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Judiciary and Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes 7/28/2011

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

SUMMER SESSION
July 28th 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 10:33AM

Toro- Roll call. I'm here. Carey?

Carey- Here.

Toro- Hussein?

Hussein- Here.

Toro- Wilson?

Wilson- Here.

Toro- Hughes?

Hughes- Present.

Toro- Mark? Kimble?

Kimble- Here.

Toro- Okay, are there any additions/deletions to the agenda. Is there a motion to accept? Mr. Wilson?

Motion to accept the agenda by Senator Wilson.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay, orders of the day are accepted. Approval of the minutes. I sent out the minutes from 7/7. I still haven't sent out the minutes from 7/14, because I have some revisions. So, it's just the 7/7 minutes we're approving. Is there a motion to approve the minutes? Ms. Hughes.

Motion to approve the minutes by Senator Hughes.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay, minutes are approved. Open Forum.

Open Forum

Toro- Are there any senators wishing to address the body? Ms. Hughes?

Hughes- There's a new Bull Runner route. I don't think I'll be on it but...

Toro- Anyone in the gallery?

Carey- I also printed off the questions, so if anyone wants to look at them before the meeting I have them here.

Toro- Okay, thank you. Anyone else? Okay. Something, I'm going to make this quick. Something that we talked about doing during SenEx like updating our committees on what it is we're doing and any personal projects I am working on. I know in Senate I always say, "No report, no report," like there's nothing new. So, something I've been doing, just to let you guys know, in case you want to help, or are interested, for the past six months, on and off, I've been working on rewriting Senate ROP's, because they were just a mess and I finally finished them, so it's like 22 pages of loveliness and I sent it to President Hassouneh and hopefully those are going up to Rules the first thing in fall. And do you guys remember the ethics statutes that we went over during our second meeting back in the day? I sent those to Mr. Hassouneh like right afterwards, but he wanted to make some changes, so he took some of them to Rules; he decided against making some of the changes. I've been talking to him about it and about them and they're going to be the first order of business in the fall, so we're going to finally see those ethics statutes go up in the fall. Okay, any questions? Okay, I have a question for you guys. Can everybody stay until 12? I don't anticipate going until 12, but just in case.

Carey- Yes.

Hughes- I have to leave at 11. I have to go.

Toro- Okay, we still have four. Oh, we five. Okay, Ms. Mark walks in at 10:35AM. Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Do you want to ask her if she can stay until 12?

Toro- Ms. Mark, can you stay until 12. Okay. Okay, so first order of business: we have Toby Thompson for Associate Director of Government Affairs. Mr. Kimble?

Kimble- I am not able to stay until 12.

Toro- Okay.

Kimble- I have an internship downtown.

Toro- Alright, okay, because we still have quorum if you two leave. So, we're good. Okay, first up is Toby Thompson for Associate of Government Affairs. We have Ms. Lindsay Lewis to present him.

Lewis- Where would you like us? Hello everyone. I am Lindsay Lewis, main director of governmental affairs and I'm here to present Toby Thompson for my associate director. The committee and I felt that

Mr. Thompson would be the best fit for working with me in the department and the rest of cabinet. We're confident in his ability to uphold the position. Any questions?

Toro- Okay. Any questions for Ms. Lewis regarding the position? Mr. Carey?

Carey- What are the basic job requirements that he will be fulfilling?

Lewis- The basic job requirements are that he is going to be present in office when I can't be, if I am at FSA or if I am out of town. He will be in the office researching, or making any of the appointments that I will need with officials around the area. If I can't meet with somebody, he will meet with them. We're just here to help Matt, basically with FSA and any legislative needs he has. It's pretty basic, just helping around the office and stuff like that.

Toro- Any other questions? Okay, I have a question for you, Ms. Lewis. Can you remind us what are the main duties of your department?

Lewis- Our department is in charge of making sure Matt is ready for FSA. Anything he needs to know, we brief him on all of the happenings on the House and the Senate. We set up meetings with USF Government Affairs; anything really that has to do with government on campus. We're working on having the mayor here in September, we're working on having a 9/11 event. Anything that has to deal with government on campus or anything Matt needs with FSA. That's basically the just of it.

