

7-12-2011

## Senate General Body Meeting Minutes 7/12/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty Second Student Senate

Senate  
July 12, 2011

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**Call to Order by Senate President Hassounch at 6:05**

**Pledge of allegiance led by Jeff Gao**

**Swearing in of Public Health Senator Elect Wilnie Merilien**

Oath given by Senate President Hassounch taken by Wilnie Merilien

**Roll Call:**

Present: 36

Absent: 9

**Additions/Deletions and/or Clarifications to the Orders of the Day:**

Senator Gao- *Motion to accept*, accepted.

**Additions/Deletions and/or Changes to the Minutes:**

Senator Saunders- *Motion to postpone*, accepted.

**Legislative Branch Report:**

Senator Kiger- This week in rules we went ahead and passed legislation relating to the College of Medicine council in regards to funding. You will see it before you tonight so hopefully you had a chance to look over it. Essentially it would make them like the Sports Club Council and the way they are funded. As far as rules goes, that's all we have going on this week.

Senator Gao- This week in rules we went over two budget bills that you will see tonight. My ADHOC committee went over travel grants so you will get updates in the future for that. Any questions?

Senator Sandoval: In University Affairs were giving out the MSC survey for the next two weeks. We elected a new vice chair, Nyguen. The tent day, Aziz will tell you about. In ADHOC we are discussing mentor and mentee program and other retention ideas. Are there any questions or concerns at all?

Senator Aziz- Last week in committee we went over the approach of an elected official and writing letters. This week we will be going over the draft that the committee wrote and refine that. Yesterday the tent day turnout was low. We are taking a break from it until next month. We're also going to change the days to where most people are available. Usually the tent day lasts from 9:00-5:00 and we need you to stay for a minimum of 30 minutes. So when we see when most of Senate is available we will set that day.

Senator Hemani- Yesterday was the first set of signature event presentations from student organizations. We are also doing this on Friday at 1:00 pm in the chambers. Next week I will be holding the SG Programming Council. If any of you would like, I have details about that. Also, if you want to audit an event or don't know about the process and would like to learn about it, then tomorrow they are featuring Rango at the Juniper Popular Hall around 9:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to join me to audit the event.

Pro Tempore Brown- If some of you read the Oracle you might have saw an article about the clicker system that we are implementing in the fall. I'm excited about that. I think it will do a lot for transparency for SG. We will be planning a dry run, just because it is technology and there are bound to be glitches. If you are interested in doing that I will send out an email over the listserve. It won't be until late August because we don't have the system yet. I'm also working on Bulls Guide and A&S fees for student organization financial officers. All statutes are caudified and up to date. So if you are looking to amend any, I know Mr. Goff has been dying for it, there all on the website. In regards to the website, Mr. Gil from marketing will train me next week. My goal is to make you experience a meeting even if you weren't there. It would have the meeting agenda, minutes, and any relevant documents. So hopefully it will be good for students. Finally, yesterday SenEx elected the June Senator of the month. With great promise of vice chair for her committee on appropriations, she has worked with various student organizations on budgets and is one of the most active vice chairs for that committee. So if everyone would like to give snaps for Ms. Christy Brinkworth.

### **Executive Branch Report:**

Student Body President Diaz- Hello everybody, how are you doing? It's been a while since I've been up here. The exec branch is hiring as always. We have about half of our staff hired, which is great. Most of our upper level directors are pretty much hired. We're only missing UCA and CFO Director, which should come before you all by the end of summer. Other than that everything is going well. We're geared for FSA the 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>. There will be 2 top senators, and the executive branch along with people from USF campus. We are creating legislative agenda for students in the state of Florida. So anything you might want to see on the agenda, please keep in mind it has to be on a large scale for all students in state of Florida and not just USF students. So if you have something large scale that's an issue then let me know and I'll see if we can get it on the agenda. We are working to get a 9/11 memorial since it is the 10 year anniversary. We're working with veteran services and different departments to get speakers. Our SLT is working jointly with the chairmen of Government

Affairs to bring the mayor to campus on September 12<sup>th</sup>. That will be fantastic. Orientation is about to kick back up so we will be working on that a lot. We're working with athletics about doing pep rallies and watch parties. Right now I have meetings with Dean Banks and all people in student affairs to have a watch party for the Notre Dame game. That's the first game of this season and it's away at South Penn. So we want to get a lot of students geared up and excited because it's the kickoff to our season. Lastly, the nominee I will be putting up here shortly for ERC is James Bodden. For a second I thought I wasn't putting him up, but I am. He is very qualified, so get ready to scrutinize him. I feel he is the best candidate and I hope you believe the same. Any questions?

### **Judicial Branch Report:**

None

### **Open Forum:**

None

### **General Business:**

#### *➤ Confirmation of Executive Branch Appointees*

##### *1. Mr. James Bodden for the position of Election Rules Commission Supervisor*

Student Body President Diaz- Hello again and allow me to introduce my nominee for Election Rules Commission, Supervisor of Elections, James Bodden. James Bodden has an extensive background. He started with ERC two years ago as Supervisor of Senate Elections, as well as last year. I have full confidence that he is the best candidate for this position. He has the experience and background and usually we bring people in who don't know what they are doing in the ERC. This is one of the first times that we've been able to bring in someone from previous years. He knows what is going on in ERC and what is going right, and what we can work on to make better so we can reach 10,000 students to vote in elections. I have full confidence in Mr. Bodden and I'll let him take it away.

Senate President Hassouneh- Does anybody have any question as to what ERC does or about hiring process? Not the candidate.

Senator Saunders- How many candidates did you interview for this position?

Student Body President Diaz- Five people were interviewed for this position.

Bodden- As Mr. Diaz said I was the supervisor for 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> term. I'm sure you've seen me in candidate meetings or collecting paper work. I probably elected each and every one of you. During the 51<sup>st</sup> term I served as a senator, so I've seen the election process from both candidate view and someone running it. After each term I served on the Title 7 ADHOC and provided input on where Title 7 should lead based on experience. My expectations are high. For mid term interim we got 1,500 votes and that was at the end of the school year, during the summer. I would like to get 10,000 votes in general for the year. Last year we had a 2,000 vote increase and I believe we can make greater strides. We need to educate our voters. A lot of people say that, but they don't know how. A lot of people don't know what SG is, what's going on, who the candidates are, or what the polls are. Who and what is a hot button issue. Poll workers need to get everybody excited and let them know what is going on. You can't sit around in your office and get votes. Some things I want expand on; I

want to get more advertising out before the elections. Usually we advertise right before the elections, so it's like one week before we have this giant election and we tell everybody it's important and they need to vote on Monday. I want to see constant reminders that the elections are coming up. Have a sign in the MSC with a countdown and the same thing on Blackboard. We need to utilize listserves that SG has. There are thousands of students on the listserves. All we need to do is inform them that elections are coming up, who the candidacy is, and where the election forms are for them to find. I also would like to streamline the process of running voting. We have always had a problem with voting so I want to sit down with ASCATO to either change vendors or think of some ways we can tweak and streamline the application process. The last thing is that I want to expand programming. Have a kickoff program or expand to a few debates before hand. We should have multiple programs like we do for Week of Welcome. Election debates and mixers are a great way to become familiarized with their candidates.

Senate President Hassounch- Are there any questions?

Senator Uhler- What is your schedule next year?

Bodden- It's my senior year so I'm finishing up. In the fall I will be taking 2 economic classes and 2 health classes. In the spring I will be finishing up my Public Health minor so during the general election I will only be taking online classes.

Senator Aziz- For administering votes, other than laptops, does the voting software work on other devices such as the iPad?

Bodden- It does. On that little paper it explains it. I tried it for a little bit but I want to expand upon it and have poll workers in the cafeteria during the lunch rush. They can have the iPads and have the students quickly vote and then go about their day.

Senator Kimble- President Diaz had said you learned things that don't work. Can you explain some that don't work in your experience?

Bodden- For voter turnout or in general?

Senator Kimble- In general.

Bodden- In the past we had issues but this year we really turned things around. The years before they always spent money on frivolous things that only targeted a small amount of people. Last year we really expanded and hit everyone that we could. It really helped increase the voter turnout.

Senator Saunders- In your strategic plan you said your goal was to build excitement and awareness. In the Oracle there was an article about political parties to increase voter awareness. Would that be a positive thing to increase awareness?

Bodden- I really don't have an opinion. I didn't read the article so I don't have an opinion on the political parties. It's not something we deal with in statutes. The fact that more students are more interested in SG is great. I'm not sure of the underlying values of this group or anything like that.

Senator Wilson- Lots of these ideas have been mentioned in past positions you've held. How come you haven't implemented some of these changes that you've wanted to do in the past?

Bodden- Being Supervisor of Elections will give me ability to say these are priorities I have. Before it was ideas I brought to the table but it was up to the discretion of my supervisor. Now it's what I want to do and what I want to be accomplished.

Senator Saunders- *Motion to discuss*, accepted.

Con: None

Saunders motion to vote by roll call.

**Final Count: 34-0-2, nominee accepted.**

Senate President Hassouneh- Congratulations!

Oath given by Senate President Hassouneh and taken by James Bodden.

➤ *Statutory Legislation on First Reading*

1. *SB [S] 52-006 Medical Student Organization Improved Funding Act*

Senator Kiger- The intent of this bill shall be to establish an independent system to fund Student Organizations housed within the USF College of Medicine. The bill delegates some of the powers and responsibilities of allocating Activity and Service Fee's to the College of Medicine Student Council. Student Organizations are still required to abide by all Student Government policies and procedures and may not deviate from Proviso. The bill establishes the College of Medicine Funding Council which will be responsible for the Annual Funding process and requires the Council to outline a subsequent appeals process. The Council will receive a lump-sum total allocation and will subsequently be responsible for allocating the individual Student Organization budgets. Essentially it does sum up the bill and it covers the formation of council processes. Yeah, essentially the intent sums it up like I said. It covers almost every aspect of what the bill covers without all the verbage.

Senator Saunders- I'm not sure if you can answer this but I was curious. I understand the intent of the bill is because they are unhappy the way they were being allocated. How much was requested and allocated last year?

Senate President Hassouneh- I don't recall the number requested during the allocation from the previous fiscal year. They recieved about \$45,000 for the College of Medicine, but I don't know the number off the top of my head nor will I. I don't even know the area of the request that it was. We could get that info though before the next meeting for second reading if you would like.

Senator Wilson- Could you explain why this was deemed necessary?

Senator Kiger- The purpose of the bill is to streamline the process much like the way the Sports Club council goes through their funding process. Essentially the idea is that the College of Medicine knows what is essential in request. Perhaps what an ASRC member would not because we aren't privy to the needs and desires in the same way another medical student would be. So they would better understand the request.

Pro Tempore Brown- I don't have the amount requested, but this year the College of Medicine received \$46,874.13.

Senate President Hassounah- I was pretty close.

Senator Wilson- I read the bill and what I got out of it is that basically ASRC is going to approve the budget of the College of Medicine council request and then they give out the money to the organizations.

Senate President Hassounah- In summation, yes. With exception to the actual budget, the actual council will divide the request. They wouldn't give themselves their own allocation.

Senator Saunders- How are the students on the council in the College of Medicine chosen?

Senate President Hassounah- They're elected officers of the respective council. The council in reference is a college council founding with sanction, USF College of Medicine. It is a council that has representatives of different departments within the College of Medicine. They have their own election process in constitution and later in bylaws. It translates formation of that council similar to how the Sports Club is comprised of the Presidents of Sports Clubs that are in charge of that council.

Senator Aziz- What accountability measures for the council are set in place so that the money is being spent wisely?

Senate President Hassounah- The council is still bound by proviso and sg statutes. It still runs out of our A&S business office right next door. They have the same account standards as any other organization. If you're worried about the council as a whole, they have the same standard practice.

Senator Saunders- If other colleges in the university felt they wanted to do the same thing, would this be setting precedent to do that?

Senate President Hassounah- I think we're not setting a precedent here, as much as recognizing a unique situation that is in the College of Medicine and coming up with a unique solution to that. Their campus is physically isolated from the rest of the campus and their student body structure and schedule is different than all of ours. We don't need to focus on the nit picky allocation part. I think they understand it better than we do. I don't think you can compare that example to all colleges. When the Sports Club was created several years ago, I'm sure there were similar concerns. We've never followed that precedent to allow other colleges and we rarely split away from it for other college models.

Senator Kimble- Can you give an example of problems of the budgeting process and what can cause some confusion?

Senate President Hassounah- This is an issue that has been occurring for the last 2 years. The College of Medicine council concern is that they are a student organization that hasn't been able to effectively communicate with our student body representative to ASRC. We don't understand their specific needs because we don't understand why they would request so much money for programming or food at these events. We look at their budget and ask why they need it. They look at it as being on campus from 9-5 for class and that's the only time they can hold an event. Bringing

up different concerns throughout the course of discussion, I would say it is appropriate to create a council in response.

Pro Tempore Brown- *Point of information*, Alicia from the College of Medicine council is here. Maybe if senators had questions or concerns, she could shed better light on it.

Senate President Hassouneh- Sorry, I didn't see you back there. Would you like to yield your time to her?

Pro Tempore Brown- Wouldn't we have to ask a question for me to do that? Alicia, would you like to answer that question?

Senate President Hassouneh- Alicia, if you want to come down here you can say why you and the College of Medicine feel this is necessary.

Alica Willington- I serve as the Vice President for the medical council. I wanted to start off by saying we have worked on it for a long time, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It's something President Genshaft said that she wanted us to do. The reason the allocation of funds isn't appropriate is because you have no idea what we do there. We live in our own little world. We have groups that travel to different countries and set up medical shops, that bring supplies over there, and they receive a couple thousand dollars. While other groups that stay here and program are getting an equivalent amount. It's like, what the heck is going on?. We would have better allocations. That's the basis for this, allocating the funds. We're not asking for more funds, it would just be a better division of funds.

Senator Wilson- I have 2 questions. What defines a College of Medicine organization and how is this not a violation of proviso by isolating certain students? Can everybody join the organizations, because I haven't heard of any specific ones?

Senate President Hassouneh- In order to be A&S eligible they still have to be following proviso. We have found organizations that aren't following that in the past and we have been able to work with them to audit the events by either re opening them up or not receive A&S funds in the future. What defines them as an organization is that they are housed through a division of the College of Medicine. That's how we view it and I could come up with a list of several different organizations.

Alicia- I wanted to address your question as well with the other issue as far as student funds. We are paying them like every other student, but we don't come to the MSC. We're stuck on campus the entire time and we aren't making use of anything that we are paying for. We pay student funds all the time but we can't appropriately disperse them. It's unfair because we're putting in but not getting anything out of it.

Senator Saunders- Can any student start an organization that falls under the student council for the College of Medicine and request funds from that council?

Senate President Hassouneh- If you're not in the College of Medicine division then why would you start an organization. I don't see where this is leading to. Any student is allowed to attend the organizations and may participate.



Pro Tempore Brown- That's similar to if you want to start a sports club for the council and request funds from the sports club council. You need to do a process through process through the campus rec. It's a mirror model.

Senator Kimble- How would we determine the appropriate amount of funding to give to the council?

Senate President Hassounch- For the council itself or funding for the council?

Senator Kimble- For the council.

Senate President Hassounch- To allocate we would do it in ASRC that year. Depending on the financial situation and based on past precedent, we would look at the organization that applied and how much was allocated, what they need, what the council recommends, and then allocate a lump sum based on that. It's similar to other allocations but given the organizations and other factors that play in that year. We're just not going to micromanage individual budgets.

Senator Saunders- If we were bad at allocation per club or per individual bases, then how would we be better allocating a lump sum? You still have to add up the events and items that were requested.

Senate President Hassounch- I'm going to try and explain this real quick because I think there's a break somewhere in the difference of allocating individual budgets and allocating a lump sum. Allocating lump sum would be how much cost to run operations. How much does the council recommend and the break down of numbers. They would say, this is why we need the money and present the factors. We simply play out how much money is available in proviso to give a lump sum. The actual discretion of if the organizations are up to them. They would say okay this one brings in speakers and this one spends all their money on pizza. They council would make the decision as opposed to ASRC. I hope that clarifies.

Gary Manka- I think we need to look at this micro cosmic. It's not how well we fund or don't fund. We're still coming up with a dollar amount, we're just not micromanaging. Let that go to the people that are going to make a better decision because they are there.

Senator Saunders- This is for the college representative. You gave an example of 9-5, working everyday of the week. I understand allocations would be different but could you give an example of how they could be different?

Alicia- I'm not sure I understand the meaning.

Senator Saunders- What were you requesting that was misunderstood?

Alicia- Its not an issue of what were requesting, that's different. We're given the same application as everyone else as a council. We fund based on the last year and how much the group asked for, etc. We can compare to what is on paper and what really happened. We were at those meetings or we can talk to people that are running those meetings. Some may look fantastic on paper but in reality they could have 5 people at an event that's supposed to have 100 members according to Blackboard. What's on paper and reality are two different things. The example of the group that travels and brings medication should be getting more money than they are.

Senator Wilson- Speaking of travel, would that still go through like if we created the travel grant program? Would that go through us or their own?

Senate President Hassouneh- That's hypothetically based on ADHOC committees. From my initial conversation to what is going on in that committee. I believe you guys are looking at not implementing something to the council based on something that may come up at a later date.

Senator Wilson- What I was saying is the way travel is allocated for organizations on this side, would it be the same for them? She mentioned international travel but we don't fund that for student organizations.

Senate President Hassouneh- Their travel model is similar to us currently. We don't know what would happen in the future. I would caution you from making a decision on legislation today based on hypothetical things that might not be next year.

Pro Tempore Brown- I feel like everyone is treating this like it's a strange animal. The Sports Club Council model has a much higher travel cap, it's not foreign. They handle their own travel based on a better understanding of their needs than we do. It would be similar to the sports club model

Senate President Hassouneh- Also keep in mind if you are concerned about international travel among other things. If you look at the Sports Club Council, they are allocated \$250,000, and that has less oversight. Most people in the chambers aren't familiar with that process. But it's a process where they allocate travel, materials, and food. In any case proviso would still go to committee on Rules for final approval. So it's not leaving a wide open door that can be abused in some way.

Senator Aziz- What was President Genshaft's vision for this council?

Senate President Hassouneh- According to Genshaft 2 years ago, during the 50<sup>th</sup> term, she told the annual budget creating council that she wanted it to be somewhat similar to the Sports Club Council. Specifically those were mentioned in the example.

Senator Hemani- What's the audit process with the student organizations. Will the council take into account the audits conducted?

Senate President Hassouneh- You're referring to your committee audits?

Senator Hemani- Yes.

Senate President Hassouneh- I'm not aware if they do. I would assume the council would have some kind of audit mechanism to base their allocations. She briefly touched on her relations in the College of Medicine. They have been to those events or seen what they put on. That would be discussed at a later time in their standard operating procedures.

Alicia- To address that, I'm not sure if this is what your question is. The council of Medical students have different departments of physical therapy, nursing, and any other group involved in the council. Addressing a question earlier about how do we make sure all the money doesn't go to one group... It's going to be several college represented so it won't go to one group only. Voting rights will control that.

Senator Saunders- For line item request, is it self monitor for proviso?

Senate President Hassouneh- For the allocation you mean?

Senator Saunders- Yes

Senate President Hassouneh- They would be responsible. They would assume responsibility of allocating the money and responsibility of abiding by proviso and statutes.

Senator Saunders- Follow up. Is there any other oversight or are the final stops there in terms of line item allocation?

Senate President Hassouneh- SG would maintain as normal oversight procedures. We still see the allocation process and what is being spent with our business office. So any red flags raised now would still be raised in the future.

Senator Toro- *Motion to postpone to second reading*, accepted.

Senate President Hassouneh- If you have any questions then send them to me in an email and I will get back to you before the next reading.

➤ *Statutory Legislation on Second Reading*

1. *SB [S] 52-003 Updates to Title IV*

Senator Toro- This is the same bill we saw last week, but I will go ahead and reread the intent. The purpose of this legislation shall be two-fold. It is meant to update Title IV to reflect the cessation of the Senate class. In addition, the deletion of Chapter 401 is intended to avoid repetition of clauses and sentiments already present in Chapter 209 and Senate Rules of Procedure.

Senator Saunders- *Motion to vote by straw poll*, accepted.

**Final Count: 35-0-1, bill passed.**

2. *SB [S] 52-005 Creation of the Declaratory Judgment Process*

Senator Kiger- The intent of this bill is to grant the Student Government Supreme Court the power to issue binding interpretations of Statutes by means of a new process which shall be named Declaratory Judgment. Declaratory Judgments are not intended to mandate action nor to provide interpretations or opinions regarding general operational circumstances or specific controversies.

Senate President Hassouneh- Are there any questions for the author?

Senator Kimble- What is there in statutes or the actual bill itself to prevent declaratory judgments being used for specific circumstances. I know it says in the intent but...

Senator Kiger- This will be put in place, if voted into statutes, in order to give a legally binding opinion relating to what a statute means. It's clarification of a statute; it cannot be for a specific circumstance. It would only be in place for an officer of SG before conflicts were to take place. In order to ask the court, or the declaratory judgment panel specifically for a statute they need to know how to proceed without getting to a point of controversy.

Senate President Hassouneh- We do a lot of punishing after someone breaks the law. This provides clarification before you break the law.

Senator Saudners- Since they will be rendering clarifications of statutes I guess this would be used on unclear statutes. Would this create a case law without having cases?

Senate President Hassouneh- Yes, you would be creating a case law if you mean precedents of court, meaning a statute or practice.

Senator Toro- *Motion to vote by straw pull.*

Senator Saunders- *Objection!*

Senator Toro- *Resend*

Senator Toro- *Motion to vote by roll call, accepted.*

**Final count: 32-3-1, bill passed.**

➤ *Fiscal Legislation on First Reading*

1.SB [A] 52-001 Korean American Student Association

Senator Jones- You can see their purpose on the top corner. This is what they requested and went thorough committee yesterday. For food the requested \$1450 and we recommended \$830. For materials they requested \$1460 and we recommended \$840. For travel they requested \$500 and we recommended \$0. In overhead, which is tax, they requested \$204 and we recommended \$100.20. The overall total requested was \$3614.60 and we recommended \$1770.20. Cuts came from standards. We approved the typical \$2 a head for food and no travel considering events they requested travel for.

Senate President Hassouneh- Any questions? Any motions?

Senator Saunders- Motion to vote by straw pull.

Senate President Hassouneh- Are there any objections?

Senator Gao- *Objection!* It's over \$1000.00

Senator Saunders- *Resend*

Senator Gao- *Motion to vote by roll call, accepted.*

**Final Count: 35-0-1, budget bill passed.**

2.SB [A] 52-002 Preconception Peer Educator

Senator Rodriguez- Their purpose is to work with college age populations to help circulate. They requested \$650 for food and we recommended \$320. They requested \$420 for materials and we recommended \$135. They requested 6% of overhead which is \$64.20 and we recommend \$27.30. In total they requested \$1134.20 and we recommended \$482.30. The list of approved events included a womens spa day and mens appreciations. These are events that will help actual members'. Cuts came from events that wouldn't help members or USF students, so those were the cuts there.

Sentor Kimble- Is the women spa day open to men and mens appreciation open to women?

Senator Rodriguez- The reason we allowed both to go through was because they paralleled each other. The agenda with both of these were accommodating.

Senator Gao- Both events are open but focused on womens spa day and men appreciation, that's all.

Senator Saunders- I see the cuts come from off campus events, but they didn't request travel.

Senator Rodriguez- Basically events that would benifit students that weren't USF students.

Senate President Hassouneh- You can request or post an event off campus without having to request travel to get to that event.

Senator Saunders- I thought that there was money requested for off campus, at least in the request. I know there was none allocated.

Senate President Hassouneh- Gao, do you have clarification from the committee based on the allocation?

Senator Gao- They didn't ask for money to go off campus. They asked for money for materials, for food to take to high schools and elementary schools. So when they taught them, they could feed them. It's a good thing but since the kids don't pay A&S fees, we can't fund it.

Senate President Hassouneh- They don't pay them yet.

Senator Jones- *Motion to vote by straw pull*, accepted.

**Final Count: 35-0-1, bill passed.**

**Final Roll Call:**

Present: 36

Absent: 9

Senate President Hassouneh- The Plunge Retreat is August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you all to attend so you can meet, bond, and grow as a leader. Take that as you may.

**Adjournment called by Senate President Hassouneh at 7:05**