



Florida International University

SGA Constitutional Revision Committee

MINUTES

SGA Constitutional Revision Committee Meeting

July 27, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE

Jefferson Noël, SGA BBC President

Jose Servin, SGA MMC President

Jonathan Espino, SGA BBC Vice President

John Habib, Arts, Sciences, & Education Senator

Larissa Adames, Assistant Director of Campus Life & SGA Advisor (BBC)

Jerome Scott,

Dr. Anthony DeSantis, Assistant VP of Student Affairs

Michelle Castro,

GUESTS

Sabrina Javellana, SGA BBC Chief of Staff

Gerard Albert III

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held on June 15, 2018 – Locale **WUC 221** on the Biscayne Bay Campus. The meeting was called to order at **1:46 pm**, approximately, by Assistant VP of Student Affairs **Dr. Anthony DeSantis** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

WELCOME

Dr. DeSantis...

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared his goal for the meeting—have a template approved in order to have the first draft of the new constitution finished, during the next 3 weeks.
- Explained that the focus of this meeting will be going over the composition of the executive branch, executive board/committee and the officer responsibilities because everything that is left to review in the constitution does not impact the structure.
- Informed the committee that the election process will not change.

Mr.Noël asked if the committee will go over whether or not the election board should be outside of the student government.

Dr.De Santis answered that that will be discussed when we draft out the constitution.

- Explained that after the committee goes over the details, the statues will be updated to correlate with the constitution.
- Confirmed that a document will be made and used for the committee to review and make edits to; the document will be made by Mr. Jerome Scott and Ms.Adames
- Stated that the goal is to have the constitution voted on by the student body by the first week of the fall semester. A town hall can be held on september in regards to the changes being made to the constitution, perhaps the vote on the constitution before homecoming.

Mr.Servin asked whether it will be included in the homecoming ballot itself. Mr. Noël asked if it would be better for the voting to take place before homecoming week.

Dr.DeSantis suggested the committee to discuss when would be best and clarified that the statutes do not need to be voted upon, and can be edited during that process.

The committee discussed what day would be best to hold voting for the proposed constitution.

Ms.Adames suggested September 25 and 26 of 2018, forums should be done two to three weeks prior to that date.

Dr.DeSantis confirmed that the forums will be based on the documents that are approved.

Ms.Adames suggested to have at least two locations for voting.

Ms.Castro suggested for it to also be hosted on engage or on facebook live so that we could have access to the recording as well.

Mr. Noël moved to have a general vote on the proposed constitutional changes on September 25 and 26, 2018.

Mr.Servin seconded the motion.

By an unanimous decision the motion was passed.

A point of inquiry was made by Mr. Noël regarding when the meeting would end.

Dr.DeSantis explained that the meeting is to end at 3 pm

Ms. Castro...

- Read the proposed purpose, and composition of SGA.
- Reminded the committee to decide on an executive board and/or an executive committee.
- Clarified that the names of both vice president 1 and vice president 2 positions.
Dr.DeSantis reminded the committee that the votes that go for each of the vice president positions need to be decided.
- The proposed positions and descriptions were read and explained.
- Stated that there is room to make changes to the proposed positions and responsibilities.

Mr.Noël pointed out errors in the wording used under the Comptroller position.

Dr.DeSantis confirmed that the positions and duties will be revised to ensure the correct terms are used.

Mr.Scott voiced his concerns with the idea of the vice president overseeing the president's cabinet. Dr.DeSantis asked for clarification on whether or not the SGA councils take tours of the different departments asking for funding requests.

Upon clarifying the process Dr.DeSantis suggested to create a structure for scheduling tours of each department, so that the council can familiarize themselves with each department and know why they are requesting funds.

Dr.DeSantis thanked michelle for working on the document, providing the list of the positions for SGA.

Mr.Noël suggested the committee to decide on a name for the new Comptroller position. Suggestions were: Comptroller, chief finance officer, treasurer, student body treasurer.

After discussing it was decided to change the comptroller chair position name to treasurer.

Jose Servin voiced his opinion on not agreeing with having two vice presidents but only one. He explained that after discussing with other council members they did not see why it would be ideal. He explained his reasons, and presented his proposal if SGA were to only have one vice president.

Mr.Noël stated that having two vice presidents would increase the representation and it would be a better way to make sure all campuses are represented as opposed to having one vice president who has to represent all campuses.

Mr. Servin explained his view on how having two vice presidents would cin a sense create the same system we currently have.

Mr. Habib explained that having two vice presidents would not create the same system we do now but would make the workload easier for the vice president position.

The committee discussed scenarios in which there would be one president vs having two presidents.

Ms.Adames pointed out that the description for the percent of vote was not included in the description.

Mr.Noël stated that he had proposed names for vice presidents.

Mr.Scott voiced his opinion on the fact that the vice president 1 position should have more concrete duties.

The committee added more concrete duties for the vice president position 1.

Ms.Adames voiced her opinion on not having the vice president chair any cabinet meetings and that cabinet can be a separate branch.

Ms.Castro explained the distinctions between the two vice presidents positions. Vice president 1 would assume responsibility of the president if the president is to be impeached.

Mr.Noël reminded the committee of possibility having the electoral board outside of the SGA branches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr.DeSantis ...

- Announced that he will not be able to stay after 3:00pm because he has a meeting after this one.
- Asked the committee if they would like to discuss further but have Ms.Adames and Mr.Scott chair the rest of the meeting.

The committee decided to not discuss further today but to schedule another constitutional revision meeting to come to a consensus on what was discussed today.

After discussing what day and time that would work best for the committee members, it was decided to meet at the Modesto Maidique Campus on thursday August 2, 2018 at 2pm-4pm.

- Dr.DeSantis clarified that during the next meeting the committee will have to come to a decision regarding having two vice presidents or one, and the duties of each.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Habib moved to adjourn the meeting at **3:01pm**

Mr.Noël seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm