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## Judiciary and Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes 10/27/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION  
October 27<sup>th</sup> 2011

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**Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:05PM.**

Toro- First roll call. I'm here. Brinkworth excused. Hussein is here. Stubbs is unexcused. Cocco is unexcused. Gula is unexcused. Patel is here. Ortiz is here. Ramy is here. Torres is unexcused. Okay.

Ortiz- Cocco texted me ten minutes ago to tell you he was parking.

Toro- Okay, if he's on his way, we'll change that when he gets here. Okay, today I don't think we're going to get to standard practice codification. So, is there a motion to strike standard practice codification?

*Motion to strike standard practice codification by Senator Ortiz.*

Toro- Okay. It's stricken. Is there a motion to approve the agenda?

*Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Patel.*

Toro- Any objections? Minutes: I did not send them out. Is there a motion to postpone the minutes?

*Motion to postpone the minutes by Senator Hussein.*

Toro- Any objections ? Open forum.

**Open Forum**

Toro- Anyone wishing to address the body?

Sandoval- Hi, how are you all doing? This is for international festival. We have all signed up beside you Mr. Hussein. Just take a gander at one of these. There's a pen for ya. Anyone else not signed up? Okay, so. That's it. And its October the...no its November 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 2PM. It includes...it's like EPCOT in which the nations come together and we have diversity. Go Bulls.

Toro- Any questions about Ifest, because I can answer them. Okay and for those of you who haven't signed up to volunteer, I encourage you to do so. Anyone else? First order of business is Kelly Torres for associate director for UA.

Jones- This is my candidate Kelly Torres for the department of university affairs. I interviewed her with Justin Donnelly and Brian Goff and we really enjoyed her interview. She is a qualified candidate. Her resume shows her background. I know her personally and her dedication and her work ethic. I'm very confident that she will do her job in helping and assisting me. She is more than capable in answering questions and if she can't, she has me as a director once you all pass her.

Toro- Does anyone have any questions for MS. Jones about the hiring process? Okay, the way this will work is you will have two minutes. You will not take that long. Then we will have a question and answer period and you will have a closing speech.

Torres- My name is Kelly Torres. I was elected as a senator for the college of arts and science. I was always looking for involvement. I thought I would be a perfect fit because I am very involved in the USF community. I hold positions in very diverse organizations such as college of business, alumni...I have some ideas for this position and I think I can do great things with it.

Toro-Are there any questions for Ms. Torres? I actually just broke my own rule but I have a question for Ms. Jones. Will she be managing a staff?

Jones- Ms. Torres? No. Other than her being in charge of the UWC's. But nobody on the staff will be under her.

Toro- Any questions?

Hussein- How do you think your alumni relations will help you in this position?

Torres- Three of my positions are alumni related. I think getting the alumni involved is a great thing because it takes SG events and make it bigger and better when they are invited to attend.

Ortiz- How much time do your extracurricular take up?

Torres- As of now Tuesday and Thursdays are when I have classes. Monday and Wednesday are open, with the exception of Monday night.

Patel- You said you were looking to get ahead in student government. What other routes have you taken since becoming a senator?

Torres- I just became a senator last semester. I think it is great and I love how we represent the school. I will be able to kind of meet with the committees myself and find out exactly what they want and help them individually.

Coco- So you said that Mondays and Fridays were going to be your open days. How do you plan to syphon your time?

Torres- I was thinking to come in Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays. Just base it around the meetings.

Patel- So if there was a conflict between any of your extracurricular and if your sorority had a chapter meeting, what would you give up?

Torres- If someone comes to me first, I put it in my calendar, there's nothing I can already do if I have something. For other organizations I will tell them I can't make the meeting and it is job related.

Toro- I have a question for Ms. Jones. Assist in planning and coordinating between the university wide committees.

Jones- I have done the planning and coordinating the meetings so far. Now with an associate director I would have something to sit in on those meetings. As far as her assisting, if she can go sit in on some, or if the counsels need to have another meeting that include both of us then she would be in charge of planning and coordinating those meetings.

Toro- Okay, Mr. Sandoval?

Sandoval- Can you explain what the UWC's are and second...actually that's enough.

Torres- That was directed at me? They are such committees as women's student affairs, athletics and there's about five more. They have someone to speak on behalf of them.

Toro- Okay, any last questions? Sure, Mr. Aziz?

Aziz- Regarding the second responsibility for Ms. Torres. How do you plan on cultivating the different branches of student government?

Jones- May I add something, how will she assist? She is not coordinating them on her own.

Torres- I have done a lot of the tent days and the surveys and I think branching that committee in senate with the position would be a great way to work together on a lot of events.

Toro- So do you have any final remarks?

Torres- Oh no.

Toro- Is there a motion to discuss?

*Motion to discuss by Senator Ortiz.*

Toro- Any objections? I request that anyone not in this committee exit the room and we will move onto discussion. Thank you. Any comments? Just raise your hand.

Patel- Her schedule seems really full. If she has this many extracurricular, you shouldn't dump everything else. If she's involved in all the things she says she's involved in, she'll dump them as well. If she only has Wednesdays and Fridays, I don't know how much time she will dedicate to this?

Stubbs- That I can vouch just through association. The only thing I'm really concerned about is the level of aptitude she would have in this position. However it really doesn't correlate with this position. I don't believe she is really professional as far as being business minded and I don't think correspondence between each committee would I guess, be effective.

Toro- Are there any other comments?

Ortiz- I was at a networking event and it was funny to hear the president comment on how much she does which is really great but how much you can have on your plate without neglecting anything else. I can vouch for her as well but there comes a certain line that you can't cross and I feel 15 hours a week and she promised to do 20 to 25. I'm on the fence because I don't know how much more you can do without neglecting something else?

Stubbs-It's going to be a diminishing effect. It's not us doubting her, but it's us being mindful.

Manka- I think that's good that you're questioning those kinds of things. If you look at her cover letters, it says she can work 20 to 25 hours and it's a 15 hour job. It would behoove you to ask her back in here and ask her up front. We think your threshold has...

Toro- I think you guys need to keep in mind make sure the focus is how well she can perform this job. I do think it's great but just make sure your focus is how well she can perform this job with these duties. Any thoughts that haven't been shared yet?

Hussein- I feel like she is good for this position and the only problem is time management. She is free on Wednesdays and Fridays. She is in the college of arts and sciences and also she is involved in what she is done with and she said that she has meetings on Mondays but I think it would be better to ask her what her time is for next semester.

Toro- Everyone's main concern is her time. So, at this time I'll either entertain a motion to vote and if you're on the fence we can bring her back in and ask her two questions tops. Are you guys leaning towards one or the other?

Patel- I vote to bring her back in for questioning.

Toro- Are there any questions to that? I'll cap it at two questions. We just have a couple more questions. If you guys need time to formulate it eloquently go ahead. Whenever you're...I'm sorry. I'm going to wait for a committee member to speak.

Ortiz- One of our concerns is granted that this is 15 hours a week, you mentioned 20 to 25. You have 4 or 5 other positions; it is a concern if you are spreading yourself too thin. I don't know if you can elaborate on that.

Torres- I meant 20 to 25 office hours. I tend to do a lot of my stuff when I'm just hanging out in the Marshall Center or at home. I am usually at home and I'll start brainstorming if I am planning an event.

That 20 to 25 was set aside from Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All the other things with the exception of Monday, everything else is on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Ortiz- That you have to think about any other day?

Torres- It is the same thing if I am at home. Like I said earlier, I am excellent at time management. I am only taking four classes; don't have that much going on.

Toro- One last question?

Hussein- Do you know what classes you are going to be taking next semester?

Torres- I will only be taking 4 classes to graduate too. Position wise, I am probably going to have alumni status next semester so I won't have any obligations next semester. I won't have any obligations then.

Toro- Motion to go back to discussion?

Patel- So moved.

Toro- Any objections? Okay, thank you Ms. Torres.

Patel- I feel a little more confident. Her sorority won't be important next semester. She also only has four classes to graduate. They are just little.

Toro- Any other comments?

Stubbs- I do feel...I was already confident in her work ethic. She did more to make me feel more confident. I know I do a lot of stuff. I know people that do more and manage to do it. I won't doubt her.

Toro- Any last thoughts or comments? Is there a motion to vote?

*Motion to vote by Senator Hussein.*

Toro- Are there any objections?

Cocco- Yes.

Patel- Yes.

Ortiz- Yes.

Stubbs- Yes.

Ramy- Yes.

Hussein- Yes.

Toro- And I abstain. With a vote of 6 to 0 to 1. This candidate passes.

Manka- She just wanted me to tell you she is a senate member now and she is willing to leave that position for this one. I promised to say that and I wanted to keep my promise.

Toro- You can go let your candidate know.

Jones- Does she have to come back?

Toro- No, thank you Ms. Jones. Okay, next step, constitution reviews. Before we move on, I know I have asked you some of this before and I want to ask you again. How do you feel about exec members sitting in here during discussion? Does that hinder you in any way? Legally, I cannot kick anyone out because of sunshine laws. I request you leave but I don't force anyone to leave. There have been spats with me and I don't think that's perfectly legal so we really have been talking about what policies to be firm about kicking people out or not.

Stubbs- It definitely hinders as far as making a decision. I feel throughout the course of JEC with some exec members, it is blatantly obvious because they want to go up for bat for their candidate so it is definitely a problem that I have been seeing.

Ortiz- I agree.

Patel- Even if she knows how I feel, how would that affect anything?

Toro- I know different people are going to feel differently about this. I just want you to keep in mind; they can't speak unless I called on them. When Mr. Goff wants to speak I do not call on him. They can't come in here and start yelling. So, we'll talk about this more later and I'll make recommendations to the next JEC chair. It's so sad.

Patel- Just like I don't know if this is a question, why are they so attached to their candidate. Wouldn't that be something not their choice?

Toro- They have interviewed so many candidates and they put a lot of effort into choosing a person. So, when they bring that person up, it is a reflection of their efforts. That's how I see it. I would want my candidate to pass because I just put four weeks into interviewing people. Some are more attached and outspoken than others. It is still senate's job on making an appropriate decision. If we don't feel this is the right candidate, we have the responsibility of failing them.

Manka- I just want to say a few things; your critical thinking was good. I know you were hesitant to start asking questions. You are vocal when they are out of here. Then you get soft. If it would have been that way from the questioning, you go through so many questions at this time. It didn't happen.

Toro- We haven't done a confirmation in a while, maybe we're a little rusty. Don't be shy. We should be out of here in 15 minutes. This one constitution, it's an organization called Flight. I'll stay on the minutes for this. Would someone like to explain what we do with student org constitutions?

Hussein- We look at the constitutions and see if everything follows the organizations fees towards the students. So we check that off and if they have anything regarding the exec board of the organizations.

That means they could go through half of the semester to be in the organization. The GPA can't be restricted based on GPA. It's everybody.

Toro- Yeah you covered a lot of thing. Is there a motion for a 10 minute unmoderated caucus?

*Motion for a 10 minute unmoderated caucus by Senator Patel.*

Toro- We're back at 2:50. We have two groups. I met without new senator and we received the constitution of flight.' The committee added new constitution standards to our list. So the constitution flight turns out all members must submit an application and do an interview with the president and the vice president. Is there a motion to send this constitution back?

*Motion to send back by Senator Ramy.*

Toro-Are there any objections? Seeing none. Any announcements? Final words?

### **Announcements**

Coco- Salsaween tonight. Voy a la salsa.

Toro- Is there a motion to adjourn?

*Motion to adjourn by Senator Ortiz.*

Toro- Any objections? Seeing none.

**Adjournment called by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:53PM.**

*Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.*