



# Florida International University

Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & Pines Center

## MINUTES

### **SGC-BBC Senate Meeting February 22, 2016**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Lauren Peterson - Arts & Sciences/Speaker of the Senate  
Tonie Jean - Arts & Sciences/Speaker Pro Tempore  
Luc Pierre-Louis – Arts & Sciences  
Micaela Suarez – Business Administration  
Dionne Bryant - Hospitality Management  
Sudyen Navarrete – Journalism  
Meredith Marseille - Lower Division  
Bendjy Calixte - At-Large  
Natalie Vizarraga – At-Large  
Kenley Jean-Louis - Vice-President  
Magda Compere – Graduate Assistant  
Larissa Adames – Advisor

#### **ABSENT**

Patrick Alcee - Hospitality Management **unexcused**  
Seneka Jean-Jacques - Lower Division **unexcused**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on February 22, 2016 in WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at **3:34 pm** by Speaker **Peterson** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Senator Suarez motioned to table the approval of the minutes from the Feb. 15 meeting until next week's meeting. Senator Vizarraga seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **SENATE SPEAKER REPORT**

- Speaker Peterson shared the unfortunate news of Senator Zainab Osazin's resignation. Ms. Osazin does look forward to joining SGA again in the near future.
- Speaker Peterson thanked everyone who participated in the second Day on the Bay of the academic year.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT REPORT**

- Vice President Jean-Louis said he, Allhan, Raiesa, Chris and Akheim attended FIU Day last week to lobby for important changes for the university.
- Vice-President Jean-Louis said Peer Mentor applications are due March 7.
- Vice-President Jean-Louis said the first lecture series of the spring semester will be on March 2 with Damien Cave, an editor from the New York Times.
- He also mentioned that Seth Flaxman, someone who used to work for Turbovote, will be speaking in GC 314 tomorrow from 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Vice-President Jean-Louis reminded senators that the general meeting is this Wednesday and the Student Leadership Forum with Dr. Arneson and President Mejia will be tomorrow at 12:30 p.m.

### **SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE REPORT**

- Speaker-Pro Jean said she helped Micaela sort through everyone's senate reports and time cards because there are currently no other members on the Internal Affairs committee. She asked that everyone staple their time cards to the senate reports and reminded them that this will be the last week she accepts anything late.

### **FINANCE CHAIR REPORT**

- Senator Marseille said she met with graduate students from Gulf Stream Literary Magazine who are traveling to a conference in California. They provided samples of their work and free coasters.
- Additionally, she said she is going to present some appropriations for funding requests during the new business portion of this meeting.

### **STUDENT ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT**

- Senator Pierre-Louis said he launched a UCC class survey to his committee last week and so far he's been receiving good feedback.
- He also said that he will be speaking to many of the senators soon to see how they can increase presence on this campus among the colleges they represent.

### **INTERNAL RELATIONS CHAIR REPORT**

- Senator Suarez said she looked through everyone's senate reports to determine who is in which committee.

### **OPERATIONAL REVIEW CHAIR REPORT**

- Senator Calixte said the committee has been filled, since the addition of their new member Senator Navarette.
- Senator Calixte said he is going to meet with Marcy and Larissa briefly this week to talk about a new way to fill out event audit reports.

### **ADVISOR REPORT**

- Advisor Adames said today was the last interview with a potential candidate to fill the Student Engagement Director position. The position should be filled within the next week.
- Advisor Adames said the Damien Cave lecture will be next Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. There will be a reception directly after with SJMC faculty/students and SGA members. Mr. Cave is looking for a student club to present to, particularly a journalism club. If anyone knows of one, suggest it to Ms. Adames.
- Advisor Adames said the budget deliberations will be next Wednesday at BBC.
- Advisor Adames said the cabinet is hosting a Republican debate watch part this Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in Panther Square. A Democratic watch party will also be held on March 9.
- Advisor Adames said she has been washing dishes for the past week and she will not continue to do so. She warned that slowly but surely, the dishes (and maybe even the fridge) will disappear if members do not take responsibility for what dishes they used.
- Advisor Adames said she will not be able to attend next week's senate meeting because she will be participating in SAGA Days to select a new graduate assistant for next year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Appropriation Presentations – Meredith Marseille**

#### **A. Mark Barton – Graduate Funding Request**

Barton requested \$500 to cover airfare/conference registration to attend the 2016 Ocean Sciences meeting. Senator Marseille explained that the request was submitted before winter break and couldn't be approved at that time because she didn't have a full committee.

Ms. Adames pointed out that only \$300 can be allocated for domestic conferences. Additionally, she advised that a motion should be made to bypass a second reading as well as a motion to vote on the appropriation today.

