



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## Budget Hearings Minutes

Date: February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- I. Call to order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 9:36am
- II. Roll Call

Name	Position	Attendance
Cristhofer Lugo	Student Body President	Absent/Class Present at 10:55am
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 at 9:48am
Zachary Stangl	Senate President Pro-Tempore	Present
Fernando Melara	Senate Floor Leader	Present

- a. Quorum was established
- III. New Business
  - a. Fraternity and Sorority Life Budget hearing starts at 9:40am
    - i. Stephen Dominy presents
    - ii. Mission is to provide student success far beyond the classroom for career readiness and life after college
    - iii. Trends show students prefer in-person events for social interactions

- iv. Cost of food, location, and experience is increasing, and food is often a driving factor to increase engagement with events
  - v. Various trends show their knowledge on increasing attendance
  - vi. Highlighting large events such as Alcohol Awareness week and Hazing Prevention week with roughly 700 students impacted overall with these events
  - vii. First night, Domestic Violence Awareness, Parent and Family weekend, and Love Mom and Dad were all programs that showed large engagements as well
  - viii. Cristian Rodriguez presents community engagement components
  - ix. Partnering with the Lotus House and Relay for Life
  - x. 3% of the undergraduate student population is currently involved in Fraternity and Sorority life
  - xi. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. In your request; IFC, MGC, NPHC, and Panhellenic have been budgeted \$2,000 less from last years request, what is the reason for this restructuring?
      - a. Part of the reason is that some programmatic efforts are being combined into one large symposium every semester and there is no more need for small committees to handle individual tasks or events
  - xii. Presentation ends at 9:51am
- b. Campus Life Budget hearing starts at 9:55
- i. Kerrie Montgomery Orozco presents
  - ii. Mission is to engage students in holistic learning by instilling diversity, leadership, and personal development through its programs and services
  - iii. Center for Student Engagement became part of campus life in September 2022
    - 1. One full-time staff member and on part-time graduate assistant
    - 2. Love Your Major Fair, Student Engagement Meetings (Find your vibe consultations), Panther Academic Success Series (P.A.S.S.) Workshops, Panther Connections Panels

- iv. Black Student Union (BSU), Homecoming, Panther Power, Registered Student Organization Council (RSOC), Student Programming Council (SPC)
- v. Week of Welcome is one of their largest programming in Fall and Spring, DC Fly-In Programs (With FIU in DC), Blue and Gold recruitment week, Panther Connection Panels, Senior Week, and Late Night Breakfast (at BBC)
- vi. 12 full-time professional staff, 4-6 Graduate Assistants, 8-10 Front Desk students
- vii. Budget priorities consist of enhancing Week of Welcome, DC Fly-In, and International Travel Opportunities
- viii. Physical Traffic is increasing, and Online engagement is higher than in-person opportunities
- ix. Questions from the Budget Committee
  - 1. From my understanding, the Summerfest concert will no longer be taking place. What was the reason for this decision and how will that funding be used now that it will be available?
    - a. The logistics and funding of concerts have been difficult, the funding will be redirected into the student life experience and the use of those funds has not been decided yet.
- x. Presentation ends at 10:09am
- c. Children's Creative Learning Center (CCLC) Budget hearing starts at 10:09am
  - i. Silvia Valdes presents
  - ii. Department within the Division of Academic and Student Affairs
  - iii. The purpose of the Center is to provide support to primarily serving children ages 2 ½ - 5 of FIU students; staff faculty and the surrounding community are also eligible to enroll their children
  - iv. Promotes University enrollment and retention as well as graduation and affinity for student parents
  - v. Serve to provide accessible research and hands on experiences to students
  - vi. Student Support Staff work Program comprises 70% Student Support Staff and is their main request for the Budget Committee
  - vii. Questions from the Budget Committee

1. How many student applicants does the Children's Creative Learning Center receive to work in the student/teacher aid position?
  - a. There has been a struggle to get students to apply to these positions
  - b. There are various recruitment efforts to promote these positions to students across the university
- viii. Presentation ends at 10:21am
- d. Panther Power Budget hearing starts at 10:21am
  - i. Andrew Goodman & D'Jovens Palmy present
    1. Strives to create a community of school spirit in collaborations with FIU Athletics and other student organizations
    2. Homecoming Tailgate with over 300 participants was one of their most successful events this year
    3. Increasing programming at Basketball games with more giveaways
    4. More food options at football tailgates with a potential for a watch party concept to be implemented for the following year
    5. Running multiple events for Men's soccer, one of FIU's most successful sports
    6. Create signature events for Baseball and Softball
    7. Swim and Dive is one of our most successful sports at FIU, increasing more opportunities for students to go to BBC and support the team.
  - ii. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - iii. Presentation ends at 10:33am
- e. Recess starts at 10:37am
- f. Recess ends at 10:55am
- g. Registered Student Organizations Council Budget hearing starts at 10:55am
  - i. Delano Cicconi & Kaila Jospitre present
  - ii. Govern, represent, and fund the University's undergraduate and graduate student organizations and honor societies
  - iii. Primary funding priority is to fund student organizations

- iv. Different organization fairs throughout the semester with attendance from 100-500 students
- v. Increase costs for food, décor, room reservations, and more
- vi. Questions from the Budget Committee
  - 1. How is your basic allocation distributed to the 280 registered organizations? Are those allocations prioritized on metrics such as number of members, engagement, etc.
    - a. Basic allocation is offered to all organizations based on three requirements such as attendance
    - b. Basic allocation for new organizations is \$300 and for returning organizations it is \$400 with up to \$1000 available for special allocations
- vii. Presentation ends at 11:04am
- h. FIU at I-75 Budget hearing starts at 11:04am
  - i. Diana Arcentales presents
  - ii. SGA funds provide for commencement fairs, International Education week, Release week, week of welcome, etc., and food for all events given no available food on their campus
  - iii. Trends show students want more food options, workshops, career development, and transportation options to the campus.
  - iv. Week of welcome with 66% of student attendance
  - v. Homecoming week with 69% of student attendance
  - vi. International Education week with 70% of student attendance
  - vii. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. During giveaways are students required to present their OneCard to differentiate themselves from Broward College students?
      - a. Absolutely, they must present their card, and they must show they have access to a QR code setup with their login information
  - viii. Presentation ends at 11:15am
- i. Alternative Breaks Budget hearing starts at 11:15am
  - i. Connie Penczak and Ashleigh Stubbs present

- ii. Transition back into the traditional travel experience serving communities and addressing the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations
  - iii. The priorities for funding are student travel, student leadership development, event programming, and marketing
  - iv. The program is still rebuilding after COVID-19 and continues to grow
  - v. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vi. Presentation ends at 11:23am
- j. Roarthon Budget hearing starts at 11:24am
- i. Alexandria Ramos and Patrick Cornejo present
  - ii. 100% of the money raised is sent to the Nicklaus Children's Hospital for the Michael Fux Family Center, Updating technology, buildings, and facilities, etc.
  - iii. Funding from the Budget Committee will be utilized for operational expenses such as cost of stage, production, entertainment, leadership development, giveaways, travel for the annual conference, and marketing
  - iv. There are various opportunities for leadership and volunteering available for students with future collaborations with local schools such as Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
  - v. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vi. Presentation ends at 11:33
- k. Recess starts at 11:34am
- l. Recess ends at 12:15pm
- m. Relay for Life Budget hearing starts at 12:15am
- i. Connie Penczak and Ashliegh Stubbs present
  - ii. Has contributed \$1.3million for the American Cancer Society of Miami over the year
  - iii. Night of Hope Gala on February 15<sup>th</sup> is one of their biggest fundraising events
  - iv. Certain costs are covered by a separate entity

- v. Budget committee funding will be utilized for event operational expenses, special events/programming, giveaways, marketing, and student leadership development.
- vi. No Questions from the Budget Committee
- vii. Presentation ends at 12:23
- n. Scheduled lunch break starts at 12:45pm
- o. Scheduled lunch break ends at 1:45pm

IV. Call to order

- a. Meeting called to order at 1:52pm

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
Zachary Stangl	Senate President Pro-Tempore	Present
Fernando Melara	Senate Floor Leader	Present

- a. Quorum was established
- b. Orientation and Family Programs Budget hearing started at 1:55pm
  - i. Carol Galladian presents
  - ii. Student Leadership teams such as Panther Camp Executive Board and Facilitators and Peer Advisors are leaving a positive impact
  - iii. 71.4% of all students at the university completed Orientation
  - iv. Peer Advisor team salaries will continued to be covered by funding

- v. Panther Camp will be moving back to Lake Placid
- vi. Dining is being added to the Orientation experience
- vii. Questions from the Budget Committee
  1. First Year Students Orientation is a two-day (overnight) experience. Is that planning to remain the same, if not explain so
    - a. It will be a one-day model with an optional overnight extension
    - b. The Panther Camp model will be a two-day experience with campers leaving and returning to Lake Placid
  2. Dining added to the Orientation experience." What would it include? Breakfast only? Lunch only? or both breakfast and lunch
    - a. It will include both lunch and Dinner
  3. What does the Panther Camp fee cover?
    - a. It covers the fees that will take place at Lake Placid such as meals, activities, etc.
- viii. Presentation ends at 2:05pm
- c. Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Budget hearing started at 2:06pm
  - i. Devin Parra presents
  - ii. Trends show an increase in academic and behavioral misconduct over the past three fiscal years of 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022.
  - iii. Requesting funding for programming and initiatives, not Maxient, the software utilized to track and access data that they have requested the Budget Committee to help fund in the past
  - iv. Recognizing students who participate in different Academic and behavioral misconduct boards
  - v. Questions from the Budget Committee
    1. Have you done any campaigning or programming in prior years?
      - a. Yes, they have done various programming and tabling events in Graham Center and the Green Library breezeway
    2. What other forms of funding do you receive?
      - a. They receive additional funding from the FIU Tech fee and A&S fees distributed by SGA



3. You mentioned you did programming in the past, was that funded through A&S? In the years that A&S only covered Maxient, did SCAI do any programming and if so, how was it funded?
  - a. The programming that has been done recently has been with giveaways that have been previously purchased with A&S funding and
  - vi. Presentation ends at 2:18pm
- d. Recess starts at 2:18pm
- e. Recess ends at 2:35pm
- f. Outstanding Student Life Awards Budget hearing started at 2:34pm
  - i. Sofia Trelles presents
  - ii. Outstanding Student Life Awards is held annually in the Spring Semester to recognize student leaders across all majors and disciplines
  - iii. Asking for help funding the OpenWater License and will be asking for some additional help from the Tech fee
  - iv. Will be hosting a Meet and Greet Reception for Past Student Life Awards recipients this year
  - v. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vi. Presentation ends at 2:44pm
- g. Ombudsperson Budget hearing started at 2:45pm
  - i. Sofia Trelles presents
  - ii. Provides support for any student that is experiencing any difficulty at FIU
  - iii. Making the office more visible to students through a celebration of Ombuds day to represent the main themes of issues that students are having
  - iv. Promoting engagement through tabling to bring this resource to where the students are
  - v. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vi. Presentation ends at 2:49pm
- h. Recess starts at 2:49pm
- i. Recess ends at 3:15pm
- j. Model United Nations Budget hearing started at 3:14pm
  - i. Ashley Weathers presents

