**53rd Senate Meeting**

**February 12, 2021**

1. **Call to Order: 2:30pm**
	* Moment of Silence
	* Roll Call
		1. Absent
			1. Senator Bosworth
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
	* SPT Grant: Can I get someone to motion for the adoption of the agenda? Are there any questions or amendments to the agenda?
	* Vote
		1. Passes
3. **Approval of Minutes**
	* SPT Grant: are there any questions or changes that need to be made to the minutes? Everyone received the minutes correct? If there are no changes or amendments to the minutes, can I get someone to motion for the approval of the minutes?
	* Vote
		1. Passes
4. **Administrative Address**
	* None
5. **Guest Speaker**
	* Senator Arnold: good afternoon today I will be speaking about the Stoneman Douglas shooting. I will be discussing painful topics, the victims, the names, and sensitive issues. I will get some time for anyone who would like to leave and sit in the waiting room where protemp Grant will bring you back. Nearly 3 years ago on February 14, 2018, three educators and 14 students lost their lives in a school shooting at Stoneman Douglas high school. Their names (LOOK UP SPELLING). The educators names were (LOOK UP SPELLING 19:24). I now ask you to join me in a 17 second moment of silence. Thank you. These names are just the start of stories of people who had dreams, families, and the prospect of better days to come. We cannot change the events of Parkland for the tears of those who loved and cherished them already stained in the panes of those unforgettable windows to our past. We will remember. Only one month later at Stoneman Douglas students came together under a banner that screamed ‘March for our lives’. Within months a nationwide movement was born and these students climbed the pillars of our democracy,  from finely paved city sidewalks to steps of every capital building where their voices can be heard. We will remember. They say as they fight for the students who were their friends, siblings, and colleagues, and for their own lives too. We will remember. The words permeating the air as students and families memorialize the ones lost here on earth. We will remember. A battle cry for students who watch their friends die while also watching nothing to be done about it. We will remember. By becoming doctors and nurses to save lives, lawyers who fight the legislator, educators who put their students before themselves, engineers who transform the world, psychologists to elevate others, reporters who try to find the good but do not shy away from having to explain the bed. We will remember. By being an advocate for the students we represent. We will remember. By fighting for the students of every background, remembering it’s not only about recalling a memory from some time ago. It requires us to do our very best every day whether that is to be in your future career, advocating for students, or sometimes just advocating for yourself, knowing your limits and knowing when you should reach out for help or help others to reach out. In the memory of those we have lost, I speak for myself and I hope I speak for everyone at the University of West Florida when I say we will remember.
	* SPT Grant: Thankyou so much Senator Arnold, that was amazing and that was a beautiful tribute.
6. **Unfinished Business**
	* None
7. **New Business**
	* Senator Clendinnin: \*reads Bill XIII\*
	* Senator Arnold: I just want to ask, I see in red down below, a crossed out is the 75, 125, and 250 for the vote number. Is that changing or is that staying the same and I’m just trying to figure out if it is changing or just keeping everything the same.
	* Senator Clendinnin: so if those numbers are actually higher than the percentages I am proposing right now.
	* Senator Arnold: Do you know roughly what your numbers will be?
	* Senator Clendinnin: The population right now, at the beginning of the registration of fall semester was about 14,000, so 1% of that will be about 140.
	* VC Hoffman: So I notice if it was let’s say 120 or 140 for the presidential and vice presidential ticket, wouldn’t that only come out about like anywhere between 60 and 70 for the  president and vice president if you were to split that per person? Doesn’t that seem kind of a low number for running for the president or vice president of the student body?
	* Senator Clendinnin: I came up with that figure by pulling it from the official State of Florida statues for running for office. To run for office, for let’s say school board, in the state of Florida you need one percent of the registered voters population from our district to sign off on your endorsement form. So that’s where that number came from and that basically equates to the standard use by the state of Florida. The biggest reason why I’m proposing this, it’s kind of a response to the current state of campus with how everything is going on, in the fact that the endorsement form is digital this year. Which I will say will make it a little bit harder for everyone to handle a full course load, all the responsibilities, and try to get all the signatures done in about a week. So this is where all of this is coming from. Having a sensible solution to have an amount that makes sense.
	* Senator Hoffman: I did not know that about the school board, thank you.
	* Chair Hopper: How feasible is it to make this change, like is it doable, I want to hear Jenny’s perspective before I make my final thoughts in my head if that makes sense.
	* Jenny: I can I can make whatever y’all want to happen happen. I try not to implement y’all’s decisions in voting on bills and things like that. I would like to see maybe how debate goes and see if then I need to weigh in on some facts and figures or how the process will go. Let’s get the debate and see if y’all dialogue can help solve some of this.
	* Chair Johnson: my question for Senator Clendinnin is are you proposing to make this effective immediately?
	* Senator Clendinnin: Yes, I know the statues currently state that we can’t implement these election changes now, it is also the prerogative of the Senate to vote on whatever senate of legislation they want to amend the statute that isn’t in our constitution. we are allowed to make this change now. The biggest reason why I propose this change now was in response to finding out the form was digital and realizing how large those figures were and being realistic with the amount of people that are involved around the campus.
	* SPT Grant: I do want to stress that it’s not under the best to get this implemented this year. I understand the concern and the reasoning for the bill and the intent behind it but because our statute to do state that we can’t make any changes to the election chapter in title less than four weeks out from filing and since we are in the week of filing, it would mean that I would have to go in and change the statutes and get that approved at Senate and call emergency Senate. I completely understand the intent behind it but I just wanted to put that out there before debate.
	* Senator Clendinnin: The thing is like if we had a supreme court, which we don’t right now, they will probably just be able to review that statue and throw it out since it’s not applicable. The Senate can approve and change whatever they want in the statutes however they see fit end any time. The Constitution gives us The power to do so. That’s where I’m coming from with part of this. Since the statue really doesn’t mend us to do anything, we can amend the statues whenever we want. It's just The Constitution we can’t change at any time.
	* SPT Grant: Are there any other questions before we move into the debate? First point of the debate goes to the author.
	* Senator Clendinnin: I am very much in favor of this legislation, mostly just because of everything that has to do with going into response to the election laws being realistic when it  comes to the current state of the campus with the pandemic. I don’t want us to be in a constitutional crisis come next Friday and we have a bunch of people not being able to qualify to go on the ballet. Being a resident assistant on campus I see how even trying to get 24th resident interactions, which is a simple conversation piece we got a month to do those and a lot of my fellow RAs and I struggle with getting that done. So, the idea of expecting a lot of us are very high numbers, which at the time this was written, with the way the campus Community used to be was very much doable but now that we have an online form with ArgoPulse for us to fill these out and now that there’s no events on campus to attend, do all the stuff, and we have a week to get all of these done for everyone. Figure seemed incredibly lofty and that's why I’m proposing we pass and Institute this bill immediately.
	* SPT Grant: I am not against the bill but my concern is that it states in the statues that we cannot make this change and since we don’t have a supreme court it will make it more difficult because we don’t have ability to give it to someone. I am 100% for this bill if we can get it amended for the start of next year. I have full trust in all election commissions to be able to make the decision and changes that they need too if they realize that the endorsement forms are not getting signed as fast as efficiently as they would if we were in person but I’m not in favor of this bill the way it reads right now.
	* Senator Buzbee: I'm not really opposed to having to get less signatures but I am a bit concerned about going in and changing something to our liking within a legislator just because we’re facing a little bit of a problem. Also I’m a little bit concerned about fairness to the people who ran last year and what about next year when we come into play without Covid.
	* VC Hoffman: OK I’m gonna start off by saying at first I really wasn’t sure about the bill because I thought it was the low number when senator Clendinnin and let me know about the school board and how it’s modeled after,which we try to model after, I really ended up liking the bill. However if those were in the Senate last year we set a president in the sense where A senator was attempting to make bill to amend the elections code to make it easier for the elations code and we decided yes will pass it but it’s going to start the next year because of that president as much as I love the bill, I have to debate in favor of changing it to start in the next year even though I completely understand the intent and it would make it so much easier and As Riley said. so yeah if we can change it to start next year I’m 100% for it.
	* Chair Hopper: I have a question for Jenny, is this just a COVID specific thing?
