



# Florida International University

*Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & Pines Center*

## MINUTES General Meeting December 3, 2014

### IN ATTENDANCE

Jazmin Felix, President  
Camille Williams, Vice-President  
Ashley Reid, Comptroller  
Marquele Brown, Elections Commissioner  
Geraldine Gascon, Special Events Coordinator  
Stephanie Felix, Director of Lectures  
Carlos Burgos, International Student Services Coordinator  
Zico Fremont, Director of Governmental Relations  
Elina Sibony, Director of Environmental Affairs  
Akheim Paisley, Arts and Sciences **3:41 p.m.**  
Maria Pulido Velosa, Arts and Sciences/ Speaker-pro  
Allhan Mejia, Business Administration/ Speaker  
Rebecca Merek, Hospitality Management  
Yumeng Zhang, Hospitality Management  
Ana Correa, Journalism and Mass Communications  
Paige Butler, Lower Division  
Eli Jean-Mary, Lower Division  
Lauren Peterson, Lower Division  
Bendjy Calixte, At-Large  
Christopher Morisset, At-Large  
Kai Chen, Graduate  
Whitney Saint Fleur, Chief Justice  
Abigail Morales, Justice  
Stefy Moreau, Justice  
Paola Bayron, Justice

### ABSENT

Karla Marte, Chief of Staff  
Marianne Jimenez, Executive Assistant **excused**  
Valeria Ocampo, Press Secretary  
Kareem Stanbury, Marketing Coordinator  
Michema Lafontant, Director of Internal Relations  
Faedrah Mahotiere, Arts and Sciences **excused**  
Xuan Di, At-Large  
Christopher Morisset, At-Large

Alexandra Bendayan, Justice

### **GUESTS**

Simone McPherson, Student Health Services  
Dona Walcott, Student Health Services  
Dr. Cheryl Nowell, Counseling and Health Services  
Sabreena O’Keefe, Center for Leadership and Service  
Bryan Corcoran, Applicant for Lower Division Senator

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a General meeting on December 3, 2014 in room WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at **3:36 p.m.** by President Felix.

Speaker Mejia moved to approve the previous general meeting’s minutes. Senator Pulido seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous decision.

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- President Felix remarked that this is currently the fullest council there has been in years. She is very pleased with the many successful events that were held this semester. She explained that next semester will be more geared toward the budget, elections, the council ropes course and Rally & Tally.

Speaker Mejia moved to move the health presentation before the wellness center presentation in the agenda. Senator Merek seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous decision.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Health Transition Presentation**

- Dr. Nowell said that FIU student health services will be merging with FIU Health. The proposal has to be submitted by January and the final decision has to be made by July concerning the transition.
- She said that President Felix sits on the Health Services Transition Committee. If members have any questions or concerns, they can direct them to her.

Speaker Mejia moved to go back into the agenda to proceed with the “It’s On Us” presentation. Senator Peterson seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous decision.

#### **B. It’s On Us Presentation**

- Ms. O’Keefe said that It’s On Us is a national organization dedicated to getting students to assist in changing sexual assault culture on campus. She said that she wants the campaign to be more FIU specific for spring semester. If council members have any ideas, they can reach out to President Felix.
- President Felix added that she sits on the It’s On Us committee with Ms. O’Keefe. If anyone has any comments, questions or concerns, they should bring it up to them.

### **C. Wellness Center Presentaion**

- Ms. McPherson, an intern at the Wellness Center, said that they are trying to start a Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) on this campus. The first meeting is planned for January. They need as many students from SGA as possible to sit on the committee. Members will serve as liaisons between the student body and the health clinic/wellness center, as well as promoting the utilization of services.
- President Felix said that the FIU Health/Wellness centers are merging with the FIU School of Medicine. She said that has pros and cons. Council members need to be concerned with how that will affect them as students, as far as how health fees will change and if services will be lost or not.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Elections Commissioner Brown said that this Friday, Dec. 5, is the last day to write motivational quotes or bring in small toys for children in the hospital. Council members can also donate money to the jar at the front desk. Elections Commissioner Brown also said that the Jeans for Teens service project will be underway in January. Boxes will hopefully set up around both campuses for collection.
- 2) Ms. Adames said that the Town Hall Meeting is confirmed for Feb. 16 from 2-4 p.m.
- 3) Ms. Adames said that council members need to email her their resumes.
- 4) Ms. Adames said that there will be a student from Project Panther Life shadowing the SGA staff.
- 5) Mr. Zapata said that the residence halls project is scheduled to be finished by fall 2016. The residences will have 410 beds and 8 floors. President Felix asked a point of inquiry: Since the new halls will be privately owned, will there still be traditional programs like RA's involved? Mr. Zapata answered that there is still ongoing discussion about whether or not the new residence halls will be run by a landlord or by the university.
- 6) President Felix said that Vice-President Williams, Speaker Mejia, Comptroller Reid and herself will be very busy next semester with the budget hearings. If they cannot make certain meetings due to the hearings, she asked that council members be understanding and proceed with business as usual.

## **SENATE BUSINESS**

### **A. Lower Division Appointment**

- Bryan Corcoran, a freshman, is a recreational leader at the town of Surfside. He really feels as home at BBC and wants to make a difference on this campus.

Senator Merek moved to appoint Bryan Corcoran as a lower division senator. Senator Calixte seconded the motion and the motion was passed by a unanimous decision.

### **Vote**

Akheim Paisley- yay

Paige Butler- yay

Lauren Peterson- abstained  
Bendjy Calixte- yay  
Kai Chen- yay  
Ana Correa- yay  
Eli Jean-Mary- yay  
Rebecca Merek- yay  
Maria Pulido- yay  
Allhan Mejia- yay

By a vote of 9 yays and 1 abstained, Bryan Corcoran became the new Lower Division senator.

At 4:15 p.m. President Felix gave chairmanship over to Speaker Mejia.

Senator Butler was granted a point of personal privilege by Speaker Mejia at 4:16 p.m.

## **B. Operational Review Committee**

Speaker Mejia explained that at Monday's Senate meeting he proposed the idea of dismissing Senator Jean-Mary as the Operational Review Committee chair. He stated that Senator Jean-Mary is unfit to continue being chair because he does not have the adequate amount of audit reports in the binder. He also said that Senator Jean-Mary leaves inquiries about the audits until the last minute, as the semester is almost over. Finally, Speaker Mejia stated that the Budget hearings are approaching in February and the audit reports need to be accounted for.

Senator Pulido moved to open up the floor for discussion. Senator Correa seconded the motion and the motion was passed by a unanimous decision.

Senator Paisley said that he looked over the evidence/minutes and commented that the meetings seemed short but engaging. Speaker Mejia said that there's a difference between bring engaging and getting the work done. President Felix said that Speaker Mejia was out of order because he is not allowed to influence the senate's decision. Speaker Mejia said that he takes back his previous statement.

Senator Pulido said that although Senator Jean-Mary worked, he didn't update the binders when he needed to.

Dir. of Governmental Relations Fremont asked Senator Jean-Mary if he was aware of his responsibilities. He added that the council members are here to help him when needed.

Senator Merek moved to end the discussion and Senator Calixte seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous decision.

Senator Paisley moved to dismiss Senator Jean-Mary as Operational Review Chair. Senator Calixte seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous decision.

## **Vote**

Akheim Paisley- yay

Paige Butler- yay  
Lauren Peterson- yay  
Bryan Corcoran- abstained  
Bendjy Calixte- yay  
Kai Chen- yay  
Ana Correa- yay  
Eli Jean-Mary- nay  
Rebecca Merek- yay  
Maria Pulido- yay  
Allhan Mejia- yay

By a vote of 9 yays, 1 nay and 1 abstained, Senator Jean-Mary was dismissed as the Operational Review chair.

President Felix recommended that the senate wait until spring to fill the Operational Review chair position.

Speaker Mejia gave over his chairmanship back to President Felix at 4:22 p.m.

President Felix adjourned the meeting at **4:23 p.m.**