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Rules Committee Meeting Minutes 10/03/2011

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION
October 3rd 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Nakita Kiger at 6:35PM.

Kiger- First item on the agenda is roll call. I'm here. Adam Saunders is here. Christy Brinkworth is here. Greg Berkowitz is here. Jeff Gao is here and Lindsay Rustan is here. Ms. Toro, Ms. Cao and Mr. Antar are all unexcused. And Mr. Shakir is here. I apologize. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the order of the day.

Motion to accept the agenda by Senator Saunders.

Kiger- Any objections? Seeing none. They have been accepted. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the minutes.

Motion to accept the minutes by Senator Brinkworth.

Kiger- Are there any objections? Seeing none. The minutes have been accepted. Open forum.

Open Forum

Kiger- Any senators wishing to address the committee at this time?

Kimble- The mayor is coming next week. So we should all go after committee.

Kiger- Anyone else? Alright. Then we are onto new business with SB 52-013. Dealing with removing the office of the attorney general from the judicial procedures. Are there any questions or concerns?

Saunders- Why was this there in the first place?

Kiger- That's a good question. I didn't actually write this one.

Hassounah- I think it was sponsored by Pro Tempore Brown but the reason it was there before was because the attorney general two terms ago felt that it would be beneficial to have somebody that knew what was going on with the court,. This was his attempt to create a decision making job that wasn't the

president. There were concerns that the president chose people to represent his court. At that point it was the attorney general of the 50th term to concern hiring committees. This says that the AG or any member of his office cannot be part of the point of justice. Partly because they are trying the cases of the court. He is in charge of making a decision and he is going to present his or her case to a body that they helped appoint. So, there could be a conflict of interest there.

Kiger- Any other Mr. Saunders?

Saunders- It's more of a statute thing. It's so weird right there. That bullet point is listing the positions and then there's this random rule on the bottom.

Hassounah- Perhaps from the initial graph that I signed I thought it was its own sub clause as opposed to a sub clause of the position so right where it is if you move the indent out. If you...wait. Okay. I was going to show you a cool little trick. Arrow paragraph. And it also works if you increase indent.

Kiger- Alright.

Hassounah- It took me a year to figure out all of that stuff. Ask Nakita how many chapters she's had to rewrite so give her some credit.

Saunders- I guess, I mean I understand the logic behind it; it seems kind of weird that attorney general has special insight but they shouldn't be trying them in front of them. It seems a little strange. I'm trying to figure out why this is there and what the rationale was and there wasn't some ulterior reason that there should be some conflict of interest. So...

Hassounah- Is that a question?

Saunders- I guess I'm trying to get across is there any other reason that this is in there that won't be taken care of the fact there is a conflict of interest?

Hassounah- If I can ask for a point of clarification from Mr. Saunders? Can you verify the clause that you want in there and the clause you don't want in there?

Saunders- That taken out and the other one in there.

Hassounah- There's no other motive that I knew otherwise. It was under Chaves' term. That's the reason he told me it was there for. That's the official motive behind it.

Saunders- If we want someone with legal expertise of the court, couldn't we have the AG there.

Hassounah- The solicitor general can try cases in front of the court; grievances of SG, appeals, they can they just won't represent SG, just the student filing that request.

Kiger- Any other questions, concerns or motions?

Motion to vote on the bill by Senator Gao.

Kiger- How would you like to vote Mr. Gao?

Gao- By roll call.

Kiger- There's a motion to vote by roll call.

Saunders- Yes.

Kimble- Yes.

Gao- Yes.

Berkowitz- Yes.

Brinkworth- Yes.

Ruston- Yes.

Shakir- Yes.

Kiger- And I abstain so 7 to 0 to 1, the bill passes. Next item on the agenda 52-014. Dealing with preserving the role of the advisors and students within the hiring process.

Saunders- I assume there must have been an issue of why this is coming up now.

Hassounah- The answer to the question is yes and I will explain. SGATO does not believe that it is appropriate for them to be voting on the hiring or not hiring of an individual because it biases them for individuals in the future. They're supposed to be helping people that applied and did not get in. so, Pro Tempore Brown wanted to remove SGATO as voters and in order to automatically not default them to the chair. So, you would have two employees at large from the branch and the person that that position reports to, so it's still a three person committee.

Brinkworth- So, correct me if I'm wrong, this is an initiative presented by SGATO?

Kiger- Pro Tempore Brown wrote the legislation, but SGATO is trying to reestablish the advisor, so they don't want to vote one way or the other.

Saunders- I thought this was a three person committee?

Kiger- Any other questions, Mr. Saunders?

Saunders- So, there was always a member of SGATO?

Hassounah- Just now they don't vote.

Saunders- What will their role be in influencing the hiring decision, because they'll still have to express an opinion.

Hassouneh- They make sure we do things legal and ethically decision making. Not necessarily who is the best for the job but how we come across the winner in the manner. They want to make sure you're not being biased or prejudiced. Both SG and the university, they serve as your council. Like in ASRC, they don't influence decisions, but they answer questions and make sure we're acting appropriately.

Kiger- Any other questions, concerns or motions?

Motion to vote by Senator Saunders.

Kiger- How would you like to vote?

Saunders- Straw poll.

Kiger- All those in favor? All those opposed? All those abstaining? 7 to 0 to 1, the bill passes. Alright, next item on the agenda is announcements. Any announcements? Any motions?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Saunders.

Kiger- Any objections? Seeing none.

Adjournment called by Chairwoman Nakita Kiger at 6:50PM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.