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## Senate Meeting Minutes 04/16/13

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty-Fourth Student Senate

Summer Session  
April 16<sup>th</sup> 2013  
-MINUTES-

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**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:**

**[Gavel]**

Gao: I call this meeting of Senate of the 54<sup>th</sup> term to order at 8:33. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Ugh, Mr. Sandoval, please.

Senators: Senators: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Oath of Office:**

Gao: Please remain standing, as we will go through the oath of office. If you are part of the 54<sup>th</sup> term Senate, please keep standing, if you're not you can sit down. Raise your right hand and repeat after me.

Gao: As a member of the Student Government

Senators: As a member of the Student Government

Gao: Of the University of South Florida.

Senators: Of the University of South Florida.

Gao: I, state your full name.

Senators: I [all Senators said their names].

Gao: Do hereby affirm.

Senators: Do hereby affirm.

Gao: To uphold the office of...

Senators: To uphold the office of...

Gao: Senator.

Senators: Senator.

Gao: To abide by the Student Body Constitution.

Senators: To abide by the Student Body Constitution.

Gao: To uphold the Statutes incorporated therein.

Senators: To uphold the Statutes incorporated therein.

Gao: And to represent the Student Body.

Senators: And to represent the Student Body.

Gao: To the best of my ability.

Senators: To the best of my ability.

Gao: Congratulations

### **First Roll Call:**

Gao: Now we begin with the first official roll call for the 54<sup>th</sup> Term, please have your clickers ready. I'll tell you guys...it's already on, you don't have to turn it on, it's already on. It's a clicker system like any other class, all you have to do is press the options you want to choose on the screen. Now for attendance, you just press one, so just press the one button. And see as your name disappears.

Patel: No it's a clicker number.

Aldridge: Wait, go back.

Gao: Oh I'm sorry.

Aldridge: He's got it, he's got it, don't worry.

Gao: Make sure your name is off. Please make sure your names are off. Okay.

Christina Fernandez: I'm number 9, so maybe there's another Fernandez.

Gao: That's fine.

Aldridge: There is.

Gao: Alright, that'll be it. Okay, 42 is present...44, I'm sorry.

### **Election of Officers:**

#### **1. Senate President**

Gao: Next on the agenda is elections of office, we have first up position is Senate President. They were nominated beforehand. Umm I'll go through it again. So Cocco do you accept your nomination?

Cocco: Yes sir.

Gao: Mr. Patel do you accept your nomination?

Patel: Yes sir.

Gao: Mr. Aldridge do you accept your nomination?

Aldridge: Umm I actually respectfully decline.

Gao: Okay. Mr. Cocco and Mr. Patel please stand. Please, here. Okay here's how it's going to go for elections. The nominees will each have five minutes of presentation time, whether it be a PowerPoint or anything else. They'll get one tap at one minute. They'll get two taps at thirty seconds and they'll be gavelled out when it's time. After they've been...they do their presentation, both candidates, questions will be asked by you guys of the body. The questions must be relevant to both candidates, can't be skewed to one candidate. Both candidates will take turns asking questions. They'll both have one minute to answer the question. Again, they'll get one tap for thirty seconds, two taps for fifteen seconds, and gavelled out when it's time.

Cocco: Could you repeat that, I'm sorry.

Gao: You'll get one tap, 30 seconds, two taps fifteen seconds, and you'll be gavelled out when time is up.

Cocco: Can I ask for a two minute warning?

Rustan: No, no, no, that's for questions, only a minute.

Gao: When you have a five minute presentation; I'll give you a two minute warning.

Cocco: Okay, yeah. Thank you.

Gao: Discussion will follow afterwards. It will be endorsements only. Right now it's set at three per nominee. Each nominee...each endorsee will have one minute of speaking time per their candidate. Following endorsements, there will be a vote. Someone will have to motion to vote. You guys should have all got the...

Aldridge: Yeah, I have it.

Gao: Mr. Sandoval will be passing out a sheet. Not Mr. Sandoval, Mr. Aldridge will be passing out a sheet for common motions that you can use. There's motion for (inaudible), there's motion to vote. That's one motion we might be (inaudible) tonight. All I ask tonight is that...ugh for voting, person must have the majority of the Senates votes. So at this point it will be 23 votes in order to be elected. If there's multiple candidates, as in this case, say three and that there is no clear majority winner, it will go to a runoff ugh vote. The top two candidates will come back in the room. They'll do a short speech and then we'll another endorsement and another vote. Umm all I ask that for tonight, since most of you guys are new, I don't know your names; please state your full name when you stand up and ask a question, your full name for the record so that is first and last. Don't forget. I'll remind you if you forget. If you have any questions throughout the night please ask, raise your hand and...Go ahead

Cano: Just curious, there's no nomination for the floor?

Gao: No there are no nominations for the floor. I asked that nominations were in through email. We take all our nominations before; there are no nominations on the floor. Umm if there are no other questions, we will begin.

**a. Jean Cocco**

Gao: Mr. Cocco you're up first.

Cocco: You received the PowerPoint correct?

Gao: I did.

Cocco: Okay, thank you.

Gao: Just give me a nod when you want me to change the slide and I will give you a two minute warning. Give me one second. Okay, you may begin.

Cocco: Alright. Good evening mister President, distinguished members of the gallery, and my fellow Senators. I am much obliged to all of you for allowing me time to present the case why I should be Senate President for the next term. I'd like to share with you a personal, powerful moment that I experienced as a Senator not too far ago. I was working with then the Executive Branch counter partner then Greg Berkowitz and myself, a scheduled a meeting with the associate College of Education dean and I'll never forget what he said to us that meeting. He said in the ten years that I've been here, not once has Student Government extended their hand out to outreach, to form a friendship and to move the mission forward. I was bedazzled by that comment. I didn't understand why it had taken ten years for us to move forward, but what I do know is that we can do better. I know that you know that we can do better. How I know that is, Mr. Gao, is through the oath we just swore a moment ago. For me, it's about giving guidance and stewardship of the Student Body and that's what were here to do and I want to remind you of all of that because that is important and that's what is going to guide our mission as students to ensure that we're all going to be equally represented. If you could, move on. Okay, so a little bit about me. I'm majoring in political science and international studies and minoring in French and ugh currently a senior. I was born in New Jersey and moved to Jacksonville, Florida. I was a young lad and upon coming here to USF, ugh my mom instilled with me three values that I adhere to everyday and that's humility, that's dedication, and that's conviction. Those three values I feel is what a Senate President needs have in order to move things forward. Okay so for Senate President, I believe the Senate President needs to paint a broad stroke and have a potpourri of experiences. And for myself, ugh throughout this tenure in Student Government, I've done...I feel my due diligence in representing different aspects of Student Government from government affairs to community affairs, university affairs to Student Government. For government, I have built political capital with local, state, and federal officials, officials which would include Charlie Crist, very grateful that he wrote me a letter of recommendation. On top of that, I have been with President...President Goff last year advocating for Tallahassee and advocating for higher education in Tallahassee and Washington. As far as the community and university aspect, I've always had a love for our sister campuses when it comes to St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Lakeland. We are a USF campus and we have a system of campuses and I'm grateful that they have noticed my due diligence and they've also provided me an endorsement for my senate presidency.

Gao: Two minutes.

Cocco: Two minutes, thank you. The point is its Bulls Country. That's exactly what we want to move forward to. We want to grow our country and make sure that we have the political connections in Tallahassee. Make sure that we're connecting with every student on campus as much as we can and ensure that here in Student Government we're moving forward inter-branch cohesiveness. I was awarded by President and the Chief Justice Appreciation Awards for my outreach between the branches. We work together here with our branches and we can move the mission forward. How long I got?

Gao: 1:30.

Cocco: Okay. I can't share with you all of my ideas. I only have a minute and a half, so what I want to talk to you about is stewardship and what I was told by the elders, what they told me, was there a reason why we have two of these and one of these. And as stewards of the student's money and their interest here in this body, we need to be able give our ear out to everyone one of them. Through our vocation, through ourselves, through our student body, uh... hold on. One minute? Through accountability make sure we're holding ourselves accountable and others accountable and on top of that we need to build relationships with everyone on this campus. I want to know your name and I want you to have my phone number. So then if you need anything, then you can call me. Right, Ms. Katrina? Great okay, let's move on. Okay so this is the quote. 'There's no perfect candidate for Senate President, but what I do know is that leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. This is a learning process for all of us. I'm sure it has been for Mr. Gao. So what I can assure you is that I will always approach you with a rational mind and compassionate heart. Thank you all for your time. Go bulls.

Gao: Cocco could you step outside.

Cocco: Yes, my bad.

**b. Shyam Patel**

Gao: Mr. Patel you have five minutes.

Patel: I also have a handout.

Gao: Okay. Mr. Aziz can you please help him with his handout.

Patel: Thank you sir.

Gao: The time begins when you start talking.

Patel: Okay, alright, good evening everybody. Alright. So my name is Shyam Patel. I've been in Senate for three... well it's my third year. I'm running for Senate President, obviously. Umm so I'm a senior majoring in biomedical sciences. I could of graduated in three years, but honestly, the passion that I have with Senate is what made me stay another year. Like I have actually pushed or expanded my schedule out so I have like one core class each semester so I can dedicate more time to this because this is actually what I like doing, even though I want to go to medical school. I have a very open schedule obviously. I need two classes to graduate. That's anatomy and physiology and analytical chemistry and I'm taking one and then the next one, like spreading out very loosely. Umm I'm professionally impersonal. Honestly, I have a professional side when were in Senate, on the minutes, or when we're presenting to somebody proper. When I am in a meeting with Dr. Genshaft, but then we also have a side of when were in the office. Whether it be a random rant about something that somebody did or a big deal that's like coming out of Tallahassee. There's a side where everyone can actually come to me and be very like one-on-one. I know Mr. Hartmann...or umm Mr. Housman, we talk all the time about UP and politics and that they're playing with us and we're playing with them. So I mean there is a lot of stuff that we can get done. Just because you're shy doesn't actually change anything, you can come talk to me about it. I've been a senator for obviously two years now, it's my third year. Continue onwards please. Thank you. Alright so, my first day in Senate, I won midterm or actually interim cause Senate was empty at that point and I joined an ad hoc committee. That's like a temporary committee on senator retention because the problem that was presented to me two days into it was Senators aren't staying, so can you please help. So I joined this Committee and we talked about how to get Senators to stay in. One of bigger...like one of the bigger ideas that we proposed was mentor/mentee program and I think that is a really good way to get people more...like back involved with this. Like you'd have someone to look up to and have some who's obviously experienced and could be like that is my little in Senate, like were going to run this and we're going to make sure people stay in here, and people continue coming back and it's

not just oh first year senator their gone or another first year senator, their gone. So you lose a lot of skill and a lot of experience with that. I was a member of the Programming and Audits Committee and we had a record number of audits, that year. So I mean we did do a lot of work and this year we didn't have a lot of audits, but were working on that overall. I'm Chairman of the Judiciary and Ethics Committee. This is kind of my baby. We did a lot of things. We got...we talked to OSO or now CSI about how improve organization contacts, how to actually deal with their constitution problems before they actually arise. Make sure everyone who wants to get funding gets funding without them being oh no, I don't how to change my constitution like uh! So we try to deal with those kinds of problems. We make sure hey we'll make a new checklist.

Gao: Two minutes.

Patel: I have two minutes left? Thank you. And then umm the Ad-Hoc on Title VII, which was actually the elections...umm, Title. So we had an ad hoc about it. I sat in on it, I helped them actually figure out what problems were arising over and over, in Senate and see if we could like even solve them through the elections process. Umm I was a member on ASRC and ASRC... that was where we actually had our fourteen million dollar budget decided. So I mean that's another big key thing. I shadowed President Gao. We went to meet Genshaft, we met the Green Fee Energy Committee, we met with many Deans. Can you continue onwards please? Goals for Senate. I want to work closely with my Pro Tempore, whoever it would be. Obviously it's going to be Adam. And umm we want to actually educate the Senators because that's where it all starts. All these problems that we have in Senate all start because people don't know all their powers. They're not properly empowered. I want to properly empower Senators by making sure they talk back to me if I'm doing something wrong. If I'm going out of my way to do something corrupt, then I want you to call me out cause that's just the way it should be working cause that's proper checks-and-balances. That was the goal of JEC overall this year. We implemented checks and balances on another branch because that's the way it's supposed to work in the federal government. Like that's the bigger problems that we see day after day, whether it be in Tallahassee, whether it be here. I want to make us not a ceremonially institution anymore. We approve everything and we don't judge anything. Big problem cause this is not our money that we're playing with, it's the student's money. And 40,000 students...45,000 students now, that's who we represent now. We can't just say oh you want \$2,000, here you go, make it rain. It doesn't work that way anymore. You would actually be fiscally responsible and that's a problem with our Senate overall, like so far we haven't been critical of anything. Can you continue onwards, to the next slide? And Student Government overall, I want to...you have all this stuff on your handout so you can read into it, but overall there's a lot of places where Student Government can come together. All three branches, well, technically Judicial is not allowed to play with us yet cause they we want to stay unbiased obviously. So we can have the Executive Branch and our Branch collaborate very well together.

Gao: Wrap it up.

Patel: Just overall, a lot of initiatives can be undertaken to make sure we have a lot of good experiences for the students. Thank you.

Gao: Is there a motion for a questioning? Mr. Aldridge?

Aldridge: *I'd like to motion to enter questioning period.*

Gao: Any objections to that motion? None, we're in questioning answer period. Again, your questions must be relevant to both candidates. Both candidates will have an equal one minute time to answer. Questions? Please stand up and say your full name

Colton Canton: What I wish to ask you is what's your greatest challenge ugh you encountered this year was and how you overcame that?

Cocco: Greatest challenge that I have this year and overcame it. Well I have to say that this past Fall we had, of course a Presidential Election. Its two minutes right? One minute okay. So I had a Presidential Election and us...our committee, University Committee & Government Affairs had set up a candidate. And just setting up the logistics, making sure the people show up, the candidates show up, making sure we get students to show up. Just all of the stresses of planning a major forum.

Gao: Patel?

Patel: I'd like to say accountability. Overall, we don't have any kind of authority overs some people. Like whether it be Department, we're not directly interacting with them. They had...like obviously Danielle McDonald, she was heading 10 of them at one point. So we didn't have like anybody to contact directly, so that if there ever was a discrepancy or a problems that we couldn't deal with it was hard to say who to whole accountable of who to deal with. Whether it be even our neighboring sister branches, if there ever were problems that we didn't actually...if we didn't have any kind of talk or check put in place, we couldn't follow up with anything. That was a big problem and that's one of the bigger things we're going to achieve this year by changing one of the Statutes by holding a new system of checks and balances more broadly where we follow up. If we fund somebody we audit them, if we confirm somebody we make sure they're getting their goals caught up with, you know. That's it.

Gao: Thank you. Questions? Ugh, Zein?

Kattih: What's the one characteristic that you embody that will make you the best candidate for this position?

Gao: Mr. Patel?

Patel: Umm honestly I like to follow. Like as a leader, I think the greatest skill of a leader, is the ability to follow, the ability to bow and be humble. If somebody has a better idea than you, you give them the due credit. I don't like when people say oh that was my idea, when you know about ten people underneath you gave you that idea. They were your think tank underneath you and you're just like I'm the bigger head, I'll take all the credit, I don't like that at all. It's about making sure everyone is respected in the honest way. All of you don't get paid for this, that's a great charity that you guys put in. I get paid for your job, I would hate if someone like me took credit for your work. I like where credit is deserved is presented and like you guys should be getting your credits. And when somebody has an ultimate idea, I like to be able to accept them. That's the bigger think about being humble, like you got to be able to say like I was wrong, or maybe that idea was better, we can have a compromise, and make sure at the end of the day it's all for the better of USF.

Gao: Thank you, Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: Senator could you repeat the question please, with your permission Mr. Gao.

Gao: Go ahead.

Kattih: Umm what is the one characteristic that you embody that will make you the best candidate for this position?

Cocco: Umm I'd have to say approachability. We all know that I sat where you guys sat, a few years ago. And I was scared as hell. Excuse my language. Because I didn't know what to expect, I didn't know what to do, I didn't know who to talk to, and I didn't know who to connect with. And as Senate President, I want to make



sure that I connect with all of you and make sure that we all have a one on one kind of relationship. I want to make sure that we talk about the issues that you want to have ownership of. For example, Senator Devivo last year was on my Committee and she had the initiative to bring the Dean of the College of Business over, and she took ownership of that. That's exactly what I want to give all of you is give ownership of what you guys want to do.

Gao: That's it. Thank you. Next question, umm Little.

Little: I would like to know why both of you want this position, not what you could do for us, but why...your personal reason for running for this.

Gao: Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: So it was an easy decision to decide to run for anything, because you never know if they're going to accept you or not. So I felt that throughout my tenure here at SG and throughout the work that I've tried to bring out to everybody, I felt that I could do more. And through being Senate President, I want to do more. Because that's when you're up there in Tallahassee, or with the Administration, or with the students, or with the Senate, or with the Exec Branch, whomever, that's the key to building a better Bulls Country. And this is why I've felt that I've grown to serve all of you.

Gao: Thank you. Mr. Patel.

Patel: Well it's truly a test of my Ethics. I want to go into Medicine and one of the bigger things I see is that Hospitals is just politics. Sure it's medicine, you save lives, but behind the scene it's all like how much money did that cost like did that much cost you or did that do. So it's like, I want to see why that does happens to people, like I want to implement a good series of checks and balances before I even get airheaded, which I hope I don't. But I want to make sure I can at least bring out as much ethics or as many ethics that I have actually absorbed through USF back into the people. Because I've taken numerous courses here with Doctor Bishop, I don't know if many of you guys had him. Umm We've just discussed, day and night, about Nicomachean Ethics, about like that is Aristotle....Confucian Ethics. All those things are very valuable to me, and I want to actually see if I can build on them by having a leadership role, that is a greater good kind of leadership role.

Gao: Thank you. Uh, Hiba?

Alqasemi: This past term we funded a lot of new events and in the upcoming term we'll probably do just as much. I think it's important to make sure the events that we do fund are plausible. What were you guys' roles in the TEDx Events and how did you feel about the outcome of them in general?

Gao: Mr. Patel.

Patel: Umm the discussion I had with ugh two other heads was, that Administration promised us about 80% of the seats for students since it was A&S funded. I believe we only got 40% of the seats; I was truly upset with that because that's not administration's money that was not the dignitaries' money. That is...that's purely A&S Fees, those are student monies and I would have made a compromise hey 10% of y'all can come in the rest of them has to be A&S money...or A&S payers, so students, like we do with ULS. Students are allowed in first, before everybody else, that's the way it should have been. TEDx in my opinion might have been a shortfall in that sense only because 40% and it was the back row of the 40% that were allowed to be students.

That truly like it doesn't flow well with me, just because it does not stand for what we stand for. For when we represent the students, we represent the A&S fee. We're powered by the A&S fee, I mean...I don't know...

Gao: Thank you. Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: The question was how did the TEDx fair out or?

Alqasemi: What was your role in helping put it on, since it was obviously a big event before you? And how do you think it turned out overall?

Cocco: I was involved with the process. I was appointed by the Vice President, George Papdeas, to be on the Committee and to help represent the voices of students with TEDx, ugh the TED talks. Ugh there was heavy discussion between the Vice President and I, the Deputy Chief of Staff, she was here, about ensuring the students would get most of the seats. We had plans, we had vision, we wanted 80% of the seats to be students. But of course we all had to compromise, and I did, for when I was there at the event...half...

Gao: 30 seconds.

Cocco: When I was at the event, as you guys, as Mr. Patel said, most of the seats were for administration's. But I think that is the thing that we need to hold them accountable for. Part of that fear is to say that is not right, like he said. But on top of that the TEDx idea is phenomenal because it helps bring the Ted voice to campus and it has the... give people the ability to share their ideas.

Gao: Who else, Mr. Aziz you had your hand up for a while.

Aziz: Umm my question is usually in Student Government, it's very top heavy, where the top is influencing underneath. Can both of you guys name a time where you stood up for something you believed in to your Superior, i.e. Jeff, for something that you believed in and went all out in just spoke your mind even though they disagreed with you?

Gao: Alright, Mr. Cocco?

Cocco: Oh boy. Well umm there are definitely times on ASRC where I didn't agree with the President and the Senate President in regards to funding issues. One of those issues was the Dean of Students Office. Previously the Dean's Office was funded through E&G, which is money coming from the State. And ugh they wanted to go ahead and move that office, which was \$300,000, onto the A&S fee. There is no doubt that the Dean of Students' system is very integral to the mission of our Student Affairs and Student Government, but at the end of the day, I didn't think it was fiscally responsible to put the Dean's Office, which has been funded through the University in the past, on the A&S payroll and making sure we have to pay for that. I disagreed with them on that.

Gao: Thank you, Mr. Patel?

Patel: Honestly, department reviews. So when we decided as a committee fully was to actually follow up with confirmations to the Exec Branch to see why people were complaining about small things like oh this went wrong, but I don't know who to talk to. So we had Senator concerns, we had Committee concerns I was like sure, let's do this, are you guys all down to do it. My whole committee was like yeah, sure. So we actually brought the idea that we'd have...kind of...it was considered an audit, which was why it was oddly accepted, morally which we should probably work on. But it was just a simple review of what they've accomplished this

term. Goals, shortcomings, what they want to approve, what knowledge they want to instill and it was all based on the fact that hey, if we don't...it's at the end of the term, so even if nothing happens, at least we can help our next term and at the end of the day help USF. It wasn't accepted very well just because it was a...it looked like an attack, and it was not meant to be an attack. So I rather have Statutes line out that series of checks and balances, that's essentially the whole platform I've been standing on this entire time. But I mean that's probably one of the biggest reasons or the biggest thing we've stood up for as a Committee overall and I know that JEC...I'm proud of JEC for taking a stand.

Gao: Time's up.

Patel: Thank you sir.

Gao: Next question. Oh gosh, so many questions, you guys are ridiculous, Mr. Cook.

Cook: What do you guys believe your biggest character flaw is in terms of Student Government and how do you foresee that hindering your ability if elected to this position?

Gao: Mr. Patel.

Patel: I truly believe that everyone has some kind of truth or good inside of that. I want to say that I can trust anybody and say hey if this law says this, you got to follow it, if not there will be consequences. But sometimes we leave things open to interpretation. And that's where we as students, or where we as...I mean representatives of voice, can take advantage of. And that's my biggest flaw is that I let certain things go. Like we don't actually work on the Statute as soon as we possibly can, we try to focus on the thing at hand, instead of working all around all the time. So it's like we want to make sure that everyone is held accountable, or that everyone does the certain thing their supposed to do, but there's not always a time where you're able to uphold that in some way. You can't always trust that someone is doing everything for the right reason, but I'd like to trust people as much as I possibly can, because at the end of the day this is just a Student Government, we're just trying to help the people.

Gao: Okay, Mr. Cocco?

Cocco: Like I said earlier, leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. So those flaws that I have, I am continually trying to better them. And probably my largest flaw and my colleagues can attest to this, would be ugh my organization. Ugh my desk ugh in the Senate Workroom was covered with Oracles and newspapers and stuff from years that we have done, political stuff, you name it, it was a war zone. So ugh with the help of umm Madame Rustan and other individuals, and of course with the help of the Pro Tempore, provided I'm Senate President, I think that I can better ugh move forward with my organization, and clean things up.

Gao: Thank you. Questions? Go ahead; please state your full name.

Pelegrino: My name is Masiel Pelegrino. And well as you mentioned before, you've both been Senators in past terms and my question is what would you do differently in the 54<sup>th</sup> Term, what would you change?

Gao: Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: So what would I do differently last term?

Pelegriño: Than your previous terms, yes.

Cocco: Than my previous terms. I would have done my best to ensure that I as a Senator gotten up to all my constituents within the College of Arts and Sciences. That's the biggest college on campus, and I wish I could have done a little more to gauge their opinion and at least form that dialogue on issues of budgets and whatever. So more communication, I wish I had got up there and talked to more people.

Gao: Mr. Patel.

Patel: Umm education on a mass scale. So I'd rather be able to empower all of you to be able to talk to your representative colleges or your...your...I mean your respective colleges, your respective constituents. I'd rather have everybody in this room do exactly what they know they can do. Like I rather be able to teach you like oh this is the way you can do this in Senate, or if you want to propose a Bill this is how you do it. So you could go out and talk to your constituents see what their actual opinions are, bring them back, sit in this forum, discuss what they want to do, see how we can help them and overall like improve our relations with the students overall. Because they don't know who we are, they don't know why we're doing this; they don't know why we're paid. So overall we just have to make sure that we're...I'm teaching you guys and for my change I would want to reach out and teach more and just expand the role that SG plays or Senate plays, because right now a lot of people end up being Tuesday night Senators, a lot of people just go to Committees. But there's a lot more things we can actually do as a Senator, we have many more powers enumerated before us. Like a lot of things can be done.

Gao: Thank you. Ugh Cano you had your hands up for a while.

Cano: So both of you guys are obviously qualified, both of you guys are experienced. what we need to know to make the decision which one do we pick, so what I want to hear from you guys is, what sets you apart from him and what sets you apart from him. What is the one thing that you have that he doesn't, what is the one thing that you have that he doesn't?

Gao: Thank you, ugh Mr. Patel go ahead.

Patel: Honestly I...I don't have the connections that he does, I don't have the mass scale of knowing people in Tallahassee. I don't have the I've worked for a specific campaign, I don't have those political ties. That would be my greatest shortfall of all of that.

Cano: I'm not asking for a shortfall.

Patel: Oh, well you asked compared to him yes.

Cocco: The question was?

Cano: What sets you apart, why should we vote for you over him?

Patel: Oh.

Gao: Ugh applied to your address I don't think you answered the question; you have 30 more seconds go ahead.

Patel: Oh okay. Well over him. Alright, well over him I just have more...I've been to more ethical debates and I just have more of...everyone can do the right thing; everyone is like completely capable of doing the right thing. So everyone has that inborn virtue in them, I just want to make sure that everyone actually is able to bring it out and actually represent it for their students. Do the right thing just because it's the right thing, not because someone is holding a gun to your head to do the wrong thing, kind of thing.

Gao: Thank you. Mr. Cocco, you understand the question? Go ahead.

Cocco: I believe I do. Well I would say that ugh if we could combine we would be the perfect candidate, unfortunately we cannot do that. But I would say the political connections. Judy Genshaft said earlier during the meeting that the reason why it's hard to meet with UF, and FSU, and Tallahassee, is the political connections that we don't have with our legislatures. This past Fall we had the ability to hold a candidate forum and ugh I believe that was instrumental in electing our new representative for the USF district, Mark Danish. And I want to make sure that all of you have a relationship with him. And tell him your ideas on how to make our state better and how to make our campus better. On top of that I feel like what I do lack from this is ugh Constitution experience, I wish I had more experience with the Constitute, and looking at the Constitution in regards to organizations. Is that time?

Gao: 10 seconds.

Cocco: Looking over student organizations and ensuring that their constitutions are set, and just umm...yeah.

Gao: Thank you. Last question, Ms. Rustan.

Rustan: Lindsay Rustan. As both of you know in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Term, Mr. Hassounch worked very hard to make sure that we had connections with Exec and further connections with Mrs. Genshaft and her entire administration. Mr. Gao had done a great job in making sure that Senate has a seat at that table as well this year. What is your plan to make sure that we continue that placement at the table, with Ms. Genshaft and her administration?

Gao: Cocco.

Cocco: I want to bring back what I talked about earlier about students in the year. What's going to keep us in the table is if we educate ourselves and we're addable to ourselves and we're most importantly building relationships. We have to ensure that we have that dialogue, like they do, between the administration and ourselves. I was grateful to be awarded by the President of...the President Goff this past summer, the Executive Appreciation Award, and ensuring that the branches between Legislative and Executive are working together. In addition I was very grateful to be awarded the Amicus Query award from the Court, ensuring the Judicial Branch outreach and that interbranch cohesiveness. So If we're united as one there is little we cannot do and we can always...that power they can't do.

Gao: Mr. Patel.

Patel: Well I've actually met with her twice now, overall, and she's very receptive to all our ideas as long as you say Go Bulls at the end of it. Honestly, she's open to anybody saying anything. I told her legit straight up that Abdool said Green is Gold and not she's making a big move on sustainability, she's wanting to push that as a whole front and we have a Senators name in it. So I mean overall we just have to make sure we have forums with her. You can talk to her about anything, she loves to expand USF. We're Bulls, let's seed...let's

put our seed in our soil, let's get our word out there. Like we can help have our constituents, your ideas, come to her here and we represent them and we have Genshaft looks into it. She's very receptive to having the University grow and I believe that's is biggest forum or our biggest way into her, so that's probably our best way to keep getting in... with on her good side at least, or getting up to her, or being able to meet with her, representing ideas to her, gaining her trust.

Gao: Mr. Aldridge.

Aldridge: Adam Aldridge for the record. Umm it was addressed a moment ago slightly, but I want to focus on it more in a different way. I want...my question is what is your biggest ugh weakness that you feel that each of you have and if elected what would you do to combat that weakness.

Gao: Mr. Aldridge...oh I'm sorry, Mr. Patel.

Patel: Umm the politics thing. Honestly, I'd like to actually grow the...the pie that we have through this University. I know that people will obviously take...I was able to talk to Dr. Genshaft as a student, as just a student at that point. I feel like as a representative as a Senate or of anything really, I would have more of a sway on people's opinion, actually be able to sit down with them and be like hey I want to talk to you and I have 40,000...45,000 students who have the same opinion or at least who have this opinion that I'm presenting to you. So that's probably the biggest way I plan on fixing the flaw of not having political ties, to be able to say hey this is your district or hey these are the students are actually making sure...or these are probably going to be your potential voters at the end of the day, you guys want to make moves, here's whose voice you have to listen to.

Gao: Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: What's your biggest weakness and what are you going to do about it.

Aldridge: Yeah.

Cocco: Well, as I spoke with Senator Cook, umm I talked about my organization of course. In here in terms of Student Government, it's just in terms of learning everything. There's just so much to learn, all the Rules, Chapters, stuff regarding Special Funding, stuff regarding Ethics, Community and all of that, it's just a lot to learn. And the way to overcome that is for us to work together and provided I'm elected as Senate President, I'll work with you to ensure that we're a team and we're moving the mission forward.

Gao: Thank you. Okay, questions go ahead and say your last name or first and last name.

Ober: Derek Ober. My question is being Senate President, you'll not only represent the Student Body but also the Senate Body. Since you will be in that role how will you want Senate to be viewed with your representation?

Gao: Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: I want to adhere to our oath and I want to adhere to what we were founded on, on our founding constitutional principles. I want student on campus to know who we are, why we are here and that we are here to represent them. I want students to know that we're here to give, we're here to guide and we are here to be stewards of the student's money and of the student voice. That's what I want this legacy of the 54<sup>th</sup> term to be, to ensure networks, connections, building Bulls Country, that's what I want to be.

Gao: Mr. Patel.

Patel: I actually challenged the former President of the Senate, saying that this will be the smartest, the most dedicated Senate that has ever been at USF. We're going to actually...by pushing education through the Pro Tempore and the Committees, or through even personal interactions. Pushing education will make sure that we actually address...like any kind of umm umm umm...accountability problems especially. Umm I want the administration to know, I want students to know, that we will actually hold people accountable because we're respected. And we will be respected we are knowledgeable. And we're knowledgeable because we actually interact in a more professional forum, where everybody knows what they're talking about. People don't just come up and watch their...or look at Facebook all day, or people are actually paying attention, respecting one another, listening to everybody's ideas because that one idea could potentially change your ideas, they could manipulate you to solve something even greater. So I believe the accountability probably through education is probably our biggest bet that I would hope to show administration that we have.

Gao: Thank you, Mr. Aziz.

Aziz: Alright, guys. Name a time in Student Government, where your ethics were challenged and how you dealt with that situation.

Gao: Mr. Patel?

Patel: Umm. It was along the org essentially. A lot of orgs come to me and say hey, this is what is happening in our org, they're planning a coo, they want our money, they want this, they want that. And I said it and actually liaison them. I'm like okay I'll help you guys through as long as your Constitution says this is the way it's supposed to work. And then I'll have friends who are actually trying to work the system and get their way up. And honestly that was the biggest ethical dilemma, because when you have a friend, a true friend, who is going to do something that you know be potentially construed as wrong, do you support them. And honestly I had to sit down and actually talk to the friend and be like look; you're going about this the wrong way. The constitution says this, the people say that, the way you're supposed to be doing it isn't everything shouldn't be a popularity contest. . I want someone to win based on their merits not because their name was the funnier name or they had more handshakes and baby kissing along the way. I want them to be voted in or them to be represented because they are the most qualified, best candidate all around.

Gao: Mr. Cocco?

Cocco: Being on the Budget Committee this year, the past two years has been difficult. Because there's a lot of issues and budgets that come up, that you don't agree with the amount of funds they are getting. And I have to...ugh...it's been hard because you stray away from viewpoint neutrality. Which is means to be a neutral member or a neutral vision of ASRC and ensuring we are look at all the budgets at a fair and even idea. And at times my physical conservatism has kicked in for me and I screamed and yelled why are we doing this, why are we funding that, that's too much money. And so that's probably...that is my issue with ethics I guess, if you will, which is my passion for fiscal conservatism.

Gao: Ah questions? Zein.

Kattih: Umm as student...or Senate President, you're going to be working really closely with the other department's exec and judicial. So my question is particularly relevant to Judicial Branch. What's your view of the Judicial Branch and what do you think their role is?

Gao: Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: Court! I love Court. I've had the privilege of working with them throughout this year and building outreach. The Court is a crucial member in terms of appeals for parking. So if you guys didn't know you guys have a parking ticket, you can go to the Court and appeal it and they will handle it. But another important aspect that every branch has to have, especially the Court, is visibility and outreach. That interbranch cohesiveness. United as one there is little that we cannot do. And I understand at times the court is reactive and their usually sitting in their office tooling around. But with the creation of the Ad-Hoc Committee for outreach, I feel as if that's a powerful step in ensuring that unity and that Bulls Country cohesiveness.

Gao: Thank you Mr. Cocco. Mr. Patel?

Patel: Umm, alright. So Judicial Branch. We did do a review on them. They wanted to remain as reactive as possible, which was amazing, that's really good especially to see in a new court with a lot of new members in it. The one thing is that we can't really work completely closely with them. Because if we sponsor...let's say we sponsor and event together and there is a grievance filed in that event, who's going to judge...who's going to sit on the board to judge it? Or if even if I'm held accountable for my actions, would they be unbiased if I'm lovey dovey with them. I don't know if that's perfectly the best options, especially if I want to hold, just as I hold everybody else as accountable for everything. So if anything goes wrong in any of the departments, I hold them accountable, if anything goes wrong over here and it was a power play by me, I was just pushing people's head into the water; I want court to hold me responsible directly. Just because that's the way things are supposed to be set up That's the reason why we have three unique branches that are completely separate from one another, and we interact at times.

Gao: Thank you. Next question? Go ahead, just please say your full name.

Bolz: Hi, I'm Jonathan Bolz from the College of Arts and Sciences. My questions is, is there somebody in SG that inspires you?

Gao: Mr. Patel.

Patel: There's quite a few people that inspire me. Umm Abdool Aziz always brings the best ideas. Mr. Hart...or Mr. Housman has the best late night conversations with whatever it have on things that are going wrong that he's thinking like look this is what's going wrong, what should we do about it. And then we'll have just a forum about what we should do about it. Umm Jeff's been here for four years, I don't know how he did it. Like there is no way that you could stay sane after doing it for four years. You know every argument, you know why everyone's doing something and be like that's not the right answer but okay we got to listen to everyone's opinion. And then before him...or actually Saif Hassounch, he's back there somewhere. He's actually the Deputy Supervisor of Elections. He's taken the greatest initiatives to actually push for better elections standards, higher voter turnout. He's actually changing a lot of Title VII. And He came to me and hey, there's a lot of these problems in here, like do you know what's wrong with this. And he presented a lot of these ideas to me, and I was like that's actually a really cool idea. So all these innovators, I guess sparks that we have in Senate, those are the true inspirations.

Gao: Thank you. Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: I guess I can take the easy way out and say everybody here. But you know there's a lot of people that inspire me. I would have to say my boss is Jeff Gao; he inspires me to do more and to be a leader. The



Branch Heads, Brian Goff, the Chief Justice, the new administration coming in, Scott is an inspiration to me coming into Senate, as he was open minded and listened to what I've had to say, despite some differences that we have had. And Adam is Aldridge is definitely one, this man has been dedicated since day one, staying up in the SG room till 10 o'clock working on budgets and Statutes, and etc. etc. And of course our Clerk, you inspire me for just typing minutes all the time, so thank you for that. But at the end of the day we're all here to inspire each other and if we can all do that we can all improve Bulls Country.

Gao: Alright, questions? Go ahead; please say your full name.

Colon: Sofia Colon. I'm a new Senator, so you both talked about it in your presentations about how you want to bridge the gap between, you know, the Seniors and the Newbies. In your past history how have you been able to keep that connections, not let the new senators be so scared to talk to you guys because you know more, you know?

Gao: Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: Yeah I know the feeling and when I was a Chairman of a Committee this year and having Senators on the Committee that are a little frightened to talk. But a way to overcome that gap is to give (inaudible) and to be approachable. And you have to be open minded and be a steward. You have to be willing to sit down and educate each other, and to be approachable to each other and accountable to each other and build that relationship. So it's a matter of one-on-one relationships, knowing everyone's name, Sophia Colon, at least you know whatever and ensuring that, you know, at the end of the day my doors open. And if you need anything, providing it's not an emergency I will drop down willing to help you out.

Gao: Mr. Patel?

Patel: I mean I know JEC we started with ugh...at the end of every meeting we just have a completely chill session. You just talk about anything that you saw, like I want to change this in SG...hahaha and we just laugh about it. Or we try to see like oh yeah this was tried last year actually and we give a history lesson. We're in a complete like unmoderated forum which we just like...this is what I saw, this is what I want to do, this is what's happening, how do we impact it. That's one bigger way. I also don't believe in traditional teaching methods. So when there's a person lecturing in front of you, that's not the way it works. I've actually had honors classes where we actually sit in a complete circle, everyone's on an equal playing field. Everyone learns better when they are actually doing the teaching. So I would like it if everyone could...everyone does...everyone is able to teach people. So like I know that you're a teacher, so that's why you're laughing so there's a lot of new teaching methods and that's probably the best way to get I guess more Senators involved or at least more comfortable with everything. Just being able to be there, laugh with them, and know that they know that you actually look up to them or I look up to you. Or being able to be you and stick out, or however you guys want to consider yourself.

Gao: Thank you. Ms. Rustan.

Rustan: *I want to motion for discussion.*

Gao: There's a motion for discussion, is there any objections for discussion? There's an objection.

Cocco: He's seconding.

Rustan: He's seconding.

Gao: He's seconding, you don't need to second. But I appreciate it, next time we'll let you make a motion. Any objections to discussion. None seen, thank you guys we're in discussion, please step outside.

Patel: Thank you.

Gao: Just for future reference, we don't always clap, we snap, so it doesn't disrupt the way that things flow. So if you agree with something you will have to snap. Alright, so we are in discussion. It's currently at 3 per side...3 endorsements per side, one minute speaking time. Do you agree?

Rustan: I so moved.

Gao: I so moved. Now I'll take endorsements for Mr. Cocco. We have Cano...Cano am I right?

Cano: Yeah.

Gao: Innie Minnie Miney Moe...Lopez and ughh...Lee. Okay, now I'll take endorsements for Mr. Aldridge.

Rustan: Mr. Patel.

Gao: Mr. Patel. I have Antar, Aziz, and Little. Alright, Mr. Cano you have one minute.

Cano: Hi everyone, my name is Christopher Cano. Umm for those of you guys that don't know, I'm a Masters student here in Public Administration. I actually ran for you guys' State Representative in 2010 and one of my campaign volunteers, Mark Danish, actually won this year. So I had some connections with Tallahassee where we got to do our Tallahassee Internship Program in '09. Ran for Student Body President twice, thank got in Senate I final won something. But the reason I'm supporting Cocco is because I got the opportunity to work with him outside. And what Shyam had said was absolutely right, he does have connections. I've been mentoring him, showing him the ropes, showing him what we need to do as far as helping advance USF, making sure the student body is heard in the political discourse state. And I think we should support him for Senate President, because I think actually having a voice that will bring some fortitude to the political discussion because we keep getting run (inaudible) over by our political officials, and I think Cocco could do that for us.

Gao: Your minute is up, thank you. Umm, Mr. Antar.

Antar: Hello, everybody. Alright, so my name is Ali and I worked extensively with Mr. Patel, academically and professionally here in Student Government. Umm academically we're on the same level, so I just got accepted to Medical School, he could have been accepted to Medical School but he didn't apply. He's here for his last year for this job, he really wants this job. Umm and that's academically, so he's stretched his academic career so he can continue to be here. Ugh next up, professionally in Student Government ugh we've worked together in JEC with (inaudible) we worked together in department reviews and that was fantastic, the way he worked and read in that because part of that was my committee. And he worked one on one with me so we could get those department reviews in check and just keep going straight forward, actually being efficient. And he's always stressing me...what I've seen him do is that he's dedicated to what we have to do. Is that he want to be able to do his just amount, He wants to hold people accountable, and he wants to make sure that as a Senate we are a working body. Umm and yes that's good, that's why I'm going to endorse Mr. Pate.

Gao: Thank you Mr. Antar. Mr. Lopez?

Lopez: Alright, first of all I wanted to reiterate something that Cocco said himself, that he's very approachable. And as a new Senator, I can completely agree with him on that. As a new Senator he actually came up to me frustrated with why I wasn't coming to him and talking to him and having lunch with him and talking to him about problems I want to solve. The main reason I support Cocco is that he's all about people. His drive...and by the people I mean the students. Everything he does is for the students. He has no agenda to please himself, the agenda he has is for the people. So as Senate President he will always move forward to support the students and support all of you.

Gao: Thank you have twenty seconds. Do you want to yield your time?

Lopez: I yield to Christina.

Gao: Yes go ahead.

Fernandez: Okay so a lot of you are new Senators just like I was for mid-term elections, and as the same thing that Gustavo just said, he was the first person I met in Senate. I didn't know anybody besides Gustavo and Cocco came up to me, introduced himself, showed me the ropes, really got me into Senate, and that's why I like it so much, because of Jean Cocco.

Gao: Thank you. Alright, Mr. Aziz.

Aziz: I, as the older Senator here, been here the longest after Jeff. So knowing both of them how they work both professionally and personally. I would say for...they're very similar but there's also different. I would say Mr. Patel has a lot of dedication. He puts a lot of stake for what he believes in and what's right, more above politics. He's willing to take the risk and take the heat for something that's right, and he really moves Student Government forward. And pretty much puts the Senate and the Students above himself. Like for example, the workshops he was the only one there even though there was only three or four students, and he was willing to talk to anyone and help them out, even with (inaudible). In his Committee he has done really well and definitely increased the accountability of Student Government and I think he will be a great President...Senate President.

Gao: You have 15 seconds; do you want to yield your time?

Aziz: I yield to Mr. Antar.

Antar: Just tagging on along to ugh we've worked together on. One last that was really big with me was Constitution checks. He was instrumental in pushing forward the Center for Student Involvement umm and he worked with Dr. Miller, tirelessly to make sure that this actually was accurate, was pertinent with what Constitutions contained. And that was actually a big part of my Committee and he actually helped me out with that even though he was outside of this committee. So he goes out of his way to make sure he does things that help.

Gao: Time. Thank you. Alright, last speaker on this side, Ms. Lee.

Lee: Hi, my name Sinhye. So I was a new Senator last semester, and I was in Cocco's committee. And there was this thing called Tenth Day, I don't know if you guys know about it. But Senators pretty much go out there and reach out to students. And that was really like my first meeting in Senate, and I was kind of really

nervous and I didn't know what to do. And he kind of put me in the position where I had to speak about SG and like he did that throughout the semester like a lot of and it kind of made me learn a lot, because by teaching that's how you learn, you know that's what I did. And also I went to USF Day...day at the Capital...USF Day okay to Tallahassee and I just saw him running into a lot of people he knew through politics and it was just like he knew everyone. That was cool. So I feel like if he was the Senate President he would be able to present a lot to the Senate Body most effectively and the most variety of people. And I think he will be a great Senate President.

Gao: Thank you, ugh Ms. Little.

Little: Okay, I hope this makes sense. When I was younger I was not a lot to play video games, my parents encouraged me to read books. I always thought videos games were attractive because they had lights, and they could run fast, but the thing about books, as I got older, it's a value that many people won't find out until it's opened up. Last term was my first term as a Senator here at USF and I was...I wouldn't say scared, but it was a new environment for me and I had to say that Mr. Patel wasn't the first person to remember my name but he was...while being on JEC with him, I've learned the most from him. And I feel like connections are a very...extremely important especially for the Senate Body President, but the thing about connections is he's the type...,Mr. Patel is the type of person that will say what needs to be said even if it will conflict with a friendship. He will get what needs to be done regardless of umm his personal agenda. And I would like to yield my time to...

Rustan: Mr. Hassounch.

Gao: Alright, Mr. Hassounch you have fifteen seconds.

Hassounch: Hi guys, I'm actually not a member of Senate but I'm a member of the ERC. But I've actually...for both of these candidates, I've actually asked them both for help, because we had some problems with this year's elections. And we needed help to fix things up and we get a better (inaudible). And to be honest, Mr. Patel was the only one who actually took his time to help me. And he didn't just help me a little bit, he spend days and hours and hours in the ERC office, and the Senate work room, helping me out and helping get things done. He was a valuable member of the Title VII Ad-Hoc Committee, and he's still giving me input till now on how to get Senator Retention, on how to get more Senators informed, and then how to better the election process.

Gao: Time's up. Thank you. Ugh if there is no other motion, I'll go to the second speeches. Assuming there are no motions to vote I'll go on the second speeches. Remember for second speech you have to add something new to the conversation. If you don't add something new to the conversation I insist you either yield or don't speak at all. Mr. Cano.

Cano: Both these guys are qualified to be our Senate President. Umm I asked them that and I asked them for their weaknesses. The thing I like about Cocco is he's always willing to learn and that's the thing that ...and that's the real reason why I mentor him because he does have the ability to learn. And if something isn't right, he'll sit there and spend hours and hours and hours learning and he listens. And I think that's important, is that we need people who are going to listen when there is a dialogue, to be our Senate President. We're going to have a lot of concerns, each of us having our own opinions on where this needs to go and I think we need Senate President who really listens to us.

Gao: You have 25 seconds, who do you want to yield your time to?

Cano: I'll yield my time to Lopez...yes you are.

Rustan: He has the second...

Gao: He has a second speech; you don't have to yield your time to him.

Cano: Oh.

Gao: Mr. Canton.

Canton: Yes.

Gao: Okay, you have 25 minutes.

Canton: Umm I think I can give one small bit of unique perspective. I was a student organization leader, and I got to interact with Student Government on that level. During my tenure as President of a Student Organization, Cocco was not the first Senator that I knew; he was the only Senator that I ever knew. His capacity to reach out to a diverse range of Constituents is unrivaled by anyone that I have ever met our age. And I believe he is the leadership that this Senate needs and deserves.

Gao: Thank you. Ugh, Mr. Antar. You can yield your time or you can speak.

Antar: I'm just going to say a real quick thing and then I'll yield someone else my time. Umm while working with Mr. Patel in classes, and in Committees like ASRC, one thing that I noticed about him a lot was that in actuality he doesn't hesitate to ask questions. You know he doesn't...if he disagrees with something, he'll ask that question right away, why does this work that way, why is this like this. He makes sure that if he doesn't get an answer he keeps pushing until he gets an answer. And so that...it happens in class, happens in ASRC, happens in JEC because that is his job. But anyway I want to yield my time to Ms. Alqasemi.

Gao: You have 35 seconds.

Alqasemi: I just want to say that majority of us here are new Senators. And so we're still learning the rules, we're still learning the Constitution; we're learning all these things. And as a Student President...or ugh Senate President, we need someone that knows the rules and someone that knows the Constitutions and is willing to help us learn and guide us through them, and already knows them front and back and everything. And I think Mr. Patel will be a really good person to help us learn all those things and facilitate what we learn.

Gao: Mr. Lopez?

Lopez: I'd like to yield my time to Mr. Papadeas.

Gao: Mr. George Papadeas point adhered.

Papadeas: Hello everybody, Mr. Gao am I allowed to speak? Hi everyone for those of you that don't know me, my name is George Papadeas; I'm the Student Body Vice President. This year I've had the pleasure, as Mr. Cocco said, to work directly with him directly on initiatives such as the Consumer Finance and Protection Beaurea, an Outreach Committee, was very fond of that. Which Financial Aid has now ugh deemed really to set up with their graduating seniors, as Mr. Goff said at the last...ugh what was it...the last Senate Body Meeting for the 53rd Term was. Some past experience with my leadership, I've been an RA, a I've been an OTL and now I've been Student Body Vice President. There's many things I want to say about Cocco, but

one thing really stands out and that's facilitations. Many leaders I've worked with on campus have strived to have that facilitation thought, to include other, to empower others. Mr. Cocco does that naturally, I don't know where he got that from, I don't know how he learned it, but he does it and he cares. So I just want you think about that.

Gao: Mr. Aziz?

Aziz: I'd like to yield to Student Body President William Warmke.

Gao: Mr. Warmke.

Warmke: As Student Body Elect, so next year when I take office umm I want someone to hold me Accountable. Shyam's the only one who has reached out to me and asked me about my vision for the Student Body next year. You know we talked about what we want to see, we talked about the function of Student Government as it should be. I truly believe Shyam wants the best for Student Government, and he's willing to take steps to get there. He's willing to work with anybody to get there, all three Branches and I believe our vision for Student Government is united. I mean he's the only one who reached out to me through that, and that's why I would like to work with Shyam Patel as Senate President next year.

Gao: Ugh Mr. Aziz your time has not been...has 25 more seconds.

Aziz: How much do I have?

Gao: 25 more seconds.

Aziz: So I'd like to yield the rest to Zein.

Gao: Zein, go ahead with 25 seconds.

Kattih: Umm so, I mean a lot of these points have been made over and over but the thing is about these candidates is that for Senate President we have to think...we need someone who will fill (inaudible) Hassounch's shoes, who will fill Jeff Gao's shoes, and I think Shyam Patel is the better candidate to embody what Jeff embodies right now. And so he has the same ability to get things done, to take action rather than just speak. So that's why I think he would be the best candidate.

Gao: Thank you, Ms. Lee. You can also yield your time if you don't choose too.

Lee: Okay umm just a few things, I feel like as a Senate President you have to unify the Senate Body umm like below us. And I feel like by knowing everyone...like Cocco said, Senator Cocco said, he will talk to you individually and get to know you individually. And by doing that he's going to unify us as a whole and take another step towards Bulls Country. And yeah, I'd like to yield my time to Brian Goff.

Goff: How much time do I have?

Gao: You have 25...30 seconds.

Goff: Ah they're both outstanding gentleman. They both would be good in this position. I would feel comfortable in electing either of them. So fortunately for me I'm not in that position where I have to make that position, I don't envy any of you in this. Umm if I had to make a decision, flipping a coin, throwing darts to the wall, is probably what I would do, they're both excellent for this position. I know Senator Cocco has

been here longer, ugh and just for that reason I would have to say him, I've seen what he's more capable of. But with that being said, Shyam has really blossomed as a Chair this year, so you guys would have an excellent leader no matter who you pick so.

Gao: Thank you Mr. Goff for a very unbiased statement. We have one more speaker, do you have a question?

Unnamed: I was going to motion to vote.

Gao: We have one more speaker.

Little: I know one thing as a new Senator there was a lot of legislation that came across the stream this year, that I was not always aware of. But I must say that most of the time, it was other Senators like Mr. Patel who would identify certain things and would make and allow us to bring up conversation not just motioning yes to everything and passing it off allowed us, especially me as a new senator, to think and to not just take what everybody is saying as a whole, to fit in, but to really identify what's best for the Student Body. I'd like to yield my time to...

Gao: To who?

Little: Hussein.

Gao: Hussein.

Hussein: Ugh I just wanted to say for Shyam, he's a very vocal person and he loves Student Government. There's times in Student Government where him and I are studying for an exam the next morning, and then like we talk for two seconds about Student Government and then Shyam would just go off on Student Government for like hours, even though he has an exam the next morning. So he loves Student Government, puts it first because that's how much he cares about the Student Body. And you also want with that (inaudible) to be your leader because if they don't have that passion or commitment you're not going to really have it, so you want someone like (inaudible).

Gao: Thank you. That exhausts our speakers list, I'll now take motions. Ms. Rustan?

Rustan: *Motion to vote please.*

Gao: There's a motion to vote on the floor, any objections to that motion? None seen. This is very simple, I'm going to pull the ballot, all you have to do is press one or two. Option one is Mr. Cocco, option two is Mr. Patel. There's a third option with abstaining, I should be the only one abstaining. Again, one is Mr. Cocco, two is Mr. Patel, and three is abstaining. I should be the only one abstaining. Please make sure you vote, I will close it. Is that everybody? **By a vote of 24:17 Mr. Patel is the new Student...Senate President.** Can you please bring him in please?

Patel: Thank you all of you really.

## **2. Senate President Pro Tempore**

### **a. Adam Aldridge**

Gao: You can thank them later; I'm still kind of here because I'm holding the meeting here.

Patel: What I can take over now, I promise you.

Gao: Sit down. I'll tell you when to take over. Before Mr...are there any questions?

Rustan: No I was going to...ugh next one.

Gao: Well before that, I want to congratulate Mr. Aldridge for being the next Pro Tempore. Yes, Ms. Rustan.

Rustan: *He would have to first pass by acclamation. So I motion to pass Mr. Aldridge by acclamation.*

Gao: Is there any objections to that motion? If you object, he's no longer... no objections? Okay.

### **3. Chair of the Committee on Rules**

Gao: Next we have motions for Rules Chairs. Before I had it off over to the new Senate President, I just want to thank you guys. Hope you guys do a great job. (inaudible) passing the gavel so here you go.

Patel: Thank you sir.

Gao: I'm still going to be up here helping him so.

Patel: So I guess the next order of business, down the line is the Chair on Rules Committee. So we have a total of three nominees. Ms. Pelegrino, do you accept your nomination?

Pelegrino: Yes sir.

Patel: Mr. Antar, do you accept your nomination?

Antar: Yes sir.

Patel: And Mr. Aziz, do you accept your respected nomination?

Aziz: I'm humbly decline.

#### **a. Masiel Pelegrino-Sarduy**

Patel: With that...perfect same concept, we move forward with Ms. Pellegrino's presentation first and Mr. Antar if you could please step out. Do you have a PowerPoint?

Pelegrino: Yes I do.

Patel: Alright you'll get one tap when you...or one tap for one minute, two taps for 30 seconds, and three taps you'll be gaveled out. You start when you start talking.

Pelegrino: Alright, well thank you Mr. President and thank you fellow Senators for your time. Well my name is Masiel Pelegrino, and umm...

Patel: Yes ma'am.

Pelegrino: Yes. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am a Sophomore majoring in Political Science and minoring in Philosophy. I was originally born in Cuba, I was...ugh I moved here when I was 14, back in 2007. My involvement, I'm currently the Vice President of the Cuban American Student Association as well



as a member of other Multicultural Student Organizations. And National Society such as Phi Eta Sigma, and actually last night I had the pleasure to be awarded the Multicultural Community Outstanding Student Leader of the Year Award. So by now you might be wondering what makes me qualified for this position. Well let me tell you, first of all, as a student officer I've had the opportunity to review a student organizations' Constitution as well as suggested changes. Student Organizations such as the Cuban American Student Associations and the Latin American Student Association as well. Furthermore I've interned with Attorney Green from the Law Firm Lucas, Green and Magazine, which gave me the umm legal experience necessary for this position. He was also my mentor in a couple of umm school works. Umm as a Political Science Major, I have the knowledge of Government and the skills necessary to rule over this Committee. Umm and I've also completed extensive revision of Student Government Official documents, even before I was selected...go back...even before...that's right...Even before I was selected Senator, I pulled together this binder with all the official documents, which was the Constitutions, the Rules of Procedures and Statutes, which I revised and reviewed. I mean I didn't know what I was...what I was getting myself into, honestly like many of you, so what was the first thing I did? I read the Constitution over Spring Break; yes that was exactly what I did. And basically this has been my best friend ever since, I've been reviewing it, I've been mastering all this material. Go ahead. So my goals. Well I plan on educating the Senate. It is very important, we all have a voice, we all have a vote. So it's very important that we know what we're doing, we know what we're talking about because right now I'm basically in your shoes, I know how you feel being new Senators, I know exactly what's going through your minds, because I'm one of you guys, I'm in your shoes. And there is nothing more important than educating our selves. For example, couple of ideas, we would take up to 30 minutes during Senate Meetings and do some type of interactive activities that way we could learn and at the same time have fun. Yeah, learning is fun. Anyways, umm I would also like to mention the Senator Legislates in accordance with the Student Government Constitutions, Rules of Procedures and Statutes, and also increase comprehensibility and accuracy of the Student Government Official Documents. Go ahead. As I was reading over a couple of documents, this Article V of the Constitution and it got my attention. I would like you to know the section underlined that says "Senators should take office the first Monday following the Spring Commencement". Technically Spring Commencement is May 4<sup>th</sup>, and however, we're here tonight taking office. I just to like to clarify this type of things...go ahead. This is also umm Rules of Procedures, I would like to make reference...I've been informed that we used to have six standing Committees, right? I've also be informed that we also have five for like about a year right now. Well this is...I would like you to know Chapter IX Section 2.2.1, where it states "Membership shall include the Senate President, Pro Tempore and the six standing Committee Chairs", making reference to six standing Committee Chairs when in reality we only have five. However, this document has been certified accurate on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. These are just a few things that I would like to clarify, just a few details. This only says that I'm very meticulous and I pay attention to little details, and I feel like that's a very important quality when it comes to the Rules Committee. So basically other than that, umm this is what I want to do with my life. I want to go to Law School, I want to be an Attorney, and this is not just to be involved, to reach out to other people, to get to get to network. This is also, I want to have the experience because this is what I want to do in my life, this is what I want to do, and this is the path I want to take. Thank you everyone

**b. Ali Antar**

Patel: Ugh Jeff.

Aldridge: It's in the folder.

Aziz: Check his email.

Patel: Yeah but I don't want to do it on the thing. Guys, keep quiet because he's still typing. Oh it's right here.

Antar: Alright, before we start, it looks like Cocco's but...Alright.

Patel: You're ready? You'll start as soon as you start talking.

Antar: Alright everybody my name is Ali Antar; I'm running for the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules. So about me. I am a junior, but I'm technically kind of a senior, it's my fourth year, but I'm going to Medical School. So I am a senator from the College of Medicine. So also about me, you guys are probably wondering, why is he speaking differently? Umm, I'm from Egypt, it's not Europe I promise. Okay, umm Experience, what I've done here. SO I started off as a Senator in the College of Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Science was my major, in the 52nd Term as well as the 53rd Term. In the 53rd Term, I served as the Chairman for the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Audits and the Chairman for the Activities and Service Recommendation Committee. Ugh within both of those committees, my work was primarily concerned with budgets. And within my work with that Committee I think I learned a lot in terms of how to make people work together as a Chairman, especially in ASRC. You have a lot of people you know yelling out special points, saying that they disagree with you and all those things. And that's what I learned most from ASRC, how to correct people, how to get them to work together umm and how to work together with other people. And the same thing goes for appropriations, where you're arguing about every single line item every day. And it's really difficult to get people to get on the same page and move on. Umm, why vote for me? Umm I think what I'm mostly running on, I think, would be my experience in Senate. Umm Appropriations and Audits Chair, ASRC's Chair, all my extensive budget work. And the ins and out of that, I know I'm not running for a budget committee now but a lot of my work with ASRC...well not all of them. My first work with ASRC pertained to rules. I worked with Proviso umm and that is Chapter 804 in Title VIII of Statutes. Umm and so as ASRC Chair, as a Committee we have to work together to revise the Proviso for the upcoming Fiscal Year, and that's where we left off with ASRC. Also, in terms of worked with Rules, I'm sorry. And this concludes my last slide. But I also worked with a Title VIII Ad-Hoc Committee, this past year. Mr. Aldridge, great Chair of that Committee and we proposed a lot of changes...no not a lot of changes but we're cleaning things up and we're going to hopefully streamline them. Also, sit on Title VII's Committee. I sat in on it because it proved to be a very, very interesting Ad-Hoc Committee. And then one last new thing about what I'm mostly running on is new initiative legislation workshops. A lot of people sometime are like oh what the fifth committee is, and then it turns on to be the Committee on Rules. And the reason that they're a little afraid of it is because it's legislations. They look at it and are like wow, look at this intricate language and all these big words, I have no idea what's going on. Umm and so I'd like to eradicate this, I'd like to make Legislation Workshops make it more accessible to Senators. And if you go to the next slide, you'll see exactly what my specific goals are and they tie into that goal of those workshops and alleviation those fears. Umm more Senators sponsoring Bills, because we get Bills on the floor and we get Resolutions and it's just Lindsey coming up and just reading them. I want more Senators sponsoring them themselves. I want more Senators actually writing those Bills, actually looking through Legislations, finding those problems themselves, bringing it to me and then bringing it to Senate themselves with problems they found in Statutes. And then I want more Senators understanding Statutes, that's just we suspend them every now and then instead of going through a second reading, and that's all they know about Statutes. And again, I can't stress this enough, more Senators. I want more Senators in the Committee, ASRC and Rules unfortunately they have a problem with actually having Senators on the Committee, and ugh hopefully that is something we can fix, as long as I can actually make it appealing by actually having more Senators wanting to sponsor more Bills and go to those Legislations Workshops. And before I go I just wanted to end on this note. And it may not be entirely related but as the Chairman on Rules, the Chairman on Rules or the Chairperson on Rules also serves as a Parliamentarian. Umm that of course denotes that as a Senate we are a Parliamentary body. The word Parliament, if I may, derives from the French word Parlay, ugh which is to speak. And as a Parliamentary Body and given that anemology, we should understand that our job is to speak. And one of the ways we speak, aside from voting, is through or Statutes. So I think it is very important that we keep in line with that as who we are and we work together to make Rules a much more bigger and better working community.

Patel: Good?

Antar: And that's all I had to say, thank you.

Patel: Alright, with that I'll take a motion to move into questioning. Miss Rustan

Rustan: So moved.

Patel: Any objections? Seeing none, we'll limit the time to just as I had it, a minute. We'll alternate back and forth and I'll open for questions. Any questions? This is your Chair...okay Mr. Aldridge?

Aldridge: Okay, now I got to think of a question. Umm...Both of you through different means have not had much experience in the Rules Committee, umm how would you...how would you be able to get that information. There's a lot of it that sometimes goes, underneath the scene, behind the scenes, with both of you not having that experience, if you're elected to that position, how would you try to gain that experience before trying to educate the Senators who are new themselves?

Patel: And we'll start with Mr. Antar.

Antar: If I may. Ms. Rustan's desk was directly behind mine, so I'm not saying like we're like the tightest and bestest friends, but I don't hesitate when I need to ask. And umm Jeff knows that, Aldridge might know, I didn't really ask you as much but I did ask Jeff. And so I wouldn't hesitate to ask the past Chairman or I wouldn't hesitate to ask the Senate President or even the Pro Tempore himself, Mr. Aldridge. He has an extensive knowledge, he is a library. But anyway we will skip that. But ugh that's how I would mostly tackle that. I just thought that I do have experience with Proviso and with the Title VIII Committee, which I worked with you in, and with Title VII Committee. Umm but whatever issues do arise I'm pretty sure I wouldn't hesitate to ask past Chairman, Mr. Pro Tempore, Mr. New President.

Patel: And Ms. Pelegrino.

Pelegrino: Yeah, definitely studying up even more these documents that are so important, they basically shape Student Government. And also asking for help, not being afraid, not just because I'm a new Senator and I might not have experience. Just basically reaching out to people I know are going to be there to support me and they know more than me. Always umm accepting I may not know it all and I have to be open to other people's knowledge, people that have been here longer and that definitely know more than I do.

Patel: Okay, next question. Ms. Little?

Little: To both of umm...both of your understanding, what is the purpose of the Committee?

Patel: And Ms. Pelegrino.

Pelegrino: Well that's a tough question. Well the purpose of the Committee on Rules is basically umm to make sure that everything is being done according to our official documents, Constitution, Rules of Procedures, Statutes. Just to make sure that umm things are being done in the best of interest and things are being followed, like I mentioned before, it is all about watching out for...not watching out but just reviewing what let's say the President is saying or other people might be thinking. Just making sure, in general, that everything is being followed.

Patel: Mr. Antar.

Antar: The good thing about Statutes and about the Constitutions and ROPs is that it's not written in stone, amendments can always be made, things can always be changed. And things always do change, as a Student Government, things do always change. The year before...the year I came we had six standing committees, that was the Committee on Rules, Committee on Appropriations, Committee on University Affairs, Committee on Government Community Affairs, Committee on Programing and Audits, I'm forgetting one it's escaping me...JEC...Judiciary and Ethics Committee, there you go. But we changed that, we took out Programing and Audits, gave it Senate President and Pro Tempore and gave it to Appropriations Committee and we combined the two University and Community Affairs Committees And if you go through Statutes right now you will still find air and reference to those Committees umm and a Committee that's their job. To make those changes whether there are small as those little miscommunications, and the bad references, to Committees that no longer exist. Or if it's a big change like changing those Committees into fusing some, take some responsibilities off of other. And so the Committees on Rule's job is to make sure that Statutes are up to date and that Statutes apply to Student Government today.

Patel: Thank you. Next question. Mr. Aziz.

Aziz: Alright, seeing that both of you have never really been on Rules Committees, each of your own ways, and you've done some sort of research to learn for this position. Do both of you know how to make legislations, make amendments? Yes or no will subdue.

Patel: Mr. Antar.

Antar: Yes I worked in Title VIII Committee with Mr. Aldridge, and I've proposed several amendment of my own. While I was in Rules, and Title VII, I didn't propose any amendment in Title VII because they already had a whole bunch of stuff and I was just providing my input to what I thought. And ugh...and then in ASRC, when we were doing Proviso, there were amendments that I proposed to that. One of the amendments was those (inaudible) references to the wrong Committee, which no longer existed, so that was one thing we had to do there. I was able to Chair that and direct those amendments being made. I've seen it; I've done it...umm yeah.

Patel: Alright, next question. I mean Ms. Pelegrino.

Pelegrino: No, but I believe it's not all about knowing, it's about wanting to know. And I...you could be 100% sure that I'll be...that I'll put my 100%, my 200% to learning all those things and being one of the best Rule Committee Chairs that you have ever had.

Patel: Next question. Mr. Lopez.

Lopez: Umm which Title would you say needs the most attention? Even though they are all important, which one from your experience, since she's reviewed it and you've been here for a while, which one would you say needs the most attention from the Rules Chair?

Patel: Ms. Pelegrino.

Pelegrino: Well umm I would definitely say Title VII things...new things are happening. Title VII has to deal with the elections process and every year we have new things coming up, new situations. So definitely that's one Title that we have to pay the most attention to, because we have to be changing it, you know, every year, and adapting it to situations that have been happening and things that have taken place.

Patel: Thank you, Mr. Antar.

Antar: Well, that's really a difficult question to answer because Statutes, there are some that are more important than other, but that's really the point of view that you take it from. It's the context from which you take it. But right now I've been working with Title VIII with Mr. Aldridge and man there were so many bad references to the Committee on Appropriations without "and audits". And there were references to the Appropriate Funding Committee, when in reality they just wanted to say Special Funding. Umm and then you find other things, we were looking through it and we found something that pertained to fundraising at events, at A&S Funded events. We don't fundraise at A&S event anymore; we don't at least fundraise with our A&S monies. Umm so that whole thing had to be stricken, so I think that there might be a little bit more of those items. I know we're going through them in the Title VIII Committee, maybe if we keep going we'll find more of those things. Umm but anything else that we haven't done that kind of read through with, I think would be also equally important, to make sure there aren't those bad references, to make sure they are up to date and they are functional. So for right now my focus is on Title VIII but it can really go to any of those.

Patel: Thank you. Mr. Aziz.

Aziz: Umm for Rules Committee, it's one of the most dry Committees, how do you attend on making the education for Senators interesting and making (inaudible due to coughing).

Patel: Mr. Antar.

Antar: One thing Lindsay always did, unfortunate that I'm not going to be able to do, was bake. I never baked in my life; I won't be able to bring cupcakes and cookies. Umm but there are other things people need to understand. Sometimes they see Statutes and are like when we even use that, what does that even reference, and they are not even sure what that is. I think that if we can outline to them the specific real Student Government usage of specific Statutes, they will understand what they are doing is actually very important, it's essential to the functioning of us as a legislative body and to Student Government as a whole. So that's what I would do, I would just sit them down...Hopefully, you know, Lindsay won't go away and she might be able to bake cupcakes for us...hopefully. But I would be able to buy something because I don't really know how to use an oven. Umm but it's that sit them down, let them know the importance of what they are doing and actually show it to them first hand that what we actually do has an effect.

Patel: Ms. Pelegirino?

Pelegirino: Well one way we can do this is through, umm having interaction. Interactive activities between the Senators and let's say the Chair of Rules Committee. That way we would be learning at the same time, like I mentioned before, we would be somewhat having fun. So basically it's important to reinforce to Senators that knowing these things, studying these umm documents is very important because at the end of the day we're making decisions, we have a voice and I believe the best way to do that is to engage the Senate Body in to definitely learn about it.

Patel: Perfect, thank you. Any more questions? Ms. Little.

Little: Umm will both of you be present for the Summer Term?

Patel: And we'll start with Ms. Pelegirino.

Pelegrino: Yes definitely, I'm actually from Tampa, I live in the area and I'm not going anywhere.

Patel: Alright, and Mr. Antar.

Antar: Yes I am, I live down the street. Umm I'm not going anywhere umm there could be a one week travel just to vacation thing, because you know I am going to medical school and this is my last pre-medical school years. But yeah I will be here for the Summer and I will be here all year for Medical School, for the Student Government. Down the street, I'll be right there.

Patel: Alright, questions? Any pressing questions left? Can you actually...rescind so Mr. Aldridge can actually ask his question.

Unnamed Senator: Yes

Patel: Thank you, Mr. Aldridge.

Aldridge: Actually it was a point of information. I'm not objecting to the...in the question and answer, but we need to go to discussion not to voting. So I think was what she said....so if she rescinded then I'll just go ahead and motion to end question and answer and enter discussion.

Patel: Alright, any objections? Seeing none, thank you. Alright, we'll do endorsements similar to the way it was done in the past. So three endorsement per candidate and we'll start with Ms. Pelegrino. Ms. Little...

Abraha: Bana Abraha.

Patel: Ms. Abraha and Ms...

Fernandez: Fernandez.

Patel: Fernandez. And then for Mr. Antar? Ms. Rustan, Mr. Hassan, and Ms. Kattih. Alright, and ugh just...how much did you guys do in the last? One minute, perfect. Alright, we'll start with Ms. Little.

Little: Hello everyone, again. Umm I believe I have met Ms. Pelegrino a couple of hours ago, and she just walked up and introduced herself to me. And as a new Senator last term, I hear over and over again that you want to reach out and get the new Senators and you want them to be informed. Now my question to is, do you want them to be informed by sitting here or be informed and take action? Like this young lady, this is her first day here in the term I guess technically hasn't started, but yet she's already taking initiative. I feel like she's going to be present for the Summer so, for someone whose read the...or started reading, during the Summer, or during spring break, I feel like she'll be able to catch one and learn from.

Patel: It's actually in an order. Alright, sorry. And then Ms. Rustan.

Rustan: Umm, as the pursuing Rules Chair, I believe this position requires some experience and Mr. Antar brings that experience to the position. Although he has not chaired this specific Committee, he has chaired other Committees. And in saying that he has lived these Statutes, he's in a better position than the other candidate, to make positions, because he knows what the problems have been in the past. And so those issues, while other Chairs, it is easy to walk on and become the Chair, Rules is a very hard Chair to be first year, first out year. So while I do...I congratulate her for her initiative, I do not believe...I believe that Mr. Antar is better qualified for that specific Chair.

Patel: Alright, moving on to Ms. Abrah.

Abraha: Abraha.

Patel: Abraha, sorry.

Abraha: I just wanted to say...my name is Bana Abraha, actually. As a new Senator myself I know you're saying...I understand what you're saying about qualifications and such, and that is very understandable. But I feel like ugh as you can already tell from her presentation, she brings a lot of passion into Student Government. That's not all a show or anything; she really is all that passionate about reading Statutes and being able to find what right, what's wrong. When we were first coming into here we didn't know what our first office was, we were both confused and asking other Senators. But she actually went to look at, and she's like oh look I found it, but then like we got an email and got all confused again. So, all I want to say is she really is good for this job and she could learn fast.

Patel: Mr. Hassan.

Hassan: So a lot of what has been said about Mr. Antar is a lot of what I was going to say. The biggest thing to be reiterated was that he has the more experience and he actually knows the ins and out of being a new Chair and like this past term he's been a great Chair for his Committee. And I just believe that he'll just bring more...he's really an enthusiastic person; he'll bring that to the Rules Committee, which I served on for a little bit. It can get dry at times but I feel like he'll probably be best suited for it. And like I said it's admirable that Ms. Pelegrino took the initiative to really run for this position but at the same time I think she really needs a little bit more...

Patel: No bashing candidates please, just stick with the...

Hassan: Oh I'm sorry. I mean, umm I'm sorry. Just to...I just want to reiterate the experience that Ali Antar...the Senator Antar has and that he would be the best for this position.

Patel: Thank you sir. Ms. Fernandez.

Fernandez: Okay so I wanted to endorse Ms. Pelegrino, just because...Ali Antar may have a lot of experience, yes that's true. All of these positions that we have in Senate are open to everyone and they are learning the process just like all of us were new Senators, we're all going to learn. Umm Ms. Pelegrino seems really driven, she's a brand new Senator, but from the moment she walked in I already saw her speaking, going around and meeting new people. And she makes an impact. Just from her up here speaking, it's really impressive umm to see her trying to go out there and run for Committee Chair, and just like Shyam earlier spoke about Jen how she had (inaudible), as he said, I feel like Ms. Pelegrino has that same driven aspect.

Patel: Thank you, and finally Ms. Kattih.

Kattih: Okay, umm just to say first of all, I know both Masiel and Ali personally. So I do have a different perspective. For this position it's important to note that the position of Chairs of Rules is also the connection between Senate and the Office of Attorney General and Exec...the Executive Branch in general. First of all I think Ali has that experience, that connection, that bridge to be able to facilitate our connection with other branches...branches and checks-and-balances. I also think that the Committee umm Chair for Rules has to, as

people said, have experience and I think it would better fit our Senate needs to have an experienced candidate in that Chair position. So that's why I endorse Ali Antar.

Patel: Thank you. With that we can move into second rounds of endorsement, or we can continue onwards depending on the vote...how you guys want to vote.

Alqasemi: Motion to vote.

Patel: Motion to close discussion and move into voting procedures, any objections? Ms. Fernandez, can you state your objection for the record?

Fernandez: Umm I still have something to say.

Patel: Do you rescind?

Alqasemi: I rescind.

Patel: Sure, thank you. Umm so you would like to motion to move back into...second speeches? Alright. We'll just go the same way with Ms...should I take Ms. Little first or should I take on a new batch? Ms. Little do you have anything you would like to say? And if not you can surely yield your time to any other person.

Little: I yield my time.

Patel: Alright, Mr. Cano.

Cano: Umm, you know I find Masiel's passion admirable and some of the things that I just heard in this discussion kinda seemed more elitist, like we need this person or that person because they have this or that. I think what we need the most is people who are passionate about their job as in some lead Chairs. I think that's the most important attribute and I think that's what she brings to the table right out the gate. As far as experience goes, experience is just a word that people use to keep the other people down. And I don't think not a single person in this room should be doing that. So I'd like to yield the rest of my time to... umm...

Patel: You have 30 seconds.

Cano: I yield the rest of my time back to the President.

Patel: Alright, we'll move on to Ms. Rustan, if you would like to say any more.

Rustan: Umm I...again I believe she's very passionate and I agree with that, however I do believe that Mr. Antar...Again, being in this position as a Rules Chair, I did sit for the 52nd and watched under Ms. Geiger and then decided to run for the 53rd Term. And being in the position I think I would have some insight into how this position needs to be ran, and I also know that some of the trials and tribulations that's going to be ahead for anybody that sits in that Chair. And it is my personal belief that Mr. Antar is best fit for those tribulations.

Patel: Alright, you have 20 seconds left.

Rustan: Oh I yield to Mr. Colton Canton.

Patel: Sure, go ahead.



Canton: There's been a lot of talk about leadership development and about allowing the new Senators and all of the students to USF to lead, and I think this is the moment that if we really believe in these ideals then we need to put our money where our mouth is and vote for Ms. Pelegrino.

Patel: Oh no that's the opposite.

Canton: Oh wait, I thought you could talk for whoever.

Patel: Well you actually have to bounce off of her, but that's fine.

Canton: I apologize.

Patel: That's fine. Alright, Ms. Abraha.

Abraha: Umm if Mr. Canton would like to continue if he's finished, or I can yield my time to him. I yield my time to him.

Canton: Okay so let me reiterate my originate point for the sake of fairness. That Ms. Pelegrino, if we truly believe in the new leadership for Senators, as everyone who has come up and run for something, has stated this is the moment where we need to show our commitment to those ideals. Furthermore, while there is great deal of technical expertise that obviously goes into the running of this Chair, that expertise is available from a wide range of resources. And I don't see any reason why under umm Ms. Pelegrino's leadership she cannot seek input from for instance, Mr. Antar, other's that have that expertise. Thank you.

Patel: And Mr. Hasan. Would you like to yield your time?

Hasan: I yield my time.

Patel: Sure does anyone? Ms. Alqasemi.

Alqasemi: Umm I just want to say that umm I was umm voted in as a new Chair three weeks before the term ended and so I know all the work it takes, being a new Chair. Ughh all the work...even though I was in the Committee, the same Committee I actually became the Chair of, it is a lot of work actually to learn all the rules you need to abide by and just to get the flow of the Committee going. And I feel like you can't teach people and learn at the same time. You have to at least have to learn somewhat and then try to teach new Senators. So I think it's really important to already know a lot. And so I think umm Mr. Antar would qualify better, I would say, to help teach you guys and to help run the committee more smoothly.

Patel: 15...or 20 seconds left actually. You can yield my time to the gallery.

Unnamed Senator: Most of you don't know me but, I was in Senate for (inaudible) years. As Chair, Ali was my Vice Chair and I've never, if you've talked to Ali, he has an extremely wide range of vocabulary. Like he could talk to you about anything and make it sound smart. And you have to be able to write like legislature, write everything in ways and think of scenarios that normal people wouldn't think of.

Patel: Thank you, on to Ms. Fernandez.

Fernandez: My points have already been spoken on, so I would like to yield my time to Brian Goff.

Goff: Umm alright, so I am a former Senator for the Rules and JEC Chair, Former Attorney I'm your outgoing Student Body President. So I cannot stand here and consciously support Ali Antar for this position. He was the most complained about Chair...

Patel: You can't bash another candidate I'm sorry.

Goff: Okay, I'm sorry. He received a lot of student emails...

Patel: Mr. Goff, I'm sorry you're gaveled out. You cannot bash somebody on a pro of somebody else.

Goff: Yeah, Ms. Pelegrino has a lot of initiative and drive like myself two years ago. She brought a lot of good points to the table and Mr. Patel said he wants an empowered leader, so why not give a new leader a chance, someone that has the time, who has the passion, who has the energy, the drive to do this.

Patel: Thank you, you have 15 seconds left.

Goff: I yield my time to Mr. Lopez.

Patel: Sure, Mr. Lopez go ahead.

Lopez: Okay I feel like that looking forward to the agenda, there's a lot of seasoned Senators that are going to be coming up here, and will most likely be appointed to these Chairs positions, so it would be nice to have someone with a fresh voice from I think look around...a lot of us are new, even though we don't know each other. So it would be nice to have someone in there with just a new insight to it. Although, Ali is experienced, he's seen it all, his opinion is there.

Patel: Thank you. Ms. Kattih.

Kattih: Just for all the new Senators who may or may not know this, there is a Vice Chair position for every Committee. And so because of this, I think the Vice Chair position is ideal for learning and that will be perfect for someone coming in as a new Senator. As for the Chair position, we need someone who knows at least partially how to approach, for example, legislature how to approach, how to write a Bill, how to approach Statutes, ROPS, what's the difference between Proviso and Chapter 804 or whatever. You know, we need someone who knows how to approach those problems, and we can use new perspective from our Vice Chairs, and umm that's why I support Mr. Antar.

Patel: So with that, would anyone like to make a motion. Honestly, I would like to hear it from a new person. Mr. Romero.

Romero: *I motion to vote.*

Patel: Well you got to end...well that's perfectly fine. Ending discussion and moving into voting, anyone have any objections? Seeing none, we are now in voting procedures. Please take...too late now but that's fine. Right um, One for Ms. Pelegrino, two for Mr. Antar, and three for abstaining, and only I should be abstaining. If you click a button, you can actually click another button and that would trump the first button, letting you guys know.

Gao: And I will also be abstaining.

Patel: Perfect, anymore? Alright, thank you. **(Ali Antar was elected)**

#### **4. Chair of the Committee on Appropriations**

##### **a. Zein Kattih**

Patel: Moving on to Committee on Appropriations, there is only one nominee. Mr. Cano

Cano: I would like to make a motion that we ugh elect the next three by acclamation in the essence of time.

Gao: One at a time please.

Patel: Yeah you got to do it individually but sure, we can take that approach. If you would like to make the first motion for Appropriations.

Cano: *Yeab I move to elect Appropriations by acclamation.*

Patel: Any objections? Seeing none, Ms. Zein Kattih is the new Chair of Appropriations.

#### **5. Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Ethics**

##### **a. Abdool Aziz**

Patel: Mr. Antar.

Antar: *I would like to approve by acclamation Mr. Abdool Aziz for the Chair of Committee on Judiciary and ethics.*

Patel: Any objections? Seeing none, Mr. Aziz is now the new Chair.

#### **6. Chair of the Committee on Special Funding**

##### **a. Hiba Alqasemi**

Patel: Can I get another motion? Mr. Antar.

Antar: *I would like to pass by...approve by acclamation Ms. Alqasemi for the position of the Chairwoman of the Committee on Special Funding.*

Patel: Any objections? Seeing none Ms. Alqasemi.

#### **7. Chair of the Committee on University, Community, and Government Affairs**

Patel: Alright and finally the last position of the night, the chairman of the Committee on University, Community and Government Affairs. Mr. Cocco, do you accept your nomination?

Cocco: Yes sir.

Patel: Mr....

Aldridge: I have a...

Pate: Mr. Aldridge...

Aldridge: Actually I have a motion, umm barring if people want to keep going we could keep going but I think since it's almost 10:30 and it's still going to take probably 45 minutes for this, I'd like to motion for a three minute recess.

Patel: You just have to raise your hand an object if you have a problem with this. Mr. Canton.

Canton: I object, because I rather get out three minutes earlier than to have a three minute recess.

Patel: Alright, do you rescind?

Aldridge: Yeah I rescind.

Patel: Ms. Abraha, do you accept your nomination?

Abraha: Yes, I accept.

Patel: And Mr. Canton, do you accept your nomination?

Canton: I respectfully decline.

**a. Jean Cocco**

Patel: Thank you sir. And with that we'd like them to go in the same fashion as before, so ma'am if you can step out and Mr. Cocco if you can step forward.

Cocco: Alright, two minutes...or five minutes?

Patel: Five minutes.

Cocco: Alright, if you can give me a two minute warning?

Patel: Yes sir.

Cocco: Thank you.

Patel: Go ahead.

Cocco: Go ahead.

Patel: Yes sir.

Cocco: Alright, Ladies and Gentlemen of Senate, I'll make it quick, I know you guys want to get out of here. So I want to talk to you about umm some of these things that I have done as Chairman this year, and some of the things I'll continue to do and do more as Chairman for next year, required that I'm elected. Like I said earlier, I've established political connections of the Local, State, and Federal officials. I did (inaudible) with Charlie Christ, I've worked with local city council, the Mayor and etc. and etc. And I want to use those political connections to help further our cause in Tallahassee, when we go up there to advocate for higher education. I want to...I was able to attend the Republican and Democratic Conventions this past year as a representative of USF, building relationships with that. We had the forum earlier this year which I know was a very successful forum, inviting local candidates and state candidates to talk about the issues that affect our District. For the Community and University aspect, again I want to hammer on all of Bulls Country. All of

Bulls Country includes not only our campus but Sarasota, St. Petersburg and Lakeland. And I want to make sure that they are included in that process. The Florida Student Association, I want to continue to work with next year's administration on ugh representing our voices across the state. The Safe University System. The council of colleges is this idea that I've worked on with the Executive Branch this year and that is to have Senators and ugh other representatives of the University sit on this Council, representing each of the academic colleges. So Arts and Sciences, we'll have Business, we'll have Medicine, we'll have umm Behavioral Sciences, etc. etc. Engineering. Ugh I was able to serve on the Dinning Committee, I don't know if you guys saw that bloody chicken. It was very bad, so we were able to remedy some of the situations and move forward with that. Surveys, a lot of surveys we've done. I want to do a lot more; umm we can do parking, SG services, student loans, voter registration, etc. If you can go to the next slide please.

Patel: Yes sir.

Cocco: Thank you. Ugh for my vision, ugh I want to give, I want to continue to give my time and ugh my passions to the Student Body and ugh build the relationships that matter. I want us to be stewards here with this committee. Ugh I want to educate students on political issues, on university issues, and I want to be held accountable for those issues. And in this Committee, relationships are key. Without relationships we can't move forward. And I believe that is one aspect that this Committee needs to adhere to. Another thing I want to work with next term is ugh Sans Leadership Dinner. I was able to work with President Goff a little bit before the Term ended, on initial planning of it. And I would like to invite political officials and business officials, and people from around the community to come to this leadership dinner and invite all the Senators to thank you.

Patel: Two minutes.

Cocco: I (inaudible), this dinner to learn about what they have to share. Umm...Yep, let's see. This year, well...I actually have an election coming up...2014 Midterm elections and I want to make sure to get many of us involved with that. We have to vote locally and I want to make sure that we vote here with our District, District 63. I want to get as many students active in that regard. In addition to next year, I also want to ensure in the University Community aspect, that we're growing and building relationships with the Community, with the USF Community, and ensuring that our voice is being heard throughout all aspects of the Community. I would like to go ahead and yield time back to the Senate President.

Patel: Thank you sir.

**b. Bana Abraha**

Patel: Alright, One tap at one minute, two taps at 30 seconds, three taps and you're done. If you'd like a two minute warning.

Abraha: Umm sure.

Patel: Go ahead.

Abraha: Umm thank you Mr. President, hello Senators, the Executive Branch, everybody that is here. My name is Bana Abraha and I'm running for the Chair for University, Community and Governmental Affairs. Alright, first and foremost...I'm a Junior majoring in International Relations and minoring in Public Health. I'm originally from East Africa (inaudible) I moved some years ago and have not gone back since. I am involved with...I'm part of the Honors College as well as SCS. I know you guys have had a bunch of OTLs

and I'm a former OTL as well. And I do umm a various service...various service organizations as well as Multicultural Organizations. So I would like to think that I'm pretty involved in our campus. Umm some qualifications are I am very concerned to reach out to students. I've tried everything that is to try, literally, besides Greek Life not yet. Umm but literally I've been to Bollywood Dancing to something that has to do with umm just the most random stuff, from like fencing. So I really like to go and talk to students and be with students that have completely different interest than me that I would never try otherwise. And I feel like SG will give me that same opportunity. I have ugh the...I have tremendous customer service skills, because I've worked with different departments on campus as well. Like I said with the Office of Orientation, I've worked with the Marshall Student Center, and I currently work with Information Technology students. So I understand the problems student go through and the stuff that they complain about. And I interact with them on a daily basis; I like USF incredibly way too much. Some of my goals is that ugh I already know the Committee ugh...well the previous Chair works on a lot with surveys and tent days and stuff like that. But I really want to work on a bottom up approach. And what that is, is working with students, instead of already having surveys set up, kind of go up to them, or one day having some sort of tent day, ask them for one thing. Usually if you bombard students with a bunch of surveys, they get on the defense about giving them giving you their opinions. Or I feel like asking them one questions, what do you want to change in Student Government, what do you want to see differently? And that's what I did, even when I was running, because people asked me what do you want do in Student Government, and that's what I did. And then to actually see when I talk to students, when I went to student organization....when I talked to students from student organizations, they told me they've had some trouble talking to the A&S office and stuff like that. So I want to communicate with other committees and see if we can strengthen that relationship. Or when I talk to them about having a lot of things that students have issues is, is the amount of prints that we have. So even the programs that we already have, it's like we use to have 40 now we have 22, why is USF building new buildings, but we can't even have normal prints. Now I just kind of go off, but I mean that is really too, to go off and see how we do with legislation, and politicians and all that good stuff, but I want us to work internally first and then see. And then one of the main things is that I want to increase transparency. Before I was interested in Student Government, I didn't know what they did. I...there's still a lot of things that I don't know Student Government funds. A lot of reason a lot of students are not involved is because they don't know what Student Government does. They don't know that you fund their Campus Rec, or this and that. Nobody really knows what Student Government does, and that's our job as Senators to let our Colleges know, and therefore everybody else, about 40,000 students that don't know. When we were doing elections and stuff like that, if you saw how many votes that actually came in, it's very sad the little amount. And you need to get that out there, and people need to know that we actually have power, we actually have say to change stuff. Like they were talking about the Bureau for the Financial Aid thing, to help them pay loans, we can do this and Student Government does have power. And then my last point is, cater to all students, not just involved ones. I don't see that Student Government does many events like they said USF week, but people who come up to those events are usually the involved ones, people that already know what happenings. So we have to finds ways to get to the students that don't know much about Student Government and want to be in it. So umm yes, that is my presentation. Thank you very much.

Patel: Ma'am. And now go into questioning, if someone would like to make a motion. Mr. Aldridge.

Aldridge: *I motion to enter question/answer period.*

Patel: Any objections? Mr. Aziz.

Aziz: So I guess most of you guys...

Patel: No, no objection?

Aziz: Oh never mind.

Patel: Okay, no objections. Opening into questions, same process, one minute and we'll alternate. So any questions. Mr. Aziz.

Aziz: So both of you guys have a taste of the Committee, what is one thing that you would really push forward as an initiative if you got the position?

Patel: Mr. Cocco first.

Cocco: One thing I would push for is to embody all the principles of University, Community and Government Affairs. I mean all throughout the night, I reference Bulls Country and how we need to empower ourselves and strengthen our voices here within the Community as well as Tallahassee. So I would pledge to do my absolute best to get Tallahassee down here to speak to you guys. And to get Representative Danish and all those other Representatives down here to build relationships with all of you and to ensure that we're moving the Student Government mission forward.

Patel: Thank you sir. And Ms. Bana.

Abraha: One of my main initiatives, like I stated, is to have students really informed but as well as involved in that when you hear things about going to Tallahassee and stuff like that, actually have students come along with you or organize stuff that they can have like busses and stuff, and public signs for events. I want students to come and know about it, and be able to go with you, not just a Senators thing but a Student Government thing. But I want every student to just walk up to SG or fill out a form and say yeah I can come to, so I want them to be informed and involved and just as willing to come to SG as any regular...as any Senator does.

Patel: Thank you ma'am, next question. Mr. Cano.

Cano: Both of you are very passionate about this, and as it was mentioned earlier, both of you know we had a Student Forum...Candidate Forum (inaudible). And you know I think that those types of events are important and this Committee will be heading up those types of events. So what I want to hear from each of you is what is one small event that we can do, and what is one big headline event that you see we can do, that is plausible that we can do?

