

FIU**Student Government
Association**

The 42nd Session of the Student Body Senate

Meeting Agenda

Date: March 16th, 2026

- I. Call to Order @ 4:23pm
- 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	Present	
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	
Alejandro Madrigal	College of Business	Absent	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

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	Present	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	
Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
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	Absent	
Kevin Ridecliff	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	
Ziya Brown	Housing- MMC	Present	
Daijah O'neal	Housing- MMC	Present	
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	Absent	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Clover Cruz	Upper Division	Present	
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	Absent	
Eric Slater	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	
Emma Zelkowitz	Upper Division	Absent	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Absent	
Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator/Pro-Tempore	Present	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Quorum is Established	Present	22
	Absent	20
	Vacant	13

- IV. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – March 9th, 2026
 - A. With no objections, minutes were approved.
- V. Adoption of the Agenda
 - A. Senator Fernandez amended to add a discharge motion to the agenda by unanimous consent.
 - B. Senator Riera amended to add the Research Forum by unanimous consent.
- VI. Research Forum – Rayan El Messoussi Garti
 - A. Rayan comes to present his research on Comparative Analysis of Gold Nanoparticle Uptake Across Blood-Brain Barrier Cell Types for Targeted Glioblastoma Therapy.
 - i. Requests funding support for Registration Fee.
 - ii. Senator Riera appreciates the research done by Rayan and reaffirms the importance of having a Research Forum.
- VII. Committee Reports
 - A. Finance Chair – Connor Tafur
 - B. Floor Leader – Internal Affairs Committee – Emma Zelkowitz
 - C. Rules Committee – Kamila Gonzalez
 - i. No reports but submitted a finalized ROP review.
 - D. SLAC Committee – Manuel Fernandez
 - i. No reports.
 - E. BBC LC Committee – Tanner Croddy
 - i. Toasty Tuesday tomorrow, 3/16.
 - F. GPSC Committee – David Riera
 - i. Finalized 3 out of 4 events for Graduate Appreciation Week and working on finalizing the BBC event.
 - G. International Student Ad Hoc – Ashley Prado
 - i. Community sessions are starting this week. Both virtual and in-person sessions.
 - H. Pre-Professional Ad Hoc – David Riera
 - i. Waiting to discuss the last resolution and was able to talk with CARTA.

FIU**Student Government
Association**

- I. Meet Your Dean Ad Hoc – Jerilyn Davis
 - i. No reports.
- VIII. University-Wide Council Reports
 - A. Student Body President – Francesca Casanova
 - B. Vice President – Wilkin Caseres
 - C. Speaker of the Senate – Izzy Romeo
 - i. Please anticipate two BBC meetings. Last semester the turnout was not good, so please make sure to attend if you can, and if not, let Senate Leadership know you will be attending through Zoom.
 - D. Speaker Pro-Tempore – Ronyde Ponthieux
 - i. No reports but please make sure to CC in emails.
 - E. BBC Governor – Hailey Menendez
- IX. Advisor’s Report – Larissa, Patty & Blanca
 - A. Larissa: Those who are committee chairs and vice chairs, make sure meeting minutes are in the Teams; same goes for any legislation.
 - B. Blanca: SGA Banquet April 8th, 2026, and Toasty Tuesday tomorrow.
 - C. Patty: All legislation needs to be on Teams.
- X. New Business
 - A. Resolution S.R. 06 009 Condemning ICE Violence and Calling for the Termination of the 287(g) Agreement
 - i. Senator Fernandez states the mission of FIU and its Student Government Association includes fostering a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all students, regardless of immigration status, national origin, race, or background. Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows ICE to enter into agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies, including campus agencies, effectively deputizing them to perform federal immigration enforcement functions. Participation in a 287(g) agreement entangles education institutions in federal immigration enforcement, undermines community trust, and contradicts the educational mission of institutions of higher learning.
 - ii. Q&A Period:
 1. Senator Suarez asks if this resolution is a statement or going to be an act.
 - a. Senator Mata reaffirms that SGA can state a strong opposing opinion and hopefully make a change.

FIU**Student Government
Association**

2. Pro-Tempore asks if realistically this resolution will bring about change.
 - a. Senator Mata states that the resolution is for the Senate to oppose and condemn the 287(g) agreement. It is different from the last resolution because it includes recent violent events throughout the country.
 3. Senator Riera asks what are going to be the actionable steps that this Senate can take for this resolution.
 - a. Beyond the resolution, the Senate needs to show support for campus organizations like Ice Breakers, immigrant students, and minority groups.
 4. Senator Ridecliff asks if Senator Mata finds that it will be helpful for SGA to take a stand against the agreement.
 - a. Senator Mata says yes because it will show that the Senate stands with the general student body during these difficult times.
 5. Senator Suarez asks if there have been any incidents of ICE involvement on campus.
 - a. Senator Mata states that he has read multiple reports of FIU students having to self-deport due to these unfriendly policies.
 6. Senator Riera motions to bypass the second reading and move into Discussion.
- iii. Discussion
1. Pro-Tempore proposes an amendment for Senator Mata to add the reports of FIU students having to self-deport to make the resolution stronger.
 - a. Senator Mata states that he is amendable to that.
 2. Senator Riera proposes an amendment for the addition of a sentence to the resolution that shows the continuation. The resolution could be turned into a letter that is presented to the BOT with the supporting senators' signatures.
 - a. Senator Mata states that he is amendable to that.
 3. Senator Prado states that she does not believe the resolution to be performative and shows that SGA supports the student body and can be here for them.

FIU**Student Government
Association**

4. Senator Ridecliff proposes an amendment for Senator Mata to add a history of FIU's relationship with ICE to the resolution to contextualize.
 - a. Senator Mata states that he is amendable to that.
5. Senator Riera believes that once this is done, this resolution could be sent to the Faculty Senate.
6. Senator Riera motions to extend Discussion by 3 minutes by unanimous consent.
7. Senator See asks for clarification about the implication of students who self-deported.
8. Senator Riera motions to extend Discussion by 5 minutes by unanimous consent.
9. Senator Allen discusses the resolution.
10. Senator Cruz states that the terminology of "self-deported" is correct.
11. Senator See states that in the case of the student who self-deported, the terminology is correct. Also asks about how much research has been done to look into how many students are actually being affected by this.
 - a. Senator Mata respectfully disagrees.

iv. Roll Call Vote:

Vote on S.R. 06 009				
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	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
Ariana Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

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	
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 Abedulazis	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	Vacant	
Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
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	No	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Niska Lavaud	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Present	Yes	
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Absent	Absent	
Kevin Ridecliff	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	
Vacant	Honors College	Vacant	Vacant	
Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present	Yes	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	Vacant	
Ziya Brown	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	
Daijah O'neal	Housing- MMC	Present	Abstention	
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	No	
Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
Clover Cruz	Upper Division	Present	Yes	



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

Vote Count			
Yes	No	Abstention	Vacant
19	2	1	14

FIU**Student Government
Association**

	Vote	Vote Count	Archive
Motion Passed	Simple Majority	12.0	Passed
	Two-Thirds	15	Passed
	Three-Fifths	13	Passed

XI. Senate Forum

A. Senator Prado invites all senators to participate in the conversation event with international students and hear about their experiences.

B. Senator Riera provides actionable recommendations for current events regarding TP USA Group chat.

XII. Public Forum

XIII. Adjournment @ 5:55pm