

FIU**Student Government
Association**

The 42nd Session of the Student Body Senate
Meeting Minutes
March 2nd, 2026

- I. Call to Order @ 4:17pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance/FIU Alma Mater
- III. Roll Call

Senator Name	Senators Position	Attendance Status
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	Present
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	Absent
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant
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	Present

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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	Absent
Niska Lavaud	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Absent
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Present
Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Absent
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	Present
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Absent
Vacant	Online Student Senator	Vacant
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Present
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	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/Speaker	Present

Quorum is Established	Present	24
	Absent	18
	Vacant	13

- IV. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – February 16th, 2026
 - A. With no objections, minutes were approved.
- V. Adoption of the Agenda
 - A. Senator Riera moves to add Research Forum by unanimous consent.
- VI. Research Forum
 - A. Maria Agostina Nobo and Ishara Omardeen came to talk about the International Conference on Nanotechnology in Biomedical Engineering that they got invited to attend. Their research is on Glioblastoma Multiforme and new approaches. They are requesting financial support for attending this conference and advancing their research.
 - B. Q&A Period:
 - i. Senator Mata asks for clarification on in vitro, in Silco, and in vivo.

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- ii. Senator Riera asks about percentage of admission to the conference and reinstates the importance of representing FIU at such a high level.
- iii. Senator Tafur tells researchers to join meeting on Friday and their funding request has been received.
- iv. Senator Riera states how proud he is of the bill that was passed to allow researchers to come in and share.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance Chair – Connor Tafur
 - i. No reports.
- B. Floor Leader – Internal Affairs Committee – Emma Zelkowitz
 - i. No reports. Meeting at 4pm on Wednesday,
- C. Rules Committee – Kamila Gonzalez
 - i. No reports.
- D. SLAC Committee – Manual Fernandez
 - i. No reports. Meeting Wednesday at 3:30pm.
- E. BBC LC Committee – Tanner Croddy
 - i. Toasty Tuesday is coming up, if you can attend, it would be greatly appreciated.
- F. GPSC Committee – David Riera
 - i. Steadily working towards Grad Appreciation Week (first week of April).
- G. International Student Ad Hoc – Ashley Prado
 - i. Planned on having an International Student Vigil but will be cancelled. There will be a rescheduling.
- H. Pre-Professional Ad Hoc – German Mata
 - i. No reports.
- 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. No reports.
- D. Speaker Pro-Tempore – Ronyde Ponthieux



- i. If you will be joining on Zoom, please CC Pontheix in the email. Senate Leadership room is only for Senate Leadership unless coming in with someone in Leadership or welcomed by Leadership.
 - E. BCC Governor – Hailey Menendez
- IX. Advisor’s Report – Larissa, Patty & Blanca
 - A. Blanca: Composite is March 16th at 10am, everyone must wear SGA polo.
 - B. Larissa: Office is back to regular office hours. Reminder when sending any SGA related emails to please CC Larissa and Blanca. Chairs and vice chairs need to have minutes updated in the SGA Teams and their respective folders. If there is any issue with the Teams, please let Larissa know.
 - C. Patty: Along with minutes, resolutions need to be in the SGA Teams and their respective folders.
- X. New Business
 - A. 2026- 27 Budget Allocation Vote
 - i. Roll Call Vote

Vote on Budget Allocation				
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	Present	Yes	
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	

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Samantha Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Vacant	Vacant	
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
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	No	
Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	Absent	
Niska Lavaud	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Absent	Absent	
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Present		
Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	Vacant	
Alexis Lofton	College of Public Health and Social Work	Absent	Absent	

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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	Present	Yes	
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	Online Student Senator	Vacant	Vacant	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	No	
Selma Sena	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	Absent	
Manuel E. Fernandez	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	No	
David Riera	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Mateo Suarez	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Absent	Absent	
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	Present	Yes	
Emma Zelkowitz	Upper Division	Present	Yes	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	Yes	



Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator/Pro-Tempore	Present	Yes	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC/Speaker	Present	Yes	

Vote Count			
Yes	No	Abstention	Vacant
20	3	0	13

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

ii. Conversation:

1. Pro-Tempore reminds that the special meeting was held to specifically discuss the budget allocations and to have the procedural Q&A time and discussions.
2. Senator Abedulazis asks if there is any specific reason as to why there wasn't a discussion today.

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3. Senator Fernandez is addressed by the Speaker.
4. Senator Riera states that he would be interested in hearing the feedback about the budget allocations.
 - a. Speaker Romeo allows it in Senate Forum.
5. Senator Abedulazis clarifies view points.
6. Senator Croddy states that there was always transparency about the budget with provided links and openness. They had a limited amount of time while making hard decisions and that should be respected.

XI. Senate Forum

- A. Senator Mata would like \$10,000 for the Honors College and for Model UN to bring about new initiatives and advancements. He would also like for clarification on the Homecoming budget.
 - i. Speaker Romeo talks about how student engagement was their biggest priority and that we had to remain fair when allocating to just one organization. Everyone for the most part was given an increase.
 1. Senator Riera follows up.
 - ii. Senator Croddy states that this year was a better time-line as far as the budgets go.
- B. Quorum was lost.

XII. Public Forum

XIII. Adjournment

- A. Meeting was adjourned @ 5:22pm.