



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**UCF Student Government**  
Elections & Appointments (E&A) Meeting  
Charge on Chamber  
07/23/2025

## MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 3:02 PM
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 9/10 (6)

Name	Email	Initial	Final
Chair (VACANT)	<a href="mailto:sga_ea@ucf.edu">sga_ea@ucf.edu</a>		
Vice Chair Chau	<a href="mailto:sgacie1@ucf.edu">sgacie1@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Escobar	<a href="mailto:sgachps@ucf.edu">sgachps@ucf.edu</a>	E	E
Senator Rodriguez	<a href="mailto:sgachps4@ucf.edu">sgachps4@ucf.edu</a>	E	E
Senator Matthews	<a href="mailto:sga_sci7@ucf.edu">sga_sci7@ucf.edu</a>	E	E
Senator Rickett	<a href="mailto:sga_grst4@ucf.edu">sga_grst4@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Roehrkas	<a href="mailto:sgaecs10@ucf.edu">sgaecs10@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
Senator Beneche	<a href="mailto:sga_sci2@ucf.edu">sga_sci2@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 Lipner	<a href="mailto:sga_ugst1@ucf.edu">sga_ugst1@ucf.edu</a>	A (P 3:08P M)	P
Pro Tempore Representative Kapinos	<a href="mailto:sga_pro@ucf.edu">sga_pro@ucf.edu</a>	P	P
LJR Representative Sherman	<a href="mailto:sgacie3@ucf.edu">sgacie3@ucf.edu</a>	P	E
Supervisor Presley	<a href="mailto:Sga_ec@ucf.edu">Sga_ec@ucf.edu</a>	P	E

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



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3. Approval of the Minutes: [07.16.25](#)
  - a. **Approved by GC.**
4. Approval of the Agenda:
  - a. **Approved by GC**
5. Announcements from the Chair
  - a. None.
6. Announcements from the Vice Chair
  - a. Good afternoon, everyone! I will be the acting Chair for today's meeting. I ask for your patience and grace while I settle in as acting Chair throughout the meeting! We will be hosting Chair elections because the position is now vacant and handling one confirmation for Senate. Please make sure to ask relevant and germane questions during our meeting!
7. Announcements from Committee Members
  - a. Gaudio: We're at the end of the semester, so any unexcused absences that you have from the summer will be reset back to zero when we enter fall so if you've accrued any from roll calls or participation, it's not a problem as long as you don't go over 2 during tomorrow's meeting.
  - b. Collazo: Hi everyone, so it is the end of the summer semester so a couple updates from the Election Commission. We just had our leadership retreat where we introduced the committees to the commissioners and the chair elections will be August 6<sup>th</sup>. They will be on the calendar, in terms of other things we're dealing with, we met with the Comptroller yesterday to discuss our budget and we are meeting with the Director of Communications to discuss media presence. We will also be meeting with the SGLC coordinators to discuss incorporation of EC into SGLC, and we have also ordered our polos. If you guys need anything, please feel free to reach out to myself or Supervisor Presley via email, Teams, or what have you.
8. Announcements from Non-Committee Members
  - a. None.
9. Old Business
  - a. None.
10. New Business
  - a. Chair Elections
    - i. Nominations
      1. Beneche
      2. Chau
    - ii. [Materials](#)
      1. Speech
        - a. Beneche

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- i. My name is Elle Beneche and I am committed to the cause. A little bit about myself, I am a rising junior studying psychology as a College of Sciences senator. This is my second year in Student Government, some of my involvement includes being LGBTQ+ Caucus Chair, I was E&A Vice Chair last session for the spring semester, I was the Senator-at-Large for ADSPB, and I used to volunteer at Knights Pantry. Outside of Student Government, I go to class, I like to hit the gym, I tutor, and I like to travel. So why do I even want to run? I believe I have ample experience. Being Vice Chair alongside Chair Escobar gave me a lot of insight into the role of the Chair, and I've been doing a lot of research into Title VI and developing my foundation. I want to further the strong start of Chair Escobar and Vice Chair Chau. Alongside the work that's already been done, I have some initiatives. I want to get more involved in Student Government, particularly among graduate students. I want to work with Senate Presidente Courts and the Graduate Studies Senators to try and reach out to Graduate Studies senators as it's difficult to get involved if you're involved in research or working. I also want more students to come out to committee meetings and show up and to get more excited for elections and these meetings. I want to advertise these meetings more, talk to the Director of Communications as well as ELA Reed to try and figure out how to advertise our committees better and to get students to participate. I also want more germane questioning, as I think a lot of the time we are not questioning what we should be questioning, we repeat questions or ask questions not completely related, so I really want to crack down on that and we can still make correct choices that way. Thank you for your time!

b. Chau

- i. Good afternoon E&A, my name is Nghi Chau and I'd love to have the honor of serving as your Chair. This is a slide of a preview of what you can expect, I am currently a junior studying Legal Studies with a minor in Writing & Rhetoric. I am known for my current position as Vice Chair of E&A,

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and through this I learned the intricacies of Student Government elections and appointments. Over the past semester, I had to take long detailed minutes over what we have covered. Because of this, I have had the opportunity to overview our documents, and I am so passionate about this committee. I stayed up until 1-2AM taking notes for this committee, and I want to retain that energy into being Chair. Some specific expectations we have so everyone knows I'm aware of what's expected, for instance, I do know I will have to lead and plan for our meetings as well as the implicit duties such as collaborating with committee members and SG as a whole to create initiatives to improve UCF's election processes. For my leadership style, I am currently the Vice Chair for E&A as previously noted, and because of this I was directly under the wing of Chair Escobar and could directly observe how he led this committee through forming close bonds and oversight. If elected Chair, I want to further this leadership style and this slide goes into how I plan on going about this. I want to go above and beyond for this committee through my leadership. If I become Chair, I'd want to continue Chair Escobar's current initiatives such as an overhaul of Title VI to make it more legible, such as groups of committee members over certain sections of Title VI with one senior member who understands statutes and two freshmen who can learn how to read these statutes and gain that experience. I also plan to hold discussions in committee to oversee these plans and coordinate among them. I also want to work with our Graduate Senators to develop specific methods of appealing to graduate students, and develop a close relation with the Election Commission. I hope to sit on all of their meetings every week so E&A can understand their operations each week. Lastly, I had my own personal initiative where we have a training to overview judicial and executive appointments. While we do have the E&A diary, listening to discussions made me realize that it may be difficult to have a middle ground because strict or relaxed nominations, and as a fresh Senator, I was rather confused,

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so I want to develop this to have a smoother transition period. I know that because I am a fresher Senator, there is going to be a big pair of shoes I'd have to fill.

## 2. Question

- a. Rickett: Both of you have recognized the issues of graduate students, can any tell me why you think there is a lack of representation by them?
  - i. Chau: I think that when it comes to graduate students, the biggest constraint when it comes to maintaining a position in SG is the amount of extracurriculars and classes they have to handle while also handling Senate. It is a huge undue burden to maintain that position, so I want to see if there is any way we can accommodate them but also expand outreach in that regard. I do know that graduate students are mostly unaware of SG or how they can help, so I think it is for those reasons.
  - ii. Beneche: I'm actually going to take a different approach, we've already touched on lack of time, but I believe there is also a lack of interest. A lot of graduate students I've talked to through tabling with EC and they'd tell me they had genuine disinterest in SG. I think we just need to educate people on what we do and how fun it can be, and people may at least try to make some time to observe our proceedings. I just believe it really is a disinterest, as well as other extenuating factors.
- b. Rickett: Let's say you have a candidate that is going through the E&A process and wants to be appointed. In this scenario, you find the candidate is in violation of Title X. You, as Chair, what would you do in that situation?
  - i. Beneche: I think what I would do is call for them to be postponed, I'd talk to the chief of staff to see if there are any courses of actions we can take or if it can be amended, if we can't, then just telling the candidate we cannot see them.
  - ii. Chau: SO that's a really interesting question, and to first think, let's say we realize this candidate they are not eligible during the committee meeting, we would have to postpone them and not only have a separate discussion with

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the deputy chief of staff to inquire what happened and what went wrong in that process. It would be in the procedural operations that it was our fault for not noticing they were not eligible.

- c. Lipner: We all love what Chair Escobar did, however you both mentioned things you want to do differently. What will you continue to do, and what will you discontinue that you may wish to approach differently from Escobar?
  - i. Chau: In terms of what Chair Escobar did that was successful, I think utilizing seconds during committee meetings did allow the meetings to run smoother, not only that but how he had a leadership style where he would facilitate conversations and allow other committee members to talk and take initiative when facilitating discussions. In terms of what he could have improved on, I do think he mostly had a successful run, I do think there were times that committee members were too tense and we need to remember to remain decorum before appointments, so mostly just staying more stern when reprimanding that behavior.
  - ii. Beneche: I'm going to completely echo the sentiments of Chau, I just feel like he did a really excellent job in the role and I take a lot of inspiration from him. I was asking him a billion questions about this role, and there wasn't really anything I could point out in particular that I did not like, but one thing I think is that we need to start being assertive when it comes to types of questions we're asking and how we are talking to people. There's a time and a place to have fun, but in front of these appointments we need to maintain our seriousness.
- d. What experience do you have in chairing a meeting, and are you comfortable taking the chair immediately?
  - i. Beneche: I do have experience in chairing a meeting, I've been the LGBT caucus chair for a year now, and I'm comfortable immediately taking the chair. I have nothing else to do besides class and watch Gossip Girls, so I could start right now.

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- ii. Chau: I will admit that, in terms of chairing a meeting, I do not have any experience, but nonetheless I do feel i would be immediately comfortable taking hte chair as I have been reading the transition binder and would schedule meetings with the Senate President and Pro Tempore to discuss how to chair but also what specific things need to be kept in mind to successfully chair.
- e. Gaudio:: First question; for what reasons are you the E&A Chair are allowed to issue a censure
  - i. Chau: I do know that, there's an EC in violation for a specific reason, you can note a specific censure for whatever reason is. I do want to apologize if I recalled that incorrectly
  - ii. Beneche: I can issue a censure if performing unethical conduct, if there is repeatedly disruptive behavior and parliamentary procedures. I'm not sure if there are others, but that is the main idea of being disruptive repeatedly.
  - iii.
- f. Gaudio: The Deputy of Chief of Staff said they would review senate application one a week, our first confirmation will now be seen in 24 days
  - i. Beneche: I'm pretty confrontational, I will have the conversation with Deputy of Chief of Staff and with the president to ensure that we get the representation that we need and will be sending daily emails. You need to apply the pressure to ensure that there is timeliness, People lose confidence in SG when they don't hear back
  - ii. Chau: I do agree with Beneche, I would have the discussion with the Deputy Chief of Staff and as long with LJR Chair to issue a notice of non-compliance to have some sort of repercussion to ensure that we are getting representation and timely responses.
- g. Gaudio: As E&A chair, what standards will you hold the EC accountable for any instances that you find questionable?
  - i. Chau: I would be reviewing the election statues, Chapter 601 for the EC. I know that we can issue a notice of non compliance and to ensure that we aren't getting anything questionable. We can also as a committee discuss if we

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need to remove a commissioner due to those kind of reasons. As well as talk with the Pro Temp about what we should do and follow the proper procedures

- ii. Beneche: I echo those sentiments, I'm confrontational, I'm experienced in disciplinary actions. I would do my research to see what actions what I could take.

## 3. Debate

- a. Gaudio: I believe both candidates are on fairly equal footing, as while they both have an understanding of Title VI, there is a lack of understanding for other statutes such as Title X and Title IX.
- b. Rickett: I echo what Senator Gaudio said before, I wasn't satisfied with either of their answers. They do have a vision and a want to help others. With the committee members and future members. I would be voting for Senator Beneche, as she has more leadership experience.
- c. Gaudio: I would also like to note that the previous Chair Escobar,
- d. Trejo Hernandez: I would like to say echoing Rickett and Gaudio, wasn't really satisfied with any of the answers I heard especially the appointee question as that is under the Student Body President and Deputy Chief of Staff. Also, Chair Escobar also joined Senate in Fall of 2025 and became chair of Spring, I don't see lack of experience as a fault. We've gone through the heavy part which is presidential confirmations, now it's just getting the ropes. I haven't decided who I'm voting for, there's a lot of room to grow and I believe both candidates have that ability.
- e. Rickett: MTV

## 4. Vote

- a. 4-3-2, Chau has been elected Chair of E&A.

## b. Confirmations

- i. [Confirmation Materials](#)
- ii. Hasem Hassanein - College of Medicine Seat #1

### 1. Speech

- a. Hello Thank you to the committee. I'm a rising sophomore in biomedical sciences. I'm involved with many medical clubs on campus. I'm the treasurer for the Syrian student association. Knight connect ideas, I want to revise the UI since it's dated. Many people

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struggle to connect on there. Student councilors, many people struggle to meet with their counselors. Open to any questions

## 2. Question

- a. Rickett: Who's the dean?
  - i. Deborah German
- b. Rickett: Can you name some of your duties and requirements?
  - i. Have weekly meetings in the Senate, be a member of a committee, meet with dean once per semester. I also have to be assigned RSOs.
- c. Lipner: Do you have any plans to join any specific committees?
  - i. SBA and their goal to have the student body in mind when thinking of legislation.
- d. Lipner: Do you plan on joining any caucuses?
  - i. Arab Caucus
- e. Gaudio: Can you name the committees and what they do?
  - i. Correctly names and describes E&A, SBA, FAO
- f. Trejo Hernandez: MTD

## 3. Debate

- a. Lipner: I think it's great he understands there is things to learn, so I am excited to hear he wants to join Arab Caucus as they only have 2 members of having more members is very important.
- b. Beneche: Also in favor, extremely committed to advocacy.
- c. Rickett: MTV

## 4. Vote

- a. **8-0-0 Approved by E&A**

## 11. Member Discussion

- a. Rickett: Yesterday I was elected as the Chair of the Military & Veterans Caucus, and I won another scholarship through the Rosen College.
- b. Lipner: I just wanted to throw out that everyone in that past election was wonderful. I abstained due to personal relationships with both of you.

## 12. Miscellaneous Business

- a. Vice-Chair Elections
  - i. Nominations
    - 1. Gaudio
  - ii. **Approved by GC**

## 13. Final Roll Call: 7/10

## 14. Adjournment: 4:03 PM

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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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