



Florida International University

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

MINUTES

SGC-BBC Senate Meeting September 17, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE

John Habib, Speaker/Arts, Sciences, & Education
Jiaqi “Water” Chen, Finance Chair/Hospitality & Tourism Management
Mahalia Balfour, Senator of Arts, Sciences, and Education
Catalina Nemmi, Lower Division (3:53 P.M.)
Pamela Ho Fung, Senator of Lower Division
Priscila Sevil, At-Large
Jonathan Espino, Vice President

EXCUSED

Chelsea De Silva, Hospitality & Tourism Management
Xin Wang, Operational Review Chair/At-Large Senator

GUESTS

Larissa Adames, Campus Life Assistant Director and SGC-BBC Advisor
Dr. Kerrie Montgomery, Campus Life Director
Jefferson Noel, President
Anthony Jones, SGA Front Desk Assistant
Nedjina Dol, SGA Front Desk Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on September 17, 2018– **WUC 221**. The meeting was called to order at **3:38pm**, approximately, by **Speaker Habib** who presided over the meeting in its entirety

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Chen moved to approve the Senate Minutes of September 10, 2018. Senator Sevil seconded the motion. By a unanimous decision the motion was passed.

WELCOME

Speaker Habib welcomed the council to the senate meeting stating, “I hope that you all are having a blessed day.”

SPEAKER REPORT

Speaker Habib...

- Informed the senate that there were still some legislative documents that needed to be sent out and that he is in the process of adding more information to them before sending them out to everyone.
- Reminded the senate that it's their responsibility to read over the legislative documents once they are sent out and to please leave comments on the document where they have any questions or are not entirely sure about what it is that they read.
- Informed the council that he will send out the Resolutions, Bills, Quarm, and other SGA documents once the legislative documents were sent out and everyone had a chance to go over them.
- Reminded the senate about the Senator Resolution Homework stating, “We need to make sure that we are getting back on track with the Senator Resolution Homework, there are still over 50 resolutions to go over.”

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Vice President Espino...

- Updated the senate about the Pharmabox, stated that he is currently waiting on a response from Kenia Junco regarding the possible locations of the Pharmabox and will email the possible locations out to the council once he has them.
- Updated the senate on the Mangrove Wall stating, “The Chief Justice and I met with Ed Furnace, Andrea Ramos, and Shalimar Moreno in the morning to discuss the Mangrove Wall and some logistics. We also discussed the possibility of having two murals, one at the bottom and one on the top, in order to deter people from being able to reach and pick up the mangroves. Furthermore, we’ve decided that the structure will be reflective of the mangroves and we will still be using the recycled water bottles from the “Day on the Bay” Event, so the mangroves will be kept in the water bottles with gravel and water.”
- Updated the senate on Zen Garden, informing the senate that the Mangrove Wall area will become the Zen Space and if anyone is interested in helping him on this project, to please reach out to him. Also, the space by the Reflexology Path will have flowering plants and aromatic herbs

- Updated the senate on Fitness Path stating, “I was suppose to go to a meeting last week but no one ever followed up with me with a location for the meeting However, I will be reaching out to Dr. Desantis for that.”
- Informed the senate that he has sent out to them the time frames for when he is available for his one on one meetings with the senate and for them to please look over them and select a time that works best for them to have their one on one meeting.

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT

Senator Chen...

- Informed the senate that there were no updates at the moment

RLJ REVIEW REPORT

Senator Ho Fung...

- Informed the senate that there were no updates at the moment

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR REPORT

Senator Sevil...

- Informed that senate that a lot of council members forgot to clock out of the office last week, and stressed the importance of clocking out of the office.
- Informed the council that starting this week, “If you forget to clock out you will not receive any of those hours at all, I will be sending out an email to everyone regarding this matter later today.”

ADVISOR REPORT

Ms.Adames...

- Informed the senate that the office is going to have a student intern from Embrace (FIU Panther LIFE Program) named Winston who will be helping around the office Wednesday through Friday, from 9:00-12:00.
- Reminded senate that we will be decorating the office for homecoming and we need all the help we can get to assist us in decorating the office and to please see her if you would like to help out.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Minutes

The senate reviewed the minutes of September 10, 2018.

The motions regarding the approval of the minutes are found under “APPROVAL OF MINUTES”

NEW BUSINESS

A. Chair Nominations

Speaker Habib opened the floor for chair nominations.

Senator Balfour nominated herself for position of Student Advocacy Chair.

Senator Chen seconded the nomination.

Speaker Habib opened the floor for 2 minutes of presentation followed by 2 minutes of Q/A.

Senator Balfour presented herself and why she should be appointed to Student Advocacy Chair.

The senate asked questions regarding Senator Balfour’s appointment to Student Advocacy Chair.

Senator Balfour answered the questions accordingly.

Senator Ho Fung moved to appoint Senator Balfour to position of Student Advocacy Chair.

Senator Chen seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote:

John Habib–Yay

Mahalia Balfour-Yay

Jiaqi “Water” Chen–Yay

Pamela Ho Fung-Yay

Catalina Nemmi–Abstain

Priscila Sevil-Yay

By a vote of 5/0/1, Senator Balfour was appointed to Student Advocacy Chair.

B. Committees

Speaker Habib reviewed the committees document with the senate, making sure to go over all of the chair positions and requirements to make each committee complete.

Speaker Habib explained to the senate each of the committees functions and their purpose.

Speaker Habib reminded the senate that each senate member must be in at least two committees unless they hold a chair position, then they are only required to be a part of one other committee. He also stated that he will be checking to see who is not part of at least two committees before the next senate meeting.

Speaker Habib requested that all committee chairs please meet with their committees this week and to have an established report of that meeting ready for the next Monday senate meeting.

The senate asked Speaker Habib and Vice President Espino questions regarding chair positions and committees.

Speaker Habib and Vice President Espino answered accordingly.

Speaker Habib reinstated the importance of being a part of at least two committees and stated that he would like to see everyone in at least two committees by this upcoming Wednesday.

DISCUSSION

A. SGC-MMC Controversy

Speaker Habib opened the discussion by making sure that everyone was aware of the controversy regarding the SGC at MMC and stating that he wanted to end this discussion by 4:20 PM.

Speaker Habib briefly educated the senate on how what you say and do in public can be used against you and to please be mindful of what you say in do in the public eye.

Speaker Habib briefly talked about what was written in the Panther Now article and the senate began to discuss the SGC-MMC controversy:

Senator Balfour, “Where can you find further information about the SGA meetings at MMC?”

Vice President Espino, “PantherConnect.”

Ms.Adames, “I strongly suggest that you all stay as neutral and professional as possible during this whole controversy and just trust the process.”

Dr.Montgomery, “You all should take the time to review the FIU SGA statutes and see what the impeachment process is so that you all can be educated about it. This way you all can trust the process like Ms.Adames said but you can also be educated about what that process looks like.”

Vice President Espino, “Also, all senate meeting minutes are available to the public, so if you would like to see what the senate over at MMC talked about today you should be able to view the minutes of the meeting.”

Ms.Adames, “situations like this are learning experiences, use it as guidance and learn something from it.”

Speaker Habib, “And all of this is not to say that BBC is better and we don’t do anything like that. It's not a matter of we are better, at the end of the day we are all still one SGA, so what affects them over at MMC also affects us and we need to see that and not feel that we are better because when it comes down to it, like I said earlier we are all one SGA and everything that happens regarding the council here or at MMC will always reflect on us.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. **One SGA Constitution Forum**, September 11, 12-2pm, WUC 155
- B. **One Constitution Committee Meeting**, September 14, 3pm-5pm
- C. **One SGA Constitution Forum**, September 19, 6PM-8PM, Bayview
- D. **Leadership Lounge**, September 26, 1pm-2pm, WUC 353
- E. **Safety Walk**, October 2, 7:30pm-9pm

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Sevil moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 PM. Senator Balfour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was dismissed by Speaker Habib at **4:20 PM**.