Toro- Okay. Thank you. Okay, Mr. Thompson, you'll have two minutes to present and then we'll have a question/answer period and then we'll move to discussion. When you have 30 seconds left, I'll give you one tap and when you have 15 seconds left, I'll give you two taps. Okay. Alright.

Thompson- Okay, good morning everyone. My name is Toby Thompson. I am a junior majoring in biology, minoring in political science. Outside the sciences I have a strong interest in government and politics, which is the main reason I applied for this position. I currently serve on a special taxing district which operates like a mini-student council; I was elected to that in November. I also write for a site that is called Political Wave, that focuses on politics and governments in state and locally in a college perspective. I also served on the Student Government Senate and also was involved in the past year with Street Team.

Toro- Okay. Thank you. Any other questions for Mr. Thompson? Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Can you name the Mayor of Tampa?

Thompson- Bob Buckhorn.

Toro- Mr. Carey?

Carey- What other relationships do you have with local and state representatives?

Thompson- Recently, Student Government went up to Tallahassee, Rally in Tally, and got to meet a lot of state officials there. Recently here, I did an interview with Lisa Montelione, who sits on the Tampa City

Council and I got to have a nice interview with her. So, I have a little bit of experience with state and local officials and once you pass the official contact barrier, they're usually pretty friendly and want to talk to you.

Toro- Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Question, then follow up.

Toro- Okay.

Wilson- When did you get elected to your senate?

Tompson- Senate, this past 52nd term.

Wilson- What made you decide to make the transition to executive so quickly?

Tompson- How ANS fees are spent, I feel that this position would reach out to issues dealing with blocked tuition and external issues with the university.

Hughes- Since you'll be dealing with the FSA, the site lists issues, can you name two of them?

Tompson- One is blocked tuition, another that I know USF is trying to get instate tuition for veterans; I'm not sure if they list that as one of theirs. I know Lindsay and Diaz were there making it a legislative issue.

Carey- What leadership experience do you have in coordinating groups of people to get a project done.

Tompson- In my fraternity I was made sergeant at arms; it was my biggest leadership role in college.

Hughes- What do you believe your role would be in informing student body?

Tompson- To let people know how state and local government affects them; I learned a lot about how these two entities impact them. In high school I learned nothing about the government. What people don't realize is federal government doesn't handle tuition or our roads. This is why they're important; those are things that get the most attention. They don't have the same local control.

Wilson- Can you briefly go over interactions with politicians you've had?

Tompson- I've done the interview and in Tallahassee, you have to know some certain tactics to keep them on focus and get your point across to represent student interest. So, I haven't met anyone that tries to ignore us or not pay attention. Most of them seem genuinely interested and show some concern.

Toro- I have a question. If confirmed what do you see yourself doing on a day to day basis?

Tompson- A lot of research with legislation and local laws and ordinances. Tuition with veterans is something you have to prove your case. We need to have numbers and support with students and the 10 other universities. A lot of it is research and contacting local officials.

Hughes- What kind of things and local events do you plan to do?

Tompson- I haven't planned specifics, but we have thought about voter events. I know the Senate committee on University Affairs go out with surveys and meeting people in different areas, do you know about blocked tuition? I only hear about things once it is passed.

Toro- Okay. Mr. Wilson?

Motion to discuss by Senator Wilson.

Toro- Okay. Any objections? Okay. We're now in discussion. I kindly ask everyone in the gallery to exit the room. Thank you. If you have to say anything, please raise your hand. Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- I think he would be okay for the position. I'm not going to say great. I'm not really sure how in depth his knowledge in the legislative process is. And he tried to play off me a little bit, with the whole veteran thing.

Laughter.

Wilson- It's true and...

Toro- Do you have a point, Ms. Brown?

Brown- I do. That the veteran's instate tuition is not on the FSA agenda. He is not trying to suck up to the committee. It is something Matt's committee is really trying to work on.

Toro- Okay. Is there a motion to vote? Ms. Mark?

Motion to vote by Senator Mark.

Toro- Okay, are there any objections? Okay, we're now voting. Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Carey?

Carey- Yes.

Toro-Mr. Hussein?

Hussein- Yes.

Toro- Ms. Mark?

Mark- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Kimble

Kimble- Yes.

Toro- Ms. Hughes?

Hughes- Abstain.

