

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

S.B. 04 011

The Codification of Senate Town Halls

IN THE SENATE

October 1, 2023

Nicholas Alcalde, student; Judith Chavarria, student; and CASE Senator Daniel Salup-Cid introduced the following bill, which was presented on the Senate floor

A BILL

To codify regularly hosted Senate Town Halls into our SGA Statutes.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,

Whereas, our Student Government Association (SGA) seems inaccessible to many members of the student body.

Whereas, weekly Senate meetings are open to the public, but are primarily working meetings which limit the scope of student participation and input; and,

Whereas, the typical meeting structure may be impenetrable to the average student.

Whereas, SGA senators don't have many opportunities to address and answer to their constituents with updates in regard to the legislation they are working on.

Whereas, SGA events are an opportunity to increase the organization's visibility.

Whereas, there is precedent for SGA hosting events, such as the University Forum found in our 1973 Bylaws Article II, that bridge the gap between elected senators and their constituents¹.

¹ 1973 Bylaws Article II

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body amends the Student Government Statutes to add §3013, which will read as follows:

Section 3013 Senate Town Halls

3013.1 Senate Town Halls shall be events that connect the student body to their elected officials in the Senate.

3013.2 During the Fall and Spring semesters, the Senate shall host four Senate Town Halls per semester².

3013.2.1 Senate Leadership has the task of creating the schedules for the Senate Town Halls ahead of each semester respectively.

3013.3 Senate Town Halls shall consist of a rotating panel of senators to discuss legislation that they are working on in front of an audience of their constituents and peers, and a public forum section where members of the student body can make comments and ask the panel of senators questions.

3013.3.1 Senate Town Halls shall be composed of three (3) to six (6) senators.

3013.3.2 At the start of each semester, or their term if they fill a vacancy, each senator will be expected to claim one Senate Town Hall date that works within their availability.

3013.3.3 Every senator will be expected to attend at least one Senate Town Hall per semester.

3013.3.4 A portion of the beginning of the session will be reserved to update students on the current and passed legislation. The later portion will be reserved for a discussion (which may include a Q&A) between senators and the student body.

3013.5 At least one (1) Senate Town Hall will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus per semester.

² This number was decided by looking at the length of the main sessions (16 weeks) and dividing it by the number of seats in the senate (47).

3013.6 Every Senate Town Hall shall include a hybrid option for students; however, senators are expected to attend physically, with the only exception being the Online Senator.

3013.7 A senator can be a panelist on a town hall in lieu of doing their office hours for that week.



3013.8 The student staff of the Student Government Association office has the task of taking the minutes for each Senate Town Hall.

3013.9 Senate Town Halls will be moderated by a member of the Executive Branch assigned by Senate Leadership and the Student Body President.

Now Therefore, let it be further resolved, that this amendment to the Student Government Statutes will go into effect at the beginning of the Fall 2024 semester.

Senate Bill Transmission Form

This bill is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the bill has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The bill is presented on this day and at this hour for signature or veto.

<i>SB 04 011</i>			
Date Introduced:	<i>01/28/2024</i>		
Committees Assigned:	(1) Rules and Administration Committee (2) Appropriations Committee		
Rules and Administration: <i>01/30/2024</i>	4 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Appropriations Committee: <i>01/18/2024</i>	2 <i>For</i>	1 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor: <i>03/25/2024</i>	13 <i>For</i>	5 <i>Against</i>	1 <i>Abstaining</i>
			
_____ Signature of the Senate President	_____ Signature of the Senate President Pro Tempore		

Presidential Signature of a Senate Bill

On this day, at this time, and in this place, the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this bill to the desk of the President of the Student Body for signature or veto. The Senate has passed this bill and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their signatures to affirm that the bill has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

SB 04 011



Kaily Lachapelle, Senate President



Tiara Campbell, Senate President Pro-Tempore



Karina Hernandez, Senate Floor Leader



Alexander P. Sutton, Student Body President

