



Florida International University

SGA Constitutional Revision Committee

MINUTES

SGA Constitutional Revision Committee Meeting

September 28th, 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

Jose Toscano, Director of Campus Life (MMC)

GUESTS

Dr. Kerrie Montgomery, Campus Life Director (BBC)

Daniel Velasquez, Chief Justice (BBC)

Kayla Brown, SGA Graduate Assistant (MMC)

Anthony Jones, Front Desk Assistant (BBC)

Iris Elijah, Associate General Counsel

Silvana Rogelis, A&S Finance Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held on September 28, 2018 – Locale **WUC 155** on the Biscayne Bay Campus. The meeting was called to order at **3:20 pm**, approximately, by **Jose Toscano** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

WELCOME

Mr. Toscano...

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting by listing the point of orders that needed to be covered within this meeting.
- The point of orders that needed to be covered were the following:
 - Review cabinet descriptions

- Review Vice President’s job description
- Accountability Board
- Questioned if the committee had any unfinished business from the last meeting that needed to be finished before moving on with the point of orders for today’s meeting.

Mr. Noel, “During the Town Hall meeting, we shared with the student body what we had so far regarding the constitution. While the students looked over the document, they provided to us suggestions on what things could be added, removed, or changed within the draft of the constitution that we have so far.

Mr. Toscano, “Jefferson is that really any of the three bullets that we have?”

Mr.Noel, “No there not really related.”

Mr.Toscano, “Ok so I would ask that the members of the committee make a motion to either hear the suggestions that Jefferson has now before going into the point of orders or to hear them afterward.”

Mr.Aquino moved to discuss President Noel’s items for 10 minutes.

Mr.Sirven seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

STUDENT SUGGESTIONS FROM TOWN HALL MEETING

Mr.Noel...

- Proceeded to list the suggestions that were given to him by the student body during the Town hall Meeting:
 - “There should be a MMC Vice President specific to the campus, so essentially adding a 5th Vice President”

Mr.Aquino, “Shouldn’t we have this discussion after we discuss the ticket since on the ticket we are talking about the positions and how they are spread out within the various campuses.”

Mr.Scott, “I think from my understanding it was a matter between equality and equity of if there was a position where everyone would be seen as equal but I think there’s more of an issue that the regional locations, from what I got, they feel that there is not going to be a voice for them, however, I don’t think that that is the concern from the MMC campus.”

Mr.Noel, “So are you guys ok with adding it or keeping it as is?”

Mr.Habib, “From my perspective, I'm not really a fan of having 4 EVPs and one executive VP. I think that if we make it simpler with just as much representation that it would be more effective. That maybe instead of having an online EVP we could replace that with an online senator and keep it simple to have one president, one BBC vice president, one MMC vice president. Whereas, the MMC VP would also work in conjunction with the SGA senator and the BBC VP will work in conjunction with I-75. That's my suggestion.”

Mr.Habib, “Or how about having a Vp that represents MMC & EC, a VP that represents BBC, and a VP that represents I-75 and no executive VP.”

Mr.Scott, “Wasn't that already a suggestion?”

Mr.Habib, “The previous suggestion included an EVP.”

Mr.Aquino, “Whats the reason for removing the EVP position?”

Mr.Habib, “Because I feel that having an EVP will more overshadow the obligations of the other VPs. I feel that the president himself could serve as the EVP and just assume the responsibilities that would be given to an EVP.”

Mr.Toscano, “I just want to make it clear for all that this is something that has been previously voted on so you would have to go back if it is something that you all would be willing to reconsider to vote and one of the persons who actually voted for this would have to bring this motion back to the floor to reconsider.”

Mr.Noel, “Lets not forget that this is only one of the many points that the students suggested during the Town Hall Meeting.”

Mr.Aquino, “Would you like to go over all the points and then come back to this one?”

Mr.Noel, “Ok.”

Mr.Aquino moved to extend time by 10 minutes.

Mr.Habib seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Continued to list the suggestions that were given to him by the student body during the Town hall Meeting:

- Will graduate students be able to run for different senate seats?
- 2 senators for both schools, one for MMC/BBC & one for broader colleges like CASE and nursing.
- Intent to keep an SGA office at BBC.
- Are councils going to receive stipends?
- Lebanon government
- Meetings rotating around all campuses/regional locations.
- VPs consult with all cabinet members to ensure diversity.
- Show percentage of votes for the constitution regarding whether they came from MMC or BBC.

The members of the committee discussed in further detail each student suggestion.

Mr.Aquino moved to close the discussion.

Mr.Sirven seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Toscano, “Is there a motion on the floor for any of the recommendations presented by Jefferson?”

Mr.Sirven moved to create an additional article titled, “Executive Council Meetings,” specifying the the executive council must be held at a different campus or regional location other than where it was previously held at.

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

Mr.Noel moved to amend Sirven’s motion to change the title of the article from “Executive Council Meetings” to read, “SGA Official Meeting.”

Mr.Sirven accepted the friendly amendment.

Mr.Sirven moved to create an additional article titled, “Official SGA Meetings” with the first point in the article being that, the executive council meetings must be held at a different campus or regional location other than where their last meeting was held.

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Noel moved to change Article 4, Section 2A, to read, “Senate shall be composed of one senator from each college or school that has a dean or assistant or associate dean and one senator from each campus that holds on campus housing.”

Mr.Sirven seconded the motion.

The motion failed 3-3-0

Mr.Noel moved for language in the constitution to state that SGA officials shall be required to hold office hours on the campuses or regional campuses within their jurisdiction.

Mr.Noel withdrew his motion.

Cabinet Descriptions

Mr.Scott moved to create an article for the executive council and move Article 5, Section 2 underneath that.

Mr.Sirven seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved to change Subsection B to read, “To be appointed by the the president and confirmed by the concurrence of the majority of the senate.”

Mr.Noel moved to open discussion for one minute.

Mr.Sirven seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved for Subsection B under cabinet to read, “As be appointed by the president and confirmed by the concurrence of the majority of the senate.”

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved for Section C to read, “Consist of at least of the Chief of Staff, Comptroller, Secretary of Governmental Relations, Secretary of External Relations.”

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved to open for 2 minutes of discussion regarding whether or not the Comptroller should be elected or appointed.”

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven, “I think it should be voted because I think their interest is with the student body not the president.”

Mr.Habib, “Is there a specific reason why to put them in cabinet?”

Mr.Sirven, “I guess that it has just always been that way.”

Mr.Sirven, “Is everyone ok with having them be elected?”

Mr.Aquino moved to amend Article 11, Section 1, Paragraph 3 and to strike the word treasurer from that line.

Mr.Aquino withdrew his motion.

Mr.Scott moved to change Article XI, Section 1, subsection 3 to read “President & Executive Vice President shall run on one ticket and be elected by the student body. The Comptroller shall run separately from the President and Executive Vice President and be elected by the student body. Engineering Center Vice President, I-75 Vice President, Biscayne Bay Vice President, and Online Vice President shall run separately from the President, Executive Vice President, and Comptroller and be elected by a majority concurrence of students who take 50% or more of their classes at their respective regional location.”

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved to amend Section 4 under A to read, “Create and dissolve all cabinet positions and determine their duties and responsibilities unless otherwise stated in the governing document.

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

VP JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Mr.Habib moved to open the floor for discussion for 10 minutes.

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms.Adames, “The descriptions for each of them, I think they should say meet with constituents of the students they pertain to. I think it’s letter B or C where it speaks about meeting with constituents.

Mr. Scott, “So for example, Engineering Center’s C would say meet with constituents from the engineering campus?”

Ms.Adames, “Yes.”

Mr.Aquino moved to extend time by 3 minutes.

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved to extend the discussion by 2 minutes.

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Noel moved to strike the original President, EVP, and 4 VP structure. Barring the structure.

Mr.Toscano, “Can you please repeat the motion?”

Mr.Noel repeated his motion.

Mr.Toscano - Point of Clarification- “You cannot make a motion on a motion that does not exist.”

Mr.Noel moved to strike out the original President, EVP, and 4VP’s structure.

Mr.Habib seconded the motion.

The motion failed 3-3-0

Mr.Sirven moved to strike Subsection I under Section 3, where it states that “The Executive Vice President shall not serve on the A&S Board.” And to also add an amendment under responsibility L to say, “Serve as vice chair of the president’s round table meeting.”

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously

Mr.Aquino moved to modify paragraph C of Sections 4, 5, 6, & 7 to to make it so that the VP’s must meet with the constituents of the specific campuses that they serve.

Mr.Scott seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved to strike Paragraph A, Section A which states, “Serve in A&S Budget Committee.”

Mr.Noel seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved to move Section 10 to Article 6 of the Judicial Branch.
Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Mr.Sirven moved to remove subsection D to strike the part that says “Chief Justice” out, has the discretion to decide whether or not the court will hear an appeal in the form of a declaratory judgement explaining why the appeal will not be granted.

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

Mr.sirven striked his motion to move forward with a 5 minute discussion regarding the lower courts.

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion

Mr.Toscano-Point of Information- “Is this contingent on this accountability board?”

Mr.Sirven. “Yes.”

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Noel moved to extend the discussion for 2 minutes

Mr.Aquino seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Sirven moved to end discussion.

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Aquino moved to amend item D to state, “4 justices.”

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

Mr.Sirven moved to amend Mr.Aquino’s motion, to include, “The appeal will be granted upon the concurrence of majority of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice shall issue a declaratory judgment explaining why or why not the appeal was granted or not.

Mr.Aquino accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Scott moved to go into a 2 minute discussion.

Mr.Sirven seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Scott yield to Mr.Velasquez.

Mr.Velasquez, “I just wanted to leave record of a statement that I have. I am in disagreement with the due process that has taken place based on the evidence that came up in the last few weeks regarding some members. I don't feel safe and secure and trusted in the process to these members moving on forward due to the fact that this draft of the constitution is going to affect the whole student body. Thank you.”

Mr.Scott moved to end discussion.

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Toscano, “Seeing that there are no other action items, Sylvanna can we advisors get a list of how many paid positions are within this merger seeing that we need to tackle the emoluments and this is another reason why we need to hold off on speaking about the budget. So what I am recommending looking at the points that Dr.Desantis has put out is that you all submit an idea of what you think regarding a budget process and a timeline for election. Also, please make note that the senate vote must happen on October 8th, with the referendum being on the 15th. The only piece that will be omitted for the time being will be the budget.”

ADJOURNMENT

Mr.Toscano adjourned the meeting at **5:00 PM**

Mr.Toscano opened the floor at 5:06PM

Mr.Toscano, “In previous student committees there have been sections omitted and everything has been voted upon minus those sections that have been omitted then they have been brought back up.

Mr.Sirven, “I wouldn't be comfortable voting on it now.”

Mr.Habib, “Yea we still have the word “treasurer” written all through it.”

Mr.Noel, “I agree, I don't think that it would be right to even vote on it now.”

Mr.Sirven moved for the committee to recommend to approve the final constitution wording in full before it goes to the senate to vote on.

Mr.Noel seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr.Toscano Adjourned the meeting at **5:07PM**