



Florida International University

Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & Pines Center

MINUTES

SGC-BBC Senate Meeting August 21st, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

Lauren Peterson - Arts & Sciences/Speaker of the Senate
Geraldine Gascon - Arts & Sciences/Speaker Pro Tempore
Tonie Jean - Arts & Sciences
Micaela Suarez – Business Administration
Dionne Bryant - Hospitality Management
Patrick Alcee - Hospitality Management **3:33 pm**
Yvenson Fievre - Lower Division
Seneka Jean-Jacques - Lower Division
Meredith Marseille - Lower Division
Luc Pierre-Louis (Stu. Advo. Chair) - Lower Division
Bendjy Calixte - At-Large
Akheim Paisley - At-Large
Fengling Hu – Graduate
Kenley Jean-Louis - Vice-President
Larissa Adames – Advisor

GUEST

Diana Jean – Executive Assistant applicant

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on September 21, 2015 in WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at **3:31 pm**, approximately, by Speaker **Peterson** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Bryant moved to approve the Senate Meeting Minutes from August 30. Senator Pierre-Louis seconded the motion.

By a unanimous decision, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

SENATE SPEAKER REPORT

- Speaker Peterson asked members to no longer eat food at the meetings, as it looks unprofessional.

- Speaker Peterson thanked everyone who attended the FIU football tailgate and who went to the suite. She hopes to see more members there next time.
- Speaker Peterson asked members to turn in their senate reports and time reports at the end of the week to Speaker-Pro Gascon. Additionally, she said the Internal Affairs committee is going to report back to her with who doesn't turn the minutes in.
- Speaker Peterson said all committee chairs should report to her frequently about what is going on in their committee meetings.
- Speaker Peterson said President Mejia wants everyone to speak to their advisors regarding spring class surveys before the general meeting next week.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

- Vice President Jean-Louis said that the Snapchat geotag for this campus is now available thanks to the SGA graphic artist, Adam Bernstein.
- Vice-President Jean-Louis said only Senator Hu gave her availability for the Street Team hours. He would like to hear from everyone else by the end of Wednesday. Speaker Peterson said that the details for the Street Team need to be discussed further first before asking the senate members to do anything else.

SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE REPORT

- Speaker-Pro Gascon said that the senate reports should say more than "went to the senate meeting," because that is a task that is already expected of senators to do.

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Marseille said she got clarification for Linda Lara's finance request. The request will be reviewed later in this meeting.

RLJ CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Fievre said he might need two senators to assist him in writing the team bill. Speaker Peterson suggested that Senator Fievre get help from the other RLJ members.

STUDENT ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Pierre-Louis said he replaced Senator Marseille on the "It's On Us" campaign. He met with Meredith Morgan from the Women's Center and she said they are organizing an international day for the elimination of violence against women. She is requesting SGA's help with logistics for the event and needs help with getting the word out. Additionally, Ms. Morgan would like SGA's help with completing a sexual awareness program called "Haven."

- Senator Pierre-Louis said that he would like to see SGA members complete 10 food surveys during their office hours, as it seems like many students are not doing much during their time in the office. Senator Jean asked if Senator Pierre-Louis meant for members to complete 10 surveys per week. Senator Pierre-Louis said he was thinking 10 surveys every time a member comes in to do office hours. Speaker Peterson said the logistics will have to be worked out.

INTERNAL RELATIONS CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Jean said the committee had their first meeting today. They appointed Senator Suarez as co-chair and Senator Fievre as secretary.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Calixte said the committee had their first meeting last week. They appointed Senator Paisley as the vice-president and Senator Fievre as the secretary.
- Senator Calixte said he checked the binder which included the I-75 reports, but the committee needs to get reports from SOC and Campus Life because they haven't submitted any yet for some events they have already completed.

