

**FIU****Student Government  
Association**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Student Body Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- I. Call to Order 4:03 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance / FIU Alma Mater
- III. Roll Call

## Attendance

Senator Name	Senators Position	Attendance Status	Additional Note on Senator
Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Efrain Gonzalez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Shreeya Gudipati	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Brianna Romeo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Daniel Salup-Cid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Alison Stangl	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Nicholas Sutton	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Manuela Trejos	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Emma Wolff	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	
Kai Palomino	College of Business	Absent	
Callista Peterson	College of Business	Absent	
Faith St. Rose	College of Business	Present	
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	

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Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	
E.M. Krause	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	
Rayhan Marreroo	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Chloe McGuire	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Lucas Menendez	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Ericka Noel	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Vacant	College of Engineering and Computing	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Engineering and Computing	Vacant	
Hailey Menendez	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Absent	
Noah Fineberg	College of Law	Present	
Daniel Cambron	College of Medicine	Present	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Public Health and Social Work	Vacant	
Anish Sharma	Honors College	Present	
Ashley Young	Housing- BBC	Present	
Alex Wagenman	Housing-MMC	Absent	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	
Davari Demps	Lower Division	Present	
Vacant	Lower Division	Vacant	
Vacant	Online Student Senator	Vacant	



James Hernandez	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Liz_angela Tillias	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	
Mahmoud Abdelrahman	University Graduate School	Present	
Oghoritsewarami Boyo	University Graduate School	Present	
Patraillia Davis Bryant	University Graduate School	Absent	
Hossam Hussein	University Graduate School	Present	
Anurag Sharma	University Graduate School	Present	
Gabriel Diaz-Gonzalez	Upper Division	Absent	
Kassandra Toussaint	Upper Division	Present	
Dale Brochinsky	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Nicolas De Aguilar	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Vacant	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Vacant	
Vacant	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Vacant	
Vacant	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Vacant	
Vacant	FIU at I-75 Senator	Vacant	
Marc Gedeon	Housing- MMC	Present	
Wilkin Caseres	College of Business	Absent	
Alexandra Barriga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Alexander Stone	Housing-MMC	Present	

<b>Quorum is Established</b>	Present	28
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	Absent	12
	Vacant	16

- IV. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes
  - A. Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
- V. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 1. Sen. Gedeon moves to move the reports before the rest of the agenda, motion passes
  - 2. Sen. Touissant moves to have public forum after the reports, motion fails
  - 3. Sen. Touissant asks about the order, Sen. Stone clarifies with the need to have reports before the rest of the agenda
  - 4. Sen. Hernandez asks about the public forum being at the end, Sen. Stone: any Senator can motion to have the public forum at the end of the meeting, no motions follow
- VI. Invited Speakers
  - A. N/A
- VII. Public Forum
  - A. Speaker 1: SGA is for the students, would be for special elections for representation, student pay for attendance so should have a say for representation, student voices matter the most
  - B. Oscar Alvarez: political implication of democracy is transparency and legitimacy, students have an opportunity to chose their representatives, any student input would be better than none
  - C. Sofia Santana: SGA is supposed to represent students, students should choose their representatives
  - D. Brian Levine: new freshmen can get involved, encourages SGA to get new students involved, students should be able to select their representatives; 16 vacancies would not be filled by appointment by the end of Summer; students should speak before the procedures
- VIII. Vetoed Legislation
  - A. N/A
- IX. Unfinished Business
  - A. N/A
- X. New Business
  - A. Presentation of the Standing Procedures of Senate Vacancies by Speaker of the Senate Alexander Stone / Pro-Temp Alexandra Barriga

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1. Sen. Stone gave a presentation on filling of the Senate vacancies based on the governing documents: the Senate can elect a representative by a simple majority or call a special election; outlined the process for election through the Senate
  2. Sen. Barriga gave a presentation on special elections process according to the governing documents; outlined the process
  3. Sen. Stone: Senators can review the elections code in the Constitution
  4. Q&A: none
- B. Thirty-minute discussion on this
1. Sen. Hernandez: concerns brought up during last meeting had to do with timeliness, makes a point about the time needed to appoint 16 Senators
  2. Sen. Touissant: looked into aspects of appointment, the Senate would take more time to appoint Senators, suggests ways to save the budget on election marketing, students should have a say regarding who represents them; special election would be the most convenient way
  3. Sen. A. Sharma: Senators need to be pragmatic regarding the matter, choose most practical option in terms of time and finances, voter turnout in the Summer would be low, cannot hold the appointment until Fall since Senators would need training. Interested students can come to the Senate to ask questions for a compromise
  4. Sen. Gonzalez: voting is a stressful procedure, voting would not be beneficial for students; the cost of election represents an issue as well
  5. Sen. Salup-Cid: even if turnout is low, the student input would still matter, elections are overall time- and cost-effective, compromise could still be considered for student input
  6. Sen. St. Rose: makes a point about a timeline and whether it can be shared
  7. Sen. Brochinsky: committees and exec branch appointments have not been made, candidate interviews by Senate leadership would take time
  8. Sen. A. Sharma: voter turnout was low in the past for student representation
  9. Sen. Touissant: there is special allocated budget for elections, no new allocation is needed, tabling could be done for promotion, orientation can be used as well, low turnout would still matter
  10. Sen. Young: some work being conducted during Summer

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11. Sen. Hernandez: voter turnout is always a concern, including in national elections, outreach can be done to inform the students, election is a good opportunity for student engagement
12. Sen. Sutton: some students are interested in SGA, students who are not on campus in the summer would not have a chance to participate, holding off until Fall is suggested
13. Sen. Gonzales: the only benefit of an election would be time, voting system should be improved
14. Sen. Mata: an agreement is needed, Summer turnout will be low, holding off until Fall would not be a good option
15. Sen. Brochinsky: makes a point about the time requirement for appointment
16. Sen. Touissant: in the Fall access to freshmen could be opened up, September is suggested for election, the election takes place over 2 days, BBC campus representatives are asking for a special election for representation
17. Sen. Gudipati: a lot of emphasis is on the SGA time, need to consider challenges with campaigning for freshmen; petition for backup could be a solution
18. Sen. Barriga: regardless of the decision there will be an advertisement for the students
19. Sen. Stone: promotion will be done either way for transparency
20. Sen. Gedeon: GPA is needed for running, committees are being created, challenges are present due to unfilled seats, a petition option would be good
21. Sen. Stone: established FIU GPA is needed to run for SGA
22. Sen. Touissant: some freshmen take Summer classes so will have GPA, committees can be formed once the seats are filled, both options will be impacted by low traffic on campus and GPA
23. Sen. Tillias: compromising suggested was a good option, the issue has taken time
24. Sen. St. Rose: student voices should be taken into account, agrees with the issue having taken time
25. Sen. Hernandez: makes a point about GPA exemption for freshmen, voting system is stressful but students can be empowered
26. Sen. Brochinsky: makes a point about unfilled seats
27. Sen. Salup-Cid: makes a point about task delegation, special election would be more efficient in terms of time

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28. Sen. Brochinsky: moves for a vote on the issue through a straw poll, seconded.
29. Sen. Salup-Cid: a straw poll is not a binding option
30. Advisor Larissa Adames: clarifies the straw poll process
31. A straw poll takes place: appointment system – 15 votes, special election – 11 votes
32. Sen. Salup-Cid: moves to continue with the rest of the agenda, motion passes

**XI. Committee Reports**

- A. Finance Commit
- B. Internal Affairs
- C. Graduate and Professional Student Committee  
Sen. Cambron: met last week, Chair and Vice Chair were appointed, next meeting this week
- D. Rules  
No report
- E. Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee  
No report at the moment
- F. Biscayne Bay Campus Legislative Council

**XII. University-Wide Council Reports**

- A. Student Body President  
No report at the moment
- B. Speaker of the Senate  
Looking forward to the meeting
- C. Speaker Pro-Tempore  
Task force for CASE club fair being created, those who want to participate can reach out
- D. Vice President  
No report
- E. Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus
- F. Lieutenant Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus
- G. Comptroller
- H. Floor Leader  
This week is Juneteenth week, those interested can participate, those on Zoom to have cameras on

**XIII. Senator Forum**

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1. Sen. Hernandez: would like Senators to refrain from disrespectful remarks
2. Sen. Brochinsky: gave an outline of activities at BBC
3. Sen. Young: gave a summary of a Meet and Greet event
4. Sen. Touissant: makes a point about having public forum in the beginning for student voices to be heard regarding the activities
5. Sen. Stone: any member of the public can be invited to speak
6. Sen. Fineberg: agrees with the point of public forum being in the beginning of the meeting, suggests adjusting the agenda
7. Sen. Touissant: requests the President to appoint the Elections Board, students should not apply to speak and just be able to speak
8. Sen. Brochinsky: requests to restate every motion
9. Sen. Stone: motions will be restated; Ice Cream Social event has been successful

XIV. Advisors Report

Larissa Adames: orientation on Tue and Thu, those who would like to volunteer can reach out

XV. Adjournment at 5:23 pm.