



# Florida International University

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

## MINUTES

### **SGC-BBC Senate Meeting**

**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

#### IN ATTENDANCE

John Habib, Speaker / Arts, Sciences, & Education Senator  
Jonathan Espino, Vice President  
Pamela Ho Fung, Speaker Pro Tempore / Lower Division Senator  
Mahalia Balfour, Arts, Sciences, and Education Senator / Student Advocacy Chair  
Jiaqi “Water” Chen, Finance Chair / Graduate Senator  
Yuze “Crystal” Ji, Hospitality & Tourism Management Senator  
Xu Chang, Hospitality & Tourism Management Senator  
Mark Monaco, Health Services Administration Senator  
Catalina Nemmi, Lower Division Senator  
Brian Levine, Housing Senator, RLJ Chair  
Xin Wang, Operational Review Chair / At-Large Senator  
Priscila Sevil, Internal Affairs Chair/ At-Large Senator

#### EXCUSED

Mark Monaco, Health Services Administration Senator

#### GUESTS

Dr. Kerrie Montgomery, Campus Life Director  
Larissa Adames, Campus Life Assistant Director, and SGC-BBC Advisor  
Jonathan Espino, Vice President  
Jefferson Noel, President  
Joanna Espino, Guest  
Anna Radinsky, Assistant News Director of PantherNOW  
Heidy Martinez, Front Desk Assistant

#### CALL TO ORDER

The SGC-BBC Senate held a meeting on January 14, 2019– **WUC 221**. The meeting was called to order at **3:32 pm**, approximately, by **Speaker Habib** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

#### WELCOME

Speaker Habib welcomed the Senate back and stated how proud he was that everyone was on time and proceeded with his Speaker report.

### **SPEAKER REPORT**

Speaker Habib...

- Informed the Senate their Duties and Expectations for the Spring Semester during the retreat. Gave an updated list of the Legislative Branch - which includes who-is-in-what committee.
- Stressed that Committees must meet at least twice a month. The meetings should be fruitful and important - there should be no rushing and no tangents.
- Reminded the senate to open up recent email and upload all pictures taken at the retreat onto the Google Drive folder. These pictures will be used for Social Media as well as on the website.
- Informed the Senate that at least 1 Resolution/Bill is to be presented by each member by February 11th, latest. Resolutions and Bills are to also be approved by the R.L.J. committee before reaching the Senate floor. There they will give suggested edits to the documents.
- Reminded the Senate to “speak up” for the remainder of the meeting. Whenever they speak, they should be loud and clear.
- Concluded by speaking about how he wants to have a very fun year in SGA with everyone, but reminded them that they are elected officials who have been voted in to fulfill duties and expectations.

### **VICE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Vice President Espino...

- Informed the Senate of a few updates: Reflexology Path Day January 29, 2019 is in the works and date is still flexible. Also, in the works a Week of Wellness in collaboration with healthy living.
- Reminded the Senate that some projects like PharmaBox are in the works and would like Senator Balfour and Senator Levine to be apart of this since it is taking place in Bayview. Also, the Mangrove wall which has been in the works for 6 years hopefully will be completed by the end of this semester.
- Stated that he will be scheduling his one on ones with the senate so expect a doodle by the end of the day.

### **SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE REPORT**

Speaker Pro Ho Fung...

- Stated that she was happy to be back and hoping that this semester will be productive.

- Updated the Senate about her resolution homework that includes the purchase of tables with electrical accessibility to it.
- Mentioned that she will be working on being more productive with both roles as Lower Division Senator and Speaker Pro Tempore.
- Preparing to work with Senator Nemmi about SLS Classes as well as other Freshman and Sophomore focused ideas.
- Encouraged the chairs and their committees to take precise minutes as her schedule is really busy and might not be able to attend some of the committees meetings
- Said that she is looking forward to this semester.

### **ADVISOR REPORT**

Ms. Adames...

