



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Constitutional Convention of FIU

Meeting Agenda

November 16, 2023

2:00 PM

Zoom: go.fiu.edu/WeTheStudents

1. Call to Order – Chair Brian Levine called meeting to order at 2:09PM
2. Roll Call

Brian Levine – present

Alex Sutton – present

Mia Rodriguez – absent (excused)

Kaily LaChapelle – present

Peter Hernandez – present

Tracy Mussotte – present

Alex Stone – absent

Natalie – absent (excused)

Student Body Vice President Santana Way was also present.

3. Correction and Approval of Last Meetings Minutes
 - a. Minutes from November 13, 2023
 4. Adoption of the Agenda
- Agenda was adopted without objection
5. Public Comments Period
 6. Reports
 - a. Convention Chair Brian Levine
 - b. Convention Vice Chair Alexander Sutton
 - c. Convention Secretary Mia Rodriguez
 7. Old Business
 - a. Deliberations
 - i. Article IV – Legislative Branch
 1. LaChapelle stated that seven committees is not an effective structure; when Peter shared the structure of the previous Senate it made sense
 2. LaChapelle believes that 47 Senators is disproportional to our student body, when compared to the sizes of the Senate at FSU or UF

3. LaChapelle: the Senate President has too much power and discretion. Looking at discretion to fill vacancies, no oversight due to lack of internal affairs committee.
4. Brian Levine: committees could be left up to the Statutes or Senate Procedures so that they are not as difficult to change.
5. Peter Hernandez: agrees with increasing Senate seats, but increasing more SGA officials means more money for stipends and less for programming. Increase in officials will cause unintentional strain on the budget.
6. SGA VP Santana Way stated that he supports expanding SGA. He believes that we have 58,000 students and we don't have enough student representatives to represent them. Could be argued that when there is an increase in students there should be an increase in the number of SGA members.
7. Sutton stated that he agreed with putting the committees in the Senate Rules instead of the Constitution and that he supports giving the Senate the powers of inquiry, investigation, subpoena, and audit.
8. Santana Way stated that he supported the idea of students who did not win their election being able to serve SGA in an unpaid capacity.
9. Peter Hernandez: not sure how much would be accomplished for the student body by increasing the number of seats. More about what members can do to represent their constituency rather than adding seats.
10. Brian Levine believes that adding more people would make it harder to meet quorum, but supports the idea of alternates.
11. Tracy stated that there needs to be a way to make sure that people who get into SGA are eager to do their job.
12. Peter: mentioned it is a good idea to do a tour to meet the leadership and Dean of each college. Could be a good idea to require that in order to run to represent a college, you need to have had some involvement in that college before you run.
13. Brian Levine: mentioned that we should adjust representation, such as creating an I-75 Senator.
14. On the topic of Senate committees, Brian Levine supports enumerating certain committees in the constitution so that the Senate cannot abolish GPSC etc.
15. Peter Hernandez: on the topic of the Senate having the power to remove its own members: there were issues in the past with people going after each other, but the entity needs to be able to hold itself accountable.
16. There was support for renaming the position of Senate President to Senate Speaker.

17. Sutton: supports getting rid of the Floor Leader position and delegating its responsibilities to various chairs.
 18. Peter: Chairs were elected by the Senate as a whole, Vice chairs chosen by the committee, Finance committee members chosen by the Senate as a whole, other members of other committees chosen by chair and Speaker and Pro Temp after getting preferences.
 19. Peter: the Senate should have the power to audit by simple majority, rather than the Comptroller having full discretion.
 20. Sutton: supports abolishing the executive advisory committee.
 21. Brian: supports having committee chairs count as members of Senate leadership.
- ii. Topic – Graduate Student Representation
1. Brian: supports allowing graduates to run for college/school seats.
 2. Peter: supports loosened requirements for graduate students in SGA.
 3. Peter: Medical and Law Senator elected through same procedure as all other Senators. Important to ask MSC and SBA before making this change.
 4. Brian Levine: supports GPSC having representation on the Budget Committee.
- iii. Article VII – Qualifications
1. Peter: supports requiring certain involvements before they can run to represent their college to ensure students are involved.
 2. Brian: supports allowing first-semester students to serve in SGA.
 3. Peter: supports bringing back the SGA intern program.
 4. Brian: supports bringing back SGA graduate assistants.
 5. Peter: supports the idea of 2.75 cumulative GPA and 2.5 term GPA.
 6. Sutton: does not think that first-semester students (freshmen, graduate students, transfers) should be ineligible from serving in SGA. Supports allowing first semester students to serve in SGA.
 7. Brian: agrees with Sutton.
 8. Santana: a lot of students want to be involved in SGA but can't because they don't have a GPA established yet.
 9. Tracy: supports bringing back internship program.
 10. Peter: does not think that first semester freshmen should be able to serve in SGA. Thinks that dual enrollment should count.
 11. Sutton: supports lowering the requirements to run for President to 4 semesters or 1 year + sophomore status.
 12. Santana: thinks it is good that Agency and Bureau heads are able to run for President.
 13. Brian Levine: regarding BBC eligibility, he thinks it should include students who live at Bayview. Sutton agreed. Santana stated it should not be limited to just students who live at BBC. Brian clarified that

this would not be limiting it but expanding the ways students could be eligible to serve at BBC.

New Business

- a. Other New Business
- 8. Convention Forum
- 9. Public Comments Period
- 10. Announcements
- 11. Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 4:15PM