

The 42nd Session of the Student Body Senate

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 29th, 2025

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

Attendance			
Senator Name	Senators Position	Attendance Status	Additional Note on Senator
Carisa Lynch	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Elizabeth Ekechi	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Brianna Romeo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
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	Present	
Kleio "Kae" Jung	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Sophia Gonzalez	College of Business	Present	
Fernando Menendez	College of Business	Present	

Alejandro Madrigal	College of Business	Present	
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	
Amelia Luque	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	
Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Jaedon Charles	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Ashley Prado	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Vacant	College of Engineering and Computing	Vacant	
Kamila Gonzalez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Vacant	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Vacant	
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Absent	
Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Present	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	
Alexis Lofton	College of Public Health and Social Work	Present	
Brianna Diaz	Honors College	Absent	
Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present	
Trey Saunders	Housing-MMC	Present	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	
Vacant	Housing- MMC	Vacant	

Alison Stangl	Lower Division	Present	
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Present	
Sohpia Dias Peixoto	Online Student Senator	Present	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Selma Sena	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	
David Riera	University Graduate School	Present	
Lina Peralta	University Graduate School	Present	
Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Present	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Clover Cruz	Upper Division	Present	
Emma Selkowitz	Upper Division	Present	
Shameka Jean-Baptiste	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	
Marville Marcelin	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Tiffany Lindsay	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	
Vacant	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Vacant	
Vacant	Vacant (Floor Leader spot)	Vacant	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	
Faith St. Rose	College of Business	Present	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Quorum is Established	Present	34
	Absent	12
	Vacant	10

IV. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

- A. With no objections, last meetings minutes are approved.

V. Adoption of the Agenda

- A. Senator Mata would like to add a discussion about social media and our accounts to the last point of new business by placard vote. Motion passes.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Finance Chair – Connor Tafur

- 1 First meeting was last Wednesday. Meeting times will be 8:30am every Wednesday. We approved a few things so if anyone has any questions please feel free to reach out!

B. Floor Leader – Internal Affairs Committee – Emma Zelkowitz

- 1 Reaching out to rest of team and sending a poll to the rest of senate for best meeting time. We can work around times and if anyone needs a refresher id be happy to help.
- 2 Just to confirm, the weekly office hours are 3 per week, if it says 2 hours and 50 minutes, that is not 3 hours.

C. Rules Committee – Kamila Gonzalez

- 1 Met last week and will meet again this Friday at 4. I'll be sending reminders in chat and I will be grateful to all who can attend.

D. SLAC Committee – Trey Saunders

- 1 Met last Monday and approved legislation that is going on the floor today. We look forward to discussing it earlier today.
- 2 We also approved senator Riera's legislation that will also go up today.

E. BBC LC Committee – Tanner Croddy

- 1 All BBC LC members please reach out to see what the best time is for meetings. We have some great events like toasty Tuesday to plan!

F. GPSC Committee – Julian Esquivel

- 1 We began planning for GSAW and we are looking forward to continuing the preparations.

G. International Student Ad Hoc – Bayan Abedulazis

- 1 Spoke about international student forum. Letting international students and organizations collaborate with one another.
- 2 Spoke about Hispanic heritage month events like potlucks.

- H. Pre-Professional Ad Hoc – German Mata
 - 1 Had our first career fair of the semester!
 - 2 I wanted to give an update on some of our members, PHD forums will be happening in October.
 - 3 In senator forum I'd like to talk about pre professional fairs for engineering students paying out of pocket for events.
 - 4 Creating list of organizations we will visit. This involves finding best times to meet with organizations.
 - I. Meet Your Dean Ad-Hoc – Jerilyn Davis
- VII. University-Wide Council Reports
 - A. Student Body President – Francesca Casanova
 - B. Vice President – Wilkin Caseres
 - i Wanted to give a quick check in with you all!
 - ii I went to the BSU state of the union address with speaker Romeo and its was a great opportunity to get involved in our community and listen to the students.
 - iii The following day I hosted a presidents' forum with all the presidents and directors of student organizations. We have a bunch of information from them and we are so excited to be able to help and collaborate.
 - C. Speaker of the Senate – Izzy Romeo
 - i Wanted to speak on respecting the SGA
 - ii For call to order, we understand it is easy to get wrapped in conversation.
 - iii Congrats to all who went to the career fair!
 - iv Thank you to all who attended the retreat! It was great to get to know you all!
 - D. Speaker Pro-Tempore – Faith St.Rose
 - i Meet your dean October 9th in GC 243! I hope you all can make it.
 - E. BBC Governor – Hailey Menendez
- VIII. Advisor's Report – Larissa Adames
 - A. Tomorrow I will be in a training all day so I wont be in the office but I will be on campus.
 - B. I sent a few calendar invites about senate events. Please don't deny them so they can stay in your calendar.
 - C. I was slightly disappointed in the attendance of the senate retreat. We all knew in advance the date and time. Those who did not send any information as to why you could not attend need to speak with senate leadership. These kinds of events are a great way to connect on a deeper level so that comprehensive conversations can be had about resolutions that affect the entire university.
 - D. September 10th we sent a link for you to submit social media posts. If anyone wants to share anything on our social media reference this link.
- IX. New Business

