



Florida International University

SGA Constitutional Revision Committee

MINUTES

SGA Constitutional Revision Committee Meeting - Statutes Review September 14th, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE

Jefferson Noël, President (BBC)

Jose Servin, President (MMC)

Brandon Aquino, Speaker Pro (MMC)

John Habib, Speaker/Arts, Sciences, & Education (BBC)

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

Jerome Scott, Campus Life Coordinator

Dr. Anthony DeSantis, Assistant VP of Student Affairs

GUESTS

Michelle Castro, Assistant Director of Campus Life (MMC)

Dr. Kerrie Montgomery, Campus Life Director (BBC)

Daniel Velasquez, Chief Justice (BBC)

Kayla Brown, SGA Graduate Assistant (MMC)

Ronan Kelly, Comptroller (BBC)

Gerard Albert III, PantherNow Reporter

Anthony Jones, Front Desk Assistant (BBC)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held on September 14, 2018 – Locale **WUC 221** on the Biscayne Bay Campus. The meeting was called to order at **3:28 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 reminded the committee that there was a lot to address and accomplish this meeting.
- Explained that the focus of this meeting will be reviewing the statutes in the constitution.

- Questioned if the committee had any suggestions regarding the current structure and language pertaining to the statutes within the constitution, and if so, to please bring them up so that they could address them before moving forward.
- Reminded the committee that next Tuesday is expected to be the last meeting when it comes to the constitution and that the final draft of the constitution will go to a vote on the 24th of September, so they would not have the time to go through each and every line of the statutes due to the fact that the committee needs to finish the final draft in a timely manner so that it can go to a final vote.
- Also stated that this meeting would be a “silent” meeting, and explained that no questions were going to be taken by the public.

POSITIONS DESCRIPTIONS

Ms. Castro reminded the committee that since the last meeting, there has not been a final vote regarding the job responsibilities of the President, Vice President, Executive President, and Executive Vice President.

Dr. DeSantis, “Were these positions reviewed since last meeting?”

- The committee stated that there were no further suggestions regarding the job responsibilities of the President, Vice President, Executive President, and Executive Vice President.

Dr. DeSantis, “Ok so just to be clear, everyone is good with the job responsibilities of the President, Vice President, Executive President, and Executive Vice President as they are written?”

Mr. Scott, “What all goes into checking the position responsibilities?”

Dr. Montgomery, “Has anyone looked at the position responsibilities since last meeting?”

President Noel, “If there are any changes to be made to the position responsibilities, can't we just make them on Tuesday?”

Dr. DeSantis, “Please look over the job responsibilities of the President, Vice President, Executive President, and Executive Vice President sometime after the meeting today and if anyone has any suggestions, I suggest that you send them out to the group in the email and Michelle can update for any changes.”

Ms. Castro , “ I highly recommend to look at the “Cabinet Shall” section because it still contains a lot of old language.”

President Sirven, “We will be here this Saturday so we can look at it then.”

President Noel, “I will not be there this Saturday.”

Ms. Adames, “ Lets just talk about the budget today.”

President Sirven, We all have talked about the budget prior to the meeting so we can just jump right into it.”

BUDGET

- President Sirven went over the proposed budget process for the revised SGA Constitution
- The committee reviewed the proposed budget process

Dr. DeSantis elaborated on the current process with the FIU budget office, while explaining how, “everything we choose has to fit with what the FIU current Budgetary process already is.”

Dr. DeSantis stated to President Sirven and President Noel, “you guys have to speak with Matilda on Monday to see if this works with the current FIU budget process.”

- President Noel went over the Budget Committee
 - Consist of three members from the House of Representatives and three members from the Senate (1 non-MMC House Representative & Senator.)
 - The Comptroller will be the Chair and the Finance Chair will be the Vice Chair of the committee.

Speaker Habib, “Does non-MMC mean that the majority of classes taken are at another campus other than MMC?”

President Sirven, “Yes.”

Speaker Habib, “ Who picks which non-MMC senator is chosen?”

Speaker Pro Aquino, “There will be a nomination in the senate in the house.”

Dr. DeSantis, “So 2-7 to be a nomination process, are we all ok with that?”

President Noel, “Yes.”

Dr. DeSantis, “Also, I suggest that you include “50% or more at regional campus location” in the constitution.”

Dr. DeSantis, “50% or more at time of election and as holder of the position should be included as well.”

President Sirven, “I suggest adding auditing to the duties of the Budget Committee.”

Dr. Montgomery, “What are they going to be auditing?”

Speaker Pro Aquino, “Finance Topics.”

President Sirven, “I suggest that they meet once a week to check finance code to see if everything is going accordingly.”

President Noel, “I don’t think that they would need to meet every week.”

Dr. DeSantis suggested, “You can have spot audits, for example, in the statutes you could set five planned audits throughout the fiscal year and have spot audits whenever you suspect that funds are not being used properly.”

President Noel, “In my opinion, SGA should not be over organizations auditing them each week.”

The committee agreed.

Dr. DeSantis asked Ms. Castro if there were any other topics to discuss regarding the budget committee.

Ms. Castro, “Everything looks good so far.”

Dr. DeSantis reminded President Sirven & Noel, “Please make sure that you have a conversation with Matilda to make sure that the budget fits within the FIU budget process.”

President Sirven moved to approve the presented budget process

Speaker Pro Aquino Seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

ARTICLE XII: REMUNERATION

Ms. Castro, "Since HR is heavily involved in this process, could this just be discussed in the next meeting with HR?"

Mr.Scott, "The process is not clearly defined in here."

Ms.Adames, "We should define what the process is first then decide which positions would be stipend and which would be bi-weekly."

Ms.Adames, "Which positions are the ones to get paid?"

President Sirven, "The Executive board only: President, VP, Executive President, Executive VP, Chief of Staff, Chief Justice, & Comptroller."

Speaker Habib, "As a whole we did not agree that only the Executive board would get paid. I feel that the senators do a lot of hard work and they should at least receive something."

President Noel, "There should be at least some form of payment of stipend to give to the other positions."

Dr.Montgomery, "Keep in mind that there are lots of students who can't take on a leadership position because they need a job that pays money."

Dr.DeSantis, "Also, Keep in mind that we deal with a lot of first generation college students who need financial support."

Ms.Adames, "We need to take into consideration the type of students that we have and their financial status."

President Sirven, "We are one of the only universities in Florida that still pays all council members."

President Noel, "I think that we should stand out and at least have some type of compensation for our senators."

Dr.DeSantis, "Ok so everyone is ok with keeping it as is, making sure it fits within minimum wage laws, with the approval of the finance committee."

Ms.Adames, "I suggest that we leave the method of compensation to be determined by the best HR practices, instead of it being distributed bi-weekly."

- The committee proceeded to adjust the language of section A of the Remuneration, listed below are the changes that were made to the language:
 - “Distributed bi-weekly” to “decided by the recommendations of the FIU HR department.
 - “SGA Budget” was inserted after “determined by.”

Speaker Pro Aquino left the room at 4:48 PM

Mr. Scott, “So the HR department decides if the funds are distributed bi-weekly or by stipend.”

Dr.DeSantis, “Right.”

Dr.DeSantis, SGA will be incharge of payment, FIU is in charge of how the payment will be distributed.”

Speaker Pro Aquino returned at 4:53 PM

President Sirven, recommended in section A to remove the phrase “SGA president” and insert “officials” in its place.

Mr.Scott moved to add Remuneration within the A&S Budget process

President Noel Seconded

President Noel - Yay
 President Sirven - Yay
 Speaker Habib - Yay
 Speaker Pro Aquino - Yay
 Ms.Adames - Yay
 Mr.Scott - Yay
 Dr.DeSantis - Abstain

The motion passed 6-0-1

Dr.DeSantis urged the committee to speak with Matilda and with one another to come to an agreement where everyone can agree upon a set percent to which the executive branch will be compensated based on the SGA president’s income.

Dr.DeSantis, “The next items that we need to go over are ticket no ticket and political parties.”

Dr.Desantis, “we all need to make sure that we are all on time for the next meeting and that we start no later than 3 so that we can make sure we have enough time to go over everything.

Whatever campus and day works best to get everyone here is what we need to figure out so that we can all meet.”

Speaker Habib, “I would just like to make sure that we are all on the same page, I want to make it clear that we are not two SGA’s, we are one SGA with one constitution, and with two governing councils. It's always been that way and has never changed, when it is said that there are two FIU SGA’s, that is wrong, there is only one SGA.”

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Habib moved to adjourn the meeting at **5:06 pm**
President Noel seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm