



Student Government Association
 Budget Committee Hearing Minutes
 Meeting Date: Tuesday February 9th, 2021
 Start Time: 9am

1. Call to order
 - a. Call to order by Alexander Rubido at 9:16am
2. Roll Call

SGA President Alexandra Valdes	Present
SGA Vice President Alexandra Ibarria	Present
Comptroller Alexander Rubido	Present
SGA Floor Leader Giacomo Natteri	Present
Senate President Janelle Fraga	Present
Executive Administrator Cristina Vale	Present

BBC Governor Keanu Orfano Present
 Senate President Pro Tempore Bryan Gomez Present

Voting on continuation of base budget

- a. Senate president pro tempore Bryan Gomez moves to continue base budget, comptroller alexander Rubido seconds. Motion passes unanimously

3. FIU in DC- 9:15am

- a. moving to a newer location in DC closer to the U.S. capitol
- b. Hamilton Scholars Launch, a paid internship and enrolled in Washington seminar program
- c. \$1,200 base scholarship
- d. 1,123 students interned, enrolled, or participated in fly ins in the 2019-2020 school year. A 101% increase.
- e. New “DC ready” online course for prospective interns
- f. Research advocacy supported efforts to secure federal grants as well as appropriate legislation for FIU
- g. Requesting 2021-2022 budget of \$55,387.50

Comptroller Rubido calls a recess until 9:55am

4. Student affairs Technology center- 9:55am

- a. Focuses on providing quality IT support to multiple departments across Academic and Student Affairs in both MMC and BBC

- b. Mission is to set a clear, viable direction for all technology decisions
- c. Requesting budget total of \$8,058.81
 - i. Office chairs- \$2,500
 - ii. Dell 24" monitors- \$700
 - iii. Dell universal Docks- \$1,000
 - iv. BOMGAR remote support team license- \$3,439

Questions:

Bryan Gomez: with this budget request, would we see a decrease in request next year due to the items requested?

Answer: yes since the BOMGAR we are requesting will last us longer, so we won't need this in our budget next year

Janelle Fraga: does your department provide services to students or just departments?

Answer: we do not service students directly but we service entities that greatly help students like campus life and CSO

5. Orientation and family programs- 10:15am

- a. Mission is to assist students and families in the successful transition to the university and collegiate environment.
- b. Student leadership teams have accomplished many feats and gained many awards.
- c. Showing improvements for panther camp executive board/facilitators and peer advisors as well.
- d. Requesting
 - i. orientation peer advisor team salaries- \$130,500
 - ii. 2.0 services- \$23,666
 - iii. Fiu t shirts- \$18,800
 - iv. Panther camp
 - 1. Transportation- \$36,800
 - 2. Team stipend- \$24,700
 - 3. T shirts- \$5,000
 - v. **Student attendance for parent and family day**
 - 1. Decorations- \$500
 - 2. Space/media services- \$1500
 - 3. Brunch- \$1500
 - vi. **Extended orientation**

Questions:

Cristina Vale: you mentioned you wanted to offset the cost of panther camp, is it offsetting to the student or department?

Answer: its for the students, we already have students not paying for things but things like transportation could be offset depending on the cost.

Bryan Gomez: which line items do you prioritize?

Answer: orientation is a mandatory part for all students, the prioritization is basically how the line items are ordered

6. Outstanding Student Life Awards- 10:35am

- a. Only university wide awards process
- b. Total of 20-25 awards annually
- c. OpenWater License

- i. Due to allocation from SGA, we can better guarantee confidence throughout the process
- ii. These awards recognize expectational FIU students which increases affinity
- d. Total Budget Request: \$18,885 (based on 100% repopulation)

Questions:

Bryan Gomez: has there been any research into what software is the most effective? Is OpenWater the most effective?

Answer: we have tried other programs and there were very time consuming. We have noticed that OpenWater is the most effective and user friendly.

Alexander Rubido: are you planning any in person events?

Answer: we are trying to get together a caravan or drive through for our students, as well as webinars and virtual ceremonies.

7. Alternative Breaks- 10:55am

- a. Students engage in strong direct service and experiential learning during their winter, summer, or spring breaks
- b. Largest student-run service learning organization on campus
- c. Total budget request \$60,000
 - i. Travel
 - ii. Event programming
 - iii. Marketing and giveaways

Questions:

Janelle Fraga: will the breakaway program offset be used on the students?

Answer: workshops and events will become much less expensive so this will allow our program to diversify and set students up for more experiences

8. Roarathon- 11:15am

- a. Entering our 24th year
- b. Working closely with Nicklaus Childrens hospital
- c. Looking to aid our student leadership team
- d. Stage rental
- e. Cost of renting wellness and recreation center
- f. Plan on streaming in-person events

Questions:

Bryan Gomez: are there any plans for events at BBC?

Answer: absolutely, we also keep all events on campus lifes page so anyone can participate, we also have a yoga event happening soon at BBC to keep up with outreach for roarathon

9. Social Justice & Inclusion, Formerly MPAS- 11:35am

- a. Works to empower social change and advocate for diversity and inclusion
- b. Budget request \$77,155.32
- c. Focused on enhancing student development
- d. New curriculum focusing on student success, affinity, and retention
- e. Would like to focus on new social justice and inclusion efforts

Questions:

Janelle Fraga: is there a womens mentorship program along with the male mentorship program?

Answer: absolutely, the womens center will go into more detail but they are now a part of our office.

Bryan Gomez: does the office plan to continue programming once repoluation is 100%?

Answer: this is something we have been looking into for the past three years. Having hybrid options allows more people to attend even without a pandemic

10. LGBTQ Initiatives- 11:55am

- a. Working to create environment of empowerment and inclusion
- b. Committed to student development
- c. Continuing our mentorship program
- d. Total budget request \$76,527

Questions:

Alexander Rubido: have graduate assistants been able to relieve workload in order to open up for more grant writing?

Answer: we have had a coordinator help with the workload and the graduate assistants are a great help to them.

Alexandra Valdes/Bryan Gomez: what initiatives towards marketing are being taken? Is there plans to market in BBC and other FIU campuses?

Answer: absolutely, we have members directly linked to BBC that keep a steady flow of communications

Alexandra Valdes: Have you considered working with the alumni association?

Answer: One of the main reasons for bringing in a coordinator was to free time to be able to work with the alumni association

11. Womens Center (Base Budget)- 12:15pm

- a. Working with students to empower social change and advocate for diversity and inclusion.
- b. Hosted inaugural “Miami Black woman’s forum” along with many other events and programs
- c. Total budget request \$76,000

Questions:

Bryan Gomez: if the free menstrual product initiative is coming back up for consideration, could the senator who brought it up continue the conversation once repopulation is at 100%

Answer: absolutely, there is a state legislation that is in regards to free menstrual products in elementary- high schools, so to have the free products in the university would be a huge help.

12. Relay for life- 1:35pm

- a. A major fundraising event for the American cancer society
- b. Relay has raised over 1.3 million dollars for the American cancer society
- c. Accomplishments and upcoming events range from virtual bingo night to relay for life event
- d. Goals of 2020-2021 deal with engaging 30-40 teams and host a covid-19 modified event

Questions:

Bryan Gomez: since you’re requesting the same budget, do you plan on programming in both campuses?

Answer: relay for life primarily takes place at MMC, it would be extremely difficult to coordinate two simultaneous relays, but the event itself is a university wide event, alumni from all campuses have contributed and shared their admiration for the event

13. National First-Generation Celebration- 1:55pm

- a. First gen celebration week will feature drive throughs due to the pandemic
- b. First generation brunch (celebration kickoff)
- c. Total budget request \$11,641.93

14. Multifaith Council- 2:15pm

- a. Exists to provide a chance for students to practice their faith, in a healthy and respectable way
- b. Continuing to evolve and find the best ways to interact and support students
- c. We have noticed the first week of classes is the best way to reach students
- d. The budget request will be the same as last year

Questions:

Keanu Orfano: does multifaith have plans to work in BBC?

Answer: we haven't done much at BBC, we work primarily in MMC but we are always open to collaborate with BBC

Bryan Gomez: could we have a faith fair at BBC?

Answer: while I cannot speak for everyone, I can imagine there would be great feedback and a great conversation to be had with collaborating with BBC

15. Student Media- 2:35pm

- a. **Memorandum of understanding**
 - i. Provide information and education to the student government association president and senate for improved understanding of the role
 - ii. While we are joining with CARTA, it is stressed that student media is still an independent entity. This keep our media free of interference from any organization or program.
- b. Virtual boot camp and virtual events like club fairs and forums

Questions:

Bryan Gomez: how will you reach out to the students coming in who have never had an on campus experience, and how will you show your presence as student media

Answer: expanding the website and making sure social media keeps up to date is the most effective measure

Alexander Rubido: can you elaborate on the effectiveness or the radio station?

Answer: As far as viewership, the pandemic has not affected the radio show very much. The station has grown about 5 times as much since I first joined. A lot of viewers tune in because of Instagram. We post many things about when the shows will air and what the topics are.

16. Convocation- 2:55pm

- a. Created to welcome our new freshmen
- b. We have had different iterations of what convocation looks like
- c. Total Budget Request: \$64, 355

17. Black Student Union- 3:15pm

- a) It was created to advocate and educate students of the African diaspora.
- b) Sees the increase as a way to grow BSU and want to do this by collaborating other councils to diversify the FIU student body.
- c) Total Budget Request: \$146,645

18. Panther Power- 3:35pm

- a) Promote pride in tradition, and school spirit.
- b) Power Hors: Engage with FIU students, faculty and staff.
- c) Collaborated with BSU for Time Machine.
- d) Total Budget Request: \$28,450

Questions:

How do you plan to get students to go to the events?

Answer: Engage with students more at Bayview student living, have more students follow them on Instagram.

Committee will stand in recess until 3:52pm

19. Medical Student Council- 3:55pm

- a) Was created for allocate funds to various FIU student groups and organization. Research, and ensure good health in the Miami Dade area.
- b) Total Budget Request: \$98,024.74

Questions:

Where is the difference in allocation coming from?

20. BMI Music License/ Panther Connect- 4:15pm

- a) BMI is University's licensure that allows the University to play music.
- b) Panther Connect is data base that shows the students that are registered in organizations.
- c) Organizations can post events.
- d) Total Budget Requests: Panther Connect \$59,538
- e) BMI: 37980

Meeting adjourned at 4:53pm