	* Senator Clendinnin: This would be the new way we would get signatures each year moving forward
	* Ben: when there’s a question about whether or not something is allowed inthe rules, the way it should play out is the Senate does what it thinks is best The senators vote according to what they think is best and they make an action. After that action someone could alleged that the action was in violation of the statues or constitution or other SGA documents and bring that charge to the Supreme Court court and weigh in on whether or not the action was or was not a violation of the Constitution or bylaws. The tricky thing is we really don’t have that apparatus available to us right now, as far as I understand, which is a good lesson on why to try to resolve these things. I think at this point there’s no one person that is responsible for saying whether it is or is not accordance to the other statues. That is not the responsibility of the author or The senator in regards to the vote.
	* Chair Johnson: I appreciate your intent and kind of how you basically covered your butt by doing the percentages and things of that nature. Initially my concern was more towards you because you were it’s candidate in the election and executive candidate and I wouldn’t feel comfortable endorsing something of the sort during filing and I understand your intentions, I really do, and I get what’s going on on campus and I almost think it would be better we had to take the long way around and have the emergencies Senate and honor how we have been doing things. Just just to preserve the integrity of the Senate in my opinion that’s more so what I was worried about.
	* Senator Lasnaund: I just wanted to kind of talk about how I feel like this bill is kind of better in a way because of the fact that I feel like especially with Covid now, the total like students on campus it’s probably dropped because a lot of people probably have to do stuff for their family or just they just have other responsibilities other than school right now. so I feel as if we do this now and like the 1% and the .5% could be equivalent for like a good range for something we need to do now. Whereas later, when campus goes back to being normal and like maybe the campus will be back to how it used to be.
	* DoEA Lyons: I do like the .5% and the 1% thing, it seems flexible and adaptable. I went and looked through various bills. I don’t think it’s necessarily been changed over the years. I wonder if that’s a 10 or 20-year-old figure One that was made and based on a totally different student body. I will say over the years in SGA when we have changed things, we understood that the election code cannot be changed within such a period of time before the election. I think saving this for next year is reasonable.
	* Senator Arnold: I agree with the bill. I think that it will be great next year and all that. I think something that would be great is we pass this for next year and then we vote to do like a recommendation to the election commission to review this for this year, we put them into their positions via vote and so do you know their voted to decide things like this and then I think we should give the trust of them that they’ll make the right decision and I think we should after this bill maybe make a vote just a recommendation for them to review this issue before we even get to Friday just make a vote and then you know someone can send that recommendation via email and they can just look at it and make a decision on if they wanna change it to this or a different number or whatever
	* Chair Hopper: everything he just said about having it reviewed by the elections commission for this year. That’s a possible thing to do correct?
	* Senator Clendinnin: no it’s not because the Senate is the only one who controls the statutes this is written in the election statue.
	* Chair Hopper: if this bill is intended to be immediate is even possible for next year?
	* Senator Clendinnin: You can always amend the bill on the stipulation that it would take effect whenever than 50 for Senate is seated or something like or a calendar day after this election is something that we can always add into the bill
	* Chair Hopper: Thank you. May I speak one more time. I am is trying to weigh out all the different options here. If we do have majority of the candidates not able to reach their signatures by Friday, can Senator protemp Grant explain what will happen in that event?
	* Senator Clendinnin: The statues would automatically disqualify anyone after that date. The student body president is in power to call an emergency meeting of the Senate within 24 hours notice. So that’s what we would end up doing in that aspect and then we would have to figure out how to amend the statutes to fix this
	* VC Hoffman: I’m very undecided on the bill as it stands right now you know I’m right in the middle. I want to say one issue we’ve all known, is involvement in SGA that’s been an issue this entire year we’ve had people dropping, people not being able to get in and I want everybody to seriously think about you know incentives for joining and what is barring people from joining. With that being said I’m very big on president I was just looking through the statutes in chapter 400 the election code, I was reviewing you duty the supervisor of elections and it did stay in there that I didn’t say anything about the election commission being able to just say yeah we can we can accept this but they are in charge of enforcing the elections violations and supervisor of elections can hold vote on the validity of election violations
	* Jenny: their discretion are not on things that are clearly laid out in the statues but there are things that come up every year, like candidates not having the date of the elections on them, that’s not a disqualified offense but if they keep doing that, the election commission can then vote on the severity of the issue but I think the statute that you’re trying to change very clearly states that no one will be put on the ballot that does not meet the qualifications so that’s not really something that the election commission could just decide
	* Senator Arnold: I want an inquiry. Is it just possible for us to just pass and just say that is an oddity? Are there any other steps we could take?
