



# Florida International University

*Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & FIU at I-75*

## **MINUTES**

**SGC-BBC General Meeting**

**August 29, 2018**

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

John Habib, Speaker of the Senate  
Jiaqi Chen, Finance Chair  
Leo Cosio, Speaker Pro Tempore (3:39 PM)  
Flora Bourdeau, Director of Campus Services  
Coral Murray, Director of Campus Sustainability  
Aaliyah Gordon, Director of Events  
Gabiella Malak, Director of Accessibility  
Karla Hernandez, Marketing Coordinator  
Merveline Nelson, Director of Community Relations  
Chelsea De Silva, Hospitality & Tourism Management Senator  
Mahalia Balfour, Arts, Sciences, & Education Senator  
Xin Wang, Upper Division  
Catalina Nemmi, Lower Division  
Pamela Ho Fung, Lower Division  
Jefferson Noel, President  
Jonathan Espino, Vice President  
Ronan Kelly, Comptroller  
Sabrina Javellana, Chief of Staff  
Daniel Velasquez, Chief Justice

### **EXCUSED**

Priscila Sevil, At-Large

### **GUESTS**

Larissa Adames, Assistant Director of Campus Life/SGA Advisor  
Kerrie Montgomery, Director of Campus Life  
Heidy Martinez, SGA Front Desk Assistant  
Cynthia Jacques, SGA Front Desk Assistant  
Yselande Pierce, Assistant Director, Campus Life- BBC  
Ivy Siegel Mack, Assistant Director, Campus Life- BBC  
Anthony DeSantis, Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs  
Andres Bermeo, Account Manager, Campus Life- BBC  
Elias Bardawil, Director, Wellness & Rec- BBC  
Diana Arcentales, Program Manager, FIU I-75  
Orlando Soto, Student  
Lissette Karmody, Student

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Government Council-BBC held a meeting on August 29, 2018 – Locale **WUC 221**. The meeting was called to order at **3:38 PM**, approximately, by President Noel who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

## **WELCOME**

President Noel...

- Greeted the council and expressed his extreme excitement over SGA Day. Followed with the following phrase, “When is the best time to plant a seed? Twenty years ago, and the second best time is right now.”

## **PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Noel...

- Informed the council on his experience on the bus from MMC to BBC where freshmen were not allowed to board the bus due to lack on income and awareness. After paying for their fare, he is looking for more leniency towards incoming freshmen/transfer students and international students.
- Ended his report by informing the council of his meeting with Director of Campus Services Bourdeau and Harold Clayton on behalf of the issue of no illumination from Bayview housing to the academic buildings at BBC and future action to fix this.

## **VICE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Vice President Espino...

- Opened his report by stating that “the reflexology path is officially a thing” so to please encourage students to use it.
- Ended his report by informing the council that he meet with Director of Campus Sustainability Murray to talk about the progress of the mangroves wall.

## **SPEAKER OF THE SENATE REPORT**

Speaker Habib...

- Opened his report by stating how happy he was that the general meeting was full of people.
- Informed the council that he is working on making sure all past resolutions are being continued. Although there may be obstacles, he continues to follow up.
- Highlighted two senators for their extraordinary work, Senator De Silva and Senator Chen.
- Ending his report by welcoming the two new senators, Senator Balfour and Senator Ho Fung.

President Noel...

- Welcomed and thanked our guests for coming.

**CHIEF****JUSTICE****REPORT**

Chief Justice Velasquez...

- Opened his report by greeting the council and sharing his happiness to meet everyone.
- Informed the council on prospective new councilmembers on the Judicial Branch.
- Informed the council on research he is conducting since Miami is an immigrant vibrat city, many of issuing are being faced by FIU students. His research is to help and understand students who are facing immigration issues.
- Closed his report by stating if anyone would like more information on how they can help to contact him.

**CHIEF****OF****STAFF****REPORT**

Chief of Staff Javellana...

- Opened her report by welcoming everyone to the meeting, including the new cabinet members Director of Campus Sustainability Murray, and Marketing Coordinator Hernandez.
- Informed the council on an initiative where they are trying to instate an official leadership award through SGA. Where a nominated student on campus will be recognized for their leadership and will be featured on local newspapers.
- Reported they are stool working on black leadership conversations and on day on the bay.
- Concluded her report by gratulating Director Gordon on an amazing job done for SGA day where more people are now aware of SGA.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT REPORT**

Ms. Jospitre...

- Greeted the council and provided updates on the last two events. Due to the issues of communication a WhatsApp group chat was created for better communication.
- Concluded her report by informing the council that the food drive for the food pantry is going on, also spoke to an SLS instructor about giving extra credit for the student donations to help with the food pantry.

**ADVISOR REPORT**

Ms. Adames...

- Opened her report by informing the council that while looking for solutions of the clocking in/out situation, to clock out with the front desk. At the responsibility of the council member to remember to tell the front desk when they are clocking in or out.
- Concluded her report by reminding the council to fill out all forms in panther connect. Once all forms are filled a one-on-one with each member of the council will be scheduled.

Dr. Montgomery...

- Greeted the council and congratulated everyone on the wellness fair and reflexology path, Dr. Rosenberg loved it all and was very engaged in it all. Now that the reflexology path is up and running please encourage others to use it. Also, the reflexology path is working on having signs/instructions available in braille.

- Informed the council that an FIU news article Kristina sent out via the vice provost office.
- Concluded her report by reminding the council about using panther connect, to connect to everything happening on campus.

*Speaker Habib motioned to move comptroller and cabinet report after senator's report.*

*All in favor, I  
All Opposed, silence  
Motion passes.*

By a unanimous decision, moving the comptroller and cabinet report after the senator's report passed.

### **COMPTROLLER REPORT**

Comptroller Kelly...

- Greeted the council and mentioned that the budget "*as many of you know*" went down to \$60,000.
- Concluded his report by informing the council of the signed room rental agreement. Also, reminded the council of campus involvement, to use on either campus amenities since it is already charged in tuition.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

AVP DeSantis...

- Greeted the council, thanked them for their leadership, and mentioned the pleasure it was to work with the council members all summer.
- Acknowledged President Noel and Vice President Espino for their tremendous jobs in their positions.
- Informed the council that he is here to support students in any way possible, if there is any issues, let him be the extra voice/support needed to succeed as a student here at FIU.
- Mentioned to the council "*You are the voice!*", the voice to the students and that is the reason I am here for you all.
- Concluded his report by mentioning to the council the Run with AVP initiative is taking place tonight. "*Come run, walk or jog with me!*"

Ms. Arcentales...

- Greeted the council, then proceeding by thanking President Noel for his leadership.
- Informed the council that during WOW 623 people attended it, keeping in mind that I-75 campus is a small building of only 2 floors.
- Thanked the council for the 17-18 year media wall that was funded. Concluded her report by stating, "*I am looking forward to working with SGA again!*".

**OLD**

**BUSINESS**

**A. 2nd Reading of Bill 2018.0003**

- Senator De Silva presented Bill 2018.0003 and the purpose is for graduate students to be able to run for at large seat.

President Noel open up the floor for Q&A.

Chief Valasquez: *“Why is this bill a good idea?”*

Senator De Silva : *“Because like for the example of Ivy(Senator Wang) she can’t run for at large seats. Since she is a grad student she should be able to.”*

Senator Nemmi motioned to approved Bill 2018.0003

Speaker pro Cosio seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Speaker Habib-	Yay
Senator Chen-	Yay
Senator Wang-	Yay
Senator Nemmi-	Yay
Senator Ho Fung-	Yay
Senator Balfour-	Yay
Senator De Silva-	Yay

By a unanimous decision, Bill 2018.0003 was passed on 08/29/18.

## **B. 2nd Reading of Bill 2018.0004**

- President Noel presented Bill 2018.0004 and the purpose is for SGC-BBC to have the power to create official proclamations.

President Noel open up the floor for Q&A.

Chief Valasquez: *“Is it clear what a proclamation is? Why is it beneficial for everyone?”*

President Noel : *“Every proclamation will be passed as long as it follows the constitution.”*

Speaker Pro Tempore Cosio: *“We need to change chapter to section in order for the numbers to mean the correct description.”*

*Speaker Pro Tempore Cosio motions to amend the bill that is being proposed, provisions that the numerical values be amended to match the current format of the statutes.*

Senator... seconded.

Senator Habib motioned to approved Bill 2018.0003

Senator De Silva seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Speaker Habib- Yay

Senator Chen- Yay

Senator Wang- Yay

Senator Nemmi- Yay

Senator Ho Fung- Yay

Senator Balfour- Yay

Senator De Silva- Yay

By a unanimous decision, Bill 2018.0004 was passed on 08/29/18.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2018 meeting was made by Senator Chen  
Senator ... seconded

All in favor, I  
All opposed, silence  
Vote Passes.

By a unanimous decision, the general meeting minutes from 07/27/2018 was passed.

### **A. Chair Appointments**

- A motion to appoint Senator Ho Fung for7 was made by Senator Habib.
- Senator Ho Fung accepted nomination.
- Senator Ho Fung is given 1 minute to present herself before council as to why she should be appointed to Internal Affairs chair then 1 minute of a discussion period followed.
- Senator Ho Fung Presents herself before council.

President Noel opened the floor for two minutes of Q&A.

Chief Valasquez: *“Why specifically would you like this position Senator Ho Fung?”*

Senator Ho Fung: *“Would like to explore my liking for law and explore my capabilities further here at FIU. “*

Ms.Bourdeau: *“What exactly is it that you’ll be doing?”*

Senator Ho Fung: *“Basically law in the senate position.”*

Ms.Bourdeau: “*Would it be like balancing or like a lawyer?*”

**Point of Clarification**-Ms.Adames: “*RLJ chair will follow the format, and making sure the language is correct on documents. Make sure nothing is conflicting when it is already written. Working with Chief Justice to ensure that everything is correct.*”

President Noel opened the floor to two minutes of discussion.

Chief Valasquez: “*I appreciate Ho Fung for accepting the seat nomination.*”

Senator Habib motioned to end discussion.

Senator Balfour seconds.

Motion passed unanimously.

*Senator Habib moved to approve the appointment of Senator Ho Fung to Chair of Rules, Legislation and Judiciary.*

*Seconded by Senator Balfour*

Roll Call Vote:

Speaker Habib-	Yay
Senator Chen-	Yay
Senator Wang-	Yay
Senator Nemmi-	Yay
Senator Ho Fung-	Yay
Senator Balfour-	Yay
Senator De Silva-	Yay

By a unanimous decision, Senator Ho Fung was appointed Chair of Rules, Legislation and Judiciary on 08/29/18.

## **B. Allocation for food at Journalism Media Hub ribbon cutting**

President Noel...

- Informed the council that he reached out to SGA for \$200.

Speaker Pro Tempore Cosio...

- Informed the council that \$100 would be taken out of the senate for the students to have food at the ribbon cutting.

**Point of information:** Ms.Adames: *The senate currently has \$1500.*

*Senator De Silva asked for a personal privilege after the allocation for food at Journalism Media Hub ribbon cutting report, at 4:52 PM.*

*Chief Justice Valasquez asked for a personal privilege after the allocation for food at Journalism Media Hub ribbon cutting report, at 4:54 PM.*

**C. Weekend Pantry x Bayview Hall Council (Vice Provost Council)**

President Noel...

- Informed the council that he is in the works on making the food pantry accessible on weekends. But before moving forward wants to survey students to make sure this is wanted by the majority.

Floor Opened for Discussion.

Senator Nemmi: *“Certain supermarkets like Publix do sponsorships, they dont give money but they sponsor in the sense of food.”*

**Point of Inquiry-** Dr.Montgomery: *“Those are cooperate asks but we can pursue local grocery stores irst to start the donation process. Also, have you spoken to Kristy?”*

Senator Nemmi: *“Publix sponsored my old dance team and it wasn’t too complicated.”*

*Senator Nemmi asked for a personal privilege after Weekend Pantry report, at 4:59 PM.*

**D. Leadership Lounge**

President Noel...

- Informed the council that they will get into more detail in the senate meeting, but essentially it is a get together where student leaders get together to teach other student leaders.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- SGA Day: Party in AC2, August 29 6pm-8pm
- The Bay Market Place, August 30, 10am-4pm, Panther Plaza
- Panther Connect Hunt (online), August 31, Panther Connect



- Constitution Review Committee Meeting, August 31, 2:30 pm-4:30 pm, MMC- TBA
- FIU vs. Indiana, September 1, 7:00 pm, Riccardo Silva Stadium

Dr. Montgomery..

*The Panther power bus for is only for specific games and the homecoming game not every single home game. These selected games have a tailgate party, 2:30pm the bus leaves campus and after leaver thirty minutes after game has ended. SGA also has a suite, a place to watch the game. Tickets are first come first serve, eigh tickets total for the council, four for the executive branch, two for the senate and two for the cabinet.*

- Fall Fest: Turntable Tuesday/Career Bash, September 4, 11am-1pm, Panther Square
- Fall Fest: Say Cheese, September 2, 12 noon- 2pm, Panther Square
- Fall Fest: SPC's Block Party World , 5pm-9:30pm, AC II Parking Lot
- SGA BBC General Meeting, September 26, 3:30pm, WUC 221

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Chen moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 P.M.

Speaker Balfour Seconded

The meeting was dismissed by President Noel at **(5:06 PM)**.