

Student government faces the music, Opens up the floor to community questions.

On Thursday, December 1st, The student government association, alongside the multicultural student council, held a town meeting to discuss the recent events and issues that have been pressing the student body this semester.

As the Fall semester is coming to an end, The student government association took to the community to discuss the concerns that have built over the past three months. Due to the nature of the semester, including matters as simple as the student section in Specs Martian stadium, To more complex issues, such as situations that dealt with transphobia and racism.

Despite all of the controversy that has taken place, There have been a number of positives that the student government and Stetson themselves have been able to achieve, such as The University starting a \$3.5 million dollar renovation of Chaudoin hall as well as the plan on making the building more accessible and modern on the inside with more spaces and for lounges. They also passed two resolutions, one of which our campus lecture will discuss regarding student activity fees. The other resolution we passed was adding a veteran seat, an NCAA seat, and a non-traditional seat, among other actions to improve student life.

The two highlights of the night, however, would be the young American foundation and answers regarding what the board and Stetson are designed to do to answer the students' concerns involving student life. In the middle of the semester, There was a call to the student government to make a statement and take a stand after an organization was allowed to bring a well-known transphobic speaker for an on-campus event. While they made a brief statement about the event, they went into depth on the situation and what they intend to do in the future, with the chair of diversity and inclusion, Shadia Munoz-Najar, stating.

“I'm going to try to reach out to as many people as we can, and we're gonna get working on this. So that says much. I hope that you get some reassurance, but just know that we're not forgetting about this, and we will try to rectify the things that have happened.”

Another member of both the student government and multicultural student council, Selah Williams, added.

“I'm disappointed in how the process is an approving event. I'm not sure what that process is. But I know it's not extensive. I think we need to look at who the person is and what they're, you know, if there's any controversy, if they said any harmful things towards certain groups. And I think that needs to be included in the process of whether or not to allow them to speak on campus to students.”

To prevent situations similar to these from happening again, the Student government has changed the process by which they approve events in the future. In addition to this, The student government also plans to have consequences for any organizations that may commit any

infraction, Such as disallowing them to compete in beloved events such as airwaves, which is a dance competition that is done during homecoming week.

They have also put more focus on microaggressions and other discriminatory infractions that have been occurring across campus by working with organizations across campus, Such as the Muslim student association, to find the best course of action, as said by Shadia Munoz-Najar.

“ We have discussed with a lot of different organizations, and we have come to the conclusion that education is the best way to go about it.”

They have also are going to make the student body more aware of the program used to report issues such as these by posting the information in places other than the CUB, Which will include tabling and posting information in residential and educational buildings

Not all of the discussion points were intense, though. When discussing campus life, There some insight was given that is good news for students and admins alike.

Following student feedback, The previous student section at Spec Martian, Where the Hatter football team play, Is being changed from the hill at the front of the field that it once was to a new area in the stands for the students to support the team from As the chair of campus life, Alijah Santos, Says

“Students are complaining that it's an awkward incline. And they hate that they have to sit on the grass to watch football games. And it was really affecting the teams because students wouldn't show up to support our football team. So starting next year, in fall in fall, we will have a student section in the stadium for students.”

In addition to this, There have also been changes to what is and is not allowed in the beloved stetson green, As it will now allow more events to take place, including fun inflatables for students to go through.

In even more exciting news, There has been an update to the long-needed improvements being made to the residential buildings. The renovation of Chuadion hall has sparked a conversation about renovating the other halls due to the less-than-desirable living conditions that students live in. These especially have become apparent after the storms running through campus this past semester, Santos says.

“They're looking in; they're trying to determine like what work needs to be done on each of these buildings, like how much funding is going to go into it and how much funding they should make for low, I'm broke too, you know, I understand what they're going through. So that is definitely being done.”

All in all, Despite the unfavorable conditions that everyone has gone through this semester, It has been because of the resilient student body and the hard work the student government has put in that the ever-improving state that the community is going through is able to prosper. While there were situations that did fall on the shoulders of the student government, It is clear they care about what they do, and they care about the school itself, A concept that was on clear display at this town meeting tonight.



The student government senate, along side the multicultural student association board going over the student life report and explaining the future of student events and residential buildings.



The student body and staff gathering together to learn about community issues and voice their concerns to the student government association, suggest ways to possibly fix any pressing matters, and listen to the steps that they are taking to improve the Stetson community.