



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND POLICY

UCF Student Government
GAP Committee Meeting
Charge On Chambers
3/20/2023
1:30PM
[ZOOM](#)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 1:46 PM
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum(7): 8/13

Name	Email	Initial	Final
Chair Temple	sgagap@ucf.edu	P	P
Vice-Chair Duke	sga_sci9@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Almenar	sga_sci1@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Caldwell	sgacie2@ucf.edu	A	A
Senator Castelin	sga_sci3@ucf.edu	E	E
Senator Capozzi	sgacie1@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Domino	sga_grst1@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Donovan	sga_ba4@ucf.edu	E	E
Senator Holmes	sga_sci6@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Kostis	sga_sci8@ucf.edu	P	P
Senator Tache	sgasci13@ucf.edu	A	A
Senator Yalamanchili	sgachps4@ucf.edu	E (2:34 PM)	P
Pro Temp Rep.	sga_pro@ucf.edu	A (2:22 PM)	P
LJR Rep	VACANT	V	V
GAC McLain	sgagovaffairs@ucf.edu	P	P

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3. Approval of the Minutes: [3/9/21](#), Approved by gc
4. Approval of the Agenda: Approved by gc
5. Announcements from the Chair-
 - a. Good afternoon!
 - b. Today we will finalize the compilation of our Advocacy Agenda. I have linked the final framework and the tentative framework below for you to look through and I will explain my notes on the former.
 - c. As a reminder too, please link your briefs in the agenda so I can review them outside of committee.
 - d. OTD:
 - i. In 1852, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published.
 - e. Liverpool Fact
 - i. N/A
6. Announcements from the Vice-Chair-
 - a. None
7. Announcements from Committee Members-
 - a. Donovan: I wish I could be with you all today. Mostly because I'm at work flipping burgers right now which sucks, but also because I really hope to see a refined advocacy agenda produced in this committee meeting. A reminder that less is more, and the fewer bills we focus on, the more impact the recommendations we do make will carry. I would try to stick to about 2 per policy area. Also a reminder that we are most impactful when we educate the legislators, not when we try to persuade them. For that reason, I would choose bills the legislators might not have concrete opinions on / not know much about / not know UCF students have strong opinions on. The bills below are the specific ones I would urge you to include; good luck!
 - i. **SB256/HB1445**, **SB1076/HB7**, **HB1421**, HB1275, SB428, **SB506**, SB192, SB1684/**HB749**, HB311/SB324, HB303
8. Announcements from Non-Committee Members-
 - a. None
9. Old Business-
 - a. None
10. New Business-
 - a. [Final Advocacy Agenda Framework](#)

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b. [Tentative Framework](#)

c. Speech:

- i. I talked with GAC McLain and VP Martinez on 10 March to discuss the Advocacy Agenda. They did not intend to dictate the number of bills we could advocate for nor put us on a significant time crunch. They wanted to underscore the need for us to have a framework ready for students by the beginning of the Legislative Prep Sessions. With that in mind, we have parameters we can work with the number of bills we can add on.
- ii. They are found in the Final Framework, but for a CliffNotes version:
 1. We have **15 minutes** with legislators
 2. The 3 bill cap that was given to me by Lopez, Martinez was a **suggestion**. We are able to have less or, in our case, more bills with the caveat that we have *15 minutes* with each legislator. However, I strongly encourage us to limit ourselves to a maximum of 4 bills, of which only **one per priority can be outside the tentative framework**.
- iii. How I intend to go about this is such:
 1. We will vote on each bill that you intend to put on the final framework. You will have a maximum of 1 minute due to our time constraint to explain the bill(s) you want to add, with emphasis on how the legislation will affect students. From there we will enter a 3 minute debate period (over the time constraint), with each individual having no more than 30 seconds (I'm so sorry guys) to debate. From there we will have a final vote on whether to include the legislation onto the Agenda. After we're comfortable with the agenda, we can vote to approve it outright.
 2. You will have the opportunity to choose **one bill from outside the tentative framework per priority**.

d. Bill 1, HB 999

i. Speech

1. Kostis: This bill affects students in a lot of ways. It removed certain majors to start off. Based upon the numerous rallies and such students are dissatisfied and multiple curriculums are being taken away. A lot of students will be dissatisfied if these curriculums vanish.

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- ii. Debate
 - 1. Almenar: I support this, as someone who organized against what HB999 advocates for I support this.
- iii. Vote:
 - 1. 6-0-1, bill is included on agenda
- e. Bill 2, SB 506
 - i. Speech
 - 1. Kostis: I think this bill is common sense. It develops a comprehensible recycling program. Recycling is important to everyone across the political spectrum and is very important to students.
 - ii. Debate
 - 1. Almenar: I'm in favor of this. Florida is a place that would be greatly affected by climate change. Senator Kostis has gone above and beyond to help with this.
 - iii. Vote:
- f. Bill 3, SB 749
 - i. Speech
 - 1. Temple: Basically the youth employment and housing act. It allows college students to better afford housing and incentivises them to find employment and find housing.
 - ii. Debate
 - 1. Almenar: What policy would make things better for students?
 - 2. Temple: It incentivises apartments to lower costs for students, it's ultimately for college students. The businesses will have tax incentives to do so.
 - iii. Vote:
- g. Bill 4, SB1172
 - i. Speech
 - 1. Capozzi: I want to advocate for SB 1172 which is the hunger free campus pilot program. You all know by now that housing and food insecurity is an issue that is close to home for me and thousands of other students. I believe that finding a way to curb these issues, especially for students that are trying to pursue higher education is extremely important.

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ii. Debate

1. Almenar: Food is really expensive for a lot of students, especially with other expenses. The government should help people with this, I'm in support of this.

iii. Vote:

h. Bill 5, HB453

i. Speech

1. Almenar: I want this on the agenda so we can advocate against it. The Orange County Sheriff has advocated against this. 50% of gun deaths come from suicides and the others come from crimes. Anyone would be able to carry a firearm, and UCF is a carry free campus.

ii. Debate

1. Capozzi: I am in favor of this bill. It is a scary thought to think that permit less carry is even being considered given the current climate.
2. Kostis: The Pulse Nightclub is nearby, Florida has had a significant amount of shootings. I am in support of this motion and I think most students would be.

iii. Vote:

i. Bill 6, SB 1076

i. Speech

1. Temple: Abortion rights has been a very important topic to everyone. While I am not directly affected, so many people are. We should advocate for this.

ii. Debate

1. Kostis: There has been a jump from 15 weeks to 6 weeks, 6 weeks isn't that long into a pregnancy. Many students have advocated for abortion rights
2. Capozzi: In support
3. Domino: In support

iii. Vote:

j. Bill 7: SB 646

i. Speech

1. Kostis: This bill helps those that are 18-26 have better access to health insurance. This would allow these young adults obtain

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insurance through medicaid. It would allow students to perform well physically, medically, and academically.

ii. Debate

1. Temple: I am in support of this. I come from a family of medical practitioners so I have personally seen how expensive and inaccessible medical care can be. I am in support of this.
2. Domino: Healthcare is super expensive, I deal with insurance daily, I support this
3. Capozzi: I am in support of this bill, even if UCF offers health services it can still be expensive, especially if you don't have insurance or don't have a good plan
4. Almenar: I support this, I am lucky enough to be in a similar situation as Senator Temple, but many other people don't have this luxury

iii. Vote:

k. Bill 8, SB166, HB59

i. Speech

1. Capozzi: This advocates for human trafficking. I work in the hotel industry so I deal with this personally. This affects so many people and the student body directly.

ii. Debate

1. Kostis: I support this, hopefully it won't receive much pushback
2. Temple: Florida has an extremely high trafficking percentage, it directly affects the student body and I had previously spoke at a eulogy, I am in full support
3. Capozzi: This is such an important topic, we should add it to the agenda

iii. Vote:

l. Bill 9, Sb 294

i. Speech

1. Almenar: I think we should advocate for this, asian americans and pacific islanders are a significant portion of the population. It would be beneficial for us to learn about other cultures.

ii. Debate

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1. Temple: I absolutely love this bill, we should support these communities, and it should be a high priority since it is such a significant portion of the student population
2. Kostis: The U.S. has had bad ties with asian and pacific islander communities, we need to teach this history, I am in support of this.
- iii. Vote:
- m. Bill 10, Sb192
 - i. Speech
 1. Capozzi: This bill deals with the Everglades Protection Act. This is important since it will help protect our environment and wildlife.
 - ii. Debate
 1. Temple: The Everglades is a lifeline to Florida as a whole, it's really important that we support this bill
 - iii. Vote:
- n. Bill 11, SB344
 - i. Speech
 1. Kostis: This bill makes medical marijuana more accessible to people that need it. Telehealth is more accessible to more people, so it would greatly help so many people.
 - ii. Debate
 1. Almenar: My grandfather has Parkinsons, if medical marijuana was more accessible at the time he might have not died the way he did. Marijuana has been proven to help with Parkinsons.
 - iii. Vote:
- o. Bill 12, HB 1421
 - i. Speech: Kostis: The idea of not allowing someone to change their birth certificates assigned sex displays a disconnect between what they advocate for and what they want. We should support this.
 - ii. Debate
 1. Temple: It's a small, but significant change. I think it's quite odd that there's such a huge focus on this when it could be directed in other places. We should support this
 - iii. Vote:
- p. Bill 13, SB 256
 - i. Speech

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1. Kostis: This bill would ban the automatic payment of dues for union members. This bill attacks unions as a whole, and greatly impacts students
- ii. Debate
 1. Duke: I am in full support. In my opinion, there is no reason for this to be implemented except to thwart unions
- iii. Vote:
- q. Bill 14, SB102
 - i. Speech
 1. Capozzi: This bill seeks to implement more affordable housing in the area. It would greatly influence people in the area
 - ii. Debate
 1. Capozzi:
 - iii. Vote:
- r. Bill 15, SB284
 - i. Speech
 1. Kostis: It advocates for more electric charging stations on campus, it would positively impact the student body and make electric alternatives more accessible.
 - ii. Debate
 1. Temple: This would be a positive push by UCF to increase sustainability, I'm in support of this
 - iii. Vote:
- s. Bill 16, HB303
 - i. Speech
 1. Holmes: This relates to the Bright Futures scholarships, this adds another avenue for students to gain bright futures, it's an advanced capstone program. Making Bright Futures more accessible is important to students.
 - ii. Debate
 1. Temple: I'm very in favor of this, it would provide more students the ability to come to college, we could get more Knights!
 - iii. Vote:
- t. Bill 17, SB1026
 - i. Speech

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1. Kostis: This prohibits employers from discriminating against workers based on their sex, it's important and we should advocate for it.
- ii. Debate
 - 1.
- iii. Vote:
- u. Bill 11, SB1674
 - i. Speech
 1. Kostis: This talks about gender and restrooms. Making sure that gender neutral bathrooms are accessible is important
 2. Yalaminchili: Students that need these bathrooms need to be advocated for and this bill would prohibit them from receiving these amenities. People would not feel comfortable using a bathroom that's assigned to a gender they don't identify as. This can be harmful to students, they could be charged with a crime. This is something the senate should not support. It affects UCF students deeply, especially the queer community.
 - ii. Debate
 - 1.
 - iii. Vote:
- v. Debate:
 - i. Holmes: I will be voting in favor
- w. Vote:
 - i. Final Vote on Framework
 1. 8-0-1

11. Member Discussion-

- a. Kostis: Ethan, I just want to say you've been dealing with a lot regarding GAP. I really appreciate all of the organizing and effort you put in, please give yourself some credit.

12. Miscellaneous Business-

- a. Almenar: What did you all do during spring break?
 - i. Almenar: I saw a soccer game, went to Sarasota, and downtown for St. Patrick's Day.
 - ii. Kostis: My spring break was wild, I got a cuge water bottle, made vegan crunch wraps, I played golf for the first time

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- iii. Holmes: went to the beach, had a sleepover with a friend
- iv. McLain: Went home
- v. Foster: Went home pretty dope.
- vi. Yalamanchili: Went to an awesome party, played Civ 6, traveled a bit.
- vii. Duke: Pretty nice break, had a cool party. St Augustine and Medieval Museum of Torture and Cat Cafe
- viii. VP Martinez: Got a chance to see March Madness.
- ix. Capozzi: I had started a new job so I worked every day, paycheck is going to be really nice though!
- x. Domino: I went away to the beach, tried new food, went to a museum
- xi. Greenaway: I rested, went to ft. lauderdale, and rewatched the hunger games
- xii. Urea: Saw my dad and went on a cruise to the Bahamas
- xiii. Amanda: I watched criminal minds a LOT
- xiv. Temple: I went to South Carolina, saw ft. Sumter and went to Beaufort, March Madness almost gave me a heart attack

13. Final Roll Call: 10 /13

14. Adjournment: 2:50 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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