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Rules Committee Meeting Minutes 9/12/2011

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION
September 12th 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Nakita Kiger at 6:37PM.

Kiger- First item on the agenda is roll call. Adam Saunders is here. Ali Antar is here. Christy Brinkworth excused. Greg Berkowitz is here. Jeff Gao is here. Jessica Cao is here. Lindsay Rustan is here. And Ms. Toro is here. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the agenda. Are there any motions at this time?

Motion to strike how to write legislation workshop and postpone to the next meeting by Senator Toro.

Kiger- Any objections? Seeing none. It has been stricken. Is there a motion to accept the agenda at this time?

Motion to accept the agenda by Senator Saunders.

Kiger- Any objections? Seeing none. Agenda is accepted. Next item is open forum. Anyone wishing to address the committee? None. Next is dealing with the grievance procedure.

Toro- This past week in JEC, we have a chapter in JEC SOP's that is more specific. I revamped it, so when we did that we found a couple things that we would like to add, but I forgot that Ms. Belmont is not on this committee. I know she has a couple things she wants to add but she is no there. If no one objects, I would like to postpone this, because I don't feel that this is time sensitive.

Kiger- There is a motion to postpone. Are there any objections? Seeing none. The bill has been postponed again. Ms. Toro, would you like to explain your revisions?

Toro- Sure, in statutes, because I want to emphasize that we want diverse organizations to come together. I want it to be emphasized. The word was changed to allocations. Allocation again. I completely redid the categories, when I became PAC chair last year. I got to see all of the things I wrote in practice. I've been wanting to completely revamp them. So, I made these four very broad categories.

Also, below that, I added the option that an event can still be approved if there is a positive majority of the PAC committee.

Saunders- Regarding the 2/3 vote I guess 809.12. If it falls into the category, it is not subject to the 2/3 vote. Doesn't that mean you make it up to fit it into the categories?

Toro- If I understand what you're saying correctly, you get 30 applications and you get 10,000 and among these categories you split up the grants. It's a 3 hour process that we were like that was a definite no and that's a maybe and we debate about it for about 3 hours. No matter if you're in a category or not.

Gao- Did you talk to chairman Hemani about this?

Toro- Yes.

Gao- The old category is still on there?

Saunders- Can't it be implemented for the next event?

Toro- The applications have already been submitted for the spring.

Kiger- Any other questions? Motions?

Toro- There's still more. 809.13. In the spring, there were a lot of events that did receive a grant and were cancelled. That had never happened before and that creates an event cancellation form.

Saunders- This is one of the bigger things. How would the committee determine to fail to plan occur? That's...

Toro- Is that a question or a comment?

Saunders- It's a question. How did they determine negligence?

Toro- If they didn't reserve a room in time...It's what we're trying to avoid. If the speaker ended up cancelling. If they didn't order food for the event or if they didn't reserve a room.

Ruston- So, what happens to the money if they do cancel the event?

Gao- If the money is not used for the fall, it can be used in the spring. If not used in the spring it can be reallocated for the spring in a different account. The signature event grant only has 20,000.

Kiger- Any other questions?

Saunders- I'm still really hung up on this negligence thing. It's really really difficult. I don't think it's ever going to be clear cut. It's bad language.

Gao- I think we should postpone this because it's really not time sensitive. The next year application will go through in July.

Motion to postpone by Senator Gao.

Kiger- There's a motion to postpone this. Are there any objections? Seeing none. This bill has been postponed. Ms. Toro this one is yours as well I believe.

Toro- The handbook is a pretty thick thing. It has a lot of rules about how to dress, how to act. If you broke any of those rules you were terminated. Now there's a tier. So, we're still bound to the handbook but we're bound to that tiered system.

Kiger- And 209.

Toro- Okay, yeah, members of student should conduct themselves to proper decorum. We struck the entire 401. I wanted this to be the umbrella of all of SG. I moved it here. So, that is actually taken verbatim about proper decorum.

Saunders- For the 209.4 up there. All members represent us in affiliates and the new 209.3. I remember when this was written, there was a big debate on the senate floor about saying members or excluding adulates and that was a big debate. Will by saying members will that be less inclusive. That was the whole thing that cam up last time.

Toro- Okay, now I remember I had forgotten about that whole debate. That was about Bull's Radio. A lot of them were volunteers. Oh, do we hold them to the same standards as we hold ourselves.

Saunders- Also, street team I think.

Thomas- yeah, it was a real concern with all volunteers in general. Where do our authorities start and stop with our payroll.

Toro- Okay, so let's say a volunteer, was to like break this, what would be the punishment? Would be like you can no longer volunteer?

Thomas- I guess my opinion would be if we get to that point when SGATO has to step up, I mean its covered in the handbook too but I think it just gives us more help if it's in the statutes as well.