Senator Bryant moved to bypass the second reading of the appropriation. Senator Suarez seconded the motion.

#### **Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
 Micaela Suarez – yes  
 Dionne Bryant – yes  
 Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
 Bendjy Calixte – yes  
 Natalie Vizarraga – yes  
 Meredith Marseille – yes  
 Tonie Jean – yes  
 Lauren Peterson – yes

The motion to bypass the second reading passed unanimously.

Senator Bryant moved to vote on the appropriation. Senator Suarez seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – no  
Micaela Suarez – no  
Dionne Bryant – no  
Sudyen Navarrete – no  
Bendjy Calixte – no  
Natalie Vizarraga – no  
Meredith Marseille – no  
Tonie Jean – no  
Lauren Peterson – no

The motion failed and Mark Barton was denied the \$500 that he requested.

**B. Mark Kleese – Undergraduate Funding Request**

Kleese requested \$708.94 to cover registration/and lodging for the 2016 Ocean Sciences meeting.

Senator Bryant moved to bypass the second reading. Senator Suarez seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
Micaela Suarez – yes  
Dionne Bryant – yes  
Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
Bendjy Calixte – yes  
Natalie Vizarraga – yes  
Meredith Marseille – yes  
Tonie Jean – yes  
Lauren Peterson – yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Bryant moved the vote on the appropriation. Senator Jean seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
Micaela Suarez – yes  
Dionne Bryant – yes  
Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
Bendjy Calixte – yes  
Natalie Vizarraga – yes

Meredith Marseille – yes  
Tonie Jean – yes  
Lauren Peterson – yes

The motion passed unanimously and Kleese was funded the full amount.

**C. Alexandra Brownstein – Graduate Funding Request**

Brownstein requested \$508.99 to attend the 2016 Alaska Marine Symposium.

Senator Pierre-Louis moved to bypass the second reading of the appropriation. Senator Bryant seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
Micaela Suarez – yes  
Dionne Bryant – yes  
Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
Bendjy Calixte – yes  
Natalie Vizarraga – yes  
Meredith Marseille – yes  
Tonie Jean – yes  
Lauren Peterson – yes

Senator Calixte moved the vote on the appropriation. Senator Jean-Louis seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
Micaela Suarez – yes  
Dionne Bryant – yes  
Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
Bendjy Calixte – yes  
Natalie Vizarraga – yes  
Meredith Marseille – yes  
Tonie Jean – yes  
Lauren Peterson – yes

The motion passed and Brownstein was funded the full amount.

**D. Michelle Diaz – Graduate Funding Appropriation**

Senator Pierre-Louis moved to bypass the second reading of the appropriation. Senator Calixte seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
Micaela Suarez – yes  
Dionne Bryant – yes  
Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
Bendjy Calixte – yes  
Natalie Vizarraga – yes  
Meredith Marseille – yes  
Tonie Jean – yes  
Lauren Peterson – yes

Senator Pierre-Louis moved the vote on the appropriation. Senator Bryant seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
Micaela Suarez – yes  
Dionne Bryant – yes  
Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
Bendjy Calixte – yes  
Natalie Vizarraga – yes  
Meredith Marseille – yes  
Tonie Jean – yes  
Lauren Peterson – yes

The motion passed unanimously and Diaz was funded the full amount.

**RLJ Chair Appointment**

Senator Pierre-Louis moved to nominate Nathalie Vizarraga as RLK Chair. Senator Suarez seconded the motion. Senator Vizarraga accepted the nomination.

Senator Jean moved to appoint Senator Vizarraga. Senator Bryant seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Luc Pierre-Louis – yes  
Micaela Suarez – yes  
Dionne Bryant – yes  
Sudyen Navarrete – yes  
Bendjy Calixte – yes  
Natalie Vizarraga – yes  
Meredith Marseille – yes  
Tonie Jean – yes  
Lauren Peterson – yes

The motion passed unanimously and Senator Vizarraga became the new RLJ chair.

## ANOUNCEMENTS

- Senator Pierre-Louis said there will be a MangoHax 36-hr event at MMC from March 4-6, in which college age students can learn the basics of coding. The registration date is feb. 26.
- Ms. Adames said Relay for Life is the same weekend from 6 am- 6 pm on March 4.
- Senator Suarez said this week is Internship Week.
- Senator Vizarraga said the Miami Rescue Mission Valentines Day was a success. She thanked everyone for donating teddy bears.
- Senator Pierre-Louis said his committee meeting will be held directly after.

Senator Jean moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Suarez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was dismissed by Speaker Peterson at **4:14 p.m.**