



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**UCF Student Government**  
Elections & Appointments (E&A) Meeting  
Charge on Chamber  
06/04/2025

## MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 3:02 PM
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 10/13 (8)

Name	Email	Initial	Final
Chair Escobar	<a href="mailto:sga_ea@ucf.edu">sga_ea@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Vice Chair Chau	<a href="mailto:sgacie1@ucf.edu">sgacie1@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Rodriguez	<a href="mailto:sgachps4@ucf.edu">sgachps4@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Matthews	<a href="mailto:sga_sci7@ucf.edu">sga_sci7@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Rickett	<a href="mailto:sga_grst4@ucf.edu">sga_grst4@ucf.edu</a>	A	A
Senator Roehrkas	<a href="mailto:sgaecs10@ucf.edu">sgaecs10@ucf.edu</a>	P (3:05 PM)	P
Senator Beneche	<a href="mailto:sga_sci2@ucf.edu">sga_sci2@ucf.edu</a>	E	E
Senator Candiloro	<a href="mailto:sga_sci3@ucf.edu">sga_sci3@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Trejo-Hernandez	<a href="mailto:sgaecs13@ucf.edu">sgaecs13@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Gaudio	<a href="mailto:sga_ecs3@ucf.edu">sga_ecs3@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Metellus	<a href="mailto:sgaecs8@ucf.edu">sgaecs8@ucf.edu</a>	A	A
Senator Lipner	<a href="mailto:sga_ugst1@ucf.edu">sga_ugst1@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Reed	<a href="mailto:sga_cah2@ucf.edu">sga_cah2@ucf.edu</a>	E	E
Pro Tempore Representative Kapinos	<a href="mailto:sga_pro@ucf.edu">sga_pro@ucf.edu</a>	P	P

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**Chair Escobar: [sga\\_ea@ucf.edu](mailto:sga_ea@ucf.edu)**



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LJR Representative Sherman	sgacie3@ucf.edu	P	P
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3. Approval of the Minutes: [05.29.25](#)
  - a. **Approved by GC.**
4. Approval of the Agenda:
  - a. Approved by GC.
5. Announcements from the Chair
  - a. Escobar: Good afternoon. The committee is seeing four Associate Justice confirmations today, be ready with appropriate questions. We will be caucusing in Senate tomorrow for the other confirmations. Please feel free to refer to the Justice section of [E&A Questioning Diary](#), as I may call on members for questions. If you can have your camera on.
6. Announcements from the Vice Chair
  - a. Chau: Good afternoon, everyone! I just wanted to say if there are any issues with my connection, please let me know because I am at Vietnam in the current moment. Additionally, reiterating some general things for confirmations- please try your best to be germane, relevant and concise.
7. Announcements from Committee Members
  - a. Gaudio: Hello everyone, just wanted to put something for LJR here. We are seeing the non-compliances on the Pro-Temp on Monday. I believe no one on this committee was issued one. Also, I talked to the Attorney General about updating the statutes on the website since they are out of date. He is planning to speak at LJR concerning it. If you are interested, please stick around for LJR.
8. Announcements from Non-Committee Members
  - a. None.
9. Old Business
10. New Business
  - a. Confirmations – [Materials](#)
    - i. Madeline Grady for Associate Justice Seat #8
      1. Speech
        - a. Thank you all for being here. We may be from different branches, but it is special for us to be together since we all have a passion for leadership. I'm from Pensacola, FL. I am a Burnett Honor Scholar, a supplemental instructor for Chemistry 1, and I volunteer at a trauma center. I also had the privilege to be a Justice and served the Precedent Committee. I have been called to service in every part of

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my life. This is what drew me to the Judicial Branch in the first place, to meet where students need help and give them strength. Being a part of SG is one of the most rewarding parts of my college career. My experience as a Justice will enable me to be an effective student body leader with all the experiences that I have. Having already served a year as an Associate Justice, and I am excited to serve again. A lot of my initiatives are internal, and I have a strong belief that our internal processes should be efficient and neat as possible so we can provide our best face to students. I have an initiative to set up training for students for precedent files. Another initiative is to have neat and recorded history as well as transition binders. I will be an effective member of the Judicial branch because of my experience. Thank you.

## 2. Question

- a. Lipner: In your opinion, how would you balance your own interpretation with precedent?
  - i. Chair of the Precedent committee did an overhaul of the precedent for the last year. Precedent is not meant to be binding even though it can guide new students. Circumstances can most definitely change; Justices should use their own judgment and each other. Precedent is a good place to start and to train.
- b. Gaudio: How would you approach a scenario where there is no precedent?
  - i. There are certain aspects, each year is different. In those cases, having been on that side of things- we heavily dive into statutes and our Constitution. We get advisement from our Judicial advisor. Sticking to those statutes and servicing our student body and government is the most important thing.
- c. Lipner: If appointed in this position, what is the biggest thing that you hope to accomplish?
  - i. I hope to maintain consistency throughout our branch. I also am excited for the events cohorts. I want to record events, recording what went well- how many attendees there are, our budget, etc. Having this recorded allows us to reference

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back to this event, and we have a concrete example of how we can operate new events and improve them.

- d. Gaudio: MTD
- 3. Debate
  - a. Lipner: Glad to see the candidate reapply. I believe everyone should vote in favor because I see clear goals and experiences.
  - b. Gaudio: MTV.
- 4. Vote
  - a. 11-0-0
    - i. Confirmed by the E&A Committee.
  - ii. Samantha Toscano for Associate Justice Seat #7
    - 1. Speech
      - a. Good afternoon, all. Thank you for having me here today and allow me to speak today. I am excited for the opportunity to serve our ever-evolving student body. I want to be a part of the Judicial branch because of advocacy. I went through the JLC program, it engages with students and Justices take time to reflect and review the complexities of the Judicial Branch. As a first generational student of UCF, stepping inside of the university gave me uncertainty yet excitement. This branch gave students support and I am excited to be able to provide as well. My experiences- worked at my local skating rink- highlight record keeping and as an editor of the yearbook- gave an accurate representation of the student body. These skills I will bring into my position as a Justice. I propose an efficient case index system. The document would be a searchable archive to skim through vocabulary to assist upcoming Justices. I plan to support outreach events for our Justice branch to ensure students are aware of the information or resources that they have.
    - 2. Question
      - a. Gaudio: Went through your proposal, saw your monthly newsletter. How do you plan on advertising the monthly newsletter?
        - i. I plan on targeting students who do not have social media, rectify a gap that may be occurring. I threw out a couple of options- we can broadcast this in a big event. Have the option of having testimonies for students.
      - b. Gaudio: Could you touch more on who you plan on working with?

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- i. Within the internal Judicial advertising committee, it would be great for them to handle and have the Communications department in the Executive branch.
  - c. Trejo-Hernandez: Could you expand more on the testimony for students on your newsletter initiative?
    - i. If there is a wide scale event that we can broadcast. There is an option to implement an anonymous testimony. Students seeing services from...
  - d. Trejo-Hernandez: Could you note on office hours initiative? Would it be a drop-in or an appointment?
    - i. I am thinking more about a form to offer to students. Office hour appointments would be scheduled. The office hours are used to educate students and have a one-to-one approach if they are interested in joining our program.
  - e. Lipner: How would you approach unclear or ambiguous statutes?
    - i. I think when it is a procedural error, it is important to stick to statutes. When it comes to parking appeals, it is holistic and requires more flexibility. If I needed advice, I could go to our Attorney General for more advice.
- 3. Debate
  - a. Gaudio: The monthly newsletter raised some concerns for me. The Executive Branch is responsible for all publication, which is why the Senate does not have their own social media. Concerning because a Justice should know this because it is a statute.
- 4. Vote
  - a. 11-0-0
    - i. Confirmed by the E&A Committee.
- iii. Noemi Tilky for Associate Justice Seat #5
  - 1. Speech
    - a. Good afternoon, E&A committee. As a daughter of an Hungarian family, my upbringing has shaped me and made me an advocate to serve for my community. During my time at UCF, I had the opportunity to be a part of several RSOs: JLC, etc. My student involvement at UCF started at JLC. My passion to remain in SG through JLC only grew. Through JLC, it made me learn the Justices day-to-day lives- it made me fall in love with the services that they

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provide. I am eager to contribute my aspirations- through creating a law resources subsection, etc. I will remain committed to communication with the Judicial Branch. I plan on upholding intercity and justice for UCF. I thank Chair Escobar and the rest of the committee. I yield the rest of my time.

## 2. Question

- a. Lipner: Could you include your rationale for implementing a law subset for the Judicial branch rather than another resource?
  - i. It would be more accessible on the SG website. Going directly to the Judicial Branch and seeing that there is a place for law students to receive than getting those resources elsewhere. As an individual who is first generation, having these resources on an easy website makes it very simple for anyone to access these resources which if it did go through- would include different pdf files, podcasts, YouTube links, etc. Including past law events with the Judicial Branch and having the names of the judges and attorneys on the website. With this, they can go and see if they can contact this individual. Ultimately, having that subsection on the website would be beneficial for easy access.
- b. Lipner: Who would you task with working on that subsection? It seems like a lengthy task.
  - i. When I thought about the proposal, I thought of JOC. I am thinking of joining JOC for that reason. If we could take 5-10 minutes of the committee's time to come up with the different resources that we can find and implement with the help of our Judicial Outreach Committee. Also, they have the resources for the past law events, and it would be easy to put together. I also want to work with the Divisions of Communications so they can help and direct how to put the website together more resourcefully.
- c. Gaudio: Could you name the 5<sup>th</sup> Article Student Body Constitution?
  - i. Senior Student Affairs Officer, who is Dr. Adrienne Frame.

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- d. Gaudio: Looking through your proposal and I saw that you plan on working with Phi Alpha Delta. Do you plan on working with other RSOs for the social event.
    - i. I plan on working with anyone who is planning to work in law. I thought about this fraternity when researching law resources for UCF. I do know that there is a pre-law of some sorts who I am also willing to work with. If that proposal does go forward, I would love to research more on that.
  - e. Rodriguez: Noticed you juggle multiple things. Wanted to make sure that it wouldn't burden you especially with your extracurriculars and plans for the future?
    - i. All throughout high school, I have had to juggle several activities and clubs. For me, juggling has never been an issue, and I learned to manage my clubs quickly. The worry is never something that I stress about. I like to write down everything. I have an Outlook checklist, I include everything on my iPad, and I like to have a bunch of reminders. Never like to leave things to the end. I like to know that I have things complete. In terms of studying for the LSAT, I have already started- I haven't thought of taking the LSAT any time soon, my idea is to graduate and take a gap year and within that year, only study for the LSAT.
  - f. Gaudio: MTD.
3. Debate
- a. Lipner: Voting in favor. I think this candidate is qualified and has an understanding. They were able to list a neighboring article, considering that we do have references- it's essential to understand the articles, which they have.
  - b. Gaudio: They did note Article 5 correctly.
  - c. Lipner: I retract my previous statement and will vote in favor of the candidate.
4. Vote
- a. 11-0-0
    - i. Confirmed by the E&A Committee.

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iv. Jovhanise Leonard for Associate Justice Seat #3

1. Speech

- a. Good afternoon, everyone. I want to thank everyone for having me here and listening to my story. I was born and raised in Orlando. As a pre-law student, I spent my last year getting involved through SG and Judicial branch through SGLC and JLC. This involvement has allowed me to get experience for the Judicial Branch and our procedures. I also had the honor as the paralegal for the US Trustees program for the Spring. It allowed me to develop immense skills as a possible Associate Justice- the ability to interpret texts, write memorandums, and remain impartial with my judgment and tasks. Before I worked in this position, I had my introduction as a legal intern for the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court for the Attorneys Office- I completed administrative tasks and shadowed attorneys- this let me understand how court procedures worked and operated. With all this experience, I hope to graduate from UCF, go to a law school, and then work as an advocate as a lawyer. I stand before you guys today to explain why I am qualified for this position. Last year, I was introduced to SG through the SGLC program. With my introduction, I felt lucky to find such a program and I was able to make relationships and expand my professional skills. I was always interested to see with the Judicial branch had to offer. The Judicial branch's mission to uphold students' rights and stand up for students when they are in need of something- this is aligned with my personal views of advocacy and status. When I started JLC, it became a second family to me. Being able to shadow my mentors and speak with other members of the Judicial branch, ignited my passion. I noticed how my own experiences, skills, and qualifications can influence the Judicial Branch. Remaining impartial and reading through texts could benefit our Judicial Branch. I could utilize my favorite committee and apply for a leadership program to execute my initiatives. One of my initiatives is making educational brochures to navigate educational safety and AI. This initiative can easily be executed through...

