



**Student Government
Association**

Budget Hearings Meeting Minutes

Date: January 21, 2022

I. Call to Order

A. Meeting Called to Order at: 9:27 a.m. by Giacomo Natteri.

II. Roll Call

Position	Name	Attendance
President	Alexander Rubido	Present
Vice President	Alexandra Ibarria	Present
Comptroller	Giacomo Nareti	Present
President of Senate	Nichalos Pastrana	Present
President Pro Tempore	Mariapaz Grijibal	Present
Senate Floor Leader	Cristopher Lugo	Present
Executive Administrator	Valentina Casanova	Present
SGA Governor	Brian Levine	Present

III. Welcome Remarks

IV. Hearings

A. Office of Social Justice and Inclusion (OSJI)

1. David Bynes Presents
2. Explains mission and vision of Office
3. Office has requested increases for the last three years without an increase
4. Requesting \$104,062, which is a \$39,062 increase from last years request
5. Spoke about various partnerships and programs that the office is involved in
6. 150 total scholarship recipients from 2016-2017 and 2022-2023
7. Q&A
 - a) Floor leader Lugo: is there a certain number of students who have been impacted by the programs listed?
 - (1) Depending on the event, we have at least 20-30 students each event
 - b) Governor Levine: do you informally collaborate with BSU?

(1) Short answer is yes, we have had conversations about how to collaborate effectively. I have had discussions with the president of BSU about supporting each other

B. OSJI- Black Diaspora and Student Success Center

1. David Bynes presents
2. Purpose of this center is to ensure FIU is an inclusive environment for all who choose to learn here.
3. Explained why black cultural centers matter based on research
4. Proposed events deal with interactive workshops and leadership development programs
5. Q&A

a) Floor leader Lugo: was there a need for these additional programs? BSU provides a lot of programs, is this filling a void left by BSU?

(1) While I am not fully aware of all the programs BSU has to offer, there still is a need for many of these programs because we will be working closely with BSU.

b) If not all funds are allocated, which will be a priority?

(1) Staff funding is critically important, leadership programs and the achille graduation program would also take priority.

Student Government President Rubido has joined the meeting.

C. OSJI- Pride Center

1. Erica Friedman presents
2. Requesting \$66,043, a \$4,000 decrease from last year's request because we have been able to maintain the budget and even make cuts so the pride student union can get additional funding.
3. Funds will go to student development, including pride leaders programs.
4. Creating a change conference is another big event we try to bring as many students to as possible. While it is \$1,000 to send a student, this is a high impact conference.
5. We hope to increase affinity with spring events like pride week and trans day of remembrance and resilience.
6. Q&A

- a) Governor Levine: there are other conferences over the summer, are you open to other collaborations?
 - (1) Absolutely, we are always looking for collaborations. We chose the specific timeframe for our conferences because that is when most of our students are on campus
- b) Can the staff safe zone training program be offered to students in SGA?
 - (1) That would be great, student leaders should be educated on how to be an advocate for students

D. Pride Student Union

- 1. Adrianna Jean-Baptiste and Milo Dupuis present
- 2. Requesting \$33,954, an increase on last years \$23,750 request
- 3. Looking to increase affinity, as a relatively new union at the university we want to get the word out about us
- 4. Budget priorities are stipends, signature events, and recruitment
- 5. Q&A
 - a) Governor Levine: Would PSU be interested in attending the student leadership conference?
 - (1) absolutely !
 - b) President Rubido: Since prices for things have risen, is there another avenue for funding should PSU run out of funds?
 - (1) We have different partnerships with FIU, and making sure we share costs with collaborations
- 6. Recess until 10:35am

E. Medical Student Union

- 1. We help students with research projects, community initiatives, as well as conferences
- 2. We hope to maintain funding for travel and increase funding for community initiatives
- 3. Discussing issues of Covid-19 with engagement, we have met online and practiced social distancing when in person was the only option
- 4. It's important for the medical school above others takes this seriously and make sure every one is safe while we re open
- 5. No questions

F. International Student & Scholar Services

- 1. Ted Randall Presenting

2. Average cost for students to attend events is about \$10 per student
3. Student testimonials say these events and this Office help international students feel like FIU is their home and they can find advocacy here.
4. Requesting \$25,216
5. No questions

G. FIU at I-75

1. Diana Arcentales presenting
2. Event programming is a main way to gain affinity. Since undergraduate students are only having classes on weekdays we need to host events all week so the graduate students can also participate during the weekends.
3. Provided run down of how SGA funds were utilized last year, such as week of welcome and diversity day
4. Requesting \$52,562, only a \$500 increase from last year.
5. Q&A
 - a) What percentage of the FIU population attends i-75?
 - (1) At least 15% of all FIU students

Recess until 11:35am

H. Roarthon

1. Molly Shantz and Shannonlee Rodriguez presenting
2. Over 1 million dollars raised since 1997
3. Over \$56,000 raised in the midst of global pandemic
4. 100% of proceeds go towards Nicklaus Children's Hospital here at FIU
5. We hope to reach a new audience in order to help positively impact FIU
6. Budget reductions could impact effectiveness
7. No questions

I. Alternative Breaks

1. Connie Penczak and Luis Garcia presenting
2. Largest student run service learning organization on campus
3. Upcoming projects will total \$60,000 in student leadership development, student travel (weekend, winter, spring, summer), event programming, and marketing and giveaways
4. Q&A:
 - a) Governor Levine: Do students have to pay a fee?

(1) Yes, there are some things we cannot pay the full cost for and students do have to pay a fee

b) Comptroller Natteri: How many students are involved in AB?

(1) About 50 students, we are hoping to get more during the semester

J. Relay for Life

1. Raised over 1.3 million for the American Cancer Society since we began in 2004

2. Event goals for 2022-2023 are to engage at least 50 teams and register at least 1,000 participants

3. Q&A

a) Does relay get charged for the Ryder Business building?

(1) We have not before, but now that Ryder Business has changed administration I anticipate we will begin to be charged for setting up there

Lunch Break until 1:35pm.

Lunch Break ended at 1:45pm.

K. Student Ambassadors

1. Linabel Armas, Student Ambassadors' president and Sophia Jaimes, president elect spoke about the organization's relationship with alumni and how they help students to network.

2. They created and hosted the Trail of the Torch Ceremony alongside the FIU Homecoming committee which has been one of FIU's traditions for 17 years.

3. Upcoming event, Sweetheart Bridge which will be hosted at the FIU traditional bridge.

4. In 2020-2021, they requested \$25,000. 2021-2022, no request was presented and for 2022-2023 a total of \$54,422.18 is being requested.

5. They are also requesting uniforms. They mentioned that if they faced budget reduction they would reduce giveaways and events.

Q and A

No questions presented.

L. FIU Online

1. Michael Allendy presented on behalf of the organization. He mentioned that they advocate for non-traditional learners approximately 8,934 students.
2. They asked to help fund support engagement efforts for the students and to also fund quality support services. For instance, employ participation incentives and to enhance Canvas support response time.
3. FIU Online sent out swag baskets which contained FIU merchandise to their online students as a means of engagement.
4. They are requesting \$6 per student.

Q and A

- a) Why is the learning management help desk funded by
-Canvas supports all modalities so the \$30 online fees can only be used for fully online students and not the entirety of Canvas users according to state regulations.

M. Student Programming Council

1. They stated that their mission is to administer events and programs to contribute to well rounded graduates.
2. They spoke about their signature events such as Noche Latina, Uproar, Tailgate Tuesday, Good vibe karaoke and others.
3. They requested \$812,350.00, a \$44,374 increase. They mentioned that the budget should be approved as artists and performers are becoming more expensive and inflation has caused vendors to increase prices.
4. They mentioned that if a budget cut was instituted, concerts, SPC Takeovers and films would be made increasingly harder to host.

Q and A

1. How was spent on the Drag show hosted by SPC recently?
- Approximately \$11,000 and last year due to covid \$15,000.
2. How many students attended the most recent Uproar?
-1500 students
3. How to decide the total number of giveaway items and when ?
- SPC limits when the events are scheduled to accommodate students during class times. As it pertains to items, giveaways are limited because of shipping and handling costs.

N. Black Student Union

1. Jaquan Starling, BSU President presented the budget request. BSU's past event, State of the Union on September 7,2021 cost \$5,197 with a turnout of 102

students. Another event was the Open mic night which had a turnout of 256 students and cost \$1,468.30.

2. They requested approximately \$150,000.

Q and A

- 1) What collaborations does BSU plan to do with the office of social justice initiatives who is looking to launch more products with black diaspora.
 - More professional development events are being instituted for members.
- 2) Black organization fair details
 - Similar to any club fair but catered specifically to black students to get them involved in on campus organizations. Will show black students the resources available to them on campus.

O. Center for Student Engagement

1. Intends to increase student affinity and increase student engagement. They link students to engagement opportunities based on interests.
2. They are requesting funds for space and food for their upcoming events. Also, they intend to maintain the online platform. They also intend to hire two engagement liaisons for 3 semesters.

Q and A

- a) If they have any intentions to host fairs at BBC campus?
 - No intentions to host events on that campus because other organizations already host those fairs.

P. Registered Student Organizations COuncil

- 1.) There are 220 active organizations in both the MMC and BBC campus.
- 2.) They are requesting \$397,735 with a \$68,000 difference from the previous year, 2021-2022.

Q. Panther POver

1. 2021-2022, they were allocated \$8500 and used it to carry out a giveaway for Men's Soccer Home Opener vs VCU which boasted the highest student turnout up until the final game against Marshal.
2. Total requested amount is \$33,000 with \$7500 being allocated to Basketball, \$6000 for Football, \$4500 for Soccer, \$3500 for Baseball and other sporting activities.

Q and A

1. What are the plans for the swim and dive team?

-There are only about 2-3 home meets and so the plan is to work to boost the support from students.

2. Why are shuttles not used for the swim and dive meets?

- There is not enough awareness about the teams that would warrant the cost of the shuttles between both campuses.

R. Student Bar Association

1. FIU Law school is ranked number 56 among law schools in Florida and number 88 in the entire country.
2. A tax law society has been established just this year and this is just one of the many active student organizations that FIU Law has used their budget for.

Q and A

a) Is there any way SGA could collaborate more with SBA?

-The board is very open to continuing working with any student organization upon request.

S. Office of Veterans and Military Affairs

- 1) The Office serves about 610 FIU Veteran students and boasts about 4191 FIU Veteran Alumni.
- 2) In the past year, FIU was ranked number 7 in Tier 1 Institutions by Military Friendly and was able to launch a Green Zone Training for Faculty and Staff.
- 3) They are requesting \$45,064.69 with the Fall budget being \$21,113 and the Spring budget being \$21,851.60.

Q and A

a) Does the Office have an office at BBC campus and what is its operational capacity?

-Yes, an office was opened back in Fall once the university transitioned back to face to face. The office is located at the Wolfe Center on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am-4pm.

T. SA Technology Center

1. The Student Affairs Technology Center supports departments that directly impact student services but does not offer events.
2. They are requesting approximately \$12,000.

Q and A

a) Does the Office get funding only from A and S?

-No, there are other means by which A and S are funded.

b) How many hours a week would the student assistant be working?

- They would be expected to work at BBC for the entirety of 20 hours a week.

U. Activity and Service Business Office

1. They are requesting about \$38,697 for this academic year which stays the same as the previous year.
2. The A and S Business Office acts as a purchasing/ back-office and does not offer events. Business is conducted primarily over the phone

V. Closing Remarks

- A. Giacomo Natteri thanks everyone and looks forward to the deliberations.

VI. Meeting Adjournment

- A. Meeting Adjourned at 4:38 p.m. by Natteri.