



Florida International University

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

MINUTES

SGC-BBC Senate Meeting

November 26th, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE

John Habib, Speaker / Arts, Sciences, & Education Senator
Pamela Ho Fung, Speaker Pro Tempore / Lower Division Senator
Jiaqi “Water” Chen, Finance Chair / Graduate Senator
Mahalia Balfour, Arts, Sciences, and Education Senator / Student Advocacy Chair
Catalina Nemmi, Lower Division Senator
Brian Levine, Housing Senator
Priscila Sevil, Internal Affairs Chair/ At-Large Senator
Mark Monaco, Health Services Administration Senator

EXCUSED

Xin Wang, Operational Review Chair / At-Large Senator
Yuze “Crystal” Ji, Hospitality & Tourism Management Senator
Xu Chang, Hospitality & Tourism Management Senator

GUESTS

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

CALL TO ORDER

The SGC-BBC Senate held a meeting on November 26, 2018– **WUC 221**. The meeting was called to order at **3:38 pm**, approximately, by **Speaker Habib** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

WELCOME

Speaker Habib welcomed the senate to the last meeting of the semester.

SPEAKER REPORT

Speaker Habib...

- Thanked everyone for their awesome job this semester.
- Reminded everyone to always be aware of all the emails and guides that he send out.

- Encouraged the senate to keep improving on constitution statue and to keep being informed and up to date on things.

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE REPORT

Speaker Pro Ho Fung...

- Wished that everyone had a great Thanksgiving Break.
- Reported that she will be meeting today with the RLJ Chair and reported on her meeting with Ed Furnace last week in regards to her Senate Resolution Homework.

ADVISOR REPORT

Ms. Adames...

- Reminded those who received packets to fill out to please turn them in before the deadline which was this upcoming Friday.
- Informed the Senate that all those who are interested in the AOL program, to please email her by next week so she can submit names.
- Informed the Senate she will be out of the office half of Thursday and all of Friday to attend a conference but the office will be fully staffed.

Dr. Montgomery...

- Stated that she will also not be on campus from Wednesday due to the same conference.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Second Reading of Resolution 2018.0014

Senator Balfour presented the second reading of Resolution 2018.0014 before the council.

Speaker Habib asked the Senate if anyone had any questions, comments, or motions.

Senator Levine moved to approve Resolution 2018.0014.

Senator Sevil seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

John Habib–Yea
Mahalia Balfour-Yea
Jiaqi “Water” Chen–Yea

Pamela Ho Fung-Yea
Catalina Nemmi-Yea
Priscilla Sevil-Yea
Brian Levine- Yea
Mark Monaco -Yea

By a vote of 8/0/0, Resolution 2018.0014 was approved.

B. SGC-BBC Senate Tri-Fold Update

Senator Nemmi asked Ms.Adames, “Were we able to buy the supplies yet.”

Ms. Adames, “Nothing has been ordered yet because it will not let us order a single board online but we will get it done by this week so we will have to physically go to Michaels to order it.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Minutes

Senator Levine asked for Unanimous Consent that the Senate Minutes of November 19, 2018, as corrected, be approved.

There were no objections, therefore the Senate Minutes of November 19, 2018, as corrected, were approved.

B. First Reading of Senate Bill 2018.0006

President Noel presented the first reading of Senate Bill 2018.0006 before the Senate.

Senator Levine asked if this bill was prompted by a specific need.

President Noel answered, “There have been a few times this semester where students needed time off.”

Ms. Adames asked if the student will still receive their stipend if they choose to take a leap of absence.

President Noel responded, “That hasn't been discussed yet.”

Speaker Habib recommended that the stipend could still be received and there should just be a limit set.

Senator Sevil mentioned that she thought the bill to be too general and questioned if certain

government positions would be exempt.

Senator Balfour suggested that if someone takes a leap of absence for one full semester, then they shouldn't be able to take one for the next two semesters and that someone else would have to take over their position for the time they are on a leap of absence, so will that person who took over their position for the time being be compensated for that role.

Ms. Adames questioned, what do we consider as a leave of absence and stated that “We should really think about that and overall the bill should be more specific.

Senator Levine stated that during the last RLJ meeting, they looked at an earlier version of this bill and that he wanted this bill to be written out correctly so if possible could they all go over it before approving it once the committees meet again.

Senator Sevil moved for 5 minutes of discussion.

Senator Balfour seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Sevil, “I don't think that 1 week is enough time to consider for a leave of absence.”

Senator Balfour, “I don't think that internships should be considered a good reason for someone to take a leave of absence, only expected emergencies should be considered.”

President Noel, “I think that 2 weeks would be more ideal, but only for one semester.”

Senator Levine, “This bill is only speaking on submitting for a leave of absence, nothing about it is going into the approval process.”

Senator Levine moved to extend the discussion for 5 minutes.

Senator Balfour seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Sevil, “How would we go about the approval?”

President Noel, “I think it should be up to the discretion of the branch.”

Ms. Adames, “We also have to think about what should happen if it is denied for any reason, what would the appeal process look like?”

Senator Sevil, “Summer is good for an entire semester, but for Fall and Spring, I don't see why it would be 2 weeks.”

Ms. Adames, “I think that it should be researched and be its own entire section.”

Senator Levine moved to refer this bill to the RLJ Committee to review the matter and report back to the Senate.

Senator Sevil seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Sevil moved to end the discussion.
Senator Balfour seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

A. Student Concerns

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

Senator Levine mentioned that around Bayview Student Living, many times the police just park in the middle of the road blocking part of the road only to talk to one another. He went on to mention that they sometimes also block many of the handicapped areas. Furthermore, he states that he wants for everyone to have proper security but not a car that just sits in the middle of the street for hours. Also, he brought up that the elevators at Bayview still do not have updated certificates and that it has been over a year and a half.

Senator Balfour, “Sometimes there are scary situations with the elevators at Bayview.”

Senator Levine, “They claim that it has been inspected but there is no way to prove it because the certificate in the elevator is outdated.”

Senator Nemmi reminded the council that there is already an unfinished resolution regarding this issue so if anyone wanted to work on that, that would be a great start.

B. Spring Semester Goals

The Senate reflected on their previous goals and how well they have been accomplished.

Senator Levine, “I think that we should start going to I-75 more to table there and work on getting that I-75 position filled.”

Speaker Habib, “Do you all feel that we have been making good connections?”

Senator Sevil, “Well I don’t know everyone in Cabinet.”

Senator Chen, “We could work on giving better details on how to work Panther Connect.”

RLJ CHAIR REPORT

Senator Levine...

- Informed the Senate that the RLJ Committee met for the first time with him as chair.

- Informed the Senate that they still need a vice chair and they are not going to meet again this semester but he looks forward to chairing this committee.

STUDENT ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT

Senator Balfour...

- Informed the Senate that there will be a committee meeting this Wednesday in the SGA Conference Room.
- Reflected on her phone meeting with the MMC Student Advocacy Chair.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Noel...

- Thanked the E-Board for allocating funds to I-75 for events.
- Thanked everyone for their amazing job this semester and complimented them on their unprecedented performance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SGC-BBC General Body Meeting**, November 28th
 - 3:30pm - 5:00pm
 - WUC 221
- **Self Defense Class**, November 29th
 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm
 - WUC Ballrooms
- **First Annual HSA (Haitian Student Association) Pageant**, November 30th
 - 6:00pm
 - WUC Ballrooms
- **First Senate Meeting in Spring Semester**, January 7, 2019
 - 3:30pm
 - WUC 221
- **Spring Week of Welcome**, January 7-11, 2019
- **Student Leadership Summit**, February 2
 - 8:30am-4:30pm
 - WUC

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Balfour moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53pm.

Senator Sevil seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by Speaker Habib at **4:53pm**.