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## Rules Committee Meeting Minutes 8/29/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION  
August 29<sup>th</sup> 2011

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**Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Nakita Kiger at 6:38PM.**

Kiger- First item on the agenda is roll call. I'm here. Antar is here. Berkowitz is here. Brinkworth is here. Cao is here. Gao is here. Rustan is not here. Saunders is here and Toro is here. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the agenda. Any motions at this time? Brinkworth?

*Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Brinkworth.*

Kiger- There's a motion to accept. Are there any objections? Seeing none. The agenda has been accepted for today. Next item on the agenda is open forum.

**Open Forum**

Kiger- Anyone wishing to address the committee at this time? Mr. Goff?

Goff- Anyone who's interested in joining the best and the brightest exec, Deputy Attorney General should be reopening again at sometime this week for the third week.

Kiger- Then we are onto our new business.

**New Business**

Kiger- I'm sorry I don't have an ice breaker this week. So, hopefully everyone will be there for that one. The next bill is 52.008 The Automatic Succession Act. I sent all of them out so everyone should have had a chance to look at them except for Mr. Antar. We can go slower for that. Is that all there is? Well, it looks like that's all there is to it. Any motions, questions?

Saunders- For 206.2, is there a timeline for when they should be confirmed by?

Goff- It's going to be the same, within 20 business days.

Kiger- Any other questions?

Toro- During our statute of limitations Adhoc, we were going statute by statute and I thought that these could be broken if the Student Body VP decided not to do it and Mr. Hassouneh said no it automatically happens. The Student Body VP doesn't have a choice, so I just wanted to clarify that.

Kiger- Any other questions? Motions?

Motion to vote by straw poll by Senator Toro.

Kiger- There's a motion to vote by straw poll are there any objections? Seeing none. All those in favor? All those opposed? All those abstaining? So, 7 to 0 to 1. This passes. Next item on the agenda is 52.009. Edit to Grievance Submission Procedure. Would you like to explain this as well?

Toro- Its where and to whom grievance forms are submitted. It's outlined in my SOP's. It seems that the procedure is very clunky and inconsistent. I wanted to streamline it and make both documents consistent. We weren't sure if it went to the Senate Clerk or Gary. It now gets time stamped to the Senate President and it's given to me.

Goff- What's in place to keep the Senate President taking it to the next step. I'm saying that the way its written, the advisor makes sure the President sends it to JEC. The Senate President can dismiss it or not.

Toro- I don't know why the advisor was put in there originally. I was told SGATO doesn't need to be put into our grievance procedure. I see what you're saying. If there's a corrupt Senate President that wants to hide it away. I don't know what sort of change you would suggest.

Goff- Can I make a recommendation to it?

Kiger- No, but if someone had something similar to Mr. Goff's recommendation, they could make it at that time.

Brinkworth- I just had an idea of how to fix this: I think there should be some sort of check, it could be anyone as in the attorney general perhaps for accountability for the Senate President.

Kiger- Would anyone like to make a motion to amend the bill.

Saunders- I would actually like to propose the counter idea if I may. While having the issuer submit the grievance to both the Senate President and the Pro Tempore.

Toro- I understand where Brian's concerns are coming from. Lets say that a grievance was just sent to Khalid and not me, it is breaking statutes. The more people you add to this process, the more risk there is of a grievance.

Goff- My issue with this is I have had issues with this. They held it on their desk for weeks and months.

Toro- I have two comments: Can you look in title four to see the duties of the Senate President and then...

Kiger- I don't think there is. I can double check.

Toro- Perhaps we could put in some sort of time line?

Kiger- And what else was it that you wanted to do?

Toro- That was it. My idea was to perhaps in this chapter put in a sort of timeline that the Senate President has and I would write that timeline in ROP's.

Brinkworth- It still doesn't remove the Senate President from being sketchy. There's no one holding them accountable to the timeline.

Toro- It has to be time stamped.

Brinkworth- But still, it has to be time stamped in front of the Senate President. There's nobody else in the room. Nobody else knows it's been time stamped besides them.

Saunders- I think to have that check and balance would make a lot of sense if the Pro Tempore and the Senate President had to see it.

Kiger- Ms. Toro did you have a comment?

Toro- NO.

Goff- The Senate President is the Pro Tempore's boss.

Toro- I don't think the Senate President has any authority to punish the Senate Pro Tempore in a boss capacity. We all have the same capacity to punish each other when we break statutes. The Pro Tempore does not have to abide by the Senate President. I understand what you guys are saying if it's time stamped in front of the Senate President and all that. I was coming from where it is submitted. Khalid doesn't even have a timestamp. It is a very public thing. It's not something I ever foresee happening.

Kiger- The main concern people are having is that there is something that needs a second set of eyes involved so there's at least on paper. They're in the same office, but it is still two sets of eyes and one more person got to see it.

Toro- Okay, I would be comfortable with saying it also has to be signed by the Pro Tempore before JEC. I would like it in .2.2 and signed by both the senate president and pro tempore.

Brinkworth- I don't know but I don't want that there. I object.

Kiger- Are you objecting Ms. Brinkworth?

Brinkworth- I am in fact.

Toro- I'll rescind for discussion.

Kiger- Is there a motion to discuss?

*Motion to discuss by Senator Brinkworth.*

Kiger- How would you like to discuss?

Brinkworth- Moderated caucus?

Kiger- A five minute moderated caucus with 30 second speaking times.

Brinkworth- That sounds wonderful.

Kiger- Just give him a second to set up the stopwatch. Are there any objections for a discussion? Seeing none. We are in discussion. Alright, who would like to speak.

Brinkworth- In a perfect world, yes, the pro tempore is not subordinate and can't be swayed by the senate president. I think that it should be someone separate from the office.

Saunders- At the end of the day, what would happen at the end of the day, if the senate president did try to sway the pro tempore, it would be put into public and make the senate president look bad.

Toro- I know SGATO is going to know. This is a guarantee that someone else knows. I think it remains within the legislative branch. I do think that this is an effective check.

Brinkworth- What if it was submitted to both of them?

Toro- I understand what you're saying, but what if it gets submitted to some of them? It adds more clunkiness.

Saunders- I was going to add what she said is what the government completely says. Signed by both of them. Would the committee be analytical to amending it further to being signed by the pro tempore as well.

Toro- I would not like that amendment for the reason I just stated. I almost want to go back to putting a member of SGATO back in there but it's getting really complicated, however if we put that back in there I would like to have some sort of discussion if we feel comfortable having SGATO in our investigation procedure. That was my rationale for taking that out. I would like some discussion.

Saunders- It will just be the way things were. Changing it to SGATO to the pro tempore its still going to be two people regardless.

Antar- Are we really taking SGATO out of the picture? They're going to know anyway.

Kiger- Anyone else wishing to speak?

Thomas- From the SGATO end, if you guys are planning or assuming on having us part of the process, it needs to be written down.

Kiger- Anyone else?

Toro- Okay, I would like to make a motion.

Kiger- Would you like to motion to close discussion?

*Motion to close discussion by Senator Toro.*

Kiger- Are there any objections? Seeing none. Discussion has closed.

Toro- I'd like to take out whatever I added about the pro tempore and then change the top clause instead of and student government advisor add and a member of SGATO. I would like to change that a little bit. I would like to change it to...

Thomas- If it is left at SGATO it could be anyone in SGATO. My recommendation would leave it to training operator.

Kiger- Would anyone like to motion to make that an official change?

Toro- So moved.

Kiger- Alright. Motions?

Saunders- Will this then be an effective check? Can SGATO stop the Senate President from killing it if he is so inclined?

Kiger- I don't think that the SGATO director would let the Senate President kill the grievance. Alyssa, would you like to clarify?

Thomas- As SGATO, we cannot force you to do anything. The Senate President would be strongly advised to not kill the grievance, but we cannot stop him from doing it.

Saunders- That sounds like a good idea. I like having SGATO involved in the process. If there's no real check, then that's a problem still. That is a legitimate issue.

Gao- It is a check, because that's an extra eye to the Senate President. Originally, there was no one looking at the Senate President, now there's an extra eye. What the president going to do, just hide it and hope nobody finds out?

Goff- I have two things; the first thing is from experience, I have seen that the SGATO advisors can push things through, like with my impeachment and with President Diaz, Belmont made sure it got the Senate floor and it was heard, so it is an adequate check. How do you propose that the Pro Tempore is going to check the Senate President?

Toro- Pro tempore can impeach and do something where SGATO can't.

*Motion to postpone the bill by Senator Toro.*

Kiger- There's a motion to postpone the bill. Are there any objections? Seeing none, the bill has been postponed until next week. Moving on then, to the final bill of the day: the amendments or revisions to

title 10, changing the title of advisor to director and adding in the current position of assistant director that previously wasn't there. Questions?

Brinkworth- Shouldn't it say graduate advisors not assistants. It doesn't offend me, but does it matter?

Thomas- They're looking at my name tag. Gary calls Justin and I graduate advisors.

Kiger- Predominately the title is graduate assistant.

*Motion to vote by straw poll by Senator Toro.*

Kiger- There's a motion to vote by straw poll. Are there any objections? Seeing none. All those in favor? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Myself. 8 to 0 to 1. The bill passes. The next item on the agenda **is announcements.**

### **Announcements**

Kiger- Real quick, after this meeting, if anyone is interested in a tour of the office, I would be more than happy to take you on the tour. Many of you have been here before and rather than force everyone to go with me, if you would like to go on a tour, you are more than welcome. Also, if you are on my Adhoc committee and have not responded to my Doodle survey yet, which was sent, I don't know, a week and a half ago, please do that, because our deadline is October 18<sup>th</sup> and I would really like everything done before October, so I have time to write the official recommendation. And I think that's it. Does anyone else have anything else they would like to say?

*Motion to adjourn by Senator Gao.*

Kiger- There's a motion to adjourn. Are there any objections? Seeing none.

**Adjournment called by Chairwoman Nakita Kiger at 7:05PM.**

*Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.*