Patel: Mr. Bana approach, go ahead.

Abraha: That's a really good question. I...think really small events, like I said, I would actually have to take that to students, and to my fellow Senators so we can come up with that together. That is not something I have for you right here and now. But that's something that we want students...that's the thing I don't want as here in Senate, just to come up with something and then we go with it and be like you guys want to do this too. I actually want to bring it up to students or to have students tell me what is interesting or what you would like to participate in, that's why I wanted to work with the bottom up approach.

Patel: Thank you Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: I'd like to echo some of her words. She's right we want to get as many students involved and in planning and in coordination of those events, as possible. In reference to your question, as far as a small event I think we can do more voter registration stuff, I know Senator Canton, has spoken to me about doing more voter registration outreach. We can do probably something like another forum for the Midterm election

and invite those candidates back for their reelections. As well as for the big events, here in 2013, have the Gubernatorial Election, the big (inaudible) here on campus. We had the Presidential Election this past year, in January. And we had the Senate Election for 2010, here on campus, so why not shoot for getting the Gubernatorial Election here in 2013.

Patel: Thank you sir, ugh questions? Ms. Little.

Little: I had a general question.

Patel: If you can stand.

Little: Is this a new Committee?

Patel: No ma'am.

Little: It's not, okay.

Gao: It's one of the newer Committees. So they've been together for one year. Last year it was two Committees it was University Community Affairs, and University Government Affairs. We decided to combine them together because last year the two Chairs worked so well together. So we did it this year into one committee that why it's called University, Community and Government Affairs, such a long title.

Patel: Any more questions for the candidate? Mr. Canton?

Canton: What...what is your vision for this office, after you leave it. What would you like to have your successor come in and have to build off of, and where would you like the spirit of this Committee to go in the future.

Patel: Mr. Cocco, you have a minute.

Cocco: Ugh umm as far as what I ...well I want to leave behind the relationships. I want to make sure that whoever would take over for the position, has those relationships on hand and could contact the political people, and could contact the global people, the community people and ensure those relationships are still there. I also want to ensure the education aspect is there in the Committee. Make sure that the Chairperson is educating the Committee about what our tasks are and about what they're supposed to do. In addition I would also like to leave behind being the best Committee in SG and being the face of Senate and helping them expose new students and new ideas to the Senate through this committee and trying to reach every aspect.

Patel: Thank you sir. Ma'am.

Abraha: Thank you. If I get this position something I would like to leave behind is the flexibility of any Committee that you have at hand. I feel like with any...whether you've been in SG for a while or anyone like myself, the fact that you can come in and reshape anything to what to see...to figure out what it could really be. And I want to leave that legacy that you could be brand new and make it happen. And yeah that's what I have.

Patel: Thank you. Mr. Aziz?



Aziz: University wide Committees have been a big problem for Student Government for many number of years. How would you address fixing that, if you get this position?

Abraha: Can you restate your question? I'm sorry.

Patel: Go ahead sir.

Aziz: University wide Committees have been like a problem with Student Government over the past couple of years, and how would you fix that problem. Unless you want me to explain...

Patel: I guess for like a better understanding can you explain...like the few University wide Committees, just so you guys can jog your memories.

Aziz: Well the University wide Committee is the President making committees such as Woman's Issues, or Technology and they have mostly staff and students sit on it. But the issue we have is not finding students to sit on these Committees, who are dedicated students. And in Student Government it just hasn't been working out. And these Committees are in charge of getting reports of UWCs, so how do you fix that problem of getting those reports and getting students on wanting UWC to stay.

Patel: Thank you sir, Ma'am.

Abraha: Umm like I said, I'm brand new; I'm not sure what the problems have been. But if they are any similar to what the Senate has with their saying we have a problem with people leaving and a lot of (inaudible) matters, I feel like it's not getting the Senators involved enough...fast enough. And that's the reason I'm taking this initiative myself, is to be involved as quick as possible so I can actually get a better understanding of what this position is like. Ugh Mr. Patel was earlier was saying...the teaching methods was different, and somebody is here lecturing you, you don't get as much out of it as if you're teaching yourself, and I think we can do that.

Patel: Thank you ma'am. Cocco.

Cocco: It's a collaborative effort. Ugh the Executive Branch as well as the Legislative Branch is supposed to work together on UWCs. But from what I investigated is...when you go to the UWC website, the website is not even updated. So it's not only us that need to focus on our accountability, in making sure that the Branches are working together. But it's also from the administration point. President Genshaft orders these committees and if they're not organized then how can we be a part of it when them themselves aren't organized. So what we need to do is to establish a dialogue between the Executive Branch and Administration and Legislative to ensure to figure out the issues of why UWCs are not progressing.

Patel: Thank you sir. Any more questions? Seeing none, I'll take a motion to enter discussion.

Aldridge: *Motion to end question and answer and move to discussion.*

Patel: Any objections? Seeing none, thank you. Alright, Similar facet. We'll go through three endorsements again. I'll take three for each and one minute for each speech. Umm we'll start with Mr. Cocco, can I get up to three? Mr. Romero, Mr. Hartmann, anybody else? Mr. Aziz. And for Ms. Abraha...Abraha, I'm sorry. Ms. Pelegrino, Ms. Little, that makes too...Mr. Antar. Alright, Mr. Romero, come forth first.

Romero: Umm Senator Abraha did a great job at describing how she was going to take care of the University Affairs aspect of the job...

Patel: I'm sorry but you're talking about Cocco.

Romero: I realize that.

Patel: Oh go ahead.

Romero: But I also need that...in addition to that, that Senator Cocco, as well as having strong connections within the University and being able to have the same abilities as Senator Abraha, within the university, being able to have the same effects within the University, also has connections in Tallahassee and has the umm the know how to be able to communicate with these State Government. The strong will and the strongest points that he had was when he was running for President, was the fact that he had those connections. And I also believe that if we were going to vote him into a President Position and thought he was qualified and had a heated debate over it, then I don't see any reason why we wouldn't vote him into this Chair person. I feel like it is qualified.

Patel: Thank you and ...excuse me?

Antar: I believe that it's Ms. Abraha with an h, I think that's a typo

Patel: That's Mr. Gao. Umm, thank you. Umm Ms. Pelegrino, you're next.

Pelegrino: Yes well I've had the pleasure to know Senator Abraha for quite a few years now. I actually had the pleasure to run for her...for Senate, we campaigned together. And as we were campaigning I actually got to know her, more than I've known here before, and I know that she has the leadership skills necessary for this position. I understand that experience is really important but I also understand that umm this Student Government, and when it comes to this we're all new, because we keep learning, we keep growing and we keep teaching other and that's what really matters. Thank you.

Patel: You have twenty more seconds.

Pelegrino: So yeah, what can I say...umm definitely someone approachable, someone that will be willing to build those relationships, someone that will be willing to reach out to students, and that's someone that we need umm for this position.

Patel: Thank you ma'am.

Pelegrino: Good?

Patel: Yes ma'am. Mr. Hartmann

Hartmann: I've been a part of the past term and I've known Cocco through both being a part of his Committee and through just seeing Senate interaction. I see that he is one of the most (inaudible) people, which is an important, you know, part of this position since you are reaching out to many different institutions. He's always had tent days, reaching out to students, so people know him, you know. He is like communicating with the people we represent. In addition, I've been a part of this Committee, like I said, and I don't think that's like something that is my bias, it's more something that I know that he stands by his word. He has done so much for this school under the radar. Especially last year there was a big like thing ...big important thing to do when our budget was being cut. In addition I know he's got so many more ideas that he's already started working on. Some will take more time than others. So if we do give him the

opportunity to be on this Committee again, you know, he'll be able to invest more of his time to bringing the initiatives to this school.

Patel: Thank you sir. Ms. Little.

Little: From what I understand, ugh this Committee is supposed to serve as a branch between the students here at USF and the Community and other higher forms of Government, is that correct? Okay this kind of reminds me of my experience of USF Day at the Capitol, which was a really great experience in Tallahassee, where we were able to argue different points with State Legislatures. But instead, going to Tallahassee this year, I felt somewhat out of the box, even though I was a part of Student Government. I didn't know...I wasn't aware of the points till the day of; I wasn't wearing khakis while others were dressed up. And I feel like one of the points that Ms. Abraha had brought up was that she directly came up with starting from the bottom, and hearing what the students had to say. And if she's walking in just saying that and she hasn't been here for as long as Cocco but she ...From the beginning, this is her initiative and I feel like she would serve very well.

Patel: Thank you ma'am. Mr. Aziz, once you're ready?

Aziz: I would say for this position it's a combine Committee. And holding two duties and two separate things and you need experience with both. It's a tough thing, you may not get both accomplished, like this year he had more focus on government affairs, because that was happening, he didn't have the time for Community Affairs. But given the opportunity I believe he would be able learn and really improve the Committee because it's a hard balancing act being the first year being combined. Now that he really has a hang of it he could really own it and really flourish with it. I yield time to Sinhye Lee.

Lee: Also, I just remembered this but I was the treasurer of this organization before I was a Senator and I came here because I had to talk to Cocco. It was really long ago, I don't remember what exactly it was. But it was just like really great to see someone in SG; I didn't know anyone else in SG. He kind of approached me and explained everything I needed to know as a treasury and it was great to see like someone in SG who doesn't even know me, explain that to me.

Patel: Thank you, and finally Mr. Antar.

Antar: Ms. Abraha was in my organization group actually when I was a Freshman. Umm immediately she reached out to me and was like hey I'm Bana, and oh no college I'm really scared and she kind of made me not that scared. But then again it was probably my OTL, she wasn't my O'TL. But speaking in terms of Student Government and how that relates to Student Government. There is no denying that Mr. Cocco has the qualification for this but Ms. Abraha shows the potential to maybe do as well, if not better. She's been personable, she likes to reach out. I see her on campus all the time; we're not even in the major or even in the same class or anything like that. But she was in my first OTL group, I still see her in the Marshall Center, sort of just walking down the you know campus halls...outside...the outside walk ways. Umm she's very personable and she seems like she'll do well in the position if grants, but then again it's your decision. But yeah I wouldn't have any reservations with Ms. Abraha. I feel like she'll do a good job.

Patel: Umm now I'll take a motion to go into second rounds, or we could close debate and move into voting.

Romero: Motion to close debate.

Patel: Ugh you're fine. Mr. Romero.

Romero: *Motion to close discussion and move into voting.*

Patel: Any objections? Seeing none. Please. And the way it will work, is once he starts it...

Gao: Stop, stop, stop.

Patel: Oh. Okay one is Cocco, two is Ms. Abraha, and three is to abstain. Anybody else left? Alright well its resolved, you're fine. I just clicked the answer again. It's right there.

Gao: Hold on. Who else...it was me and (inaudible) abstained?

Patel: We can just run it again, that's fine. Sorry about that.

Gao: Him and I should be the only one abstaining, because I can't vote and he's the chair.

Patel: All good. 38 total. **With that, Mr. Cocco is now the chair.**

### **Final Roll Call:**

Patel: Alright, I've always wanted to do this. On to final roll call, if there are any motions to final roll call...ugh we don't need a motion, because it's already on the agenda. So any objections to final roll call. Oh, any announcements? Mr. Aziz.

Aziz: I just need to say thanks to Ms. Zein and Ms. Hiba for their recommendations (inaudible), but they did a good job.

Patel: Mr. Cocco.

Cocco: Senate President, congratulations. Congratulations to everybody in the 54<sup>th</sup> Term, I look forward to a good year, working with the administration, and let's get it done. Go Bulls.

Patel: Mr. Antar.

Antar: A lot of you guys (inaudible). But from what I've seen is that you guys really actually did bring up heated debates and that's the point for you guys to see what it's like. So I hope we can continue this especially with Senator Involvement, reach out to senators that ran. And ...so let's go guys, 54<sup>th</sup> Term, let's do this.

Patel: And Mr. Aldridge.

Aldridge: Umm yeah just one final point. It's not going to be another three weeks to a month before we meet as Senate again, so I definitely suggest since we won't meet again as stated, which has been the case, we don't meet again till after our spring commencement in May. In the meantime if you have any questions or any details as you go through the documents, if you go through everything we have at Student Government, if you have any questions please feel free to ask either Me or Shyam or the other Chairs. Umm because whenever we get...well not Mr. Gao. But whenever we start in May though we'll get the Committee's started with confirmations and budgets, and we'll be seeing a lot of confirmations go through the Senate floor. So once we start in May, It'll probably be long meetings but it will be really packed with business to do. But in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please bring up to us because we'll love to hear them.

Patel: And with that, Mr....oh, you're on my committee. Mr. Harvey.

Harvey: Motion to Adjourn.

Patel: Alright, any objections. Final roll call obviously. Objection, final roll call.

Gao: Guys press...

Patel: It's still recording; the only thing is he has to type every little noise.

Gao: Zein.

**Adjournment:**

Patel: Thank you. Alright, with that any objections to adjourning? Or can I get a motion to adjourn? Mr. Harvey.

Harvey: *Motion to adjourn.*

Patel: Any objections? Seeing none, this Session is adjourned at 11:00 pm at 4/16.

**Adjournment called by Senate President Patel at 11:00 pm.**

*Transcribed by Senate Clerk Nadima Ally.*