2. Question

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- a. Gaudio: Could you tell me about FERPA and what it might entail for you as an Associate Justice?
  - i. FERPA concerns students and protects them from the university. I want to expand my learning on FERPA. If I sat on (specific committee). I would have to keep it in mind because I would have to maintain a lot of discretion and privacy for students.
- b. Trejo-Hernandez: Can you name some of your responsibilities as an Associate Justice?
  - i. 3 responsibilities: remain impartial at all times, be a mentor for SGLC and JLC, and sit on 1 internal committee and be involved in all business.
- c. Lipner: Seeing that you are Vice-Chair for the Service & Activity Committee in SGLC, how do you plan on continuing this? Do you plan on joining any caucuses?
  - i. I specifically want to join the transfer caucus and have some previous relationships with the Black and Women caucus through the Service Committee. I want to maintain my relationship with other SG agents.
- d. Lipner: MTD.

## 3. Debate

- a. Lipner: Excited to see her in this position, she was one of the most helpful JLC/SGLCers. MTV.

## 4. Vote

- a. 11-0-0
  - i. Confirmed by the E&A Committee.

## b. Bills:

- i. [Internal Bill 57-02](#) [Updates to Title VI: Adding Chair to Initial Election Commission Meeting] [Chair Gaudio]

### 1. Speech

- a. Gaudio: This was something that was caught by Vice-Chair Trejo-Hernandez. Last year the Supervisor of Elections was internalized by the Election Commission. The issue is that there was no one who took chair for the Commission- so they couldn't elect a supervisor where there is no chair. This Bill allows the E&A Committee Chair to preside on the first meeting until the Supervisor of Elections is

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elected and once they are elected, they must immediately select a Vice-Chair.

## 2. Questioning

- a. Lipner: Where does it say the duty would fall to the E&A chair, and why not have someone else selected for this position rather than the E&A Chair?
  - i. Gaudio: In the bill, “a Senate designated committee chair” was included into Title VI, and in one of the Senate Rule changes passed last session any designations for Title VI fell to the E&A Chair. The Vice President is over the Senate in the Constitution, the E&A committee is over the Election Commission in Statutes, so it made sense that the E&A Chair would preside over the first meeting.
- b. Kapinos: A question about the Election Commission itself- when do they first come together to meet for the first time?
  - i. Escobar: That would be during this meeting and after they are confirmed. Beginning of Summer B.
- c. Trejo-Hernandez: MTD

## 3. Debate

- a. Lipner: Like to see this change, cleaning up a loose thread in the past year. I do remember voting for this change. Hopefully we can fix this bill on the website because it’s disappointing that it hasn’t been yet.
- b. Escobar: Voting in favor and want to you all to also vote in favor.
- c. Trejo-Hernandez: MTV

## 4. Vote

- a. 10-0-1
  - i. Bill passes on the E&A Committee.

## 11. Member Discussion

- a. None

## 12. Miscellaneous Business

- a. Trejo-Hernandez: MTIF
- b. Ice breaker – what natural disaster would you be?
  - i. Escobar: Blizzard
  - ii. Chau: Avalanche
  - iii. Rodriguez: Tornado

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- iv. Matthews: Hurricane
- v. Roehrkasse: Tsunami
- vi. Candiloro: Monsoon
- vii. Trejo-Hernandez: Tornado
- viii. Gaudio: Hurricane
- ix. Lipner: Volcanic eruptions
- x. Kapinos: Meteor shower
- xi. Sherman: Earthquake
- xii. Hameed: Post-hurricane whimsy
- xiii. Brodie: Earthquake

13. Final Roll Call: 11/13

14. Adjournment: 4:18 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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