



Florida International University

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

MINUTES

SGC-BBC Senate Meeting

October 8, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE

John Habib, Speaker/Arts, Sciences, & Education

Jiaqi “Water” Chen, Finance Chair/Graduate Senator

Mahalia Balfour, Senator of Arts, Sciences, and Education Student Advocacy Chair

Catalina Nemmi, Lower Division

Christopher Gil, Upper Division

Xin Wang, Operational Review Chair/At-Large Senator

Pamela Ho Fung, Senator of Lower Division, Speaker Pro

Priscila Sevil, At-Large Internal Affairs Chair

Jonathan Espino, Vice President

GUESTS

Dr. Kerrie Montgomery, Campus Life Director

Larissa Adames, Campus Life Assistant Director and SGC-BBC Advisor

Anthony Jones, SGA Front Desk Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on October 8, 2018– **WUC 221**. The meeting was called to order at **3:37pm**, approximately, by **Speaker Habib** who presided over the meeting in its entirety

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator Nemmi moved to approve the Senate Minutes of October 1, 2018. Senator Sevil seconded the motion.

By a unanimous decision the motion was passed.

WELCOME

Speaker Habib welcomed the Senate and announced to them that a lot of what they are going to go over today is dealing with the new revised SGA Constitution.

SPEAKER REPORT

Speaker Habib...

- Stated that all reports will be optional today in order to make enough time to go over the revised SGA Constitution together as a senate.
- Asked the Senate if any one had a brief report that they would like to share.

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT

Senator Chen...

- Informed the senate Senator Nemmi is the new Vice Chair of the Finance Committee.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR REPORT

Senator Sevil...

- Informed the senate that only one person missed to meet their required office hours this week.
- Announced that she will be sending out an email later this week to all council members regarding the rules of when to clock out of the office if you have to step out of the office.

ADVISOR REPORT

Ms.Adames...

- Announced that she will be sending out an email for all those who would like to register to be a part of the upcoming parade.
- Informed the senate that there is a new process for stipends. Stating that stipends will be received earlier in the semester than before. Also, stating that an email will soon be sent to those who have to fill out a sign on packet in order to receive their stipends and that if you do not receive an email, to not be concerned because those who don't receive the email are already good to go.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Minutes

The Senate reviewed the minutes of October 1, 2018. The motions regarding the approval of the minutes are found under “APPROVAL OF MINUTES”

B. U-Wide Bill 1802

Speaker Habib informed the senate that MMC's RLJ Chair has still not yet gotten back to him regarding the amendments to the bill so he highly recommended that the senate postpone this bill indefinitely.

Senator Sevil moved to postpone U-Wide Bill 1802 indefinitely.
Senator Nemmi seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Senate Bill 2018.0005 2nd Reading

Speaker Habib reviewed Senate Bill 2018.0005 with the senate.

Senator Balfour moved to approve Senate Bill 2018.0005.
Senator Sevil seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Revised SGA Constitution

I. Discussion

The Senate reviewed and discussed the revised SGA constitution.

Speaker Habib, "I hope that you all have had the chance to thoroughly read through the revised SGA Constitution."

The Senate all responded, "Yes."

Speaker Habib asked the entire senate if anyone had any questions.

Senator Wang had a question regarding the structure of the House of Representatives within the new Constitution.

Speaker Habib answered the question accordingly and went on to explain what the Legislative Branch looks like within the Constitution.

Speaker Habib, “The Senate is going to be composed of 13-14 Senators and each Senator will represent a specific college, but the schools will also have senate seats as well as housing seats so out of the 14 senators, there will be some from Housing, Hospitality, & Communication + Journalism which are guaranteed to be Senate seats from BBC.

Dr. Montgomery, “This was implemented in order to help provide greater representation to the smaller campuses and schools.”

Dr. Montgomery, “Also, for CASE specific, there is a CASE seat that represents Chemistry and Bioengineering.”

Senator Balfour, “Why can’t there just be one senator for both schools, Why does it need to be split?”

Ms.Adames, “The purpose of that is to make sure that all students from all programs have representation.”

Dr. Montgomery, “Yes, it was done so that constituents who are already large groups have as voice and smaller groups of students will have a voice too.”

Senator Nemmi, “In terms of when it comes to having a meeting like the meeting that we are having now, will it be a meeting with the House and the Senate combined?”

Speaker Habib, “No, they will both have their separate meetings and will only meet together during a cabinet meeting.

Senator Chen, “Why do the House and the Senate have similar duties?”

Speaker Habib, “Senators view over CASE as a whole and reps are narrowed down to their specific area. When something is important on the scale that it will affect the entire university such as voting on a new constitution, the Congress will vote on it as a whole. However, all of the bills and resolutions, they will do on their own within their respective meetings.”

Dr. Montgomery, “All students will still be able to run for other seats within the Senate and the House, you don't have to be limited to only the campus specific seats.

Speaker Habib, “That's right, each seat is considered a “U-Wide” seat so you will be running against everyone university wide.”

Speaker Habib, “Honestly in my opinion, it’s more than likely that everyone within SGA will most likely be from MMC except for the campus specific seats and that’s why I’m not too happy about this revision, because it ultimately underrepresents us.”

Speaker Habib questioned the Senate, “After thoroughly reading this Constitution, do you all feel that it’s highly likely that BBC could potentially be underrepresented?”

Senator Chen, “Yes.”

Senator Wang, “Yes.”

Senator Ho Fung, “Yes.”

Senator Sevil, “Yes.”

Senator Balfour, “Yes.”

Senator Balfour, “I feel that this new constitution will not properly represent BBC students because it is very likely that there will not be enough senators from the BBC campus.

