

FIU**Student Government
Association**

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Meeting Agenda

Date: October 2, 2023

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Meeting called to order at 4:04 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
 - A.
- III. Correction and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes
 - A.
- IV. Adoption of the Agenda
 - A. Sen. Sharma: proposal for discussion for possible solutions for Intl Student Housing – already included in the agenda
- V. Invited Speakers
 - A. Noel Barengo (Faculty Senate Chair)
 1. Board of Trustees meeting took place 2 weeks ago, sexual harassment regulations to be approved, working group to meet one more time. General education curriculum review in progress; Safety on Campus survey results from last year were shared, after feedback from students a combined working group to be formed to address concerns.
 2. Q&A: Sen. Stone asked about the results of the survey from the faculty side – the survey to be shared, there were concerns about contact information for emergencies.

Sen. Mancuso: asked about changes to group 2 courses being made – to be revised for content, each year changes need to be approved.

Sen. Salup-Cid: asked about UCC participation in curriculum review – there is participation from the university committee.

Sen. Lachapelle: will share the survey and contacts.

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- B. Brian Levine (Constitutional Convention Chair)
 - 1. Would like to invite people to contribute to Constitution, especially the Senators – email address shared. Would like to incorporate ideas in an open process.
- C. Media Training from Executive Administrator (Mariana Machado)
 - 1. Objectives of training are shared; the student media interested in input from SGA members; person responding has control and can bring up relevant matters. SGA members can give their insight but not to speak on SGA behalf. If faced with a difficult question, can direct the conversation and answer on a positive note, discuss ongoing work to address the matter.
 - 2. Q&A: none.
Senate President will share the contacts.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Appropriations Committee
 - 1. Did not meet last week, will meet this Friday
 - B. Committee on Rules and Administration
 - 1. Last week started reviewing Senate rules procedure, ongoing
 - C. Graduate and Professional Student Committee
 - 1. Met last Friday, upgrading website in relation to reduced funding
 - D. University Sustainability and Innovation Committee
 - 1. Did not meet last week, will mee this week, have invited speakers
 - E. Health and Well-Being Committee
 - 1. Met last week, ideas for events being considered, next Tue meeting on Zoom, senators can share input
 - F. Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee
 - 1. Met and discussed legislation ideas
 - G. International Student Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee
 - 1. Did not meet last week, meeting this week, senators can participate, airport shuttle introduction discussed; housing system for international students to be revised, expect improvement in upcoming semesters
- VII. Executive Board Reports
 - A. Student Body President Alexander P. Sutton
 - 1. Board of Trustees meeting Thu 9am, participation encouraged

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- B. Senate President Kaily Lachapelle
 - 1. Vice chairs to upload minutes for meetings within 48 hrs on Teams; Senate has its own budget line, requests need to be submitted through Panther Connect, more than \$1000 passes through the Appropriations Committee. Dress code for meeting: business casual/SGA polo
 - C. Senate President Pro-Tempore Tiara Campbell
 - 1. Office hours: any ideas to be brought up to the leadership to consider for legislation; to productively use office hours
 - D. Senate Floor Leader Karina Hernandez
 - 1. Sustainability fair on Oct 24; FIU Down the Bay on Oct 28 – a cleanup event, participation encouraged. Help with event organization would be encouraged
 - E. Student Body Vice President Santana Way
 - 1. Next Wed – Student Tailgate, senators can help with organization. Administration is willing to help students out, including on the housing matter, Sen. Watkins' effort is appreciated
 - F. Comptroller Iara Raggio
 - G. Executive Administrator Mariana Machado
 - H. Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus Grace King
 - I. Chief of Staff Anna Meredith
 - J. Chief Justice Mia Rodriguez
- VIII. Vetoed Legislation
- A.
- IX. Unfinished Business
- A. Confirmation of Associate Justice (Ariel Robledo)
 - 1. Candidate introduced himself, would like to serve and ensure more fair Judicial. Some concerns from students were gathered on campus, to be addressed; standards of equality and fairness to be upheld
 - 2. Q&A: Sen. Sharma asked about participation in Panther Law Trail team; Sen. Stone asked about changes to the Constitution, in case changes not possible whether candidate would still be willing to uphold it – candidate answered the willingness to uphold while preferring a discussion. Sen. Vogel asked about experiences to contribute to the role – candidate described relevant experiences.

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Sen. Stone: asked about potential changes the candidate would like to make to the constitution – would like to make changes for more inclusiveness, change certain wording; the Judicial branch participation in member removal

Sen. Vogel motioned to go into a placard vote, motion passed.

With 24 in favor, 5 against, 0 abstentions the candidate is confirmed.

