



COUNCIL BILL

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL · MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE CAMPUS
THE 37TH SESSION OF THE STUDENT SENATE

BILL HISTORY FOR LEGISLATIVE ARCHIVE

BILL ITEM	<i>SB3707</i>	
FORMAL TITLE	<i>A Bill to Amend the SGC-MMC Senate Meeting Requirements, Committee Requirements, and Office Hour Requirements to Grant Virtual Meeting Clearance for External Emergency Situations</i>	
AUTHOR(S)	<i>Sandro Alvarez, Graduate Senator</i>	
SPONSORS	<i>Carlos Ortiz, Internal Affairs Committee Chair, CARTA Senator; Shahnawaz Rafi, Graduate and Professional Student Committee Chair, Graduate Senator; Ivette Borges, Operational Review Committee Chair, Lower Division Senator; Elisabeth Nylander, Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Housing Senator; Ashley Nunez, At-Large Senator, Christian Perez, Graduate Senator; Julio Burgos, At-Large Senator, Nitya Ramalingam, Medical School Senator; Cristina Vale, SIPA Senator; Kamila Fernandez, Law School Senator; Salma Atassi, CASE Senator; and Cristhofer Lugo, Engineering and Computing Senator</i>	
FILING DATE	<i>07-13-20</i>	
COMMITTEE REFERRAL		
INTRODUCED TO FLOOR	<i>MM-DD-YY</i>	
1ST READING	<i>MM-DD-YY</i>	
2ND READING	<i>MM-DD-YY or BYPASSED</i>	
VOTE COUNT	<i>YY-NN-AA</i>	
SENATE ACTION	<i>PASSED / FAILED</i>	<i>MM-DD-YYYY</i>
REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE	<i>MM-DD-YYYY</i>	
EXECUTIVE ACTION	<i>ENACTED / VETOED</i>	<i>MM-DD-YYYY</i>
SUMMARY/LEGISLATIVE INTENT	This Bill is intended to allow the SGC-MMC Senate meetings, Committee meetings, and the completion of Office Hours to be done through a virtual platform as a result of external emergency factors.	
MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION – 1ST READING		
MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION – 2ND READING		
DOCUMENTS/RESEARCH/ PERSONAL STATEMENTS	MMC Statutes	

Amendment Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Recommendation Coding: Words in **red** are recommendations by the Rules Committee.



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Bill Item	<i>SB3707</i>
Formal Title	<i>A Bill to Amend the SGC-MMC Senate Meeting Requirements, Committee Requirements, and Office Hour Requirements to Grant Virtual Meeting Clearance For External Emergency Situations</i>
Author(s)	<i>Sandro Alvarez, Graduate Senator</i>
Sponsors	<i>Carlos Ortiz, Internal Affairs Committee Chair, CARTA Senator; Shahnawaz Rafi, Graduate and Professional Student Committee Chair, Graduate Senator; Ivette Borges, Operational Review Committee Chair, Lower Division Senator; Elisabeth Nylander, Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Housing Senator; Ashley Nunez, At-Large Senator, Christian Perez, Graduate Senator; Julio Burgos, At-Large Senator, Nitya Ramalingam, Medical School Senator; Cristina Vale, SIPA Senator; Kamila Fernandez, Law School Senator; Salma Atassi, CASE Senator; and Cristhofer Lugo, Engineering and Computing Senator</i>
Filed	<i>07-13-20</i>
Committee Referral	

A BILL FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR THE SGC-MMC SENATE, COMMITTEES, AND OFFICE HOURS DUE TO EXTERNAL EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Be it enacted by the Student Senate of the Student Government Association of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus of Florida International University assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

- a) This Bill may be cited as the “Virtual Meeting Clearance Act”.

SECTION 2. TERMS

- a) “FIU” refers to Florida International University, its administration, or the student community of the university;
- b) “SGC-MMC” refers to the Student Government Council of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus of Florida International University;
- c) “Committee” refers to the entities within the SGC-MMC Senate with a specific purpose;
- d) “Ad Hoc Committees” refers to committees formed by a Resolution and passed with a two-thirds majority vote;

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- e) “SGA” refers to the Student Government Association at Florida International University;

SECTION 3. AUTHORITY

- a) The proposal outlined in this Bill is in compliance with the authority granted in Article III, Section 5 (A) 1 of the SGA Constitution as well as restated in Article III, Section 3.01 (b) i-1 of the SGC-MMC Statutes, stating that “[The Senate shall] enact and diligently carryout all legislation necessary and proper for the general welfare of the Student Body.” This proposal amends Article III Legislative Branch of the MMC Statutes, Section 3.05 in creating Section 3.05 (c) ii-3, Section 3.07 in creating Section 3.07 (a) i-5, Section 3.07 in creating Section 3.07 (c) i-6, Section 3.08 in creating Section 3.08 (g), and Section 3.09 in creating Section 3.09 (a) 5;

SECTION 4. BILL

MMC-Statutes Article III Legislative Branch

Section 3.05 Senate Committees

(c) Committee Requirements

- (i) Each committee will be responsible for the selection of a Vice Chairperson who is voted upon by the individual members of each committee during its first meeting.
- (ii) Committees shall meet every week to conduct business. Attendance and minutes shall be recorded by the Vice Chairperson, distributed and filed with the Clerk of Council in the SGC-MMC office within forty-eight (48) hours of the meeting’s adjournment.
 - (1) Committees shall be able to hold hearings on specific topics. These hearings shall count towards the committee meeting requirement.
 - (2) Senators may attend committee meetings virtually or by phone at the discretion of the respective committee chair.
 - (3) Should FIU make announcements resulting in the closing of facilities and rooms due to external emergency circumstances concerning public safety, all Senate Committees and recognized Ad Hoc Committees will continue to meet through a

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University sponsored online platform on the dates and times as declared by the
respective Committee chairs.

Section 3.07 Senator Requirements

(a) Meeting Attendance

- (i) Senators shall be required to attend all Senate meetings in person, unless they have a valid excuse (with unanimous approval by the Speaker and the Chair of Internal Affairs) to attend virtually or by phone.
 - (1) Senators shall not be allowed to have more than two (2) excused absences from Senate meetings per Fall and Spring semester.
 - (2) Senators shall not be allowed to have more than one (1) unexcused absence from Senate meetings per Fall and Spring semester (Summer semester excluded).
 - (3) Senators that come into Senate meetings more than fifteen (15) minutes late after the meeting is opened without providing prior notification or documented proof for being tardy to the Speaker and Internal Affairs Committee by the end of that day (11:59 PM EST) shall have their attendance for that Senate meeting marked as absent and unexcused. The Speaker must notify the Internal Affairs Committee in writing of the unexcused absence.
 - (4) Senators that leave a Senate meeting prior to 5:01 PM EST, if it is a full time meeting, or is absent for the majority time of a meeting shall be marked as absent and unexcused.
 - a) Senators that have a class that begins at 5 PM EST or later during Senate meetings and have documented proof that the class is the only one being offered and will affect the Senator's graduation will be exempt.
 - i) Documented proof will include a written statement from the Professor, Dean, and/or assigned Academic Advisor.
 - ii) Documented proof shall be sent in writing the Speaker, Internal Affairs

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Committee, and the SGA Advisor.

- iii) Senators that fall under this exemption shall be required to make up the time missed during Senate meeting in the form of one (1) additional office hour in the Same week of the Senate meeting.

(5) Should FIU make announcements resulting in closing of facilities or rooms due to external emergency circumstances of public safety, all Senators must attend through a University-sponsored online platform. Attendance shall continue to be monitored by the Speaker and Internal Affairs Committee.

(c) Constituency Engagement

- (i) Each semester, Senators shall be required to hold and maintain at least (3) office hours a week in which they are accessible to their constituents within the Student Body.

- (1) Senators shall notify the Speaker, Internal Affairs Committee, and the Student Government Association Advisor of the day(s), times(s), and location(s), and hours of their office hours at least five (5) university business days after the official University Add/Drop date in writing or, if applicable, a University-sponsored online platform to submit their hours.
- (2) Office hours shall only be held on days that the University is open and during regular business hours.
- (3) Senator office hours shall be posted publicly on the SGA website, in-print, or any platform that is easily accessible for all members of the Student Body to access.
- (4) Senators shall inform the Internal Affairs Committee of any cancelled office hours within one (1) university business day of the hours to be cancelled.
- (5) Any required meeting of a Senator, or SGA sponsored event shall not count towards office hours. This includes but is not limited to all Senate meetings, all assigned Committee meetings, RHA meetings of Housing Senators, or Dean meetings.

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- (6) Should FIU make announcements resulting in the closing of facilities and rooms due to external emergency circumstances concerning public safety, all Senators shall complete their office hours through a University-sponsored online platform.

Section 3.08 Legislative Sessions

- (a) The Senate shall convene every Monday during the Fall and Spring semesters at 4:00 PM EST in the Student Government Chambers located in room GC 150. Should GC 150 not be available, an alternative room shall be used and announced with forty-eight (48) hours' notice.
- (b) For emergency meetings, the time and place shall be announced with forty-eight (48) hours of notice.
- (c) Summer Senate sessions shall begin on the first day of Summer and shall end at the close of the Summer semester as delineated by the University calendar.
- (d) Fall Senate sessions shall begin on the first day of Fall semester and close on the last day of Fall semester as delineated by the University calendar.
- (e) Spring Senate sessions shall begin on the first day of Spring and close on the last day of Spring as delineated by the University calendar.
- (f) Senate sessions shall not be called during holidays, breaks, or when the University is closed.
- (g) Should FIU make announcements resulting in the closing of facilities and rooms due to external emergency circumstances concerning public safety, the Senate shall continue to convene through a University-sponsored online platform on the same dates and times highlighted on the specifications.

Section 3.09 Senate Procedures

- (a) Meetings of the Senate
- (i) Senate meetings shall be designated in accordance with the following specifications:

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- (1) For the purpose of regular meetings, the Senate shall meet on Mondays at 4:00 PM EST in the SGC-MMC Chambers (GC 150) every Fall and Spring semester. Each Senator shall work their schedules around this time. Meetings shall last a maximum of two hours.
 - a) Should the SGC-MMC Chambers (GC 150) be unavailable, an alternative room shall be used and announced with forty-eight (48) hours' notice.
 - ~~a~~ b) Should the Senate decide to address more business, the Senate may, with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, extend the duration of the meeting up to one (1) extra hour.
- (2) During the Summer semester, the Senate shall meet every other Monday at 4:00 PM EST in the SGC-MMC Chambers (GC 150).
 - a) Should the SGC-MMC Chambers (GC 150) be unavailable, an alternative room shall be used and announced with forty-eight (48) hours' notice.
 - b) Should the Senate decide to address more business, the Senate may, with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, extend the duration of the meeting up to one (1) extra hour.
- (3) For special or emergency meetings, the Senate shall meet at the designated time, place, date and duration as indicated in the Special Meeting notification as called by the Speaker or two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate with at least forty-eight (48) hour notice.
- (4) For the purpose of scheduling Committee meetings, the academic and work schedules of each Senator will be taken into consideration by the Committee Chair. These schedules must be submitted to the respective Committee Chair no later than two (2) weeks after the beginning of each semester, in order to allow for adequate planning time by the Committee Chair.

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- (5) Should FIU make announcements resulting in the closing of facilities and rooms due to external emergency circumstances concerning public safety, the Senate shall continue to convene through a University-sponsored online platform on the dates and times highlighted on the specifications.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTATION

Upon passage from the SGC-MMC Senate and signing by the SGC-MMC President, the amendment will be enacted immediately and shall make any prior legislation that conflicts with this legislation hereby null and void.

[1]

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SB3707

A BILL TO AMEND THE SGC-MMC SENATE MEETING REQUIREMENTS,
COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS, AND OFFICE HOUR REQUIREMENTS TO GRANT
VIRTUAL MEETING CLEARANCE FOR EXTERNAL EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

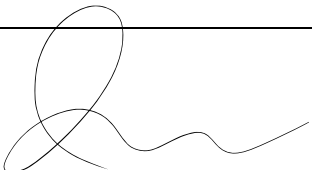

IN FAVOR OF: 28

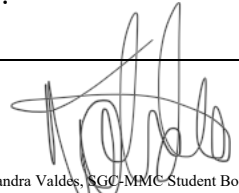
AGAINST: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

AMENDMENTS:

APPENDED ON BACK.

SENATE ACTION	DATE: July 13, 2020	PASSED	FAILED
 Janelle Fraga, SGC-MMC Speaker of the Senate			
 Sandro Alvarez			

EXECUTIVE ACTION	DATE:	ENACTED	VETOED
 Alexandra Valdes, SGC-MMC Student Body President			

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