Senator Nemmi, “I feel that there are two different cultures when it comes to MMC and BBC. At BBC it’s more of a closer environment, everyone knows each other as opposed to MMC’s large environment and I honestly don’t think that by merging both SGA Councils and calling it one SGA is going to bridge the gap between both campuses.”

Senator Balfour, “I feel it’s going to be as if we are all going to be under one SGA but unequal.”

Speaker Habib, “I just want to put this out here, there were administrators who thought that we’ve always had 2 constitutions between the 2 councils. They didn’t think that both SGA’s were equal and I just want to make it clear that Both SGA’s were always equal in power.”

Dr.Montgomery, “The whole point of this going to a student vote is that if you all are unhappy, really go out there and voice your opinion and cast your vote based on how you feel.”

Speaker Habib explained the entire voting process and how the revised Constitution will make its way for the FIU students to vote.

Vice President Espino, “To be transparent with all of you guys, myself, Habib, & President Noel all voted no in regards to the revised Constitution.”

Speaker Habib, “BBC had one student and one advisor who were able to vote on the revised Constitution.”

Ms. Adames, “When the SGA Constitution Revision Committee was put together, Jefferson and Sirven were able to choose any student to be a part of the committee and they choose students who were already a part of the SGA council.”

Senator Nemmi, “What is a positive thing from this new revised Constitution?”

Speaker Habib, “I really like how the Judiciary Branch is set up.”

Speaker Habib questioned the Senate, “Do you guys personally think that this constitutional revision is being student led?”

Senator Balfour, “No I don’t think so, not the majority of it.”

Speaker Habib, “Originally this was student led, last fall our previous SGA President, Leo, was working with the President over at MMC to work on a constitution that would merge both SGA’s.”

Speaker Habib, “During the last committee meeting, Jefferson asked the question, “Do you guys think that this process has been student led?” Both the advisor over at MMC and Dr. DeSantis stated that they believed that this whole process has been student led. After that I had a clear conversation with Dr. DeSantis and at the end of the conversation he told me, “You know what John, this was Admin Led.””

Senator Nemmi, “The majority of MMC wants the merger to happen.”

Dr. Montgomery, “How exactly do you know that?”

Speaker Habib, “From what I hear, MMC has always been wanting a merge.”

Vice President Espino, “Take words like that with a grain of salt.”

Senator Balfour, “Since originally the merge was student led and Leo decided to backout of it, what is the reason for administration wanting this merge to happen?”

Speaker Habib, “Jeff and I were not ok with the merge since the very beginning so I wrote a letter to Dr. Bejar.”

Senator Balfour, “Has she ever heard from the actual students?”

Speaker Habib, “I’m not sure, she has not attended any of the Town Hall’s that we had here at BBC and MMc did not have any Town Hall’s.”

Senator Balfour, “If this is all to represent the students then we should of definitely had Town Hall’s at MMc and why haven't we had a meeting with both of the SGA senate councils?

Ms.Adames, “Dr. Bejar will not break a tie vote. The students will always have the final vote on the constitution. You guys want for the students to vote on this and it is ultimately up to the FIU students to vote on this. Every student should vote, you can decide to give them reasons to say yay, nay, or abstain but at the end of the day it is best for the students to vote, don’t take that away from them.”

Speaker Habib, “The voting on the Constitution is not based on a majority vote, if 41% of the students who vote say no to the constitution then it will not happen and i've been told on the record that administration will not interfere with the students vote.”

Senator Sevil moved to end the discussion.

Senator Balfour seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. Vote

Dr. Montgomery read off to the senate the remaining minor changes that needed to be made to the revised Constitution.

Senator Sevil moved to approve the Revised Constitution pending edits.

Senator Ho Fung seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

John Habib–Nay

Mahalia Balfour-Nay

Jiaqi “Water” Chen–Nay

Xin Wang–Nay

Christopher Gil–Nay

Pamela Ho Fung-Nay

Catalina Nemmi-Nay

Priscila Sevil–Nay

By Unanimous Decision, The Motion Failed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Homecoming Week**, October 6-13, 2018
 - i. **Caribbean Bash**, October 9th, 6pm-10pm, WUC Ballrooms
 - ii. **4th Annual Dessert Challenge for Roary's Birthday**, October 10, 12pm-2pm, Panther Square
 - iii. **Diversity Day**, October 11, 9:30am-3:30pm, WUC Ballrooms & Theater
 - iv. **A Night In Paris**, October 12, 7pm-10pm, WUC Ballrooms
- b. **Homecoming Parade**, October 13, 3pm, MMC Lot 3
- c. **Constitution Voting**, October 15, 9am-5pm, AC1
- d. **HSA Car Wash**, October 16, 10am-1pm, outside AC2 in front of Parking Lot
- e. **Day on the Bay**, October 20, 8:30am-12:30pm, Lawn by the Bay
- f. **Halloween Horror Nights**, October 24th, 12 noon
- g. **Mentor Monday**, October 29, 11am-1pm, WUC 257
- h. **Doughnuts with the Dean**, October 30, 11am-12:30pm, TBA
- i. **Leadership Lounge**, October 31, 1pm-2pm , WUC 353
- j. **General Meeting**, October 31, 3:30pm, WUC 221
- k. **President's Roundtable**, November 1st, SGA Conference Room
- l. **Charting the Course: FIU 2025 - Conversation Series with President Rosenberg and Provost Furton**, November 5th, 2pm-4pm, WUC Theatre
- m. **BBC Active Shooter Training**, WUC , 1pm-5pm

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Sevil moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:54pm. Senator Balfour seconded the motion.

The meeting was dismissed by Speaker Habib at **4:54pm**.