Saunders- Can I motion to amend members of student government?

Kiger- Just this first part? Or are you motioning to put it back the way it was?

Toro- It's all you, Adam.

Saunders- I mean if we're not going to strike all of 209.3, it wouldn't make sense to put it back the way it was because it would just be repetitive. I think we should take out the first part that is highlighted right now and add it to 209.3.

Kiger- Is that what you were looking for?

Saunders- in 209.3 I think you should also...

Kiger- Here as well?

Saunders- Yeah.

Kiger- Does that conclude your amendment? There is a motion to amend the amendments. Is there an objection? Seeing none, the amendments have been accepted. Now moving on in the bill.

Toro- 209.5.2, that was already there, I don't know why it is green. But while she's doing that, I'll talk about the rest of it. The next two clauses, I don't say conflict of interest because we would have to write a definition, so I put the definition explicitly right there. I just put the definition of slander.

Kiger- Okay. Alright. And that concludes it. I will work on getting that to not be green.

Toro- When you move things it makes it green.

Kiger- Are there any motions, questions, concerns? Anyone?

Motion to vote by straw poll by Senator Saunders.

Kiger- Are there any objections? Seeing none. All those in favor? All those opposed. All those abstaining. So, 7 to 0 to 1, the bill passes. Alright, the next and final thing here is the senate ROP revision act. This is the main reason I felt it was imperative that the agenda be updated recently. I think it deserved to be read through. So, questions, concerns?

Saunders- I remember when this was talked about 4.5. There was going to be some mentions as final vote acting as roll call. Did that make it in? I didn't see it.

Toro- I actually did put it in there and these ROP's have gone through re-reading by Mr. Hassouneh and Ms. Brown. Its irrelevant now because of the clickers.

Saunders- Is the clicker going to act as final roll call?

Kiger- Yes, clickers go as final roll call.

Toro- Can we go through basic overview? This is pretty much the same as before.

Kiger- The senate is the same as before?

Toro- That's all the same as before.

Saunders- For all the duties wasn't there the last clause that is confirmed by a statute.

Toro- I don't recall, but just keep in mind those statutes supersede ROPs. So, it doesn't matter. I don't think I did.

Kiger- Anything changed here?

Toro- For the standing committees chairs change. I wanted to make reference to that. That's pretty much it. Secretary that's it and I added the public records thing. VOC is exactly the same.

Saunders- Should there is a mention in 4.5 that the clickers can be final roll call. I don't think its an assumption of the obvious.

Toro- Now, everyone clicks at the beginning of the meeting. That is the finally click.

Kiger- Yes? Are you still unclear Mr. Saunders?

Saunders- There's going to be a separate final roll call than all of their votes.

Kiger- It acts as a separate click.

Toro- I get what Mr. Saunders is saying now. With the clickers all we do is click. It takes roughly 60 seconds.

Kiger- Anything else that you need to cover?

Toro- Nope. Can you go up please? Yeah, right there. Okay. I believe that's all the same. Okay, the voting part, no one can enter/exit during voting. I think that's a carryover from ROP's. If there's a senator who doesn't want to vote, they could just walk out during voting. That's why the first one is there. You can't do secret ballot.

Saunders- And for 4.8.1, you are denying the public entry and they should be able to come and go as they please.

Toro- During that short period, because voting procedures need to be quiet. Even now, voting is just very serious and so having people come in and out is just a distraction.

Kiger- Previously the sergeant at arms was not allowed to enter.

Saunders- I feel that it would be a problem.

Kiger- To be honest if someone wants to enter, they do. Unless someone is there to bar their entry.

Toro- Okay, that's the same. Oh man, I forgot to change something. Can I amend I now?

Kiger- Uh, yeah. I believe so.

Toro- In part C there, can I take out "the first?" Do we have to do changes since its an entirely new document?

Kiger- I don't think so. Anything else Ms. Toro?

Toro- Nope, it's all the same. That's the same. Same. Can you go up to six, please? Open forum, I think that's new. 6.2 is the same. 6.3 is the same. I cut a lot of stuff out though and rearranged stuff. Same. Yeah, essentially the same. Yeah.

Kiger- Okay, legislation.

Toro- It was completely rearranged, but substantively it's the same. I didn't change them but I rewarded them.

Saunders- With 7.2, that power basically gives the senate president leeway. If they kill the bill and delay it indefinitely. I think there should be some clarification on when it has to be sent.

Toro- That right there is just how it's always been and how it makes sense. You can't have bills going from Jeff to Nakita.

Kiger- He keeps a list of all the bill numbers so we don't pass something with the same number of the previous bill. So, he had a list and that was clarified.

Saunders- That's good and I understand that point of assigning bill numbers. They have the power not to sign a bill number. Besides the senator who sponsored it, no one would know better.

Toro- As it says, only a senator can say the president can hold it back. The senator can VOC the senate president. Even if it doesn't, you still brought that matter to light. I don't ever think it would escalate to that point. There would be a scandal in the Oracle and all that.

Kiger- Alright, are we okay with that? Anything else on the page Ms. Toro?

Toro- Those are actually in title one and goodness knows how long we have been passing things. I was like holy moly, it's in two. Oh, so a lot of things are repetitions. That's essentially the same. That is essentially the same, yeah. Can you do me a favor and scroll back to the other types of bills? I just want to see something. I'm good.

Kiger- Resolutions were also good, okay.

Toro- Okay, senate president makes all point. Executive there's a whole the hiring process like the paperwork has to be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting. That was already there .3 and .2 was already there. I haven't changed that.

Kiger- Judicial?

Toro- Okay. That's the same process. Okay that requires the SOP. That's the same. Okay. Okay, that's essentially the same.

Kiger- Okay.

Toro- And those are the committee duties; those are all the same. It's exactly the same but I added a lot of rewording. Everything is essentially the same though.

Kiger- Ms. Toro, why are they letters?

Toro- Formatting these was a nightmare.

Kiger- I understand.

Gao- Just do undo.

Kiger- Yeah, okay. Great, okay.

Toro- Committees we can just skip over.

All- Uh...

Kiger- where were we?

Toro- We were at 9 but that's not contentious.

Kiger- Khalid can fix the numbering later.

Toro- That's essentially the same.

Kiger- 10?

Toro- That's the only chapter I didn't touch.

Saunders- For 10.1.1, the old senate president cannot vote in tie breakers, when the new senate president is elected, they must immediately start abstaining. Which was stopped because if he's not in senate, it seems inappropriate that they would vote in a tie breaker.

Kiger- The issue is that there's a transition period. The best way to perform them is a little bit easier to just allow the current chair to chair that meeting. Because the elections do not take place until the new senate president is not elected. It is just easier and it protocol since they started as the chair to conclude as the chair.

Toro- Let the previous chair chair the whole meeting. Have the new senate president start abstaining so that it doesn't go to the previous president.

Berkowitz- Wouldn't it be an odd number then? No?

Toro- All senate seats are never filled at the same time. At least some won't show up.

Kiger- You also only need 50% plus one o the vote to pass something or to elect someone into the position. Otherwise, it would be a serious issue at every meeting. So, are we moving to amend it then?

Toro- Yeah. Can you scroll up? Can you actually go to floor privileges, that's where it says that the chair of the meeting is the person that breaks the tie?

Kiger- Actually it was the, no it was actually the last clause in that.

Toro- Oh, okay. I guess it would go between .6 and .7 so it would go after .6.

Kiger- Okay.

Toro- As soon as the new senate president is elected...

Kiger- Following the election of the new senate president...is that acceptable?

Toro- He or she...shall abstain...

Kiger- From all subsequent elections of the members of the Senate Executive committee.

Toro- During that meeting.

Saunders- Should we maybe say immediately following the election?

Toro- Yeah, that's why my original wording was as soon as, just to imply that it is immediate.

Saunders- And I don't know if this is appropriate, to only mention that he would only vote in case of a tie.

Toro- I would like to add abstains from voting, because if he or she had a strong desire to endorse someone, I don't want to stop them.

Saunders- Do we mention that they would only tie break a vote?

Toro- Yeah, let's do that right now. .1 And .7, I'll work on that after the meeting and show you guys next week. In the event that a tie exists, the senate president shall vote. Take out with in accordance of Roberts Rule of Order and you can say "to break the tie." Okay.

Kiger- Are we okay with that now? Shall we move to go on?

Toro- Yeah. That's the same. What I changed there is a 2/3 majority, which doesn't make sense for ROP's to be harder to pass than statues?

Antar- Should we amend those as well? Does it matter?

Kiger- No.

Toro- Because the senate president should be chairing.

Kiger- The only time where that becomes a gray area is when the senate president is still chairing.

Toro- That's exactly the same, I wanted to take it out but they wouldn't let me, so all the awards and the ceremony are still there. I was reading through the statues and it said impeachment committee SOPs are included. SO, right now we don't have any impeachment committee SOPS. Khalid said to add them as an appendix. So, there they are.

Kiger- Alright. Okay.

Toro- I'd like to postpone this to the next meeting, because there's still the strangely worded one there. And to give people time to read over this because its lengthy.

Motion to postpone by Senator Toro.

Kiger- There's a motion to postpone. Are there any objections? Seeing none. This is postponed to the next meeting. Next is announcements.

Announcements

Toro- SG flag football is starting. So, if you'd like to join ask Ryan Goff.

Kiger- Anyone else? Motions?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Saunders.

Adjournment called by Chairwoman Kiger at 7:29PM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.