The UGA Student Government association met on February, 5th 2019 in Room 350 of the Miller Learning Center. A quorum being present, Vice President Charlene Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

As the first order of business, Treasurer Mizelle brought forward the last member of the campus allocation committee to be confirmed.

- They stood for questions
- There was a motion to vote by a block vote and it passed with all “yays” and no “nays”
- Another Senator motioned to vote by unanimous consent and it was seconded. Seeing no objections, the last member of the campus allocation committee was confirmed.
- The last member of the 2019 Allocation Committee was sworn in to their position.

As the second order of business, Senator McDaniel and Senator Ashurova presented Resolution 31-11- ‘A Resolution to Establish a Professional Clothing Closet to Provide Free Business Attire for Students.’

- Senator McDaniel told us how they have been working on this 4 months and how the goal is to create a place on campus where students can rent professional clothing
- Senator Ashurova says how they have met with places like career center and even has a 20 page paper which also identified source of funding
- The senators are trying to partner with other organizations. They need help from the senators help contribute by working hours at the booth and keeping tabs on the clothes
- They stood for questions
• With no questions asked, Resolution 31-11 moved into debate
• Senator Max Sumner spoke in favor of the resolution attesting to how hard the senators worked on the resolution
• With no more debate, Resolution 31-11 moved into voting
• The resolution passed unanimously.

As the third order of business, Senator Femia presented Amendment 31-01 ‘An Amendment Regarding the Presiding Officer of the Senate.’

• Senator Femia explained how over the last few weeks, he has been working on a legislation that will change the structure of senate
• He tells us that currently the Vice President is the current presiding officer of senate also known as the president of senate but we also select a President Pro-Tempore who is a fellow senator and has a lot of responsibility.
• Senator Femia says he wants to amend that to the Senate President which is now the vice president would be elected by the Senate.
• He expresses his opinion that the president of the Senate should be elected by the Senate and he feels that this change is something that is necessary.
• He expresses how there are 14 SEC schools and out of those 14, 10 of them follow this model
• Over the last few weeks, Senator Femia says he has spoken with different vice president's presence of the Senate at these different schools to get an insight of what other duties will be assigned.
• He says that in this new model, The President Pro-Tempore would still chairs rules committee but the Senate President would chair Legislative Cabinet and sit on first year for selection committee and they would also sit on elections. Vice president would be in charge of special programs.
• He stood for questions
• Senator Elyaman asked if there were any other heads of SEC schools or advisors or Vice Presidents that he has spoken to. And if yes, which ones, how many and what have they really said
• Senator Femia responded saying that there are three questions that he asked all of them: how long has the system been in place at your school? What does the vice president do given that they don't provide over Senate? and the third question is do you think this promotes a more productive SGA?
• He says the Florida SGA visor responded to his emails today and then he spoke over the phone with Florida SGA vice-president and spoke with the Kentucky Senate presidents.
• He points out that UGA and University of South Carolina are similar in terms of size and that South Carolina switched to the model he is advocating for last year and it is running effectively
• Mr. Jesse asked if there would be a liaison for the executive and legislative branches and Senator Femia said that he envisioned the Senate President to have a chief of staff and press secretary. So it would be the Senate President’s duty to have a Liaison among their staff but the Senate president could actually serve as the liaison
• Someone asked at what point in the year would the president of senate be elected to which Senator Femia replied after inauguration
• Senator McDaniel asked where would the new staff be defined in the statutes to which Senator Femia said they can have a clause allowing the senate president define their own statutes
• Senator Story asked what initiatives past and present have to have been disagreed on and what actions were taken to solve those issues rather than like this drastic change? Senator Femia said he does not think they disagreed on issues but Senate and Executive has different priority and if they do not align that senate should be allowed to make independent decisions like social media for example
• Senator Douglas asked if he did not see a potential problem with appointed senators who would have not been able to vote for the President of senate to which Senator Femia agreed that this is a concern depending on how many leaders are appointed.
• Senator Felt motioned to suspend the rules for 5 minutes to allow individuals not in senate to speak and the motion passed
• Former Vice President Naghepour asked what happened in case of a tie, to which Senator Femia said that the motion would fail
• She also asked if alternate ideas has been considered to solve the problem such as adding staff rather than this “drastic change.” The Senator responded that the Vice President does preside over Senate on a national level but he or she does not in practice interfere with senate affairs and has only broken a voting tie once or twice. He says it is unfair to compare our senate with that of the government because ours is always being monitored by the vice president, giving the senators much less freedom.
• He goes on to say that this legislation will allow senate to be more independent and seen as their own body and this cannot be instilled by adding staff
• President Grand-Jean asked Senator Femia if he saw a potential divide during election which will hinder the progress of the student government working as one. Senator Femia said that if there is a problem it should not be left up to the Executive to decide for example like not letting something go to a vote
• Former Vice President Naghepour reminded Senator Femia that the Senate does have power of impeachment and that can be used if necessary. He also talked about how more responsibilities can be added to legislative cabinet members
• Senator McDaniel made a point of order saying that the 5 minutes allocated to non-Senate members to speak was up
• Senator Andrew motioned to suspend the rules for 5 minutes to allow non-senate members to speak and it was seconded
• The motion failed because a 2/3rd vote was not met
• With no more questions to be asked, the presentation of Resolution 31-11 as concluded and actual voting and debate will take place two weeks from today.

With no other old or new business to complete, there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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