



Florida International University

Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & Pines Center

MINUTES
General Meeting
January 27, 2016

IN ATTENDANCE

Allhan Mejia, President
Kenley Jean-Louis, Vice-President
Maria Pulido-Velosa, Comptroller,
Christopher Morisset, Chief of Staff
Marquele Brown, Intern Coordinator
Jamie Adelson, Director of Lectures
Yunfan Zhang, International Student Services Coordinator
Raiesha Ali, Director of Governmental Relations
Kristen King, Director of Internal Relations
Anne Dorcius, Director of Environmental Affairs
Anastasiya Sizova, Elections Commissioner
Lauren Peterson, Honors Senator/Speaker
Tonie Jean, Arts & Sciences Senator/Speaker Pro
Micaela Suarez, Business Administration Senator
Patrick Alcee, Hospitality Management Senator
Sudyen Navarrete, Journalism Senator
Zainab Osazin, Journalism Senator
Seneka Jean-Jacques, Lower Division Senator
Meredith Marseille, Lower Division Senator
Natalie Vizarraga, At Large Senator
Akheim Paisley, Chief Justice
Adam Azzaoui, Justice
Kerrie Montgomery, Advisor
Larissa Adames, SGA Coordinator

GUEST

Tahina Jules, Appointee for Justice

ABSENT

Jayda Hall, Press Secretary
Jaclyn Baglos, Special Events Coordinator
Luc Pierre-Louis, Arts & Sciences Senator
Dionne Bryant, Hospitality Senator
Bendjy Calixte, At Large Senator
Tong Li, Justice
Wenxi Huang, Justice

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a General meeting on January 27, 2016 in WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m. by President Mejia, who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Mejia said its "budget season," therefore, he, Kenley, Maria and Lauren, will be attending multiple hearings and deliberations over the next month.
- Additionally, he introduced and welcomed Kerrie Montgomery, the Director of Campus Life, as she has become the new SGA advisor.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Vice-President Jean-Louis said the Street Team is back and Kristen King is the new co-captain. Yesterday, she promoted the Town Hall meeting around campus.
- Vice-President Jean-Louis also said that the basketball game is tomorrow at 7 pm and Panther Power will be hosting a free shuttle.
- Additionally, Vice-President Jean Louis recently took over as a co-captain of the Relay for Life team with Marquele.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

- Comptroller Pulido-Velosa elaborated about how the budget works, saying that SGA is responsible for deciding how the A&S fee gets distributed, by voting to allocate money to different departments. She implored council members to sit in on Friday's hearing from 9-10:45 am in WUC 221 if they want to learn more.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE'S REPORT

- Speaker Peterson reminded everyone that the Town Hall is next Monday from 2-4 pm and it is a mandatory event.
- Speaker Peterson also said that the senate is currently shifting a few members around in to different positions and that the Internal Affairs and RLJ chairs need to be filled.

CHIEF OF STAFF'S REPORT

- Chief of Staff Morisset said the first cabinet meeting was held this Wednesday.
- Additionally, he said the Republican and Democratic debates will be aired in Panther Square on Feb. 25 and March 9.
- There will also be a meet and greet with council members from North Miami on March 10.
- Finally, Chief of Staff Morisset said he is working on planning something for Earth Day. So far, he has reached out to FIU Glades, the Ecology club and the Office of Sustainability, about having some sort of a panel either on April 19 or 21.
 - President Mejia said he would like to have SGA plant trees in the butterfly garden on Earth Day. Chief of Staff Morisset said he is working on planning something to plant mangroves.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Ms. Montgomery said she had no report.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

- Ms. Adames said the Student Leadership Summit is next Saturday and only three people from SGA have signed up so far.
- Ms. Adames said that she put a new to-do list in everyone's mailboxes and that office hours/class schedules need to be turned in as soon as possible.

- Ms. Adames said there will be a Rally and Tally lobbying opportunity on Feb. 11.
- Ms. Adames said Magda is going to have a Robert's Rules revamp soon.
- Ms. Adames announced that Elections Applications will be going out on next Monday. They will be due Feb. 19 by 5 pm.
- Finally, Ms. Adames reminded everyone that Day on the Bay will be held Saturday, Feb. 20.

Speaker Pro Jean moved to add Chief Justice Paisley to the agenda. Senator Suarez seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF JUSTICE'S REPORT

- Chief Justice Paisley said he is in the process of filling all roles in the judicial branch and is looking to expand. He would like council members to let him know different ways they can utilize his branch.

NEW BUSINESS

1. North Miami City Council

- Director Ali said she would like to get council members to start attending North Miami's city council meetings to show interest in the city and eventually create a partnership.

2. FIU Day

- Director Ali said Governmental Relations wants SGA's help to create hype through social media to promote FIU Day.

3. Class Survey

- Vice-President Jean-Louis said the class survey has been revamped. So far, it allows you to choose if you are a bio or chem major (both from the School of Arts and Sciences) and to designate whether you are a lower or upper classman. The survey allows you to peruse all classes offered from the class directory, to indicate a need for particular classes at this campus.
- President Mejia said Vice-President Jean-Louis can come present the final product to the senate and cabinet meetings before its ready to go live on Feb. 10, to receive final feedback.

4. Justice Appointment

- Tahina Jules, a freshman and nursing major, presented herself for the justice position. When asked, the candidate said she feels she can learn the Elections Code in time before elections, can learn on the job, can remain unbiased and is willing to attend any meetings.

Senator Suarez moved to appoint Tahina Jules for the Justice position. Speaker Pro Jean seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Senator Osazin said she feels Tahina's public speaking could be improved.

Speaker Peterson said the fact that Tahina wasn't aware of her potential duties as a justice was worrisome.

Chief Justice Paisley clarified that Tahina had originally applied to be a court clerk, but he persuaded her to apply for justice because he wanted to fill that seat first.

Justice Azzaoui was excused at 4:25 pm by President Mejia.

Vote:

Micaela Suarez, No
Patrick Alcee, No
Sudyen Navarrete, No
Zainab Osazin, No
Meredith Marseille, No
Natalie Vizarraga, No
Tonie Jean, Yes
Lauren Peterson, No

By a vote of 7 nays and 1 yay, Tahina Jules did not get appointed to be a justice.

5. Open

- Intern Coordinator Brown said Relay for Life is on March 4 and she would like council members to let her know of fundraising ideas. The theme is Mulan. On the day of Relay, the team has to host an event. So far, her idea is to collaborate with the Archery Club.
- President Mejia reminded everyone to raise their hand when they wish to speak, instead of everyone speaking all at once.
- Chief of Staff Morisset said there will be a voter's registration event on Feb 9 from 11-4 pm.

ANOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Adames said Michema Lafontant is running for Miss FIU and if council members would like to give her a vote, they should go like her photo on Facebook.
- Senator Vizarraga said she will be collecting teddy bears for the Miami Rescue Mission. So far, she has 20 and needs 300.
- Speaker Pro Jean said there will be an art gallery event on the second floor of the library directly after the Town Hall meeting.
- Speaker Pro Jean also said that there will be a Painting with a Twist event on Jan. 31 to help support she and Lauren's AB trip to Nicaragua.
- Ms. Adames said SOC will be hosting a Kompa Night in the ballrooms directly after the Miss FIU pageant this Saturday.
- Intern Coordinator Brown said Panther Alumni week is next week and there will be an innovative opportunity to virtually chat with alumni who hold a career you are interested in.

The meeting was adjourned by President Mejia at **4:34 p.m.**