Toro- And I abstain. With a vote of 5 to 0 to 1, this candidate passes. Two abstentions. Ms. Hughes and myself. I said 5 to 0 to 2. Congratulations, Mr. Tompson.

Applause.

Toro- Next up is Daria Milligan.

Lewis- Thank you guys.

Toro- Okay, here to present Ms. Milligan is Mr. Ivan Gill.

Gill- Hey everyone, long time no see. Just a little bit about the position, in the previous past two positions, our main goal is to document the events. Whenever we have tent days, actually taking pictures and doing photo-shoots for Our Shirt. That's something we never had a resource for to include the multimedia aspect. We put those pictures up as soon as possible and put the logos of the event on them and whatnot. It's also going to include the designing of graphics. We felt that Ms. Milligan was perfect for the position with experience of photography and her portfolio.

Toro- Anyone have any questions about the position? Okay, Ms. Milligan you have two minutes; one tap is 30 seconds and two taps is 15 seconds. Okay, whenever you're ready.

Milligan- Hi, I am Daria Milligan; I am interested in the graphics and multimedia coordinator position. I am currently pursuing a degree in advertisement as I am a full time student. I started teaching myself how to use Photoshop when I was in 8th grade; the more I learned the more I loved it. I applied for yearbook and in my junior year of high school, I acquired a position. During my senior year of high school I held a leadership position as senior editor of yearbook. I learned how to give and receive criticism. I also have experience for photography. The more I learned the more I became experienced. I really do love design. It's a way to keep getting inspired about myself. Thank you for your time.

Toro- Okay, thank you. Any questions? Mr. Carey?

Carey- What are your time commitments looking like? For instance, say you need to get to some random event that the school's having. How open can your schedule be to get to any event that needs your photography skills?

Milligan- I am very open. I only have my student commitment, which is 15 hours. I am not involved in any other organizations.

Toro- Any other questions? Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- If you came into a position where you were given two projects that were both time restrained and you didn't believe you had the ability to complete them both, what would you do?

Milligan- I would call and ask my director if I didn't have the resources available.

Toro- Okay, is there a motion to discuss?

Motion to discuss by Senator Carey.

Toro- Okay, we're now in discussion. Thank you. Any points of discussion?

Hughes- She has really good work for her graphic designs. Some of the best I've seen come before us actually. I guess that's what you need for the position.

Carey- She's one of the more qualified candidates that's come before us in a while.

Toro- Okay, I see a general consensus. Anyone else? Mr. Wilson.

Motion to vote by Senator Wilson.

Toro- Okay, any objections? We are now in voting. Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Carey?

Carey- Yes.

Toro-Mr. Hussein?

Hussein- Yes.

Toro- Ms. Mark?

Mark- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Kimble

Kimble- Yes.

Toro- Ms. Hughes?

Hughes- Yes.

Toro- And I abstain as chair. With a vote of 6 to 0 to 1, this candidate passes. We need a sergeant at arms here; get people in and out. I should nominate someone. Congratulations.

Applause.

Toro- Could you please send in Amanda Alvarez? Okay. Here to present Ms. Alvarez is Associate Coordinator of SLT, Ms. Jessica Lee. You have the floor.

Lee- Hey everybody this is Amanda Alvarez as she said. Her day to day duties would be assisting Sara and myself with the planning of events, like Mr. and Miss USF, ABX, making contracts and proposals. Basic stuff they have to have: business etiquette, she's got a lot of experience; I am extremely confident in her. She knows all of the traditions, she's worked with Green and Gold Guides, she's worked with Homecoming, she's had a solid experience with sponsors and proposals and I think she's really great for this position.

Toro- Okay, are there any questions for Ms. Lee regarding the position? Okay. You have two minutes and then we'll ask you questions, so whenever you're ready, you can start.

Alvarez- Okay, as Jessica's said, my name's Amanda Alvarez, I am an uprising junior. I am a health science major and a leadership minor. I would first like to thank you guys and I am honored to be nominated as a coordinator for Student Life and Traditions, because it truly is one of my greatest passions, here on campus. Over my two short years, already time has flown, but I have made it a goal and a priority to leave my legacy and my mark here at USF, which is why I have gotten involved here in different departments and different aspects. I believe that my broad experiences campus wide will help me in this experience with the student body in different traditions in student life here.

Toro- Okay, thank you. Are there any questions for Ms. Alvarez? Mr. Carey.

Carey- Being the Student Life and Traditions Coordinator, what do you think your time commitments will look like in order to get the projects for this done and any of the other projects for your classes or any other organization you happen to be in done?

Alvarez- Okay, well an important thing for me is that I will never take on a position that I feel that I can't give 110% fully to. When I attach my name to it, I want to make sure that it is the best. So, of course school is my number one main priority and it always will be, but my positions and my involvement are closely second as I look forward to Student Government and that it will be my main priority upcoming in the fall. So, I feel that my strong sense of time management that I have just by juggling different organizations has really helped me gain that and I'm able to just plan it out and be successful in everything I do.

Toro- Okay, any other questions? Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Can you give examples that you've planned?

Alvarez- I'm planning homecoming of 2011. I'm really excited. I've actually...we're really on time and we have a lot already a lot done. I'm director of team competition. I'm working with my other and executive director to come up with something different, so right now I'm working on writing and presenting proposals as well as contacting businesses which is 100% my favorite USF tradition.

Carey- What are some new creative ideas?

Alvarez- I have a lot of new ideas I'd like to bring. I've researched that there's a university that hosts a convention for high school students. It's the only college that does this. Not only is it good for us, but it

markets USF to high school students and brings out that drive to have that experience. I really want to do that to invite students here for a conference.

Wilson- You listed here that you have a full time and part time position.

Alvarez- I will have some in the fall. It ends mid-year. In the fall, I will still be a USF Green and Gold Guide as well as my position ending in my sorority in November.

Toro- Is there a motion to discuss?

Motion to discuss by Senator Hughes.

Toro- Any objections? Okay, we are now in discussion, thank you. Okay, any points of discussion? Mr. Wilson.

Wilson- Time commitment. It seems like she might be a little over-extended with this position as well as all of her other positions as well as her school load. It just seems like it's taking on a lot. And I'm sure that there's a lot of people that think they have the like self-scheduling ability, but once things start happening, things come up that you didn't plan for. It doesn't seem like she has a whole lot of room in her schedule.

Toro- Ms. Mark?

Mark- Personally, being a Green and Gold Guide is very flexible, so like it wouldn't be a problem. And her being the homecoming director; they do all of the planning. So, basically the day of the event is when she has to do the most work. So, I don't think that will be a problem.

Brown- Just a point of information: the Student Life and Traditions group, their planning is very heavy in the spring: they do ABX, Mr. and Miss USF, the planner, all that happens in the spring. Really, the only thing they handle in the fall is Bulls Blitz, which is a weekend commitment, so I wouldn't worry too much, because she said her commitments are ending in November.

Toro- Okay. Ms. Mark?

Motion to vote by Senator Mark.

Toro- Okay. Any objections? Okay, we're now in voting. Ms. Hughes?

Hughes- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Carey?

Carey- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Hussein?

Hussein- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Yes.

Toro- Ms. Mark?

Mark- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Kimble?

Kimble- Yes.

Toro- And I abstain as chair. With a vote of 6 to 0 to 1, this candidate passes. Thank you.

Applause.

Toro- Next up is Justin Smith. Last but not least. You have the floor.

Lee- Like I said before, same position: coordinator for Student Life and Traditions. He's going to do the same things; planning daily events, any contracts, proposals, stuff we give them to work on. He's also extremely experienced, he's also a green and gold guide. He's worked with a lot of different organizations, that's what we liked about him. He has a lot of different perspectives. He has worked with a lot of organizations that no one in our department has before. He's worked at Week of Welcome, so he's got the whole point of the experience there. He's very outgoing. It could be a great fit. And he's good with working with businesses as well.

Toro- Are there any questions for Ms. Lee regarding the position? Okay. Mr. Smith you have two minutes. One tap: 30 seconds left, two taps: 15 seconds left. Whenever you're ready, you can start.

Smith- Once again, my name is Justin Smith. I'm currently a senior at USF. I'm a public health major with a minor in leadership. Like she said before, I've got a lot of campus experience and I also like event planning and I also like collecting sponsorships and such around USF and around the Tampa Bay area as well. So, I'm pretty familiar with the position at hand and I'm very experienced as well. So, I'm sure that I will be a great fit for the position.