- Reminded the Senate about submitting their class schedules and office hours by Friday on Panther Connect.
- Mentioned that if any council would like to reserve the conference room to please email her or the front staff to reserve it with time.
- Informed the Senate that if anything is being planned in this busy semester to follow our own rules. For example, the three week rule for purchase request or it might not be approved.
- Stated that there is a student leadership summit coming up and recommends you all to attend.
- Concluded her report by reminding the Senate of the Town Hall meeting on February 11, 2019.

Dr. Montgomery...

- Reminded the Senate of the Budget hearings coming up and although only certain people have voting privileges she encourages you all to attend for the experience.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Upcoming Congress Meeting**

Speaker Habib stated there is no update on arranging a day or time but use this as a reminder to start preparing the university wide bill and etc.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of the Minutes**

Senator Levine asked for Unanimous Consent that the Senate Minutes of January 07, 2019, as corrected, be approved.

There were no objections, therefore the Senate Minutes of January 07, 2019, as corrected, were approved.

**B. Reading of Resolution 2019.0001**

*Speaker Habib granted two minutes to read the resolution and ten minutes for discussion.  
Senator Levine read and started discussion of the resolution.*

Senator Levine was questioned by about whether sponsoring his own bill was the best action. Also, about the time frame when the issue began to further specify it in the resolution. Senator Levine stated, "sometime after christmas around late december." In addition, he was asked about what would come next after this resolution if it would be passed. Senator Levine answered that if passed he would once it is signed, it would be sent to the appropriate individuals.

Senator Levine in the interest of getting it fixed or secured immediately motioned to bypass the second reading of Resolution 2019.0001.  
Senator Nemmi Seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Speaker Habib - Yea					
Speaker	Pro	Ho	Fung	-	Yea
Senator Balfour - Nay					
Senator Chen - Yea					
Senator			Ji		-Yea
Senator Chang - Yea					
Senator		Nemmi		-	Yea
Senator		Levine		-	Yea
Senator Wang - Yea					
Senator Sevil - Yea					

The bypassing of the seconding reading of Resolution 2019.001 passed with a vote of 9-1-0.

*Debate on bypassing Resolution 2019.0001 followed.*

Senator Balfour brought to attention she believed this should have been brought up to the President Noel so that he may write something up and take action a different way. Also, so it

could be a more polished resolution.

Senator Levine replied by stating he initially emailed Bayview with the concern on recommendation from President Noel, which makes him aware of this resolution. Senator Levine said: *“I rather the error on imperfect language and get the problem fixed since it has been unsecure for over a month.”*

Senator Balfour mentioned she wanted more backing to this rather than skipping straight to this resolution.

Dr. Montgomery stated that with the vote passing to bypass the second reading it if it gets passed it goes as is. The fact that it is a resolution says that the body of the student government has an issue with this. Showing a more powerful message.

Senator Balfour informed she just disapproves not on the resolution itself but on how it was written.

Roll Call Vote:

Speaker Habib - Yea					
Speaker	Pro	Ho	Fung	-	Yea
Senator Balfour - Abstained					
Senator Chen - Yea					
Senator			Ji		-Yea
Senator Chang - Yea					
Senator		Nemmi		-	Yea
Senator		Levine		-	Yea
Senator Wang - Yea					
Senator Sevil - Yea					

Resolution 2019.001 passed with a vote of 9-0-1.

### **C. SGA Meet & Greet at Bayview Funding**

*Speaker Habib granted three minutes to present and ten minutes for discussion.*

Senator Balfour presented her need of funding for the SGA Meet & Greet at Bayview for \$130.00

*Discussion followed*

Senator Levine motioned to allocate \$149.16 for the SGA Meet & Greet at Bayview. Senator Chen seconded the motion.

