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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shahnawaz Rafi</td>
<td>present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Perez</td>
<td>present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandro Alvarez</td>
<td>present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kamila Fernandez</td>
<td>absent</td>
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<td>Nitya Ramalingam</td>
<td>present</td>
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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 prices 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