



**Student Government
Association**

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 25, 2023

I. Call to Order

A. Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance

1. "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

II. Roll Call

Attendance

Senator Name	Senators Position	Attendance Status	Additional Note on Senator
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	
Anastasia Legoute	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Chanita Jacques	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Daniel Del Riesgo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Daniel Salup-Cid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Gabriela Mendez-Ruiz	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Genesis Moreno	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Lerick Sequeira	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Manuela Trejos	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Olivia Gibson	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Anne Martinez	College of Business	Present	
Brian Velez	College of Business	Absent	
David Almansa	College of Business	Present	
Jose Mejia	College of Business	Present	
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	
Rafael Moya-Palacios	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Present	

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Erika Noel	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Liana Adaza	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Hua Hui (formerly Samuel) Vogel	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Javier La Rosa	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Absent	
Ciara Jenesse	College of Law	Absent	
Alejandro Arzola	College of Medicine	Present	arrived at 5:22pm
Alyssa Andreus	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Present	
Valeria Herrera	College of Public Health and Social Work	Absent	
Anish Sharma	Honors College	Present	
Jabari Baptiste	Housing- BBC	Present	
Alexander Stone	Housing- MMC	Present	
Ness Cruz	Housing-MMC	Present	
Rhea Watkins	Housing-MMC	Absent	
Yamila Hernandez	Lower Division MMC	Present	
Dale Brochinsky	Lower Division BBC	Present	arrived at 4:16pm
Elizabet Ferreira	Online Student Senator	Present	
Mikele Mancuso	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Zahir Mansuri	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Ahmed Soliman	University Graduate School	Absent	
Haley Dawson	University Graduate School	Present	
Hossam Hussien	University Graduate School	Present	
Kanayo Nومه	University Graduate School	Absent	
Sarwar Minar	University Graduate School	Present	arrived at 5:29pm
Vacant	Upper Division BBC	Vacant	
Vacant	Upper Division BBC	Vacant	
Keren Keys	Upper Division MMC	Present	
Rocki (Raquel) Fleites	Upper Division MMC	Present	
Karina Hernandez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Tiara Campbell	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Kaily La Chapelle	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	

Present

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Quorum is Established	Absent	9
	Vacant	5

III. Correction and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

A. Minutes approved.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Agenda adopted.

V. Invited Speakers

A. Panther Now (Robert Jaross and Elise Gregg)

1. Elise Gregg: Speakers introduced themselves, attending to explain what Panther Now does. Panther Now is FIU student media, cover events on campus, clubs, Student Government, etc. Speakers represent the newspaper. Operated by students, except for advisors. Publish articles about activities at FIU, also news and opinions. Opinion articles come from columnists, letter to the editor, etc. Funding comes from Student Activity and Service fees, but organization is independent from SGA. SGA covered in news; elections are also covered. Sometimes SGA members are approached with questions for interviews. SGA members can also reach out to the media with concerns, matters to discuss, can write opinions as letters to the editor.
Robert Jaross: discussed the importance of media outlet independence; funding includes advertisement. Some topics get published in Miami Herald. Encouraged students to reach out if they would like to discuss any matters. Currently the outlet is mostly online.
2. 5 min Q&A announced by Sen. Lachapelle:
Sen. Vogel asked how long it takes for an article to get published – depends in the article and work process, feature articles take about 1 week. Some articles get published within 10 min after the interview but some processes take longer.
Sen. Salup-Cid: asked what can be done to support independent journalism and Panther Now – funding comes from the student fee, SGA members are encouraged to ask questions directly, being available as soon as possible is



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helpful. Reaching out if there is a matter to discuss or an opinion is helpful as well. The organization searches for grants if available.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Appropriations Committee

1. Last meeting on Friday, were able to pass two requests

B. Committee on Rules and Administration

1. Didn't meet last week, meeting this week to discuss 2 pieces of legislation

C. Graduate and Professional Student Committee

1. Didn't meet last week, will meet this week to work on legislation

D. University Sustainability and Innovation Committee

1. Meeting on Tue did not quorum, meeting this week

E. Health and Well-Being Committee

1. Could not meet last week, working on a survey

F. Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee

1. Met last week, discussed some legislation, work ongoing

G. International Student Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee

1. Did not meet last week, meets every 2 weeks, working on on-campus housing for international students, petition submitted, and signatures encouraged. Discussion with administrative leaders of housing ongoing.

VII. Executive Board Reports

A. Student Body President Alexander P. Sutton

1. Last week task force executive order signed, membership encouraged. Football watch party initiative presented

B. Senate President Kaily Lachapelle

1. Presented measures to keep the meeting time-efficient

C. Senate President Pro-Tempore Tiara Campbell

1. Senators to do office hours, attend meetings. Dress code – business casual/SGA polo

D. Senate Floor Leader Karina Hernandez

1. Thanked for office hours attendance and legislation work

E. Student Body Vice President Santana Way

1. Tailgate initiative ongoing, message to be sent in the chat for potential assistance


 The logo for the Florida International University Student Government Association. It features the letters "FIU" in a large, bold, yellow serif font with a blue outline, set against a dark blue background. Below "FIU" is a thin yellow horizontal line, and underneath that, the words "Student Government Association" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The entire logo is contained within a dark blue banner that has a pointed bottom edge.
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- F. Comptroller Iara Raggio
- G. Executive Administrator Mariana Machado
 - 1. Working on an event that will take place in Oct targeting commuter students
- H. Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus Grace King
- I. Chief of Staff Anna Meredith
- J. Chief Justice Mia Rodriguez
 - 1. Applicants are ready for confirmation
- VIII. Vetoed Legislation
 - A.
- IX. Unfinished Business
 - A.
- X. New Business
 - A. Confirmation of Secretary of Veteran Affairs (Yishmael Columna)
 - 1. Candidate's speech: can see many needs of veterans on campus, would like to support veterans and give them help they need especially concerning bureaucracy; hopes to have a better conversation with the community.
 - 2. Q&A: Sen. Brochinsky – asked to talk about previous experience, candidate is currently in the military; some benefits are provided for student military members. There is need to spread the information.
Sen. Vogel: asked about initiatives and planned activities. There is a need for a system to spread information about benefits, as veterans do not know since there are not many spaces for discussion.
Motion by Sen. Stone for placard vote, approved. 24 senators in favor, 2 against, 0 abstentions. Candidate has been confirmed.
 - B. Confirmation of Online and Remote Engagement (Jhamil Pujols)
 - 1. Candidate gave a speech: introduced himself, and relevance of experience to help create more remote options and engagement options for students. Wants to work to have more resources for student participation.
 - 2. Q&A session: Sen. Dawson asked about initiatives to get online students engages – would like to create more online options for events.
Sen. Vogel asked to define stakeholders – stakeholders are event organizers involved.

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Motion by Sen. Mancuso for placard vote approved. 25 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions; candidate confirmed.

C. Confirmation of Attorney General (Zachary Stangl)

1. Candidate's address: introduced himself, was President Pro-Tempore last year. Decided to continue serving as he enjoyed the SGA work before, will be dedicated to addressing any concerns raised.

2. Q&A session: Sen. Stone asked about understanding of the Constitution, candidate has good understanding, a lot of practice and had a lot of opportunities to learn.

Sen. Salup-Cid asked about the delay in document preparation that happened last year, candidate explained that the bill was passed not in procedure, considered by one committee only, and he had to ensure that the procedure was followed properly, and mistake corrected

Sen. Brochinsky: asked about defending individual member rights as opposed to leadership, candidate explained his loyalty not to individual members but to the procedure and the law, would make a case if it is violated

Motion by Sen. Salup-Cid: have a 3 min discussion on the candidate failed. Clarification on the document processing procedure asked for, clarified by Sen. President Lachapelle.

3. Motion by Sen. Moya-Palacios for anonymous consent vote failed. Sen. Stone motioned for a roll-call vote; motion passed.

Confirmation of Attorney General (Zachary Stangl)

Senator Name	Senator Position	Attendance	Vote	Reason for Abstention
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
Anastasia Legoute	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Abstention	
Chanita Jacques	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Daniel Del Riesgo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Daniel Salup-Cid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	No	
Gabriela Mendez-Ruiz	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Genesis Moreno	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Lerick Sequeira	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	

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Manuela Trejos	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes
Olivia Gibson	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes
Anne Martinez	College of Business	Present	Yes
Brian Velez	College of Business	Absent	Absent
David Almansa	College of Business	Present	
Jose Mejia	College of Business	Present	Abstention
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	Vacant
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	Vacant
Rafael Moya-Palacios	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Present	Yes
Erika Noel	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	Absent
Liana Adaza	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes
Hua Hui (formerly Samuel) Vogel	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	No
Javier La Rosa	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Absent	Absent
Ciara Jeneske	College of Law	Absent	Absent
Alejandro Arzola	College of Medicine	Present	Absent
Alyssa Andreus	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Present	Yes
Valeria Herrera	College of Public Health and Social Work	Absent	Absent
Anish Sharma	Honors College	Present	Yes
Jabari Baptiste	Housing- BBC	Present	
Alexander Stone	Housing- MMC	Present	Yes
Ness Cruz	Housing-MMC	Present	No
Rhea Watkins	Housing-MMC	Absent	Absent
Yamila Hernandez	Lower Division MMC	Present	Yes
Dale Brochinsky	Lower Division BBC	Present	Yes
Elizabet Ferreira	Online Student Senator	Present	Yes
Mikele Mancuso	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	Yes
Zahir Mansuri	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Ahmed Soliman	University Graduate School	Absent	Absent
Haley Dawson	University Graduate School	Present	Yes
Hossam Hussien	University Graduate School	Present	Yes
Kanayo Nomeh	University Graduate School	Present	Yes



Sarwar Minar	University Graduate School	Present	Absent
Vacant	Upper Division BBC	Vacant	Vacant
Vacant	Upper Division BBC	Vacant	Vacant
Keren Keys	Upper Division MMC	Present	Yes
Rocki (Raquel) Fleites	Upper Division MMC	Present	Yes
Karina Hernandez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes
Tiara Campbell	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes
Kaily La Chapelle	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	Yes
Vote Count			
Yes	No	Abstention	Vacant
24	3	2	5

	Vote	Vote Count	Archive
Motion Passed	Simple Majority	17.5	Passed
	Two-Thirds	22	Passed
	Three-Fifths	20	Passed

Candidate confirmed.

