



Student Government Association

Student Government Council – Modesto A. Maidique Campus

GPSC Committee

Meeting Date: November 16th, 2020

Start Time: 2:45 pm

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Roll Call

Chair: Shahnawaz Rafi

Shahnawaz Rafi	present
Christian Perez	present
Sandro Alvarez	present
Kamila Fernandez	absent
Nitya Ramalingam	present

DeMarcus Snipes	absent
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- **Open Forum**

- David speaks regarding his discussion for the graduate student community

- **Old Business**

- **New Business**

1. **Presentation from David R.**

- David speaks regarding his discussion for the graduate student community
- Discusses the loss of someone close to him during the coronavirus pandemic
- Loss of the student was hard for students involved in two organizations where the person was a leader in the eboard
- Requests a possible spot on campus where students who've lost a close friend where there can be a reflection space for students who have lost
- A meditative space for students to reflect on others who have lost their lives during their time at FIU
- David believes the meditation place will be a spot that can be open to all students regardless of background or religion
- Rafi discusses the common place for the PC building and the Ryder building in regards to events where they mourned others in the past
- In the GAB meeting the issue will be raised to associate Dean Kos to help progress the issue to others on campus
- The space that has been agreed upon will be near the Miami fairground.
- The golden apiary will be a place where an outdoor fixture will be a place where people can go to meditate and where bees will be a spiritual representation for people.
- The organic garden and nature preserve area will be another place where people can depend on a good space for meditation
- There is a need for a place like this argues David so that people will be recognized
- This will be a place where people can feel comfortable regarding the grieving experience
- Rafi argues that this can be an entire collaborative process where GPSC and GAB can both pitch in on a proposal to push this meditation place.
- This can be a potential resolution that can be moved through the SGA to pass

- David discusses that the meditation place should be focused on a place where colleagues who were a distinct part of the university can be recognized
- The staff and student members should have a place to reflect regarding these issues
- Sherri from GAB is behind this proposal, and she is president for panthers of recovery
- She discusses the deaths that are related to substance use disorder in the student body and many of these members are not remembered
- A big need for a physical healing space for many students on the campus
- This can go hand in hand with members of the beekeeping society
- Sandro discusses that it's a really good idea and he would really support it but we do need a certain proposal
- There is definitely no space at the moment and students need that required space at FIU argues David
- David discusses that he has tried to keep up with the meditation garden and it was a permanent fixture at Miami Dade College
- The place can be a fixture and a great place to remember others who have passed desperately needed at FIU
- Teresa discusses the statue outside the Veteran center on FIU that may serve as a potential veteran space
- David discusses he wants this space to be an inclusive space and a great space for others
- The idea will require plenty of advocating and there is no problem with attempting to advance the idea.
- Concrete plans for the proposal would be required discusses Rafi
- David discusses that he did something very similar for the apiary and that he will organize the master plan where he can share with others
- He will attempt to reach out to his contacts to see what support he can gather according to polls.
- Rafi discusses the idea of SGA and GAB setting up a meeting with the SGA president to discuss the idea.
- Rafi states that from his experience back in his home country they advocated through several means to have a space erected on his campus.
- Rafi discusses a more concrete collaboration between GAB and GPSC
- There will be five possible senate meetings in the future
- Rafi discusses the possibility of organizing a powerpoint where this project can be presented to the SGA
- David states that he will put together a powerpoint to present in front of the SGA to gain support for his process

2. GSAW Preparation

- Rafi asks sherri to come and brand GPSC in a different way in the past.
- The ballrooms are already reserved and Rafi will ask the dean for a specific format for this year.

- We are waiting to hear from the provost office regarding the university being open and GSAW preparations
- Teresa states it will be easier for us to do virtual due to presentation issues and COVID concerns.
- It will be easier to plan for online forums for GSAW because due to the physical concerns from COVID
- Sandro discusses the problem is that we are still uncertain about the situation in the Spring
- A good idea would be to give a monetary compensation to award winners for the event.
- People have doubts so prizes would be a good incentive to motivate the students.
- There is an option to provide monetary funds for prizes for research projects.
- We can provide certain cash incentives for best poster and oral presentations during the week of GSAW.
- Every year they received a certificate for placing in first, second, and third place finishers.
- The giveaways are there for this year and will not acquire any money
- Prepare a goodie bag with giveaways from GPSC for participating in GSAW.
- This can be done through a drive thru event where students have registered.
- Judges can be offered something a bit more valuable than the goodie bags given to regular participants
- A potential talent competition for all graduate students as a social event

3. Travel Funding Update

- Currently no update on the budget, exception request form is still in place for now.
- At the moment we are waiting for the next semester to see if any new items come from the budget.
- Teresa has received for the Spring semester 12 applications, all of them were for Engineering.
- 13 applications came this semester, with 3 rejections due to not meeting the appropriate criteria
- 11 applications have been approved.

- Rafi asks how are we adjusting the application with the budget?
- The activity is charging for every reimbursement and following the similar procedures.
- Email Michelle to get more ideas for the Judges awards for GSAW.

4. Gradskellar Review

6) Announcements

Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 3:57 PM