Senator Balfour Amends the motion to allocate \$150.00.  
Senator Wang seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Speaker Habib - Yea						
Speaker	Pro	Ho	Fung	-		Yea
Senator Balfour - Yea						
Senator Chen - Nay						
Senator			Ji			-Yea
Senator Chang - Yea						
Senator		Nemmi		-		Yea
Senator		Levine		-		Abstained
Senator Wang - Yea						
Senator Sevil - Yea						

## **DISCUSSION**

### **A. Student Concerns**

Speaker Habib asked the Senate if any of them had any student concerns that they would like to share.

Senator Sevil: “Many CASE students say that the curriculum for labs here at BBC are much harder than MMC. Students are having serious issues with that which also scares students of taking labs here at BBC.”

Ms. Adames: “Talk to department chairs or the person who oversees that chair and voice the students issues.”

Senator Levine: “The pool at Bayview is out of service.”

Senator Habib: “Keep us updated on that”

## **FINANCE CHAIR REPORT**

Senator Chen...

- Mentioned that she had the first finance committee meeting , and main topic of this meeting was the Finance Code Improvement. Since it might be a U-wide bill, we should take it seriously.
- Informed the Senate that she will contact Rose for further information. Also, will contact her to see whether we will have a meeting for two finance committee.

### **RLJ CHAIR REPORT**

Senator Levine...

- Informed the Senate that they have not met as a committee yet. However, a meeting will be scheduled soon.

### **OPERATIONAL REVIEW CHAIR REPORT**

Senator Wang...

- Informed the Senate that they held their first Operational Review Committee meeting today.
- Concluded her report by stating they would choose their vice Operational Review Chair in next meeting.

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR REPORT**

Senator Sevil...

- Informed the Senate that she had no report this week due to it being the beginning of the semester and she was letting the senate get accustomed to things.

### **STUDENT ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT**

Senator Balfour...

- Informed the Senate that the SGA meet & greet at Bayview will be from 6-8 pm on Friday January 25th in the 1st floor clubroom. Also, that the Student Advocacy Committee meeting will be thursday the 17th at 12:10 pm in the SGA conference room

### **SENATOR'S REPORT**

Senator Levine...

- Mentioned to the council that it is Senator Ho Fungs birthday and also his own birthday.

Senator Ji...

- Mentioned to the council that Some students asked her if we can put a lost and found box in the hospitality building, and she will write a resolution about it this week.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Noel...

- Informed the Senate about having an SGA week, and more events happening throughout the spring semester. For example, the DRC lunch in, Day on the Bay, more events with cultural affairs, and working on the guinness world record.
- Concluded his report by stating that budget season is upon us, and thanked the Senate for being so great. "Let's keep our foot on the gas pedal!"

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Civility Summit**, January 18th
  - 1pm-5pm
  - Lynn University
- **SGA Budget Hearings & Deliberations**
  - Hearings
    - University Wide Hearings @MMC - 9:00 am to 5:00pm - GC 325 Tuesday, January 15, 2019
    - University Wide Hearings @BBC - 9:30 am to 4:00pm - WUC 155 Thursday, January 17, 2019
    - Hearings BBC Specific: 9:30 am to 4:00 pm - WUC 155 Wednesday, January 23, 2019
  - Deliberations
    - U-Wide @ MMC 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - GC 325 Tuesday, February 12, 2019
    - U-Wide @ BBC 9:30 am to 4:00 pm - WUC 155 Thursday, February 14, 2019
    - Deliberations BBC Specific - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm - WUC 155 Thursday, February 21, 2019
- **Student Leadership Summit**, February 2nd
  - 8:30am-4:30pm
  - WUC
- **Town Hall Meeting with President Rosenberg**, February 11
  - 2pm-5pm
  - Mary Ann Wolfe Theater
- **Admitted Students' Day**, March 2nd
  - Time: TBA
  - WUC

## **ADJOURNMENT**



Senator Wang moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50pm.  
Senator Nemmi seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by Speaker Habib at **4:50pm.**