- ii. International relations program simulating the United Nations
  - iii. Key difference is seen with the passing of Dean John Stack who was the core of the model United Nations team for a long time
  - iv. Student Development Workshop series and classes held every Monday and Wednesday from 5:45pm-8:30pm
  - v. FIMUN, High school conference, projected to host 700 high school students at FIU
  - vi. Increasing cost of flights and hotels have made it difficult for students to attend the same number of conferences as previous years
  - vii. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - viii. Presentation ends at 3:28pm
- k. Veteran and Military Affairs Budget hearing started at 3:30pm
- i. Phillip Lloyd Hamilton presents
  - ii. Helping all military-affiliated students at FIU
  - iii. Current enrollment of military affiliated students was 1,160 as of Fall 2022 who have all utilized services at the Veteran and military Affairs office
  - iv. Transitioning into a student support office for managing academics, career development, finances, physical, and social wellbeing
  - v. Focus on making programming student central, student driven, and rebuilding the Student Veterans of America chapter at FIU
  - vi. Questions from the Budget Committee
    1. What are your budget priorities?
      - a. Focus on as much student programming as possibly which is solely funded through the A7S fees allocated from the Budget Committee
    2. How would you address a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in funding?
      - a. Help from other Foundations
    3. What was the attendance of Fall events (signature, significant events)?
      - a. Veterans day appreciation breakfast had over 300 people in attendance
      - b. Tailgating event was also highly attended by students

4. What was a trend you noticed regarding events/programs, and opportunities in engaging students?
  - a. A big trend they have seen is utilizing their students and student-staff to plan events and have them lead the way in what they want to see as programming.
  - vii. Presentation ends at 3:46pm
- l. Office of Social Justice and Inclusion Budget hearing started at 3:47pm
  - i. David Bynes presents
  - ii. Social Justice Badge Program, Programs on Demand, Cultural conversations, and male Mentoring Initiative all had participation ranging from 300-900 people
  - iii. Social Justice Education Training and Advocacy and Men's Engagement initiatives are newly compartmentalized parts of the overall budget
  - iv. New Request of \$11,400 for the OPS Graduate Student programming
  - v. Now fully responsible of the MLK parade participations
  - vi. No Questions from the Budget Committee
  - vii. Presentation ended at 3:58pm
- m. Pride Center Budget hearing started at 3:58pm
  - i. Erica Friedman presents
  - ii. Building on the quality and number of students impacted by programming
  - iii. Various sponsorships, donors, grants, and donations from other FIU departments and community organizations
  - iv. Increasing the number of interns and student assistants to supplement the amount of work they had
  - v. Student engagement had increased, especially with a large focus on the mental health crisis, the Trans Day of remembrance and Resilience, and the Genderchill: Gender Justice fashion Show
  - vi. Speaker fee for future programs to bring impactful individuals to speak to students at FIU
  - vii. LGBTQIA+ Mentorship program has been IRB approved, and hoping to expand to serve as a model for other mentorship programs across universities

- viii. Creating change conference sending 10 students in person
- ix. Participants at programs range from 30-250 students throughout the year
- x. No Questions from the Budget Committee
- xi. Presentation ends at 4:10pm
- n. Recess started at 4:11pm
- o. Recess ends at 4:34pm
- p. Pride Student Union hearing started at 4:34pm
  - i. Joseph Ale presents
  - ii. 36 General-Board members gain leadership experiences, skills, and responsibilities within the Pride Student union
  - iii. 284 Discord members, 1,063 Instagram followers, and 206 WhatsApp group chat members
  - iv. Signature events such as the Welcome Reception, National Coming out day at MMC and BBC all have approximately 40-100 students attending
  - v. Various collaborations around campus
  - vi. Planning to prioritize the Glitter Prom, D.C. Fly-Ins, and the Drag show with their new budget requests
  - vii. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. How would you address a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in funding?
      - a. Having to reduce the size of signature events, and emphasize collaboration with other student organizations, and downsize significantly. This will impact the growth of the Pride Student Union and thus the impact of such a student organization.
  - viii. Presentation ended at 4:46pm
- q. SGA Room Rentals Budget hearing started at 4:46pm
  - i. Michelle Castro and Silvana Rogelis present
  - ii. Subsidizes room rental fees in the Graham Center at MMC and the Wolfe University Center at BBC for all SGA Agencies and Bureaus
  - iii. Student engagement is constantly increasing on campus
  - iv. Questions from the Budget Committee
    - 1. Considering tha the SGA Room rental agreement is allowed to carry forward, how much was carryforward from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023?

a. There was nothing carried forward from the 2021-2022 fiscal year

v. Presentation ended at 4:53pm

VI. Meeting Adjournment

a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm