



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UCF Student Government
LJR Committee Meeting
Charge on Chamber
03/12/2024
1:00 PM

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 1:00 PM
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 6/7 (4)

Name	Email	Initial	Final
Chair Courts	sga_ljr@ucf.edu	P	P
Vice Chair Gaudio	sgaecs9@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Naguib	sgachps4@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Benwick	sga_sci7@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Trejo-Hernandez	sga_ecs1@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Jolicoeur	sga_ba5@ucf.edu	E	E
ELA Richmond	sgaela@ucf.edu	E (1:10 PM)	E
Pro Tempore Representative Collazo	sga_dleg@ucf.edu	P	P

3. Approval of the Minutes: [03.05.25](#) **Approved by GC**
4. Approval of the Agenda: **Approved by GC**
5. Open Forum
 - i. Supervisor Brown: Thank you for reviewing my statement today. To be clear, I am currently in direct opposition to 56-38. As the Supervisor of Elections, I am required to attend 5 E&A meetings throughout the entire academic year (601.2 M & N) and can be requested to participate in a meeting upon the request of the chair when provided at least a 1 week's notice (601.2 P). Thus far, I have attended almost every E&A meeting this academic year, mostly in part due to my ability to take part in voting and debate. I cannot guarantee future Supervisors will have any interest or involvement in attending E&A if they are told they aren't even able to speak in almost every meeting. As the Supervisor of Elections, I actively

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Chair Courts: sga_ljr@ucf.edu



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aim to represent the commission as a whole during E&A. I do this through my votes, debating, and being able to answer questions. With the current state of this bill, it has no guarantee I can even debate or answer questions regarding Title VI. E&A is currently the only way for the commission to ensure its voice and needs are heard and listened to and through debate and questioning we can take at least an active role in this. With the way Title VI is, there are no checks available to the commission in the cases the Executive Branch fails at its duties, or E&A & Senate as a whole also fails to do its duties, and often the Election Commission is left to deal with the consequences of the other branches failing to complete their necessary duties. The commission's voice is often ignored and not considered fully. The Supervisor's place in E&A at least requires E&A to take into account, record, and view the opinions of the election commission. This ensures we, as a vital part of SG, are represented and able to ensure we are not legislated to a degree that makes us unable to effectively function. Finally, to be clear, the Governmental Affairs Coordinators role in the GAP committee is far different than that of mine in the E&A committee. The GAC hosts 1 event that is required to work with GAP. The Commission is an entire branch with over a month's work of events and a semester of work with rules dictated by a committee. Treating the GAC, a role that is optional for the SG President to even have, is vastly different than a role and a group of students required by the SG President because of Title VI. I have less understanding of the GAP committee section of this bill but I would highly recommend you more accurately reflect how the structure the chair can request the Supervisors attendance can be requested throughout the year. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I look forward to hearing from you.

- ii. GAC Polera: While I understand the intentions behind Internal Bill 56-38 and the desire to improve teamwork between the Governmental Affairs Coordinator (GAC) and the GAP Committee, I respectfully oppose it. I am not a member of the GAP Committee, so I'm not currently required to attend GAP meetings. However, since June 26, 2024, I've either been present or excused from 17 out of the 19 meetings we've had. I've made it a priority to show up and collaborate, even though I still haven't received the finalized legislative priorities that I need to plan Day at the Capitol. It's important to remember that real collaboration doesn't mean forcing someone to attend meetings — it means working together in a way that's productive and respectful. By statute, the only meeting I'm actually required to attend as GAC is the one where members vote on the advocacy agenda. Despite that, I've been very present and engaged because I value working with the committee. But making attendance mandatory isn't the right way to strengthen that partnership. On top of that, requiring regular reports and attendance puts unnecessary restrictions on the GAC role. If there are questions or updates needed, they can easily be handled through email or during separate meetings

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without adding extra formal requirements. GAP meetings are meant to focus on nonpartisan research and shaping the advocacy agenda — not putting extra demands on the GAC. The GAC position comes with a lot of responsibilities, like working with outside partners and organizing advocacy efforts for students. Adding more rules and obligations takes away from the time and focus needed to do that work well. If we want better collaboration, we should focus on open communication and teamwork — not strict requirements. It is for these reasons that I kindly ask you to vote no on this bill. Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective.

- iii. Chair Escobar: Good afternoon, as E&A Chair it has been great to have Supervisor of Elections Brown present at E&A meetings. He has been in attendance of almost all E&A meetings. As for the bill, I do not have an opinion on the bill itself, however I do have an opinion on the Supervisor of Elections being present. He has been a great resource regarding the Election Statutes & how EC functions in both debating and voting on bills. Also, perhaps if the GAC were present at GAP Committee meetings, the GAC would have seen all the hard work that GAP members do putting in hours to write briefs and resolutions. Perhaps the current state of the feelings of members wouldn't be so defeated due to recent events if so, so take that into consideration when looking at the bill.
 - 1. Collazo: Has E&A considered modifying the responsibilities of the Election Supervisor to come to E&A on such a persistent basis?
 - 2. Escobar: We have not, as he has been a persistent attendee of E&A meetings. We have not legislated this as in the current standing of the position, I can call on him if I believe it is pertinent he attend a meeting, but beyond that I don't see why he should be mandated beyond that.
 - iv. Chair Lipner: I would just like to ask you all to consider the intent behind these statutes when making decisions on how you rule on them in the future.
 - v. Vice Chair Varela: Hi LJR I am here in my capacity as GAP Vice-Chair. I am here to advocate for the passing of 56-38. I believe it is essential that the GAC have a codified seat on the GAP committee. It is absolutely essential that the GAC and GAP work together on Day at the Capitol. This can only be done if the GAC is regularly attending GAP. This semester the GAC has attended 2/9 of GAP meetings. This is not a practice that promotes success. Past GAP committees have had the GAC attend every meeting and they have experienced a large amount of success. Success that is not present this year. For this reason, I encourage the LJR committee to pass a version of 56-38 that codifies the GAC's seat in GAP. GAC's relationship to GAP is unique as their work is intertwined in a way that collaboration is a prerequisite for success.
6. Announcements from the Chair Courts-

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- i. Hey guys!! I hope your week has been well, and I hope everyone's midterms are going well
(i am struggling)

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- i. Speech
 - i. Collazo: Motion to PP– **Approved by GC**
 - ii. Questioning
 - i.
 - iii. Debate
 - i.
 - iv. Vote
- 2. [Internal Bill 56-42](#) [Updates to Title IX: Updates & Clarifications to the Censure Process] [LJR Committee]
 - i. Speech
 - i. Motion to see with Internal Bill 56-43 as a block. **Approved by GC.**
 - ii. Trejo-Hernandez: MTD
 - ii. Debate
 - i. Benwick: The writers of these bills “slayed.” MTV
 - iii. Vote
 - i. 6-0-1, passes favorably in LJR.
- 3. [Internal Bill 56-43](#) [Updates to Title IX: Updates & Clarifications to Notifications of Non-Compliance] [LJR Committee]
 - i. Speech
 - i.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i.
 - iii. Debate
 - i.
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 6-0-1, passes favorably in LJR.
- 4. [Internal Bill 56-38](#) [Updates to Title III] [Chair Vasquez]
 - i. Speech
 - i. Hi LJR, after this bill failing to pass through committee last week, I took a lot of your suggestions namely that it being a “half-measure” rather than sticking with granting rights or none at all with regards to the GAP committee. I had discussions with DLEG Collazo and found that the best method of doing this would be through an ex-

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officio seat, which is defined as a seat which has no debating or voting rights similar to how it is in caucus. The bill as it is right now includes it for the Supervisor of Elections in E&A to maintain consistency within statutes by having one non-senator sit in as a committee but not another. Both of them will not have debating or voting rights but there could be a motion to allow either one to have debating rights, so it's not like they will be silenced. It is our believe that non-senators should not have voting rights as that falls under our purview as legislators. Taking into consideration President Lister's announcement against the bill, I also took into consideration that our meetings are public in which anyone can speak in Open Forum. This does not require people to attend the meetings, as they are a public forum, but in terms of the collaboration that the DATC coordinator and GAP Committee must have, there must be that collaboration. That is why I also included a section requiring the DATC coordinator to give regular reports. As for Vice Chair Gaudio's point on the floor, I would be open to an amendment that they must be informed at least a week in advance as the Supervisor of Elections must be for the E&A committee. While it is not written in that they get debating rights, they have Open Forum which carries a lot of weight with regards to opinions.

- ii. Questioning
 - i. Gaudio: You mentioned caucuses, but the way ex-officio seats work in caucuses is different from how they would function here, could you elaborate on that?
 - i. Vazquez: They are non-permanent
 - ii. Gaudio: In caucuses they do have debating and voting rights, here they do not
 - i. Vasquez: The definition says they have no debating or voting rights
 - iii. Gaudio: Why do you believe the caucus ex-officio seats should have debating rights?
 - i. Vasquez: They are no longer under Senate and no legislation is vote on
 - iv. Benwick: MTD
- iii. Debate

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- i. Benwick: Motion to see Chair Vazquez and DLEG Collazo's amendments as a block. **Approved by GC**
 - i. Speech:
 - 1. This is all the changes DLEG Collazo and I made after hearing the opinion of the LJR committee last week. I think this is a compromise we can reach in that we are not forcing the GAC to attend these meetings as it is upon request. In terms of the statement GAC Polera made in Open Forum, as the current GAP Chair, I have the ability to excuse someone. I extended it as a courtesy as it does not really matter, but they would sometimes leave immediately after announcements and they have only attended 2/9 meetings we have had this semester as we are rapidly approaching DATC. We are not putting anything strict for the GAC Coordinator, they were already attending it, we are legislating something that already exists.
 - ii. Questioning
 - 1. Lipner: I noticed you mentioned that individuals can come to any meetings and do sympathize with wanting the GAC to be present, but you also mentioned that anyone can come. I have a question of why do you not give them the power to vote to have that incentive to come and participate?
 - a. Vazquez: I don't think voting power should be an incentive for anyone to come. It is their role to collaborate with the GAP committee statutorily. Them giving announcements upon request is already giving them that voice.
 - 2. Trejo-Hernandez: MTD
 - iii. Speech
 - 1. Collazo: I want to say that, on a more technical note, while I do respect that the previous senator had a question, he could have asked that on the

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Senate floor rather than during committee. With regards to the amendment, they're good, I like them as I helped draft some of them. I do think that the DATC should be required to give reports and I think that ex-officio seats do not get voting powers because they are not legislators and encourage you all to vote for the amendments.

2. Gaudio: I believe that while an incentive could be said to being compelled to give announcements to force collaboration. Giving voting powers allows the individuals to have a say in the matters. Bills will be see on the floor regardless. The committee can allow for outside influence because the floor has to be a little quicker.

3. Benwick: MTV

iv. Vote

1. 2-4-1, the amendments do not pass.

- ii. My support has not changed with regards to the amendments failing. I think the Supervisor makes a great argument with support with regards to his involvement. Much of the issues with the GAC though revolve around timelines, as this semester when these timelines really matter, and the Committee is not being informed.
- iii. Trejo-Hernandez: If she is not doing her duties as GAC, wouldn't that be grounds to have a discussion with President Lister?
 - i. Vazquez: I completely agree with your statement and want to be clear that communication was made with the Speaker to talk with the Student Body President regarding this communication in general.

- iv. Collazo: I will say that I'm really confused, we did not pass this bill last time we saw it and then these amendments were introduced based on my sentiments. Now that the amendments have not been passed, the bill is back to the original configurations. I'm voting no again as I do not like the current language. Could someone enlighten me as to why we voted no?

- v. Benwick: MTV

iv. Vote

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- i. 1-5-1, this bill is not recommended by the LJR Committee.
- ii. Resolutions
 - 1. [Resolution 56-19](#) [Updates to Senate Rule 2 Duties and Responsibilities of the SBA Committee] [Senator Hameed]
 - i. Speech
 - i. Hi LJR! For this first Resolution, I have updated Senate Rule 2 with regards to what the SBA Committee shall do. It amends Rule 2.03.G.2 and is the culmination of a 3 week long overview process with the committee and the powers that be to further detail what encompasses outreach. We wanted to updated that to both in-person and digital methods so that they are defined in our statutes and that consistent engagement shall be encompassed in what the committee must do so we can stay on top of various issues. There is also surveying students to come up with initiatives, and in 2.03.G.3, we added “concerns” as that is the verbiage we typically use.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Benwick: Do you think this will improve outreach efforts for future SBA Chairs?
 - i. Hameed: I think this will make it much more clear, as when I first became SBA Chair it was unclear what “outreach” actually was. This bill would make it more apparent what the committee should be doing.
 - ii. Collazo: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Collazo: I will be voting in favor as this will surely be helping SBA in years to come. MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, resolution passes LJR
 - 2. [Resolution 56-20](#) [Update to Senate Rule 7 Student Senate Absences] [Senator Hameed]
 - i. Speech

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- i. For context, if someone is absent in a committee more than two times, the chair may remove that member from the committee. If you are not in a committee within two weeks, you are removed from Senate. This actually was a problem at the beginning of the session, as we had two senators dismissed for this reason. I don't think this is fair, I have had to remove people due to absences, but it has been a common courtesy that I send a message informing them. Chairs do not have to do this as it stands, and so this bill would ensure that communication must be extended by all Chairs and turns that courtesy into proper procedure.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Benwick: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Benwick: This looks really good. I was really confused at first as I didn't know about the two weeks requirement, and I believe that this communication would be well appreciated.
MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, resolution passes LJR
- iii. Absences ([Supporting Documentation](#)):
 - 1. Katrina Gumerov
 - i. Speech
 - i. I will be attending the SWE Women Empowerment Gala, which lasts from 6:30 to 8:30. This event has many networking opportunities and a keynote speaker. It would be super helpful for my development. I have already RSVP'd, so this is a prior commitment. I request the whole meeting because networking opportunities could reveal themselves as the event goes on and into the rest of the evening.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Benwick: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Benwick: MTV
 - iv. Vote

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- i. 5-0-1, absence is approved by LJR
- 2. Jordan Lipner
 - i. Speech
 - i. I will keep this simple, Chair Escobar and I were both at the Earth Advocacy event in Tallahassee, I yield to questioning.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Benwick: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Gaudio: MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, absence is approved by LJR
- 3. Kieran Connolly
 - i. Speech
 - i. I was sick
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Benwick: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Neguib: MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, absence is approved by LJR
- 4. Samuel Rose
 - i. Speech
 - i. I have an aero experiments project due Friday that I really need to work on, and it requires simulation software that only works on my Windows computer at home. Due to other classes and assignments this week, I will need to finish most of the project Thursday night.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Benwick: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Gaudio: Ozbay has consumed this poor soul and I feel for him. MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 4-1-1
- 5. Jordan Metellus
 - i. Speech

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- i. Benwick: Motion to see both of Metellus' absences as a block.
Approved by GC.
 - ii. I will be practicing with my fraternity for an upcoming cultural performance that will include strolling, stepping and other performances. I still want to come to the senate meeting to contribute as much as I can before having to leave for practice.
- ii. Questioning
 - i. Neguib: MTD
- iii. Debate
 - i. Neguib: MTV
- iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, absence is approved by LJR
- 6. Nicholas Benwick
 - i. Speech
 - i. HIIII LJR, I am requesting an absence for this week due to the fact I will be moving this weekend on the 29th. I will be attaching my welcome letter as evidence. I will either be going to Universal to celebrate the move, Mardi Gras, and I just wanted to group all my time off together since on top of senate I work two jobs while being an active member and taking 16 credits so it is just easier to group all my time off together. We will either be going to Universal Thursday of the meeting or Friday and whatever day we don't go I will need to finish last minute packing stuff that can't be done early.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Neguib: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Gaudio: MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 4-0-2, absence is approved by LJR
- 7. Jordan Metellus
 - i. Speech
 - i. Both the Senate President Pro Tempore and I were participating in a Black Student Awareness Event on this day. The event went successful and we came to Senate as soon as possible (8pm). I appreciate your understanding.
 - ii. Questioning

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- i.
 - iii. Debate
 - i.
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, absence is approved by LJR
- 8. Khushi Chauhan
 - i. Speech
 - i. I have a dentist's appointment with a TMJ specialist in my hometown of Lakeland (2 hours away) at 2 pm. I have been experiencing lockjaw and pain. I need to go to this appointment to get my occlusal guard fitted and checked so I can start treatment.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Benwick: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Collazo: I will be voting in favor, I do remember last week Senator Chauhan was not feeling well and I presume it was due to this jaw pain and so I encourage you all to vote in favor as well. MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, absence is approved by LJR
- 9. Katrina Wangen
 - i. Speech
 - i. I had been feeling ill on Wednesday and Thursday and did not go in for my ABP office hours or pretty much anything else and basically stayed in bed all day, so I missed Senate as well.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Neguib: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Collazo: I will not be voting in favor, Teams messages do not suffice. Senator Connolly easily provided a doctor's note from UCF Health Services. This is a trend we have been seeing where people texting that they have migraines, I do not think this is sufficient.
 - ii. Benwick: MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 0-4-2, absence is not approved by LJR
- 10. Katrina Wangen
 - i. Speech

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- i. I will be competing at NCWA Wrestling Nationals from March 13-15 in Shreveport, LA. We are leaving at around 5 am on Wednesday, March 12th and will not be returning until Sunday, March 16th.
 - ii. Questioning
 - i. Trejo-Hernandez: MTD
 - iii. Debate
 - i. Collazo: MTV
 - iv. Vote
 - i. 5-0-1, absence is approved by LJR
 - iv. Blanket Excuse
 - 1. None.
 - 12. Miscellaneous Business-
 - i. None
 - 13. Member Discussion- MTIF: **Approved by GC**
 - i. Statutes and Rules
 - 1. [Title IV and V](#)
 - i. Emails were sent to branch heads, Judicial did not respond, VP said he would get back to clarify something in Title IV
 - 2. Adjournment time
 - 3. Chair Courts on workshopping statutes in committee
 - 4. ICEBREAKER: FAVORITE APPLE
- MTF: **Approved by GC**
14. Final Roll Call: 6/7 (4)
15. Adjournment: 2:23 PM

Key:

- P - Present
- A - Absent
- MTD - Move to Debate
- MTV - Move to Vote
- MTA- Move to Amend
- MSQD – Motion for Speech, Questioning, & Debate Time
- MTIF – Move to Informal
- MTF – Move to Formal
- PP - Postpone

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PPI - Postpone Indefinitely
GC - General Consent

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