Government

LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

- 8. Announcements from Committee Members
 - a. E&A Rep Went over title 6 for about an hour, went through different things to update or remove statements, as well as formatting. Next meeting, we will have something coming out.
 - b. SBA Rep Donation fair, we talked primarily about what RSOs SBA wanted to table for the event, and that was prety much the whole meeting.
 - c. GAP Rep They had a voter registration person (she's pretty high up) talk about voter registration in FL because it is low in the state, as well as how SGA can increase voter registration on campus.
- 9. Announcements from Non-Committee Members
 - a. None.
- 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
 - Internal Bill 55-15 [Updates to Title IV] [Chair DiChiara]
 - 1. Speeches: (5)
 - a. I spoke to the AG. The AG had a lot of legislative ideas, but nobody did anything baout it except for me. What we have been doing this session is updating the Titles based on academic days, rather than days. Based on the AG's experience (she had to update the Constitution on her BDAY). This would help avoid that in the future. It adds consistency within the titles in regards to this kind of stuff.
 - 2. Questioning (5)
 - a. Pohlman: this is consistent with the Titles?

UCF Student Government

LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

- i. For notification, it is about 5 days. We aren't doing things on the weekends, so this adds consistency and makes it easier for SG agents to get work done during the work week as opposed to during the weekends during personal time.
- 3. Debate (10)
 - a. Traynor: Looks great. Will help people
- 4. Voting:
 - a. 5/0/1 Passed on First Reading
- ii. Internal Bill 55-16 [Updates to Title III & XIII] [Chair DiChiara]
 - 1. Speeches: (5)
 - a. This was something I made a joke about regarding the Speaker. We say Senate President all through III. It als notes the Office of the Speaker. I am changing it from Speaker to Senate President. Despite calling her Speaker, she is known as the Senate President. Only 3 times does it say Office of the Speaker. I wanted to change it to Office of the Senate President for consistency within the statutes.
 - 2. Questioning: (5)
 - a. None.
 - 3. Debate: (10)
 - a. Pohlman: This is another consistency thing that AG has talked about and is a good idea. Voting in favor.
 - 4. Voting:
 - a. 4/0/2 Passed on First Reading
- iii. <u>Internal Bill 55-17</u> [Updates to Title III: Duties and Powers of a Deputy Pro Tempore] [Chair Cimillo]
 - 1. Speeches: (5)
 - a. In order to ensure that our pro tempore is well-informed and equipped to make sound fiscal decisions, it is imperative that the Deputy of Legislative affairs (DLEG) sits on two key fiscal committees. By having representation on these committees, DLEG can stay abreast of fiscal matters, provide valuable insights, and collaborate effectively with each student, RSO, and committee chair. This proactive approach will enhance

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room

> 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

transparency, accountability, and ultimately, the financial well-being of our institution. Thank you.

- 2. Questioning (5)
 - a. Pohlman: This is Kylie's bill. Was this run by the ProTemp?
 - i. DiChiara: She did it in Sierra's office. I was there when they remanded it. Akhila knows about it.
 - b. Hameed: Does the DLEG already sit on all fiscal commitees?
 - i. Brodie: I was worried that this was going to be contradictory, but it doesn't actually say that. The PT sits on all committees, but the deputies don't. We have been doing the deputies wrong.
 - c. Pohlman: Where does this coincide with PT Rep and things like that?
 - Brodie: That's always operated as because the PT sits on... give me just one second while I figure this out.
 - d. DiChiara: If this were to possibly go through, would then the 2 fiscal committees have to change the name from PT to DLEG on the agenda?
 - i. Brodie: My assumption is that the 2 deputies and the PT split up the 7 committees. Not that it would change their role if they sat on 2 fiscal committees. They would still be seen as rep of the PT office. This makes it more specific.
 - e. Hameed: What you said is that the deputies have committee membership and that they technically aren't PT reps. Would we have to go back and allow them to be PT reps?
 - i. Brodie: Great question. I am trying to figure out the language and where that language is in the statutes. There is a whole thing in the statutes about how the PT counts towards quorum but not against.
 - f. Pohlman: In the statutes, PT can delegate responsibilities to deputires to the committee they want
 - Brodie: 308.4. It has always been assumed, but technically the PT must designate the reps to be in every committee so that they count for quorum and

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024

2:00 PM

not against. I think that if you pass this legislation as it stands, the DLEG would have to be elected/appointed to 2 fiscal committees and could not fill the role of PT rep because they are 2 different things. I can't designate you to be the rep of a committee and be part of the committee, they would be part of it. This is saying that the DLEG must be on 2 out 3 fiscal committees. If you changed the language so that they are the reps of the committees instead, that would fix the language.

- g. DiChiara: PT is required to designate their deputies to whatever committees. The PT picks, not statutues.
 - i. Brodie: I think that the language you added would work. If you did that, I would make an update to 308.4 to add a subbullet to note that the DLEG shall be the designee for at least 2 of 3 fiscal committees. You could do it there or add the amendment to this document and it would accomplish the same goal. I went for that option (the other route) because it limits the amount of work that would need ot be done.
- h. Pohlman: Do we know why it is 2 out of 3? Is there a reason?
 - i. DiChiara: I don't know if it is all 3. The PT may want to sit on 1. It leaves 1 open for the PT or DSER to sit on fiscal. When Kylie wrote the bill, she didn't want to have 3 because it is quite an extreme. This helps to ensure that the DLEG has fiscal knowledge.
- i. DiChiara: What happens when the DLEG can't attend the meetings? Can they still be DLEG?
 - i. Brodie: Fair question.
- 3. Debate (10)
 - a. Morisette: I have a few concerns. The fair aspect of it makes sense, but when you break it down into parts, it gets complicated. What DiChiara said about scheduling is a concern this session. We moved ORS and CRT because PT Office could not meet. When we put this into the statutes, this puts the committees under stress because they have to

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

adjust their schedule around the PT office, which I feel bad about doing already. This also constrains the DLEG into fiscal committees. If they wanted to be on SBA and LJR, this would limit their ability, which I don't think is fair. There is a precedent for the DLEG to be fiscally active – either on a committee or ADSBP – the DLEG puts themselves in that position already. I understand the motive behind this, and I spoke to PT about it. It is helpful to have DLEG on fiscal, but I also feel the same sentiment can be achieved with better communication between fiscal chairs if the DLEG was not required to be part.

- b. Hameed: So based on your debate, you think this bill would you say this bill is unnecessary?
 - i. Mmm. The word unnecessary I wouldn't say it is unnecessary, but I would say it is redundant.
- c. Pohlman: I think I hold the same concerns as Morisette. What if there is scheduling conflicts between PT Office and Fiscal? This is a general question up for debate, but does this undermine the position of PT where they delegate their people requiring them to go to committees? I don't know if we are undermining that power. There is also I am fairly certain this was not brought to Akhila's attention.
- d. DiChiara: I just assume based on good faith did you notify Akhila about this?
 - i. Morissete: Brougth this up today, she did not see it.Kylie brought it to me but not to PT
- e. DiChiara: I do understand the intention of having good fiscal communication, but at some point, it becomes overlegislation. This comes down to the concern of the PT knowing what their deputies do. This is based on the tradition binder and the understanding of the DLEG. What happens if they can't meet? It shouldn't be based on 3 people who don't sit on the commitee, should be the opposite. I do understand the intention for fiscal understanding but I don't think it will work unless we adjust statutes. At this point, over-legislating is not worth. We should work based on assumptions of

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

- powers instead. I am voting against because I am not seeing the need for it now.
- f. Hameed: If we all vote against hypothetically, does this go to Senate but is seen unfavorably?
 - i. Yalamanchili: Yes, going to Senate but will be mentioned that it was passed unfavorably.
- g. Pohlman: I am echoing DiChiara. You can put in statutes, but it also depends on the relationship of the PT office and fiscal chairs, which could change over time. This may not solve the issue.
- h. Hameed: I feel this could be solved with a groupchat. With everything beind said, this is over-legislating. Problems fixed by this could also be fixed by better communication. Forcing through legislation to have the DLEG to sit on 2 oversteps the PT's powers. We shouldn't decide how PT designates.
- 4. Voting:
 - a. 0/4/2 Unfavorably passed
- b. Resolutions and Special Acts
 - i. None
- c. Absences
 - i. Nadav Shanun
 - 1. Speeches:
 - a. This is something that was rejected last week but I wanted to review it again this week to see if we would take it back up. This absence is for the meeting on 2/1. He said he had a family event in South FL. He said that the event was for a family emergency. He asked if we needed any additional information, and I told them that we usually do not ask for information. I forgot to tell you all that additional info because I was not there last week.
 - 2. Questioning
 - a. DiChiara: We are deciding whether to take back up this absence?
 - i. Yes.
 - b. DiChiara: We rejected it last week? Can we reject it again?

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024

2:00 PM

- i. If you want to take it up and reject it again, we can.
- c. Hameed: In the sheet that we wrote, do we excuse family emergencies?
 - i. Yeah, we did. Not specifically family emergencies, but something on the sheet regarding emergencies
- d. DiChiara: Am I wrong, or is this the second thing about them having emergencies?
 - This would be the first, but there is a second absence request that was postponed last week about a different family emergency.
- e. DiChiara: Can we see them as a block?
 - i. Yes.
- f. DiChiara: They are both on the same topic that he had to go home to. Both had the issue of evidence or full understanding of what is going on. Third, he didn't clarify what kind of emergency it was.
 - He did say it was an emergency, but did not feel like it was appropriate to ask for details. They are both for the same topic. One is for 2/1 and the other is for 2/15.
- g. Hameed: Can you read his speech for 15th?
 - i. "Emergency that I had to attend"

3. Debate

- a. DiChiara: Personally I am voting no. I do understand the idea of not asking questions regarding emergencies, but he does need to give some more detail. It gets a little confusing – I am not assuming the character of the person, but it does get suspicious. If we allow this, this removes validity of LJR. Is the evidence truthful enough to be excused? I will be voting no to reject this.
- b. Pohlman: I agree with DiChiara. My thing is that he asked if he could provide documentation and was told no, which is very understandable, because we usually do not pry for this (HIPPA meeting). That is my one thing about this request. He said that he could provide documentation but we didn't ask. Where do we draw the line regarding absences? There needs

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024

2:00 PM

- to be a threshold, but it is hard to determine. We can't pry for information all the time for privacy sake. We need to find out happy medium. I don't know where I stand. I want to vote no.
- c. Hameed: I want to vote no, but I feel guilty because it is a family emergency and we promised to excuse emergencies.
- d. Yalamanchili: Do you want me to ask for additional documentation?
 - i. DiChiara: He said he could?
- e. Hameed: We should postpone to get more evidence.
- 4. Voting:
 - a. Postponed until next meeting for evidence
- ii. Nadav Shanun
 - 1. Postponed until next meeting for evidence
- iii. Veneeza Humayun
 - 1. Speeches:
 - a. Requested for last week's meeting. She had an exam the next morning. She said that she must prioritize her exams and she must leave. She provided supporting documentation which was her exam schedule, which showed that the exam was indeed the day after Senate.
 - 2. Questioning
 - a. None.
 - 3. Debate
 - a. Pohlman: These types of absence requests I also really don't know where to find the happy medium. I remember there was a discussion of whether to excuse homework. I don't love excusing absences for studying personally but I am willing to hear other debate.
 - b. Hameed: I know this wasn't for a meeting for Senate but a dean meeting. We excused Temple so that temple could study for a test, not that he was taking the test. We do have precedent
 - i. We once excused DSER MIttal because he was studying for the MCAT

UCF Student Government

LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

- c. Pohlman: We have gone up and down with this issue. As of recent with DSER Mittal, we have. I will vote in favor because of precedent.
- 4. Voting:
 - a. 4/0/1 Absence Request Approved
- iv. Zara Hashimi
 - 1. Speeches:
 - a. This request was for last week's meeting. They were participating in CAB's Fashion Show which collaborates with Fashion Society. They also had a mandatory photography shoot right after the show. They attached for evidence a picture of what I would assume to be the Slack of the club that shows the order of who is doing what for the event.
 - 2. Questioning
 - a. None
 - Debate
 - a. Traynor: They might have had enough time, given that the fashion show ended about an hour after Senate started.
 - b. Pohlman: We have generally approved RSO functions.
 - 4. Voting:
 - a. 5/0/1 Absence Request Approved
- v. Ronit Luthra
 - 1. Speeches:
 - a. This is for the Dean Meeting on the 26th, last Monday. They had class during the meeting's time. I was originally going to skip class, but needed to talk to professor. I asked Laurel when the meeting was, and she said 10am or 10:30am. He provided documentation that showed the class schedule.
 - 2. Questioning
 - a. Hameed: Has Luthra attended any meetings this semester and/or last semester?
 - i. I talked to Laurel about this and did a deep dive. The answer is no, he has not attended a single Senate meeting this semester. Last semester, he attended about three. There were about 30 Senate Meetings this year and about 8 during the Summer. There have

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

been 32 meetings and he was exempted during the summer. Of the 24 he did attend, 15 were absence requests. That means he missed about **63%** of Senate.

- b. Hameed: Did he give his schedule as evidence?
 - i Yes
- c. DiChiara: He knew that he could not do his responsibilities and just kept sending absence requests?
 - i. That is correct
- d. Hameed: Has he attended an LJR meeting this semester or last semester?
 - i. He did for about three meetings last semester, but did none this week. I excused him because he went to a few conferences, but I have not excused him for absences in the past few weeks. This means that if he does not show up for Senate today and does not request to be appointed to another committee, he is being dismissed from Senate because every Senator must be in at least one (1) committee. When you get kicked out of a meeting and do not request to be appointed to another committee, you get kicked out of Senate.
- e. Hameed: So brother missed 63% of Senate.
- f. AG Moore: What is the timeframe that this senator has to go on to another committee before they get kicked out?
 - That is a good question, that is a Brodie question because I am not sure. I don't believe it is specified in committees.
- g. AG Moore: There should definitely be some grace time to allow them to join another committee before getting kicked out.
- h. Yalamchili: So, LJR is the only committee that Luthra currently sits on. This is his 2nd unexcused absence, which means that is enough for me to dismiss him
 - i. Brodie: To be dismissed, you must have 2.5 or more absences. 2 is acceptable.

UCF Student Government

LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

- i. Yalamanchili: If he were dismissed tonight, how long of a grace period does he have before he gets kicked out to join another committee?
 - i. Brodie: A week. You cannot be a Senator without a committee for a week before you get kicked out.

3. Debate

- a. Pohlman: Looking at this absence, based on the schedule, did it line up with the meeting?
 - i. Yes
- b. Pohlman: I think we kinda have to approve this and then we will cross that bridge when we get to other ones.
- c. Hameed: I agree with Pohlman because we have always excused absences for Dean Meetings especially if it is contradictory to academic schedule. Voting in favor.
- 4. Voting:
 - a. 5/0/1 Absence Request Approved

vi. Jason Hameed

- 1. Speeches:
 - a. He is requesting an absence for tonight.
 - b. Hameed: Hi, I am asking for a mental health day. I wanted to upload evidence but could not attach any. I feel "peculiar" and I want to go home. I want to sleep mainly. I have a lot outside of Senate as well.
- 2. Questioning
 - a. None.
- 3. Debate
 - a. None.
- 4. Voting:
 - a. 5/0/1 Absence Request Approved

vii. Amanda Lazo

- 1. Speeches:
 - a. This is for tonight's meeting. She said that she had a family emergency and that she would need to monitor her siblings and do medical treatment for them.
- 2. Questioning

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

- a. DiChiara: I have Latin Hispanic Caucus rn, can I ask her about evidence?
 - i. Yes.
- b. Pohlman: Is this something that we this is worth pulling evidence for?
 - i. No.
- c. DiChiara; I just spoke to her and it is very personal on her end. It is definitely she definitely does not need to provide it because it is very personal. We can't ask for anything else.

