

FIU**Student Government
Association**

The 42nd Session of the Student Body Senate

Meeting Minutes

February 9th, 2026

- I. Call to Order @ 4:27pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance/FIU Alma Mater
- III. Roll Call

Attendance

Senator Name	Senators Position	Attendance Status	Additional Note on Senator
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	
Elizabeth Ekechi	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	
Ariana Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Jerilyn Davis	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Sean Remedios	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Janine Villalonga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Samantha Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Alejandro Madrigal	College of Business	Absent	
Andrew Martinez	College of Business	Absent	
Vacant	FIU at I-75 Senator	Vacant	
Kirsten Maxwell	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	
Bayan Abedulazis	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	
Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Jaedon Charles	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Ashley Prado	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Alonso Ochoa	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Kamila Gonzalez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Niska Lavaud	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Present	
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Present	
Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Present	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	
Alexis Lofton	College of Public Health and Social Work	Absent	
Vacant	Honors College	Vacant	
Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	
Zayi Brown	Housing-MMC	Present	
Daijah O'neal	Housing- MMC	Present	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Alison Stangl	Lower Division	Absent	
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Absent	
Vacant	Online Student Senator	Vacant	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	
Selma Sena	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	
Manuel E. Fernandez	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
David Riera	University Graduate School	Present	
Mateo Suarez	University Graduate School	Present	
Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Present	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Clover Cruz	Upper Division	Absent	
Shameka Jean-Baptiste	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	
Marville Marcelin	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Tiffany Lindsay	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Eric Slater	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Emma Zelkowitz	Upper Division	Present	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	
Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator/Pro-Tempore	Present	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Quorum is Established	Present	24
	Absent	18
	Vacant	13

- IV. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – February 2nd 2026
- A. With no objections, minutes were approved.
- V. Adoption of the Agenda
- A. Senator Tafur introduced motion to add Finance member appointment to the agenda.
- i. By unanimous consent, motion was passed.
- B. Senator Tafur introduced motion to add Secretary of Student Affairs appointment to the agenda.
- i. By unanimous consent, motion was passed.
- VI. Committee Reports
- A. Finance Chair – Connor Tafur
- i. Going to find some time to meet with same agenda as last week, anything else will be sent by email.
- B. Floor Leader – Internal Affairs Committee – Emma Zalkowitz
- i. Meeting on Wednesday if there is any questions email Emma.
- C. Rules Committee – Kamila Gonzalez
- i. Reviewed the Elections Reform bill, and it passed unanimously. Meeting again on Friday.
- D. SLAC Committee – Manual Fernandez
- i. No reports.
- E. BBC LC Committee – Tanner Croddy
- i. Toasty Tuesday rescheduled to March 17th.
- F. GPSC Committee – David Riera
- i. Met last week and finalized vote and help out UGS for Graduate Appreciation Week. Meeting today to vote on four possible events to take place in Graduate Appreciation Week. Looking to do one one engagement per campus.
- G. International Student Ad Hoc – Ashley Prado

FIU**Student Government
Association**

- i. Meeting tomorrow at 6:30pm. Going to have monthly support initiative meetings for international students. If anybody wants to join or is looking for support or advice they are welcome. Designing flyers. Looking to add opportunities for international students in FIU.
 - H. Pre-Professional Ad Hoc – German Mata
 - i. Submitting to the Madam Chair by the end of the week.
 - I. Meet Your Dean Ad-Hoc – Jerilyn Davis
 - i. Held Meet Your Dean event last week and it was a success.
- VII. University-Wide Council Reports
 - A. Student Body President – Francesca Casanova
 - B. Vice President – Wilkin Caseres
 - C. Speaker of the Senate – Izzy Romeo
 - i. For bills and resolutions, please have sponsors’ signatures already on there to ensure it doesn’t get sent back.
 - D. Speaker Pro-Tempore – Ronyde Ponthieux
 - i. Please turn on cameras on Zoom and email if you are going to show up on Zoom and CC everyone on Senate leadership. Even if it is tardiness.
 - E. BCC Governor – Hailey Menendez
- VIII. Advisor’s Report – Larissa, Patty & Blanca
 - A. Larissa: Reminder that budget deliberation starts tomorrow. If you would like to join you are welcome to as it is also on Zoom. Recordings are on the Senate Zoom. The search for the engineering team is on its final stages; engineering senators please provide feedback and attend. Please CC Larissa and Blanca when emailing any SGA related matters
 - B. Blanca: SGA Banquet in April. Meet in her office for Committee.
- IX. New Business
 - A. Finance Member Appointments
 - i. Senator Tafur nominates Mateo
 - 1. Mateo accepts nomination
 - ii. Mateo Suarez gives speech and emphasizes experience in FIU and SGA and passion to join Senator Tafur and learn from him in the Finance Committee.
 - iii. Senator Riera introduces motion to elapse Q&A period and move into Discussion period.
 - 1. By unanimous consent, motion was passed.
 - iv. 5-Minute Discussion Period