B. 5-minute discussion, 1 minute speaking time – New Alumni Email Resolution

1. Sen. Minar: considers the policy biased, will hurt alumni relations and proposes to work together for alumni to have lifelong access
2. Sen. Sharma: lifelong access would help current students to be in contact with alumni
3. Sen. Cruz: concerned about the monetary aspect since Outlook accounts are not free to maintain
4. Sen. Legoute asked whether senators were in touch with FIU department responsible for email access. Sen. Minar: yes, but no solution yet. There was a drop in email usage that was not investigated. Financial assessment not available yet.

C. 10-minute discussion, 1 minute speaking time – International Student Housing

1. Sen. Cruz: connection with other services (such as food pantry) has not been discussed. Sen. Campbell: explained the food prices on campus, food pantry matters
2. Sen. Sharma: proposes to assign at least some rooms for 1st and 2nd year international students
3. Sen. Watkins: matter was discussed with housing officials, most of the time 1st and 2nd year international students get on-campus housing, work ongoing to ensure priority for these students
4. Sen. Legoute: students in their 3rd and 4th year need to have an option to stay on campus, work on the resolution will start, participation encouraged
5. Sen. Watkins: for this semester nothing can be done, work ongoing for next semesters
6. Sen. Arzola: asked about students being asked to leave on-campus housing; Sen. Watkins – other senior students may also be asked, however, international students are affected more. Discussion on new housing establishment ongoing
7. Sen. Salup-Cid: motion to extend the discussion by 5 min passed.

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8. Sen. Salup-Cid: question about tearing down UA, Sen. Watkins: no plan yet
9. Sen. Stone: land for construction limited, options need to be looked into
10. Sen. Cruz: not much connection currently in seeking alternative options
11. Sen. Way: limited space on campus so some buildings need to be modified or torn down, such as UA, but it will eventually improve the situation
12. Sen. Vogel motioned to extend the discussion by 5 more min, passed.
Sen. Vogel: asked Sen. Watkins about DRC, international and other group priorities, work ongoing
13. Sen. Arzola: resolution regarding international students facing housing issues to be backed up with numbers
14. Sen. Minar: international students have more difficulties; need to have actual numbers
15. Sen. Legoute: a petition is ongoing to collect data and for international students to testify
16. Sen. Vogel: testimonials can bring numbers for a stronger case. Sen. Watkins: survey is for collecting data, data will be presented to housing officials for future changes

X. New Business

A. Confirmation of Deputy Elections Commissioner (Desiree Dawson)

1. Candidate introduced herself, would like to uphold principles of fairness and transparency in the election process, modernize election process
2. Q&A: Sen. Moya-Palacios asked is the candidate has reviewed the elections code and procedures and ways for improvement, candidate answered.
Sen. Brochinsky: question about participation in other activities, candidate answered
Sen. Mejia asked about proposed ways to modernize election – candidate answered about transparency of elections for students
Sen. Salup-Cid: question about special elections, candidate answered about proposed changes
Sen. Salup-Cid motioned for placard vote, motion passed.
With 23 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions the candidate confirmed.

B. Confirmation of CASE Senator

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1. Candidate introduced herself, would like to help the student body succeed academically, would like to start club fair
2. Q&A: Sen. Brochinsky asked about advocacy plans for BBC students – candidate would like to create academic templates, provide information on clubs and resources

Sen. Vogel asked about schedule plans and use of plans available on FIU website – students do not always have the information, candidate discussed plan to address the matter

Sen. Sharma: advisors can give a detailed course schedule to students beforehand, candidate answered regarding the plan for detailed schedules

Sen. Arzola: discussed the benefits of assisting students with courses and work on the website

Sen. Vogel: asked whether the degree pathway system can be improved rather than changed

Sen. Brochinsky motioned for a placard vote, motion passed.

With 27 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions the candidate confirmed.

XI. Public Forum

- A. Brian Levine: expressed concern about the room being booked for 6:30 pm for the rest of the semester limiting the ability to extend senate meetings

XII. Senate Forum

- A. Sen. Arzola: expressed concern about lack of attendance by senators

Sen. President Lachapelle: penalties will be taken once Attorney General onboarding is complete

Sen. Campbell: expressed concern about lack of legislation and need for more activity in the senate, dress code

Sen. Salup-Cid: raised the matter of the room being reserved after 6:30 pm, Larissa Adames: room is reservable, if meetings conducted efficiently can be concluded by 6:30, to be looked into again.

Sen. Lachapelle: the matter is being looked into as it is a concern

Sen. Brochinsky: at BBC amendments for physical projects have not been done, legislation work at low level, Holocaust memorial at BBC proposed

Sen. Way: SGA members should attend events to represent the SGA

Sen. Campbell motioned to extend the meeting by 3 min, motion passed.

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Sen. President Lachapelle: if legislation not assigned a vote is needed to override; if senate members need support should request support

XIII. Announcements

A.

XIV. Advisor Reports

A. Larissa Adames: will reach out for document recommendation; bay cleaning up event on Oct 28, attendance encouraged

XV. Meeting Adjournment

A. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.