

Constitutional Convention of FIU

Meeting Agenda

January 30, 2024

Zoom: go.fiu.edu/WeTheStudents

1. Call to Order at 5:07PM
2. Roll Call

Brian Levine – present

Alex Sutton – present

Mia Rodriguez – present

Natalie Martinez – present

Alexander Stone – absent (unexcused)

Tracy Mussotte – present

Kaily Lachapelle – present

Peter Hernandez – present

Santana Way—present

Quorum was established.

3. Correction and Approval of Last Meetings Minutes
 - a. Minutes from January 26, 2024
 - i. No corrections.
 - ii. Minutes approved unanimously.
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Public Comments Period
 - a. Santana Way sends convention members his personal notes. Mia Rodriguez offers a point of inquiry.
6. Reports
 - a. Convention Chair Brian Levine
 - i. Sent out agenda. Will be instituting time limits for speaking.
 - b. Convention Vice Chair Alexander Sutton
 - i. No report.
 - c. Convention Secretary Mia Rodriguez
 - i. No report.
7. Old Business
 - a. There is no old business.

8. New Business

- a. Reviewing topics of the day. Lieutenant Governor of Biscayne Bay Campus.
 - i. Peter Hernandez wants the Lieutenant Governor to be an ex officio member of the budget committee.
 - ii. Mia Rodriguez and Peter Hernandez offer their points.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton motions to make Lieutenant Governor to be an ex officio member of the budget committee. Peter Hernandez seconds the motion. Discussion ensues. Natalie Martinez asks a question; Peter Hernandez responds that the Comptroller can abstain from a vote until there is a case of a tie.
 - iv. Motion passes with 2 yays, 1 nay, 1 abstention.
- b. Alexander Sutton proposes that the Comptroller runs as a university-wide elected position and presents his reasoning. Peter Hernandez continues discussion with Alexander Sutton. Alexander Sutton yields his speaking time to Santana Way. Mia Rodriguez also provides input on the subject. Peter Hernandez responds to Santana Way's concern of President, Vice President, and Comptroller being from different parties. Peter believes that if there is a split ticket, they can come together.
 - i. Alexander Sutton motions for Comptroller getting a university-wide election. Peter Hernandez seconds. Motion is passed with one abstention.
- c. Chair Brian Levine motions to begin full document read-through. Mia Rodriguez wants to discuss judicial instead. The motion does not pass.
- d. Point of inquiry from Peter Hernandez. Alexander Sutton yields his time to Santana Way, who requests that members of the public speak.
- e. Alexander Sutton motions to create a straw poll to convention members as to whether Santana Way should become a member of the convention to fill a current vacancy. Straw poll is approved and executed.
 - i. Results of the straw poll are unanimously in favor of Santana Way becoming a member of the convention. Zero individuals said nay or abstained. In accordance with the straw poll, Alexander Sutton exercised his right to appoint Santana Way to the convention. Santana Way is now a member of the Constitutional Convention.
- f. Full read through begins of the Constitution draft. Alexander Sutton's motion to add the word "arbitrarily" to Article II, Section E Clause 1 does not pass.
 - i. Article II is read. Peter is recognized to speak for 2 minutes discussion. Debate is opened to remove Article II Section 1 E Clause 2. Alexander Sutton motions to strike this and Peter seconds this motion. All yays and one abstention to adopt this motion.
- g. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article I and Article II. Natalie Martinez seconds the motion. Motion passes.
 - i. Alexander Sutton begins to read through Article III: The Legislative Branch. Peter Hernandez asks if the enrollment numbers presented were accurate. Alexander Sutton brings up changing language to reflect how the Senate can retain Justices based on what has already been voted.

- ii. Mia Rodriguez had a point of inquiry. Santana Way shares reservations about a BBC Legislative Council. Brian Levine wants language clarification. Peter Hernandez wants fewer than five representatives or that the five members need to have college-specific breakdown.
 - iii. Mia Rodriguez motions to to include the word “Senate” before the word committee for clarification. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iv. Kaily Lachapelle poses a question about Section 5 for clarification about committee selection.
 - v. Peter Hernandez inquires on whether committee chairs count as Senate Leadership.
 - vi. Article III is locked.
- h. Alexander Sutton reads through Article IV.
- i. Peter Hernandez motions to change order of succession, putting Treasurer above Chief of Staff. Alexander Sutton seconds. Motion passes.
 - ii. Alexander Sutton suggests that the word legislation get changed to bill to reflect Convention attitude. Motion is passed unanimously.
 - iii. Kaily Lachapelle wants the rest of the Executive Board to have input on who receives tickets to the Panther Suite, not just the Student Body President. Alexander Sutton explains his position. Peter Hernandez wants half the tickets to the Panther Suite provided to the Executive branch and another half provided to the Legislative branch.
 - iv. Alexander Sutton motions for the proposed language. Natalie Martinez seconds. Motion passes.
 - v. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article IV: The Executive Branch. Natalie Martinez seconds. Motion passes.
- i. Alexander Sutton begins reading through Article V. Alexander Sutton removes language to reflect previous consensus regarding a judicial position.
- i. Mia Rodriguez mentions concerns. Wants more specificity for the Judicial Branch in terms of writs, wants Judicial Branch to have the final authority for elections, and wants the Judicial Branch to have the power to establish lower courts. Thinks there needs to be more than 12 hours for elections board, 24 is better. Peter Hernandez wants a way to safeguard the integrity of the court.
 - ii. Alexander Sutton clarifies talking points. Discussion between Mia Rodriguez, Peter Hernandez, and Alexander Sutton continues.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton includes language in Section 10 A Clause 8 would now offer students an alternative appeal option. Mia Rodriguez seconds this motion. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iv. Alexander Sutton discusses his thoughts on Mia Rodriguez’s comments. Discussion ensues.
 - v. Alexander Sutton motions so that 12 hours of receipt of information turns to 24 hours. Seconded by Brian Levine. Motion passes.
 - vi. Kaily Lachapelle wants mandatory trainings for judicial that need to be done by the beginning of Fall, but that the branch can still perform.

- vii. Alexander Sutton motions to change Summer A to Summer. Tracy Mussotte asks to change “shall” to “must”. Alexander Sutton amends his motion to include this. Motion passes unanimously.
- viii. Alexander motions to move the Terms and Vacancies section to the end. Mia Rodriguez seconds. Motion is adopted.
- ix. Brian Levine wants to clarify the terms and vacancies language in Section 7 Clause B. Discussion ensues with Mia Rodriguez about term limits and re-confirmation.
- x. Alexander Sutton motions improved language to Section 7 Clause B. Mia Rodriguez seconds. Motion passes.
- xi. Mia Rodriguez questions the language of “senior most”.
 - 1. Alex asks for unanimous consent on the revised language.
- xii. Mia Rodriguez motions to lock Article V. Alexander Sutton seconds. Motion passes.
- j. Alexander Sutton begins to read Article V: Advisors.
 - i. Peter Hernandez presents his opinions on the Article’s language and suggests alternative channels.
 - ii. Mia Rodriguez agrees with Peter Hernandez and expands on his points.
 - iii. Kaily Lachappelle affirms the sentiments shared by Alexander Sutton.
 - iv. Mia Rodriguez and Peter Hernandez continue discussing their opinions.
 - v. Kaily Lachappelle mentions making the Article shorter and more lenient.
 - vi. Peter Hernandez recommends external means of conflict resolution with advisors outside of the Constitution.
 - vii. Brian Levine shares his experience in another student government setting at another institution.
 - viii. Peter Hernandez mentions how the stakeholders of this Article have not been involved in the process.
 - ix. Mia Rodriguez wants to change the word “must” from use cases.
 - x. Santana Way mentions logistical issues with Article V: Advisors.
 - xi. Alexander Sutton gives a straw poll to strike the entirety of the Article and later add content to the SGA Statutes.
 - xii. Straw poll was conducted by Alexander Sutton. Article will be stricken. Conversations will be had with the appropriate parties. Decisions made at that later time will be implemented in the Statutes. The vote was 2 yay’s, 3 abstentions, and 3 nay’s.
 - xiii. Mia Rodriguez motions to remove Article V: Advisors with the intention of leaving it up to Statutes if needed. Peter Hernandez seconds. Motion passes.
- k. Alexander Sutton begins reading Article VI: Qualifications.
 - i. Mia Rodriguez asks a question about Advisors writing writs.
 - ii. Alexander Sutton motions for Accelerated Nursing BSN (Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing) program to be added as a BBC program. Peter Hernandez seconds that motion. Motion passes.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton expands upon Mia Rodriguez’s earlier point. Wants a different way for SGA officials to learn about their ineligibility.

- iv. Santana Way offers his opinion that students need to be removed if they do not meet the standards set forth for holding office in Student Government.
- v. Kaily Lachapelle offers personal anecdote about working with advisors if eligibility is called into question.
- vi. Natalie Martinez asks a question about the biggest reason that students become unqualified to hold office.
- vii. Brian Levine offers personal anecdote to support his point.
- viii. Alexander Sutton gauges interest in language he proposed in chat, which would allow for students to appeal a removal from SGA to the Chief Student Affairs Officer. There is also an option to remove this section entirely.
- ix. Proposed language is debated.
- x. Brian Levine motions to strike Clause B. Alexander Sutton seconds the motion. Motion passes.
- xi. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article VI. Peter Hernandez seconds this. Motion passes.
- l. Alexander Sutton begins to read Article VII: Internal Committees
 - i. Kaily Lachapelle voices that they would want to include that any expenditure of the ACB (accumulated cash balance) account should be voted on by the Executive Board with the need for a simple majority vote.
 - ii. Brian Levine offers clarification. Kaily Lachapelle agrees.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article VII. Natalie Martinez seconds it. Motion passes.
- m. Alexander Sutton begins to read Article VIII: Executive Agencies.
 - i. Discussion commences with Brian Levine and Alexander Sutton.
 - ii. Alexander Sutton motions to unanimously strike Section 2 Clause C. Motion passes.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article VIII Executive Agencies. Brian Levine seconds. Motion passes.
- n. Alexander Sutton begins to read Article IX: Student Unions and Registered Student Organizations.
 - i. Alexander Sutton proposes to remove the line about remunerations. He retracts his statement.
 - ii. Kaily Lachapelle motions to add language gender identity and disability for Section 1. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton motions for additional language on Executive Order Article IX Section 2 Subsection 2. Brian Levine seconds the motion. Motion passes.
 - iv. Alexander Sutton opens debate on changing the name Bureau to Student Union. Santana Way does not condone the name change. Kaily Lachapelle adds to the discussion. Brian Levine believes that Bureau is a confusing name. Alexander Sutton shares that an alternate name could be found but advocates for the name Bureau over Student Union.

- v. Alexander Sutton motions to rename Student Unions back to Bureaus throughout the document. Natalie Martinez seconds the motion. Motion passes.
- vi. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article IX. Brian Levine seconds that. Motion passes.
- o. Alexander Sutton begins to read Article X: Elections.
 - i. Brian Levine motions for the addition of write-in candidates. Alexander Sutton seconds. Brian Levine explains the reasoning behind the addition. Motion passes.
 - ii. Brian Levine notes a change in the date of the election to the rest of the Convention.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article X. Brian Levine seconds. Motion passes.
- p. Alexander Sutton begins to read Article XI: Remuneration.
 - i. Discussion begins on increasing the Chair of each Senate Committee to \$1,500.
 - ii. Peter Hernandez wants to move the Pro-Temp at \$7,500.
 - iii. Alexander Sutton motions for Pro-Temp to be paid at \$7,500. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iv. Alexander Sutton motions for all standing Senate Committee Chairs to be paid \$1,500. Brian Levine seconds the motion. Motion passes.
 - v. Discussion between Alexander Sutton and Brian Levine occurs.
 - vi. Alexander Sutton motions additional language that “would allow additional positions enumerated by statute to be added to the Article by a 2/3 vote of the Senate and the consent of the Student Body President” without needing a Constitutional Amendment. Peter Hernandez seconds. Motion passes.
 - vii. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article X. Motion passes.
- q. Alexander Sutton begins to read Article XII: Constitutional Amendment Process
 - i. Santana Way motions to adjourn the meeting. Tracy Mussotte seconds. Motion does not pass
 - ii. Alexander Sutton motions to adjourn the meeting at 11:12PM. Natalie Martinez seconds. Motion passes.
 - iii. Santana Way asks a question. Alexander Sutton answers.
 - iv. Alexander Sutton motions to lock Article XII by unanimous consent. Santana Way objects, so Alexander Sutton removes his motion. Brian Levine opens up discussion on Santana Way’s concern. Discussion ensues. Alexander Sutton offers a 3/5 vote as a compromise.
 - v. Alexander Sutton motions to change simple majority to 2/3 vote. Motion is not passed.
 - vi. Santana Way motions to finish the last two articles this week. Alexander Sutton seconds. Motion passes
- r. Convention discusses a time to meet. Friday at 6:00PM is decided. Motion passes.
 - i. Meeting is adjourned at 11:17PM.