FIU**Student Government
Association**

1. Senator Riera states that it is going to be good to mentor folks for the next season.
 2. Senator Tafur introduces motion to elapse Discussion Period.
- v. Roll Call Vote

Vote on Finance Member Appointment				
Senator Name	Senator Position	Attendance	Vote	Reason for Abstention
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
Elizabeth Ekechi	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
Ariana Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Jerilyn Davis	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Sean Remedios	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Janine Villalonga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Samantha Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	Vacant	
Alejandro Madrigal	College of Business	Absent	Absent	
Andrew Martinez	College of Business	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	FIU at I-75 Senator	Vacant	Vacant	
Kirsten Maxwell	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	Absent	
Bayan Abedulaziz	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	Vacant	
Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	Absent	
Jaedon Charles	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	Absent	
Ashley Prado	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Alonso Ochoa	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	Absent	
Kamila Gonzalez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Niska Lavaud	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Present	Yes	
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Present		
Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	Vacant	
Alexis Lofton	College of Public Health and Social Work	Absent	Absent	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Vacant	Honors College	Vacant	Vacant	
Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present	Yes	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	Vacant	
Zayi Brown	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	
Daijah O'neal	Housing- MMC	Present	Yes	
Alison Stangl	Lower Division	Absent	Absent	
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	Online Student Senator	Vacant	Vacant	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	Absent	
Selma Sena	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	Absent	
Manuel E. Fernandez	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	Yes	
David Riera	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Mateo Suarez	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
Clover Cruz	Upper Division	Absent	Absent	
Shameka Jean-Baptiste	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	Absent	
Marville Marcelin	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Tiffany Lindsay	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Eric Slater	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	



Emma Zelkowitz	Upper Division	Present	Yes	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	

Vote Count

Yes	No	Abstention	Vacant
23	0	0	13

Motion Passed	Vote	Vote Count	Archive
	Simple Majority	13.0	Passed
	Two-Thirds	16	Passed
	Three-Fifths	14	Passed

1. Motion has passed.
- B. Secretary of Student Affairs Appointment

FIU**Student Government
Association**

- i. Carlos Paez Jervis gives speech on initiative for food pantry and plans as Secretary of Student Affairs.
- ii. Q&A Period:
 1. Senator Riera asks about other initiatives in the future.
 - a. Carlos responds.
 2. Senator Riera introduces motion to elapse Q&A period.
 - a. By unanimous consent, motion was passed.
- iii. 5-Minute Discussion Period:
 1. Senator Riera emphasizes the importance of the food pantry and the right person to take care of that.
 2. Pro-Tempore Pontheiux introduced motion to elapse Discussion Period.
 - a. By unanimous consent, motion was passed.
- iv. Roll Call Vote

Vote on Secretary of Student Affairs

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Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
Ariana Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Jerilyn Davis	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Sean Remedios	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Janine Villalonga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Samantha Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
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Kamila Gonzalez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Niska Lavaud	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Present	Yes	
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Present		
Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	Vacant	
Alexis Lofton	College of Public Health and Social Work	Absent		
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Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present	Yes	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	Vacant	
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Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	



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Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
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Eric Slater	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Emma Zelkowitz	Upper Division	Present		
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	

Vote Count

Yes	No	Abstention	Vacant
22	0	0	13



Motion Passed	Vote	Vote Count	Archive
	Simple Majority	13.0	Passed
	Two-Thirds	16	Passed
	Three-Fifths	14	Passed

1. Motion has passed.

X. Senate Forum

A. Senator Riera talks about Graduate Appreciation Week and the 4 separate events. In each separate campus. He would like to see some people from Senate helping and participating. Thank you to people participating in Meet Your Dean event.

XI. Public Forum

XII. Adjournment

A. Meeting was adjourned @ 4:57pm