	* Senator Clendinnin: A point of clarification, the point of all of this administration hasn’t offered us any supreme court justices. Don’t have a supreme court, so there is no way for us to test whatever the decision the senate makes right now, is going to be implacable or not. The point of all of this is to make it a clear run down of how we can better match the endorsement signatures towards what is trying to keep from happening.
	* SPT Grant: this bill was to get passed, it does violate a section in our statues and we don’t have a supreme court to bring this to and we only have an election commission, Who would review this violation?
	* Ben: The Senate cannot be in violation of itself in passing something, certainly senators can decide that they believe it’s a violation that could affect their vote. I don’t think there is a back up mechanism to determine if it is constitutional or not. The Supreme  Court would have to be appointed, then they could look at it. It is also unclear in the constitution about what happens
	* SPT Grant: My only concern is that understanding that there are no repercussions in passing this bill, there’s a section in that statute that states that we can’t make any changes to the elections less than 4 weeks out. So I guess I am a little concern
	* Ben: That is raising a point of debate and the senators will have to decide if that’s a compelling debate. The bill is on the floor so you have to vote on it. Individuals can raise concerns about whether it is or is not a violation and effects their vote
	* CoS Gaytan: I totally get where this bill is going and I feel like really valid points are made but I think there’s like a lot of confusion and worrying with anyone. So, one my worry is that people might not be voting exactly really understanding of what’s going to happen and then two, I know this bill is also being made with the worry that in case people don’t get the signature. Is there anyway, if anyone wants to make a motion of maybe doing it where we keep everything the same but if signatures are met, to avoid people being kicked off, we would go off by this.
	* President Gardner: I just want to bring some clarity and my debate to this. I think this is something that’s very necessary to bring up doing Covid time however I do want to announce that we do have our statues that say that we can’t make changes. We have stuck to this rule for the past years of elections and we try to make a legislation last year and took us three hours arguing why we shouldn’t do it because last minute and very unethical to do that and I’m thinking right now, that this rule not to be very unethical and we changing it at the last minute and ask if we knew this was an issue before why didn’t you it change before election season started? Why did we wait till now to be an acknowledgment of this? We have statues to make sure that we follow the body's rules to hold us accountable to these rules. I am trying to figure out how we can say this is ethical even the tough times have changed. I don’t see how this is ethical when we have rules and statutes that say you can’t do this.
* Chair Hoffman: I totally agree with President Gardner but I also agree with what Alby said. Tell me if I’m wrong but what was the date we found out that signatures were going to be electronically?
* Senator Clendinnin: This was still being debated on whether or not you’re going to have online, if I remember correctly advisor Jenny had brought it up that they were still trying to make a decision on whether or not it was going to be electronically by last Senate. So this wasn’t even within the realm of that statue we currently have. While  I understand the qualms of the fact that we have held ourselves to the standard of wanting to make sure that we don’t change the statute this close to the election. The election itself has changed this close to it, the election commission has chosen to do an electronic endorsement form this year in response to university policy which is keeping us from being able to collect forms and try to keep ourselves as healthy as possible during COVID-19. While I respect the Senate president and the situation, we are in unprecedented times here. So while we could’ve just just took that number and slashed in half and just said all right but in reality what I’ve done here, I did what I feel is the best solution to this problem without just blanket like cutting it, trying to come up with a reason behind our numbers that come out of the endorsement form for years to come so that this whole section of our statutes is responsive always to the current universe environment that we have. It’s also important enough, that statute saying that we couldn’t change the election statue, isn’t that old either. I believe that was passed and instituted whenever I was in freshman committee so that it’s not like we held ourselves to that statue for years and years to ago and if there was a Supreme Court that statute itself is unconstitutional, not unconstitutional but it is toothless because the statues The Senate is in power to amend the statue however we feel, if we want to hold ourselves to that standard I propose that we propose a constitutional amendment for that. For that statue that says we can’t just change the election statutes four weeks before the election because that would be the only way to enforce the senate from being able to do so.
* SPT Grant: before we continue debate, I would just like to say that if your debate does not contain this bill, we need to reroute this from all the statues to this one bill
* Chair Johnson: we have discussed what happens if this bill gets passed or not. We have discussed the intent behind the bill. We have discussed all the statues surrounding it. While I support healthy debate this is a heavy topic I move to call the question on this bill.
* SPT Grant: all in favor please say aye
	1. Multiple ayes
* SPT Grant: all opposed?
* Senator Hoffman: I am not opposed, I am for this, but before we vote can we agree on what we exactly will voting for
* SPT Grant: it has already been called to question so we can’t go back. You are voting yes, no, or abstain I’m going to vote on this bill as it reads right now. All opposed, any abstentions?
* Senator Clendennin: I abstain
* SPT Grant: can everyone please private message me on the vote on this bill on the first read?
	1. Vote
		1. Does not pass
1. **Appointments**
	* SPT Grant: I would like to bring FC vice chair Lexi Desnoyers to the floor. You have 2 minutes to introduce yourself
	* FC VC Desnoyers: hi everybody my name is Lexi Desnoyers I am currently a global economics major and minoring in political science and I really want to be the vice chair for the freshman committee because I am very passionate about being a voice for the freshman. I have loved being on freshman committee so far I have been able to help planned initiatives that we have wanted to do and for example we are doing the campus clean up in March and I’m so excited to do that because I personally seem like how much people are throwing their trash and things like that out on campus so I’m excited to be able to help host that and I feel like I can be someone who can help just like I said be a voice for other people.
	* SPT Grant: are there any questions for the candidate?
	* Senator Clendinnin: What got you excited to do the freshman committee in the first place?
	* FC VC Desnoyers: Actually,it was like my first week of school here, I was sitting in the commons area and I saw the trans lives poster and the black lives matter poster up in the commons area and I was like I really need to join this. I’ve never really been involved in anything before and I really wanted to so I saw that and I was like I’m gonna search this up and figure out what I can do. I was able to find the freshman committee form, read bout it, I’m really passionate about a lot of different issues, like I am for my position that I’m running for senate next year one of my biggest initiatives is like advocating for sexual assault and violence and fighting against that on campus and it seems like one of the best places to have like a voice on campus and very obviously like we have one of the most influential like places to be and we have direct control over some many different things and I wanted to be apart of that.
	* SPT Grant: Are there any debates?
	* Chair Johnson: well Lexi definitely stepped out on faith to even join SGA and honestly I just commend people, all of our new additions to SGA this year, which is the unprecedented of time that we’re in and I know that she’s willing to to learn a lot and grow a lot and I’m just excited to see where she goes with this organization so she’s awesome and she will be a great addition and vice chair kind of learn the ropes and kind of find out where she belongs in her college journey here at UWF. so I think she’ll be awesome pick for vice chair
	* Chair McKillion: I am debating favor of her, she has done a great job so far, very helpful to me and the committee, we would love to have her appointed
	* SPT Grant: Are there any other points of debate?
	* President Gardner: Lexi came to SGA in a short period of time as a freshman committee member and from the start, she’s been excited about all the things she wants to do. She reminds me about a great person who was excited about SGA when they started and that person is senator Clendennin. She puts in effort and has a lot of wonderful ideas and as VP Larkin told me, she makes sure to ask questions if she doesn’t understand something. She is very committed and will make a perfect person for this position.
	* SPT Grant: If there is no more debate, we will move into a vote.