A. The Suicide and Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention Resolution –
David Riera

- i Pro temp St. Rose moves to add 2 minutes to q&a period. Motion passes.
- ii Pro temp St. Rose moves to bypass discussion period by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Vote on The Suicide and Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention Resolution				
Senator Name	Senator Position	Attendance	Vote	Reason for Abstention
Carisa Lynch	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Elizabeth Ekechi	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Brianna Romeo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present		
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		
Janine Villalonga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent		
Samantha Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Kleio "Kae" Jung	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Sophia Gonzalez	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Fernando Menendez	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Alejandro Madrigal	College of Business	Present		
Andrew Martinez	College of Business	Absent		
Vacant	FIU at I-75 Senator	Vacant	Vacant	
Kirsten Maxwell	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent		
Bayan Abedulazis	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Present	Yes	
Amelia Luque	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent		

Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Jaedon Charles	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Ashley Prado	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Engineering and Computing	Vacant	Vacant	
Kamila Gonzalez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent		
Vacant	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Vacant	Vacant	
Tiffany Lindsay	College of Law	present	Yes	
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	Present		
Brianna Diaz	Honors College	Absent		
Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present		
Trey Saunders	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	Housing- MMC	Vacant	Vacant	
Alison Stangl	Lower Division	Present	Yes	
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Present	Yes	
Sohpia Dias Peixoto	Online Student Senator	Present	Yes	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	Yes	
Selma Sena	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent		
David Riera	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Lina Peralta	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	Present	Yes	
Emma Selkowitz	Upper Division	Present	Yes	
Shameka Jean-Baptiste	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent		
Marville Marcellin	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	

Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Tiffany Lindsay	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	Yes	
Vacant	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	Vacant (Floor Leader spot)	Vacant	Vacant	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Faith St. Rose	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	

Vote Count			
Yes	No	Abstention	Vacant
33	0	0	10

	Vote	Vote Count	Archive
Motion Passed	Simple Majority	18.0	Passed
	Two-Thirds	23	Passed
	Three-Fifths	20	Passed

B. A Resolution to End Hidden Fees and Protect Student Stability – Trey Saunders,

Joshua Espinoza & David Riera

- i. Senator Gonzalez moves to extend q&a period by 2 minutes by unanimous consent. Motion passes.
- ii. Pro temp St. Rose moves to extend discussion period by 5 minutes by unanimous consent. Motion passes.
- iii. Senator Mata moves to table bill until sponsors have had a chance to speak with staff about how this bill will be received by unanimous consent.

C. Discussion about Social Media usage.

- i Senator Mata: I have some concerns about the way the SGA social media accounts are being utilized. We have been promoting a lot of FIU in DC content and with the current political climate there are certain associations that seem unfavorable to SGAs image. A common

discourse from last year and into this year is to be an apolitical body. I would like to be more in contact with those who manage the accounts to get some clarifications.

ii Senator Saunders moves to extend senate by 3 minutes by placard. Motion passes.

iii Pro Temp St. Rose moves to extend senate by 5 minutes by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

X. Senate Forum

A. Floor Leader Zelkowitz: I've made a spreadsheet now of everyone in senate so now the office hours are more organized then ever. If you haven't done your office hours within any of the weeks you will be receiving an email so we can plan accordingly. Starting this week we will be holding everyone to the same standard that our office hours must be precise so we can all put in the same effort for our university.

B. Senator Riera: I had a graduate student reach out to me and McKnight fellowship and the Florida education fund, which helps students in graduate schools. They received an email that FIU is not offering this and it appears we are the only institution that is not participating in this program. This is concerning because it seems that graduate student wont be able to receive outside help for research or projects.

XI. Public Forum

XII. Adjournment @ 6:05pm