3. Debate

- a. DiChiara: Voting in favor. She is online on Zoom for her meeting. I just spoke to her, and she said that she is currently dealing with it. It's also a medical thing. Definitely voting in favor.
- b. Hameed: Obviously, we are excuing emergencies. We should support our Senators outside of Senate without worrying about what is happening here.
- 4. Voting:
 - a. 5/0/0 Absence Request Approved

12. Member Discussion-

- a. Pohlman: I wanted to follow up on the last absence request. We need to find that happy medium for family emergencies. We asked for evidence from one person and we didn't for another. We need to start setting clear precedent.
 - i. Yalamanchili: Are you introducing Wangen's Bills this week or next week?
 - 1. Next week, need to go through Caucuses and Brodie.
- b. Yalamanchili: I wanted to say that LJR in general, when it comes to claims in absence requests that are not too serious, we should be and I am not saying y'all are doing it after seeing last week's lying, we should be a little more thorough in the way that we examine absence requests such as a club event or like a sorority event or like something of that sort. That's pretty much it on that topic. We will be functioning as an ethics committee next week in regards to the censure. I believe that Madison would agree, and feel free to expand on it, but this is not about personal opinions; rather, the merit and how statuatorially sound it is.
- c. AG Moore: I love the definition of merit, and it talks about substantive thought. This censure could be voted down, but if it is voted up, make sure that you have a memo

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

put up in the Senate Office before the meeting that night. This will be judged on ethics and level of understanding. This will be based on merit.

- i. Hameed: What info will be given while reviewing the censure?
 - 1. As of right now, I have received a censure document. I do not have much else.
 - 2. DiChiara: I have one I have pictures of htem at the bar and the location. I can get eye witnesses of people at the event to explain what was being done at the event, if wanted. I can get videos.
- ii. Yalamanchili: I am going to have Chair DiChiara make his case next week. The person being censured will be able to make their own case, as well. With all the necessary individuals there, the committee can be free to ask questions. There is a specific procedure in statutes.
- iii. AG Moore: The only people that can speak are myself and the LJR committee. DiChiara cannot be part of LJR, must be the author. Nobody can speak. No eye witnesses can speak. There can be a gathering of statements that can be presented by DiChiara. The person that has been given the censure can provide evidence as well. Nobody else can speak other than that.
- iv. Hameed: Do we have confirmation that the person that received the censure received it?
 - 1. AG Moore: As long as they were emailed it, we do not need confirmation. The email is a notice itself.
- d. Yalamanchili: Another topic... How do we deal with a string of absence requests that are all individually justified but together show a pattern of chronic truency of Senate. This is in reference to Senator Luthra in that most of these absence requests have been based on evidence given as justified. When the requests are submitted for everything and you don't have the time to put in Senate, my curiousity is what are you getting out of Senate?
 - i. DiChiara: I mentioned this to Sierra. There is justification. We know as Senators that if we do not have the time, we must resign or take time away. Why has someone with a lot on their plate not resigned? LJR hasn't done anything wrong. Luthra has been busy but has not understood that they do not have time and they should step down for someone who has the time to do it.
 - ii. Hameed: I feel like we are in a situation where we are keeping a seat hostage to someone who is not doing their senatorial responsibilities,

UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024 2:00 PM

- despite valid reasons. Just because those reasons are justified does not mean that they should be in Senate. If they do not have the time, we should suggest they step down so that the seat can go to someone who has the time and energy to complete their duties. It is an injustice to the college they represent.
- iii. AG Moore: I agree with everything Hameed said. When looking over absence requests, make sure that you are consistent with what you approve and disapprove. It is about the credibility of LJR. We must be trustworthy. Regarding people with valid but numerous absences, it is necessary to sit down and have a conversation with them. Maybe even suggesting a meeting with the Senate President could work as well. They are human beings, too. Make sure you https://example.conversations before you write them off.
 - 1. Yalamanchili: Should we as a committee reach out to Luthra?
 - a. Hameed: Yes.
 - 2. Yalamanchili: I just wanted to make sure you were all up to date.
- 13. Miscellaneous Business-.
 - a. <u>Internal Bill 55-10</u> [Updates to Title III: Removing Caucuses from Title III] [Former Senator Wangen]
 - b. Resolution 55-13 [Updates to Senate Rule 1, 2, 4, & 7: Removing Caucus Leadership from the Senate Executive Committee and Senate Rules][Former Senator Wangen]
 - c. <u>Special Act 55-01</u> [Creation of Title XIV: The Student Government Caucuses]

Final Roll Call: 4/7

14. Adjournment: 3:41 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



UCF Student Government LJR Committee Meeting SG Conference Room 02/29/2024

2:00 PM