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## Judiciary and Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes 10/13/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION  
October 13<sup>th</sup> 2011

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**Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:06PM.**

Toro- First order of business is roll call. Ms. Brinkworth is here. Mr. Cocco is here. Ms. Ortiz is here. Mr. Stubbs is here. Mr. Hussein is here. Mr. Patel is here. Ms. Torres is here. And myself. Additions or deletions to the agenda. This morning I received some constitutions from Mr. Gao. Is there a motion to add constitutions review to the agenda?

Brinkworth- So moved.

Toro- Any objections? That's been added. Is there a motion to accept the agenda?

*Motion to accept the agenda by Senator Brinkworth.*

Toro- The minutes were not sent out. Is there a motion to postpone the minutes?

*Motion to postpone the minutes by Senator Gula.*

Toro- We are now in open forum. I'd like to say good job last night. What was the score 46 to 2. We won by mercy rule.

Goff- Alright here today we have Jen Belmont. Ms. Belmont has also chaired committee. She has been Senate President in the past. I'll let her describe herself.

Toro- Ms. Belmont you have two minutes. You may begin whenever you're ready.

Belmont- Hello everyone you all know me. I served on JEC with you guys. I was also on Rules during the summer. I've been senate president for 2 years. I've been in SG a total of 4 now. In senate, I have written 16 to 20 bills and Senate ROP's before Toro revamped them. I also committed the structure. I like the political side of Senate. I wanted to expand it to exec. The office of the attorney general is really something that I feel I can do really well in because of my experience. Deputy attorney general involves a lot of planning. I was on Greek Programming Board. I feel I can really expand legal aid. We are looking

at doing it twice a month so every other week. Trying to advertise in bulls market to get students to fill up legal aid as well as a couple years ago. I participated in an event with two Tampa Bay lawyers and they did a seminar so I was hoping to work with Brian to get involved. If you got a traffic ticket they would take it to court for free. Just a lot of really good ideas floating around for this., I would be qualified if Mr., Goff ever had to step down in a conflict of interest.

Toro- Are there questions for Ms. Belmont?

Brinkworth- What experiences do you think you had in senate to help prepare you for the job?

Belmont- One of my experiences, Kristin K. (unaware of spelling) Chief Justice and they took on a case versus the executive branch. I thought the whole trial was completely illegal because I don't think they had proper jurisdiction. I wrote an appeal for Mr. Banks and it was a four page long memo and I did it in a night and it ended up getting...it was really a hot topic. I really had gotten in my role as senate president and I have experiences writing legal documents and getting involved in the court.

Toro- Any other questions?

Saunders- As a senator over the summer, you received 9 points out of the 10. Why was that the case?

Belmont- It was because my parents own a restaurant and they really needed my help and I spent all my summer in Englewood. By the time they informed me they had to work it was past the time to get an alternate senator. I had to trade shifts to get the Tuesday before the end of summer so I didn't get pointed out. It was awful but that's why.

Toro- Any other questions?

Gula- I just wanted to know the number of applicants we had.

Goff- It is a new HR possibly because over the summer there were so many problems with hiring and we would have to go back and ask them to reopen it. It was tension between us and HR and the solution was it was open until filled. As long as we hired after that point and had three interviews, that way the applicant pool is still open. So, that way it's kind of streamlining the process. I reopened it the first time and the second time, HR only posted it for four times. There were 28 applicants and there was only like 30 now. Total for this position it was seven or eight people.

Toro- Any other questions for Ms. Belmont? I'll take one from the committee before I take one from Mr. Saunders.

Ortiz- I guess, why now?

Belmont- Actually me and Brian were the last two candidates for the attorney general. It's not like I didn't have interest in legal affairs, but I still work with Brian and we have a good relationship. Better deputy than nothing.

Saunders- In case that Mr. Goff has a conflict of interest and has to step down, do you think you could convict members of student government since you have such close relationships with student government.

Belmont- Does everyone know what model UN is? Awesome. I have served as either prosecutor of defender.

Toro- Are there any questions? Seeing none. There is a motion to discuss?

*Motion to discuss by Senator Brinkworth.*

Goff- I can't stay.

Toro- If you have a burning desire you can. Do we all feel okay discussing in front of Mr. Goff. I don't. I don't want to put you guys in an uncomfortable position. We're going to do this in the fashion of an unmoderated caucus.

Brinkworth- We all know Jen very well. She is very qualified and I really have no hesitations. Rather than me missing Jen in senate.

Gula- With the point of conflict of interest. We have people even with that her experience in the Model UN is a good experience and I feel highly confident in that.

Toro- Any last comments? All those in favor?

Brinkworth- Yes.

Cocco- Yes.

Ortiz- Yes.

Stubbs- Yes.

Hussein-- Yes.

Patel- Yes.

Torres- No.

Gula- Yes.

Toro- And I abstain as chair. With a vote of 7 to 1 to 1. This candidate passes. These are two that we saw last week, but we had an issue with wording. They said anything imposed they had to do something to that effect so I'm just going to pass these around. Check everything as usual but please check all of the membership qualifications. While there doing that, I'll catch you up on some stuff. Something I discussed with Mr. Manka. I'm going to have Mr. Cocco do this. We're going to work on a viewpoint neutrality workshop. I gave a presentation to senate. We're going to give this presentation to ASRC.

When you're allocating money, it is super super important in ASRC. I want Mr. Cocco to head this up since you are on ASRC. It will be presented a week from tomorrow. When you finish just sign and I'll talk.

*Senator Saunders sneezes.*

All- Bless you.

Toro- Does the part that says membership qualifications look okay? Thank you. Okay, I've reward these and we've had at least two committee members review them. They look legit and clear. So, at this time is there a motion to approve both graduate LGBTQA Network and the GLBTAOMSA. Is there a motion to approve those constitutions?

*Motion to approve the constitutions by Senator Patel.*

Toro- Seeing none. Those we will be approving. Is there a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Brinkworth.

Toro- Are there any objections? Seeing none.

**Adjournment called by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:26PM.**

*Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.*