



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## Budget Hearings Minutes

Date: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- I. Call to order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 9:30am
- II. Roll Call

Name	Position	Attendance
Cristhofer Lugo	Student Body President	present
Valentina Casanova	Student Body Vice President	present
Gabriela Alvarez	Comptroller	present
Mariana Machado	Executive Administrator	present
Ava Barnd	Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus	present
Alexander Sutton	Senate President	present
Zachary Stangl	Senate President Pro-Tempore	present
Fernando Melara	Senate Floor Leader	present

- a. Quorum was established
- III. New Business
  - a. International Student and Scholar Services Budget hearing started at 9:35am
    - i. Claudia Biscardi and Andre Dawson present
    - ii. There are currently 1,075,496 international students in the United States with FIU hosting 4,494 international students with 143 countries represented

- iii. F-1 information sessions, Semester welcome fest, cultural coffee hours, thanksgiving dinner, international peer mentor program, Fall and Spring Miami tours/zoo, International Education Week Activities, Florida International Leadership Council, and the International photo contest
    - iv. The average cost per student for all events ranges from \$9-\$10 with rising inflation and higher attendance
    - v. Questions from the Budget Committee
      - 1. How would your office handle a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in your allocation?
        - a. They would have to be more innovative in the ways that we host these events for our students, considering that we would still like to have these events.
    - vi. Presentation ended at 9:46am
- b. Student Affairs Technology Center Budget hearing started at 9:46am
  - i. Pedro Guerra presents
  - ii. Currently serving 42 departments with over 1000 machines including but not limited to SGA, office of Social Justice and Inclusion, and Veteran Affairs
  - iii. Allocation will be used to renew their BOMGAR license, renewal of the IT Tech position budget, and additional fees
  - iv. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. How would your office handle a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in your allocation?
      - a. They would not be able to keep the BOMGAR license and would have to look for additional options
  - v. Presentation ended at 9:52am
- c. Recess started at 9:52am
- d. Recess ended at 10:15am
- e. Residential Hall Association Budget hearing started at 10:15am
  - i. Paige Hlad presents
  - ii. Budget priorities such as larger campus-wide events, expanded leadership opportunities, and increased residential presence
  - iii. Impacting 350+ students at their largest event, Boo-levard

- iv. With a potential budget reduction, they will utilize Housing partnerships with new companies as a budget safeguard, GroupRaise fundraisers, and re-evaluate spending
- v. Questions from the Budget Committee
  - 1. If moving toward a model that invites all FIU students to RHA events, are there plans for collaboration with other organizations/departments?
    - a. Yes, absolutely. The Current and future executive board plans to collaborate with various other student organizations on campus.
  - 2. Has RHA discussed getting funding from the housing administration?
    - a. Yes, this has been discussed and administration is open to help with additional funding, however the amount is not guaranteed due to the nature of budgets
- vi. Presentation ended at 10:24am
- f. Recess started at 10:25am
- g. Recess ended at 10:35am
- h. Homecoming Budget hearing started at 10:35am
  - i. Andrew Goodman, Jon Ruiz, and Gabriela Anton present
  - ii. This past 2021-2022 fiscal year, they Raised \$19,986.22 for Fostering Panther Pride and Brought back Taste at the Bay
  - iii. Various signature events such as the Uncaging, panthers got talent, taste at the bay, the crown, and caribbean bash among others with attendance ranging from 250-4000+ students per event
  - iv. If there were a decrease in their allocation, the concert would be eliminated
  - v. Potential creating of a new Homecoming event
  - vi. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vii. Presentation ended at 10:45am
- i. FIU Global (International Travel Insurance Coverage) Budget hearing started at 10:46am
  - i. Gitta Montoto presents

- ii. Students are once again traveling for research, studying, and gaining experience all over the world
- iii. Requesting allocation to subsidize travel insurance costs for students studying abroad
- iv. Serving an estimated 980 students studying abroad in 2023
- v. Questions from the Budget Committee
  - 1. How much was the insurance when students paid out of pocket?
    - a. It ranged anywhere from \$2-\$3 a day
  - 2. Were you aware of any students that were discouraged from travel when they found out they had to pay for the insurance?
    - a. There is no clear case of students being discouraged, however providing this insurance is an incentive for students
- vi. Presentation ended at 10:57am
- j. Student Ambassadors Budget hearing started at 10:57am
  - i. Chelsey Melendez presents
  - ii. Provides constant career development and internship opportunities due to the nature of the weekly meetings, and networking opportunities for students
  - iii. Trail of the torch is one of the signature events for Student Ambassadors who partner with FIU Homecoming to deliver this event
  - iv. Sweetheart Bridge is also one of the larger events hosted by the Student Ambassadors to improve student life on campus
  - v. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. How would your office handle a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in your requested allocation?
      - a. There would be a reconsideration of CASE conferences and FIU Student Ambassadors attendance.
    - 2. Will trail of the torch continue to be hosted during the homecoming uncaging?
      - a. Yes, that is the current plan.
  - vi. Presentation ended at 11:09am
- k. Black Student Union Budget hearing started at 11:10am

