



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UCF Student Government
Elections & Appointments (E&A) Meeting
Student Government Conference Room
01/08/2025
10:30 AM

E&A MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 10:34 AM
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 8/7 (4)

Name	Email	Initial	Final
Chair DiChiara	sga_ea@ucf.edu	P	P
Vice Chair Collazo	sga_sci4@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Beneche	sga_sci2@ucf.edu	A (10:36 AM)	P
Senator Patel	sga_med1@ucf.edu	A	A
Senator Escobar	sgachps3@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Rudie	sgaecs7@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Gaudio	sgaecs9@ucf.edu	P	P
LJR Representative, Chair Courts	sga_ljr@ucf.edu	P	P
Pro Tempore Representative Morissette	sga_pro@ucf.edu	P	P
Supervisor of Elections Brown	sga_ec@ucf.edu	P	P

3. Approval of the Minutes: [E&A Meeting Agenda 01.08.24.docx](#) **Approved by GC**
4. Approval of the Agenda: **Approved by GC**
5. Announcements from the Chair DiChiara-
 - a. Confirmation, Bills, and new organ
6. Announcements from the Vice Chair Collazo-
 - a. Hi everyone! I finished the Contest of Elections bill.
7. Announcements from Committee Members-

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- a. LJR Rep. Chair Courts: Dean meetings are coming up. Make sure to email me, pro temp, and ela if going to be gone.
- b. Pro Tempore Morisette: None.
- c. Supervisor Brown:
 - i. Working on getting assistant supervisor of elections
 - ii. This election seasons is gonna be a lot, good luck y'all
8. Announcements from Non-Committee Members-
 - a. None.
9. Old Business-
 - a. None.
10. New Business-
 - a. Bills: MSQD: 5-5-5, **Approved by GC**
 - i. [Internal Bill 56-26](#) [Updates to Title VI: The Election Code of Ethics] [Senator Escobar]
 1. Speech
 - a. Senator Escobar: Basically adds to ethic codes to the election statues. First one prevents the leadership council from being corsion. This helps prevents the offering of cabinet position. The second one is two prevent conversation of the candiacys in the office and student government activites.
 2. Questioning
 - a. Supervisor Brown: Is there way to add one more office?
 - i. Chair Dichiara; we can do that during debate
 - b. Chair DiChiara: Do you see the issues we could possibly face with ELC or will this cover all leadership councils?
 - i. Senator Escobar: This applies to all leadership councils. Shouldn't be taken as a target to a specific leadership council.
 - c. VC Collazo: The MSC and other agencies of SG also have leadership councils, would this provision apply to them as well?
 - i. Senator Escobar: It would, but the wording emphasizes that coercion or incentives are not allowed, so they can participate while staying away from those behaviors.
 - ii. Senator Beneche: This additional provision just ensures that incentives that most RSOs/organizations usually use won't occur.
 3. Debate

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- a. Supervisor Brown: Its not unheard of us to see candiates from students from OSI and MSC. I love this bill. I will be voting in favor
- b. Senator Gaudio: Motion to see my amendment, 2-2-2, **Approved by GC**
 - i. Speech
 1. Senator Gaudio: This is pretty straight forward, as the bill currently stands it prohibits discussion at all Student Government activities, which would technically include any events put on by the election commission such as the Presidential debate, and this amendment serves to rectify this.
 - ii. Questioning:
 1. MTD
 - iii. Debate:
 1. VC Collazo: I don't believe the amendment is completely necessary. If an event is hosted by the election commission, it's presumed that it is approved by the election commission.
 2. Chair DiChiara: I do see the reasoning behind it. SG actives could include winter wonderland. It is still a courtesy to ask for approval. Election commission should be able to approve to deny these things. I can understand this amendment. Voting in favor.
 3. Senator Beneche: Echoing the thoughts of the chair. I will be voting in favor. Nobody wants to be campaigned at during yoga.
 4. Supervisor Brown: I will be voting in favor. I think the language should change to include funded SG actives?
 5. SG Advisor Taylor: If you include funded, anything that the union hosts include Market Day.
 6. VC Collazo: If we add the word funded, that limits RSO events.
 - a. Chair DiChiara/SG Advisor Taylor: It limits directly funded events, not the entire programming of an RSO

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7. Senator Gaudio: The election commission will have discretion.
8. Chair DiChiara: There's already places where candidates can't campaign. In regard to funded events, they should have the courtesy to ask the Commission.
9. SG Advisor Taylor: What Aiden is saying is that the Commission could Pre-approve events.
10. Senator Gaudio: Should we include that the event has to be publicly posted?
 - a. Chair DiChiara: I think the Commission will have discretion over it.
11. Senator Gaudio: If a candidate requests an event, and the other candidate doesn't know, I have concerns.
 - a. Chair DiChiara: It is the candidate's job to campaign, not the Commission.
12. Senator Escobar: "openly discuss"
 - a. Chair DiChiara: difference between personal conversations.
 - b. SG Advisor Taylor: Violation could be heard by the Commission.
 - c. 9-0-0, **Amendment Passes**
- iv. Chair Courts: Amendment
 1. Speech
 - a. Chair Courts: Added the MSC cause Supervisor said too
 2. Questioning
 - a. **MTD, Approved by GC**
 3. Debate
 - a. **MTV, Approved by GC**
 4. Voting
 - a. 9-0-0, **Amendment passes**
4. Vote:
 - a. 9-0-0, **Passes of First Reading**
- ii. [Internal Bill 56-27](#) [Updates to Title IV: Timeline for Appointments for Student Government Offices] [Vice-Chair Varela]
 1. Speech

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- a. Vice-Chair Varela: Hello E&A Committee. Thank you to the chair for accommodating me. I recommend having the Constitution and Title IV and JR-02 Bill. Issues we have is that the candidates hear back for months. I want to emphasize some concerns. In Section II of the Opinion, the council was not in favor that this applied to only Senate seats. So, this bill will apply to all positions from all branches. Section III, the senate does not have the power to regulate constitutionally granted executive power. I think there are many examples of the regulations. The President can veto but there is a process to it. I think the President does have the elector mandate to execute his power. The bill does not inhibit the Presidents power. This not burdening the Power of the President. I introduced this bill because . there is still a problem and 2. This opinion is overreaching.
2. Questioning
 - a. Senator Gaudio: So, you brought up how the bill address section 1 and 2 of the opinion, how does it address section 1?
 - i. Vice Chair Varela: Section one is a summary of the opinion. In general, section 1 doesn't really cite anything. This is not an exact process.
 - b. VC Collazo: It's in here that it's the language of an approved candidate and so on and so forth, and I think that was the problem when it came down to the decision of the justices. My question is "Is your intention to limit the impact of the judicial opinion?"
 - i. Vice Chair Varela: A lot of executive powers aren't super clear and this bill serves to try and fit under the requirements laid out by both the justices and my interpretaion of the Student Body Constitution.
 - c. VC Collazo: I would say that for example, if the executive branch told Senate how we should advise and consent upo their appointments, couldn't it be seen as encroaching upon our Constitutionally given power/ For example, if they regulated how we advised and consented on their candidates, such as if they mandated the Attorney General should be confirmed by the LJR committee instead of the E&A Committee. Would you consider that an encroachment upon Senate's powers?

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- i. Vice Chair Varela: The executive branch does not have any power to regulate the Senate. This is a statutory issue, which is the domain of the Senate.
3. Debate
 - a. Senator Gaudio: I will be voting against this bill. I don't believe this constitutional. The 400.3 outlines a procedure after the appointment. The other statutes of 400.6, 401.2, and 401.5 are transparency measures. As for 406.1, the passage of legislation is vital and that's why vetoes have a procedure. The delegated power to the president is to appoint. The Judicial opinion clearly states that the process and selection is absolute and plenary. I think this process leading up to making an appointment cannot be encroached upon constitutionally.
 - b. Senator Beneche: I will be voting in favor. I understand the sentiments, however I think it is imperative to have a time line when appointments must be made.
 - c. VC Collazo: Was a sponsor of the original bill, but as a former justice I agree with the Judicial Review. We have the jurisdiction to approve and deny confirmations and advise on things. We cannot tell the president how to select a candidate. The timeline is unfortunate, in the way that members go months without hearing back. I think that we just need to do our part and contact the Chief of Staff about applications that we are seeing, and ask if they have emailed candidates. I can say that the Chief is doing better, however wanting to regulate power is just something that we cannot do. We have to deal with what powers we have and if we are not satisfied, then it is our job to ask those questions and take necessary avenues. I would like to see this bill in different verbiage to be more relevant to the powers that we have.
 - d. Senator Varela: I just want to say that if anyone wanted to change the verbiage of the bill I am okay with that. This not my area of experience. I open to the debates. I am trying to understand how deep the opinion goes.
 - e. VC Collazo: I will say that the only way to really limit the impact of the judicial opinion is to one, introduce a Constitutional amendment to give us that power to regulate other branches, or we introduce bills with some sort of verbiage that treads the line very closely but does not cross that line, hence why I suggested we reword the bill to

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- regulate once a candidate has been selected rather than the selection process.
- f. Senator Escobar: Motion to see my amendments, from must to shall.
 - i. Seen as technicality by the Chair and Author.
4. Vote
- a. 4-3-1, **Passes First Reading**
- b. Confirmations: MSQD: 5-5-5, **Approved by GC**
- i. Jessica Vitarelli for Election Commission Seat #7
 - 1. Speech
 - a. Vitarelli: Senior majoring in legal studies. Current Assistant Director of Volunteer UCF. Volunteers in legal aid. Interning for public defender of the 9th Judicial District. I want to enhance my leadership skills. I have excellent time management and leadership skills.
 - 2. Questioning
 - a. Pro Tempore Morissette: Where is the passion of getting involved on campus?
 - i. I want to go to Law school I want to educate people about voting.
 - b. Escobar: Any caucuses?
 - i. Not off the top of my head.
 - c. Beneche:
 - i. One responsibility of an EC
 - 1. 10 hours a week
 - d. Courts: How to boost voter participation?
 - i. Emails, media post, town hall in the office. I hosted something similar in volunteer UCF. Newsletter. Feedback form. Knights Vote created a voter guide and wants to do something similar.
 - 3. Debate
 - a. Morissette: voting in favor. They're experience is relevant. I can see their passion. They know the responsibility of a commissioner. Seems passionate
 - 4. Vote:
 - a. 8-0-0, **Confirmed by E&A**
- c. Non-Compliance: None.
11. Member Discussion-

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- a. DiChiara: Bill Progress
 - i. DiChiara: 601.1 & (E 1-3), 601.1 F **DONE**
 - ii. Smith/DiChiara: Declaration of Candidacy, **DONE**
- b. Last Week's Discussion:
 - i. [Election Statues Changes Ideas](#)
 - ii. Supervisor Brown: List of other things (possible duplicates)
 1. Adding Declaration of Candidacy to definitions (**Smith**)
 - a. Chair DiChiara: Hiiiiii, I will be working with her on this, I gave Luke's email to her
 2. 601.4 (D): Clarity for "Online Petition" (**Talk to Sup Brown**)
 - a. Senator Brown: There is no clarification of the many petitions that we can do, assume that it is for declaration of candidacy
 - i. VC Collazo: Clarify to say what?
 - ii. Student Government Advisor Taylor: It used to be on paper and you could pick up the petition as soon as the semesters starts. Just saying that you must hand them the rules regarding signatures so that they do not get in trouble by the university
 3. Add Canvas course update requirement for every other executive session (**Talk to Brodie**)
 - a. Supervisor Brown: Stephanie wanted to make it a requirement to use the canvas course. The second part is a fragment from her first year as there was a time period where she had no credentials but believes that she needs access to be able to successfully complete her job.
 4. Add to 601.5 Duty to provide Assistant and Supervisor all necessary credentials to do work (e.g. NQ, Canvas, KnightConnect, etc.) (**Morissette – Conversation**)
 - a.
 5. 601.1 & (E 1-3): (**DiChiara**) Increasing the number of commissioners from 10 to 12 or 14
 - a. (D):
 - i. Updating when the 6 (or 7) commissioners are appointed to reflect the change in seats
 - ii. Create a timeline for appointments of positions:
 - iii. Supervisor of Elections appointed no later than the last week of Summer A

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- iv. Assistant Supervisor of Elections appointed no later than the last week of Summer B
- v. Applications to become an Election Commissioner should be opened by the first week of Summer A
- b. Chair DiChiara: Will sit down with Luke at some point to structure this, will probably talk to you to Brodster
- 6. 601.4 (F): **(DiChiara)**
 - a. Inclusion for 2 hours of work within the SG office per week prior to the election.
 - b. Chair DiChiara: I got this done, will send when I finish, the other bill above
- 7. 604.1: **(Escobar & Beneche)**
 - a. No presidential candidate shall have members of SGLC aid in campaigning
 - b. No candidate shall openly discuss their candidacy or platform within the Student Government and OSI offices.
 - i. Senator Beneche: Pretty straightforward, stops candidates from using SGLCer aid in elections. Also makes it to where candidates cannot talk about policies in the office.
 - 1. Pro Tempore Morrissette: Are ELC meetings public?
 - a. VC Collazo & Student Government Advisor: Not historically but all SG meetings are public so technically yes.
 - ii. Senator Rudie: If a member of ELC wants to be a part of the
 - 1. Supervisor Brown: In some years it hasn't been separate, so the aim is to ensure impartiality so that all have a fair and equal chance when running. There is obviously some favor for those who have helped with running the election, as it has historically been a trend of ELCers helping becoming cabinet members
 - iii. Senator Rudie: Last year I felt like it was a personal initiative to do so as I was in ELC; I understand setting this precedent but i want clarification so to anticipate the pushback

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1. Student Government Advisor Taylor: Last year was a bit of an outlier as the individuals running were not previous student government agents. Historically, it is and historically it has been something that we have seen. Making my opinion because i have the floor, I agree that the problem exists and should be addressed but i worry because it is singling out ELC. Preventing those people from supporting their mentors because they built these relationships and chose this council is a worry that I have.
 - a. Chair Collazo: Could be argued as a first amendment violation as well, maybe change bill language to say that the individual has to reach out the campaign. In regard to those students being appointed to cabinet, i guess its more of senate's duty to recognize that they were a part of the campaign.
 - i. Senator Rudie: Maybe it can't be in an ELC endorsed environment, i like the idea of not campaigning in the office.
 - iv. Pro Tempore Morrissette: Did they ever actively encourage you to campaign in ELC?
 1. Senator Rudie: No, we had to do it ourselves. It was never discussed
 - v. Define active campaigning
 1. Active Campaigning – Includes any display or distribution of tangible items or electronic media for a candidate/ticket for an elective office of the student body that promotes any campaign, advertisement in campus news and/or radio, email, phone/video calls, or any other media where the candidate is asking at mass for support from voters, including any attempt to solicit votes. (Title VI)
 - vi. Supervisor Brown: I would like to clarify that it's not just an ELC single out, there were also members of SLC as well

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who were not ever seen after. The goal of this is to protect everyone as the leadership councils' goals are to help them learn, not endorse

1. Student Government Advisor Taylor: On that point, that is important. It is a hard line, as if you put yourself behind a candidate and they lose there are consequences. I don't remember any places in the election statutes regarding promising positions.
8. 604.2: **(Patel)**
- a. No candidate shall campaign within the Student Union or Library, RWC, etc
 - i. VC Collazo: Does this not already exist?
 1. Supervisor Brown: They are technically allowed to campaign everywhere except for those places.
 - a. VC Collazo: Than it is already there.
 2. Supervisor Brown: I think this was supposed to be more of a they can't discuss campaigning in those areas
 - a. VC Collazo: Isn't that technically campaigning though? Trying to figure out of this is a necessary change to make or not.
9. 604.5: **(Collazo)** Clarification on how Judicial can invalidate an Election
- a. Statues: (Fla. Stat. § 102.168)
 - b. VC Collazo: I have been in the deep dive on supreme court on how to do this. States determine their own rules according to SCOTUS. We just have to create a procedure for how a candidate can contest an election.
 - i. Student Government Advisor Taylor: It is there.
 1. Collazo: To my understanding they are wanting clarification
 - c. VC Collazo: What is the requirements for contesting an election?
 - i. Supervisor Brown: We have it on paper
 1. VC Collazo: So meaning it is currently under the discursion of EC, goes to Judicial Council of EC is involved in contentment.
 - d. Only thing we could clarify is to set the grounds. I can look at the grounds for the state of Florida

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- i. Supervisor Brown: That is what EC needs as it gives EC no grounds
 - 1. Student Government Advisor Taylor: I think this is the point as the more clarification, the more limits there are for contesting. Leaving it open allows for the unexpected circumstances. It can be any grounds.
 - ii. Supervisor Brown: Part of the issue is that this isn't about ECs ability to contest but JC's
 - 1. Brodie: Clarify
 - e. VC Collazo: Maybe putting the phrase "included but not limiting to"
 - i. Student Government Advisor Taylor: Yes, this sounds good. However unless there is a problem to solved I don't know if you need to go through the motions. It wouldn't harm though.
10. 604.6: (**Pro Tempore**) (E): Should include any form of bribery or coercion such as receiving a point in a fraternity or sorority-for voting for a candidate, (RSOs)
- a. VC Collazo: When it comes to Greek council, I look at it the same way I look at the members that attend conventions. We could add something about coercions.
 - i. Supervisor Brown: Remember that we fund them
 - 1. Student Government Advisor Taylor: We do not unless they are RSOs.
 - ii. Wouldn't this say that we actually don't have the ability to restrict them?
 - 1. Student Government Advisor Taylor: This wouldn't be restricting them, this would be restricting the candidates.
 - iii. Senator Rudie: This would be more of a general statement to all, not just Greek council, right?
 - 1. Yes
 - iv. That being said they would still be able to hand out things, right?
 - 1. Yes, only educational material.

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iii. Chair DiChiara: **Send the completed bills to the E&A email and Collazo**, I already got Escobar & Beneche's, it helps us stay organized and I can review them before the next meeting

iv. Internal Bills:

1. Template on Teams

a. Under Senate -> Files -> Legislative Templates -> Internal Bill

12. Miscellaneous Business-

a. None.

13. Final Roll Call: 9/7 (4)

14. Adjournment: 11:35 am

Key:

P - Present

A - Absent

MTD - Move to Debate

MTV - Move to Vote

MTA- Move to Amend

MSQD – Motion for Speech, Questioning, & Debate Time

PP - Postpone

PPI - Postpone Indefinitely

GC - General Consent

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Chair DiChiara: sga_ea@ucf.edu