D. Confirmation of Lieutenant Governor (Amya Harrison)

1. Candidate’s speech: candidate introduced herself, would like to contribute with her knowledge and experience to work on health equity, accessibility, and inclusiveness, as well as sustainability.
2. Q&A session: Sen. Stone asked about candidate’s focus.
 Sen. Way: asked about the biggest change to see on BBC, candidate would like to address accessibility for students with disabilities, opportunities for student engagement for students from both campuses.
 Sen. Campbell: asked about time management given that the candidate is a pre-med student, candidate explained plans to stay involved, organizes her schedule and plans, expect to manage the activities.

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3. Motion by Sen. Brochinsky: motion to vote by unanimous consent. With no objections the candidate is confirmed.
- E. Confirmation of Upper Division BBC (Ashley Young)
1. Candidate's speech: introduced herself, would like to see more availability of events for students with busy schedules
 2. Q&A session: Sen. Stone asked about ideas and initiatives the candidate plans to present – finding out more about students' availability for events
Sen. Salup-Cid: asked about outside politics and interactions with internal policies – there is need to collect others' opinions.
 3. Motion by Sen. Brochinsky for a placard vote passed. With 21 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstention candidate confirmed.
- F. Confirmation of Student Advocate (Cameron Demery)
1. Candidate's speech: introduced herself, is a student and FIU employee, believes in right for voice and due process for student. Would like to increase accessibility and transparency of the position
 2. Q&A session: Sen. Mancuso asked about student needs the candidate wants to address, candidate answered about the need to give student information about their representation.
Motion by Sen. Vogel motioned to vote by unanimous consent failed.
Sen. Stone motioned to go into placard vote with explanation for abstentions, passed.
 3. With 24 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions candidate confirmed.
- G. Confirmation of Associate Justice (Lee Weaver)
1. Candidate's speech: introduced himself, would like to apply law in fair and impartial manner for all students.
 2. Q&A: Sen. Moya-Palacios asked about conflict-of-interest management, candidate would recuse himself in case of a significant conflict.
Sen. Brochinsky: asked about intentions of framers rather than written words, candidate would investigate relevant documents and would not give much consideration to intent.
Sen. Arzola asked about interpretations of the documents, candidate gave his approach.
 3. Motion by Sen. Sharma to unanimously approve the candidate failed.

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4. Motion by Sen. Vogel for a placard vote passed.
 5. With 23 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention the candidate confirmed.
- H. Confirmation of Associate Justice (Jordan Collins)
1. Candidate's speech: candidate introduced herself and her experience, her approach to the duties of the position.
 2. Q&A: Sen. Brochinsky asked about Constitution having been written by MMC students only and not BBC and equality of approach, candidate answered about universality of the law.
Sen. Moya-Palacios asked about the conflict of interest, candidate would recuse herself in this case.
Sen. Campbell asked about time management, candidate answered about her time management abilities and dividing time between activities.
Sen. Salip-Cid asked about knowing the intentions of the framers of the Constitution, candidate answered about her approach.
 3. Motion by Sen. Sharma to unanimously approve the candidate failed.
 4. Motion by Sen. Mancuso for a placard vote passed.
 5. With 25 in favor, 4 against, 0 abstentions the candidate confirmed.
- I. Confirmation of Associate Justice (Nia Virgo)
1. Candidate's speech: gave introduction of herself, interested in the concept of justice and legal process, would like to apply her knowledge to real-life situations, ensure transparency and awareness among students how SGA judiciary works
 2. Q&A: none
 3. Motion by Sen. Dawson for a placard vote pass.
 4. With 23 in favor, 3 against, 0 abstentions the candidate confirmed.
- J. Confirmation of Clerk of Court (Shamiya Pasquet)
1. Candidate's speech: gave an introduction of herself, would like to become an attorney and to represent those who cannot afford legal services, presented her experiences and skills relevant for the position. Would like to ensure smooth operation of the SGA.
 2. Q&A: none
 3. Motion by Sen. Brochinsky for a placard vote pass.
 4. With 22 in favor, 2 against, 0 abstentions candidate confirmed.

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5. Sen. Brochinsky motioned to postpone unfinished business (2 discussions) to the next session on Oct 5, passed.
- XI. Public Forum
 - A. A question about tuition and SGA actions from a member of the public
 - XII. Senate Forum
 - A. Sen. Stone: answered about action concerning tuition and SGA actions, encouraged to contact SGA, attend office hours
Sen. Sharma: wants to ensure that housing for international students in on unfinished business agenda, the matter has been included
Sen. Lachapelle: commented about work to increase budget transparency
 - XIII. Announcements
 - A. None
 - XIV. Advisor Reports
 - A. None
 - XV. Meeting Adjournment
 - A. Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.