Toro- Okay. Any questions for Mr. Smith? Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Can you give a few examples of what you've worked with in the past?

Smith- Well as the ambassador for the Black Student Union, I was in charge of working with multicultural affairs. I was the chair, so I had to get all of the multicultural organizations to get the music, to get it all together and put it on spreadsheets to make sure everyone was in the correct order for performing and for the duration of the program. I was in charge of getting sponsorships throughout Tampa Bay and throughout USF. Also, as a Black Student Union Ambassador, I was working with multicultural affairs and I was in charge of holiday celebration. So I was executive chair, so I had to get all of the multicultural organizations together, to get the music, performances and I had to put this together on spreadsheets and I had to make sure that everyone's music was played during the duration of the program. That's

where I was also in charge of getting sponsorships of different Tampa Bay businesses and all around campus. I was also in charge of COBALT, which is the (inaudible). I was in charge of giving the different events for the coalition and the organizations around campus as well.

Toro- Okay, any other questions? Mr. Carey?

Carey- What ideas do you have to bring to the table?

Smith- Well, actually, I do have an idea; I've noticed at the University of South Florida, we do not have a yearbook. (Inaudible) Because I want a tangible piece of memorabilia when I leave USF, not only my Facebook pictures, some potential that I can have when I leave here. So, that's one tradition that I would love to implement here. And also, one thing I also noticed, we don't have student SG buses to take us all to the football games. So, possibly we could get our own USF buses instead of charter buses. Like, get our own buses with our own logo, so everyone knows who we are when we pull up to the stadium.

Toro- Okay, any other questions? Okay, is there a motion to discuss? Ms. Hughes?

Motion to discuss by Senator Hughes.

Toro- Any objections? Okay, we are now in discussion. Thank you Mr. Smith.

Smith- Thank you.

Toro- Okay are there any points of discussion? Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- For the...I work with him for holiday remix and he did a great job as a chairperson.

Hughes- I've worked under him and watched him put on large events, so he has that capability to reach out to a large number of students. Has a lot of connects.

Toro- Okay, is there a motion to vote?

Motion to vote by Senator Kimble.

Toro- Okay, are there any objections? Okay, we're now in voting. Ms. Hughes?

Hughes- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Carey?

Carey- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Hussein?

Hussein- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- Yes.

Toro- Ms. Mark?

Mark- Yes.

Toro- Mr. Kimble?

Kimble- Yes.

Toro- Okay and I abstain as chair. With a vote of 6 to 0 to 1 this candidate passes. Wow we made great time. We've never knocked out...congratulations!

Applause

Lee- Thank you guys.

Toro- Thank you. I'm impressed. We got that done very quickly. Okay. Next up is the fall semester time and the future business. I sent, along with the agenda, I sent out the Doodle link and so far I think Mr. Hussein is the only one that has done it. So, if you guys have your fall schedules, please fill out the Doodle survey. And also, if you have any friends in Senate who want to be on JEC, perhaps forward them, I'm forwarding it to people in Senate as well, so just please do that as soon as possible. During the first meeting of the fall, this is what we're going to be doing. We are going to be holding vice chair elections; everyone has a vice chair but me. I don't want someone who is just going to like perhaps flake out the reason I always wait until the fall, I want someone who knows what to do. If I have an emergency or have a huge biased, the vice chair will have to take my place and I want everyone to feel that they are well equipped. Some duties would be helping me with a workshop pertaining to the committee, so they'll be helping me out with that to present to all of Senate. We're going to have one on one meetings with the members. I'm going to send out another Doodle. Okay, are there any questions regarding the fall time? Ms. Mark?

Mark- This is not a question, but could you resend me the Doodle?

Toro- Okay, that's fine. I can resend that. Anything else? Okay. We are now in announcements.

Announcements

Toro- Is there anything you'd like to share? Mr. Wilson?

Wilson- This is my last Senate meeting of any kind. I'm sure you're all super sad.

Toro- Yeah, we're really gonna miss you, Corey. We really hope you run again in the mid-term. Any other announcements? Okay, is there a motion to adjourn? Mr. Carey?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Carey.

Toro- Any objections?

Adjournment called by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 11:09AM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.