ADVISOR REPORT

- Advisor Adames said there was an Orgsync training last Tuesday. SGA is going to start streamlining announcements of events and open positions on there more frequently. Members should make an account and join the SGA portal.
- Advisor Adames said that tabling for Majorfest will be tomorrow from 10-11 am and 12-1 pm. Members need to sign up on the Google Drive if they have availability to table.
- Advisor Adames said members need to make sure the front desk assistant initials the sign in sheet for when they bring in people to give office tours. Additionally, each person participating in an office tour should receive an SGA t-shirt as a giveaway.
- Advisor Adames said business cards and name tags will arrive soon.
- Advisor Adames said the SGA Facebook page has 993 likes. Only seven more likes needed to reach our goal of 1,000.
- Advisor Adames said Hispanic Heritage will be celebrated this week and next week. The Pachanga by the Bay concert will be Thursday night.
- Advisor Adames said Senators Jean, Hu and Calixte have not scheduled a one on one meeting with her yet.
- Advisor Adames said members need to turn in their bios and get their pictures taken for the Member Monday posts.

OLD BUSINESS

Senator Paisley moved to have a five minute recess as there were technical difficulties. Senator Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Speaker Peterson asked members to come back from the recess at 4:06 pm.

Senator Marseille moved to move the finance appropriation below the appointment for executive assistant on the agenda. Senator Pierre-Louis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

A. Executive Assistant Appointment – Diana Jean

Diana said that she is a junior studying biology and it's her first semester at FIU.

Senator Pierre-Louis asked her if she knows what the position she is running for entails. Diana said yes.

Speaker-Pro Gascon asked her if she knows when the senate meeting begins, as she was late for it. Diana said that she was aware of when the meeting began but that President Mejia told her she could arrive a few minutes late because of her class.

Advisor Adames asked Diana about what techniques she will use to balance her studying for all of her bio classes as well as being an SGA member. Diana said she is only taking seven credits of classes so it won't be too challenging.

Speaker Peterson told Diana that at this time, SGA will not be able to approve her as the executive assistant because she is only taking seven credits and the minimum to be in SGA is nine.

B. Finance Appropriation – 2nd reading

Senator Marseille said Linda Lara requested \$600 for the speed networking event on Friday to pay for the rental of the ballrooms. Ms. Lara mentioned that she is inviting MAST students to the event, but that it is still open to all FIU students.

Senator Pierre-Louis asked if the finance code specifies that all allocations need to be for events that mainly benefit FIU students. Senator Marseille said the finance code says "for the benefit of FIU students."

Senator Jean asked if the senate can amend the amount on the request. Senator Marseille said yes.

Senator Fievre asked if the event will still be able to be paid for even if SGA does not fund it. Speaker Peterson said that question shouldn't be relevant in your decision making process. Speaker-Pro Gascon added that when SGA funds something, they reimburse the requestor, therefore this event has already been paid for.

Vice-President Jean-Louis said to remember that SGA funds events to better the student life for FIU students. Recently, MAST has had to pay a \$10 one time activity and student fee verses the amount of A&S fees that FIU students get charged for per credit hour.

Senator Paisley said MAST is a funnel for future students to come to FIU. This is an event we should support if it's essentially recruiting.

Senator Fievre said his perspective is that SGA should not fully fund the event, but instead allocate \$150.

Senator Marseille asked what the logic is behind funding \$150. Senator Fievre said he feels that the event is geared mostly toward MAST students and also that the event is on a Friday, a day that he feels many FIU students are not on campus.

Speaker Peterson said it's time to wrap up the discussion and come up with a number to fund the event.

Senator Paisley moved to fund \$500 for the event. No one seconded the motion, therefore the motion failed.

Senator Marseille moved to fund \$200 for the event. Senator Bryant seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Tonie Jean - yay
Micaela Suarez – yay
Dionne Bryant - yay
Patrick Alcee - yay
Yvenson Fievre - yay
Seneka Jean-Jacques - yay
Meredith Marseille - yay
Luc Pierre-Louis - nay
Bendjy Calixte - yay
Akheim Paisley - yay
Fengling Hu – nay
Geraldine Gascon - yay
Lauren Peterson - nay

By a vote 10 yays and 2 nays, the motion passed and Linda Lara's event will be funded \$200.

ANOUNCEMENTS

- Speaker Peterson said Meet Your Dean is on Oct. 26 and it is a mandatory event.
- Senator Jean-Jaques said CSA is holding Caribbean Jeopardy tomorrow from 1-3 pm.
- Senator Fievre said the SOC mixer is Wednesday from 2-4 pm.
- Senator Pierre-Louis said the Student Advocacy meeting will be held now.

The meeting was dismissed by Speaker Peterson at **4:30 pm.**