		1. Vote
			1. Pass
	* SPT Grant: I will now let chair hopper announce her university/student affairs vice chair candidate
	* Chair Hopper: I would like your points in a day Clendennin to be the vice chair of newly nicknamed university/student affairs
	* Senator Clendennin: first off I just want to say a big thank you to chair hopper for offering this appointment to me. We have been working closely together in the student affairs committee to help ramp up initiatives for fellow Argonauts to make sure they get the best student experience the semester with everything going on. I’m really excited to potentially be in this role, I know this is gonna be a little bit of a unique one. It will be the vice chair of the student affairs but it will also take on some of the aspects of the chair of the university fairs would normally do. I know one of the things at the University chair normally does is that they sit on the faculty senate. I am luckily a junior so I have been able to become familiar with a lot of our faculty. Also I’ve been really in touch with everything we’ve been doing at the University
	* SPT Grant: are there any questions for the candidate? No? We will now move into a debate
	* Chair Hopper: it was kind of a committee agreement, he is great, hard-working, dedicated, and has brought a lot to the committee with good ideas. He put substance behind his ideas and he’s willing to take immediate action again it’s what he says and I’ve been really thankful for his help to the committee and I hope he gets elected
	* SPT Grant: are there any other points of debate? We are not moving to a vote
		1. Vote
			1. Passed
2. **Executive Addresses**
	* President Gardner: I want to provide everyone with a couple of candidates to be part of the justice board. We start interviews possibly next week if they are available
	* VP Larkin: engagement gateway is almost finished, and testing texting subscription a reminder.com, haven’t keeping busy with freshman committee, meeting with *Dr. VNA* for receiving approval for completing the freshman committee cleanup event and making T-shirts and shadow an exact. she would also like to give a special shout out to FC chairman McKillion for running the meeting this week and all of FC for being so creative and amazing with the campus cleanup project please let her know if you have any ideas for Senate bonding she has been trying to plan
	* CoS Gaytan: Two updates as I’ve been mentioning up for a pass senates, I’ve been working on the fitness event we have officially have a date it’s going to be April 7. we are just going to check in with one more of the instructors. Then moving forward to see which dates students are available to do the group activity outside. I’m going to do a survey on our Instagram to see if students would rather do this event in the morning or in the afternoon and then I am looking into ordering T-shirts for those in the event. An update on ArgoAssist the application does close on the 15th so if you or anyone you know is going to apply please have that reminder in mind moving forward from there can you review the applications and then send out awards but other and that that is my update for Senate
	* Treasurer Patterson: \*reads budget report\*
3. **Cabinet Addresses**
	* DoDI Milor: I only have 2 updates, diversity week is next week from the 15th to the 18th. I’m going to send out the flyers and stuff that I have through the discord like after the Senate is over but if you guys can come by like swing by some of our activities and just like help promote the event it will be greatly appreciated. My second announcement I have met with the night committee and they’re set to have the event on April 7 but they’re going to have the march on April 6 and their idea for the March is to have students be able to go on their own. Instead of having like one large March. that way they don’t violate any Covid regulations. They’re going to be sending out some promo material soon and trying to get speakers and anyone who wants to talk with her experience as a sexual assault survivor.
	* DoER Lyons: \*explains Discord\*
4. **Legislative Addresses**
	* B&ACC Johnson: we finished our first draft of the annual budget bill and it will be hitting the Senate floor next to the meeting with that being said I have a quick crash course on ANS by to build that Jenny and I will be presenting now
		1. Presents A&S Fee slideshow
	* SACC Hopper: on the scavenger hunt we plan on doing, homecoming reached out to me and said that cab and them are both also doing a scavenger hunt so why not combine them. As the coffee event goes, we can no longer do Starbucks but we are getting together with dining service and doing black coffee
	* FCC McKillion: we had a freshman committee earlier this week and we talked about the freshman cleanup event and we are finalizing up details on the things we want and we are still working on that and getting all that together. We have come up with shirt designs for our freshman committee.
	* Senator Arnold: I have a few projects that I wanted to go over. The first one is trying to get hemp plastic or some sort of bioplastic on campus. I know there’s been these initiatives to try to make our campus a little bit more environmentally friendly over the years. I know they have not always gone the best but I think this one has a little bit of traction. I've been talking with Dr. Thompso about it and we actually have a composting site and for this Escambia County which is why the few that do actually have one and hemp plastics are about as cheap as petroleum plastic and stuff. There’s not really a cost there. We will have to move it further up throughout that. The other thing I’m working on is trying to make Canvas a little bit more accessible and how canvas is really difficult to navigate the tabs, some professors will put your syllabus in your Home tab, some put it in a syllabus tab. We are trying to do is make a uniform set of tabs
5. **Adjournment**
	* Standing Committee Report
	* Closing Announcements
	* Public Statements
	* Final Roll Call
		1. Absent
			1. VC Hoffman
			2. Senator Bosworth
	* Adjournment: 5:01pm