- i. Erica Washington, Colette Harrington, Naby Exceus, and Danielle Gordon present
  - ii. A budget priority of Programming costs for speakers, food vendors, entertainment, quality of events, and student stipends for executive board members
  - iii. Large events range from an average of 150-200 students
  - iv. Anticipated expansion of membership, professional development, and much more with events such as having a black organization fair annually
  - v. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vi. Presentation ended at 11:17am
- l. Recess started at 11:17am
- m. Recess ended at 11:35am
- n. Bayview Hall Council Budget hearing started at 11:35am
  - i. Larissa Adames presents
  - ii. Commitment to engagement through programming, increase marketing, open forums, social media, online polling, and online surveying
  - iii. Fall events had an average attendance of 15-40 students
  - iv. Food is one of the main driving factors to bring students to events
  - v. With a reduction of an A&S budget allocation, they will have to collaborate with other organizations and become more creative with how they attract residents to the event
  - vi. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vii. Presentation ended at 11:42am
- o. Convocation Budget hearing started at 11:42am
  - i. Jose Toscano presents
  - ii. Shifting convocation to a more academically focused program and moved the student focused event to the creation of First Night
  - iii. Food options are a major expense, along with facilities for the event
  - iv. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. Convocation, had a relatively low attendance this year, what would be done differently to ensure more students attend?

a. Last year, unfortunately, convocation marketing meetings did not start until July. This year that has already begun to discuss how they will spread the word for convocation through marketing and outreach beginning in March.

2. Are students involved in the planning of Convocation?

a. No, students are not involved in the planning of Convocation.

v. Presentation ended at 11:48pm

p. Scheduled lunch break starts at 11:48

q. Scheduled lunch break ends at 1:45pm

IV. Call to order

a. Meeting called to order at 1:46pm

V. Roll Call

Name	Position	Attendance
Cristhofer Lugo	Student Body President	present
Valentina Casanova	Student Body Vice President	present
Gabriela Alvarez	Comptroller	present
Mariana Machado	Executive Administrator	present
Ava Barnd	Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus	present
Alexander Sutton	Senate President	present
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Fernando Melara	Senate Floor Leader	present

a. Quorum was established

b. Center of Leadership and Service Budget hearing started at 1:49pm

i. Patricia Lopez-Guerrero presents

- ii. Assist students in developing their leadership capacity for future careers and community roles
  - iii. Interacted with a total of 1,870 students throughout the fall semester with 39 different programs, presentations, and tabling
  - iv. Covering the student food pantry that have approximately 10,000-15,000 visits
  - v. Additional budget request is to support rising minimum wages for student staff to support the food pantry
  - vi. A budget reduction will likely result in a reduction of student workers for the food pantry, along with the reduction in hours of operation for the food pantry.
  - vii. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - viii. Presentation ended at 2:00pm
- c. Recess started at 2:01pm
- d. Recess ended at 2:15pm
- e. Student Programming Council Budget hearing started at 2:15pm
- i. Hope Butts and Yselande Pierre present
  - ii. New programming will be seen at FIU in DC.
  - iii. Budget priorities include stipends for executive board members and advisors
  - iv. A budget reduction will result in a decrease in the quality of events and programming
  - v. Event attendance was approximately 300-1,200 students per event
  - vi. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. Please elaborate on the new SPC at FIU in DC.
      - a. The cost of these events will be mostly to cover the cost of travel for SPC members hosting these events. The events themselves have not been planned out yet, however, they will be planning.
  - vii. Presentation ended at 2:25pm
- f. Recess started at 2:25pm
- g. Recess ended at 2:30pm

- h. Student Success Course Team and Peer Mentor Program Budget hearing started at 2:30pm
  - i. Jenn Gebelein presents
  - ii. FIU Human Library events and peer mentor events all help students experience a more diverse and collaborative environment on campus
  - iii. A&S funding will help increase the number of Peer mentors available and students served
  - iv. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. Which department was the Peer mentor program under before it moved to Student Affairs?
      - a. It was previously in the Academic and career Success Unit that was dissolved recently.
  - v. Presentation ended at 2:37pm
- i. Wellness and Recreation Centers Budget hearing started at 2:38pm
  - i. Linda Buonanno presents
  - ii. Annual participation from students has increased significantly and currently stands at 649,840 from January 2022 – December 2022
  - iii. Sports clubs programs encompass a total of 17 different sports with another proposed 10 sports to be added
  - iv. Budget priorities consist of transportation, lodging, tournament entry fees, referees, and union dues
  - v. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. As a base funded entity, what would the impact be if this special request were unable to be allocated?
      - a. The money that would be taken out of their base-funding would trickle down and negatively impact the student experience at the Wellness and Recreation Center
  - vi. Presentation ended at 2:51pm
- j. Recess started at 2:51pm
- k. Recess ended at 3:15pm
- l. Esports hearing started at 3:15pm
  - i. Jose Toscano presents



- ii. From June 2022 – December 2022 there have been 25 events and programs in place
- iii. Questions from the Budget Committee
  - 1. Expand on what you meant by that it will be a net zero cost
    - a. There will be no additional impact on the Budget allocation process because there is no request for Summerfest this fiscal year.
  - 2. How would your office handle a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in your requested allocation?
    - a. Reduce the programming from 4 programs monthly to much less.
- iv. Presentation ended at 3:20pm
- m. BMI Music License and PantherConnect Budget hearing started at 3:20pm
  - i. Jose Toscano presents
  - ii. The cost of this license fluctuates with student population every year
  - iii. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. Does the use of enrollment count for licensing cost include online students?
      - a. Jose Toscano will respond over email
  - iv. Presentation ended at 3:23pm
- n. University Wide Retreat and Student Tailgate Budget hearing started at 3:23pm
  - i. Jose Toscano presents
  - ii. The cost of transportation alone is very large for buses, food, and facilities cost
  - iii. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - iv. Presentation ended at 3:25pm
- o. Pantherconnect Budget hearing started at 3:26pm
  - i. Jose Toscano presents
  - ii. A platform utilized by many University departments to communicate and promote their organizations, events, and activities
  - iii. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - iv. Presentation ended at 3:28pm

- p. First Night Budget hearing started at 3:28pm
  - i. Jose Toscano presents
  - ii. A first-time tradition that serves as a student organization fair for all students to celebrate the beginning of the academic year
  - iii. 5,000+ students attended the inaugural event in 2022
  - iv. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. Are there any students in the planning of First Night? If not, would you consider adding a student piece?
      - a. Yes, absolutely. A student committee will be utilized for the planning of this event.
  - v. Presentation ended at 3:32pm
- q. Student Tailgate Budget hearing started at 3:32pm
  - i. Jose Toscano presents
  - ii. The budget provided for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was not utilized, the request is for that allocation to remain for the following 2023-2024 fiscal year
  - iii. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - iv. Presentation ended at 3:33pm
- r. Student Life and Development Budget hearing started at 3:33pm
  - i. Jose Toscano presents
  - ii. Associate Director for Alumni Relations is a new role that ties direct undergraduate engagement to alumni relations, tracks student leadership, and acts as a liaison between student life, student affairs, and alumni relations
  - iii. \$114,000 for this new salary position
  - iv. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - v. Presentation ended at 3:38pm
- s. Student Government Association Budget hearing started at 3:39pm
  - i. Michelle Castro presents
  - ii. Budgetary priorities are the emoluments for members of SGA as per the SGA standing documents
  - iii. Recharge for finals, the midnight breakfast, had a total student attendance of 1,205 students

- iv. The creation of new pop-up events to the SGA office allowed for more student outreach, engagement, and conversations
- v. Students are interested in engaging in events with food, and cool giveaways
- vi. No Questions from the Budget Committee
- vii. Presentation ended at 3:43pm
- t. SGA Offices (BBC and MMC) Budget hearing started at 3:43pm
  - i. Michelle Castro presents
  - ii. Requesting on behalf of two physical office spaces one in BBC and one in MMC
  - iii. A priority will be given to staffing the office and ensuring that the offices stay operational, ensuring there are enough essential supplies
  - iv. The main budgetary priorities are student assistants and keeping the office operational, phones, and those items that need to be ordered and paid for
  - v. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. Please elaborate what the training and transition will consist of.
      - a. Paying for FIU develop, conferences, and other online programs that will help students and staff transition into their positions.
    - 2. Please elaborate what the professional development entails.
      - a. Conferences for Faculty advisors, office managers, and others to become better professionals
  - vi. Presentation ended at 3:53pm

## VI. Meeting Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm