



# Florida International University

## MINUTES

### SGA Constitutional Review Committee November 21, 2017

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Government Association held a meeting on November 21, 2017– Locale **GC 150**. The meeting was called to order at **3:24 p.m.**, approximately, by **President Schmidt** and **President Cosio** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

#### **II. IN ATTENDANCE**

Leonardo Cosio, BBC President (**Arrived 3:50 p.m.**)  
Krista Schmidt, MMC President  
Meredith Marseille, BBC Vice President  
Jose Sirven, MMC Vice President  
Cooper Eisinger, MMC Chief Justice  
Jamie Adelson, BBC Chief of Staff

#### **ABSENT**

Joshua Mandall, MMC Rules, Legislative and Judiciary Chair

#### **III. GUEST(S)**

Larissa Adames, BBC Advisor  
Jose Toscano, MMC Campus Life Director  
Jerome Scott, MMC Advisor  
Gerald Johnson III, BBC Graduate Assistant  
Larry Lunsford, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Anthony DeSantis, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs  
Jefferson Noel, BBC Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate  
Victoria Larson, MMC Senator at Large  
Sabrina Leeloo Rosell, MMC Secretary of Governmental Relations  
Sebastian Cajamarca, MMC Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate

#### **IV. OPEN DISCUSSION**

MMC President Schmidt opened discussion.

MMC Chief Justice Eisinger proposed editing the language of the constitution.

BBC Chief of Staff Adelson suggested adding a table of contents.

MMC Vice President Sirven proposed that SGA councils unite as one, similar to the BSU model.

Committee discussed proposed legislative branch:

- BBC Vice President Marseille asked about senate structure.
- MMC President Schmidt said the numbers of senators would stay the same because they represent the respective colleges.
- MMC Chief Justice Eisinger shared his concerns with structure and vacancies. He proposed numbers of senators being adjusted.
- MMC President Schmidt said that can be worked with constitutional committee and colleges.
- MMC Campus Life Director Toscano said the operations of senate and cabinet needs to be structured. He suggested creating a calendar for appointments, readings, votes, finance requests, etc.
- MMC Vice President Sirven asked about commuting for meetings.
- MMC Chief Justice Eisinger said there may be conflicts. He suggested designating one campus as the meeting site for senate meetings.
- MMC Vice President Sirven said his idea was to use USF model. Meetings would be later in the evening, with dinner and access to transportation provided.
- BBC Vice President Marseille asked about senators with evening classes. She said they would not be able to do student government.
- MMC Vice President Sirven said being available during that time would be a requirement.

Committee discussed SGA structure:

- MMC Vice President Sirven said there would be a president, two vice presidents, one senate, one cabinet that reports to president and a treasurer.
- MMC Campus Life Director Toscano asked how split between campus budgets would happen.
- MMC Vice President Sirven said the U-Wide budget would not be separated.
- The committee discussed how finance requests would go through senate.
- MMC Vice President Sirven said there would be a U-Wide budget committee, and people with budget requests would go to the committee.
- MMC Secretary of Governmental Relations suggested less meetings for cabinet and senate, possibly bi-weekly.
- Chief of Staff Adelson said that meeting less isn't beneficial. She said scheduling conflicts occur, and without having a set weekly meeting time there is a possibility the cabinet won't meet at all.

BBC President Cosio said that we should keep vagueness in mind when editing documents.

Committee discussed agencies and bureaus:

- MMC President Schmidt suggested merging campus-specific agencies and bureaus to create unity and lessen confusion.
- BBC Vice President Marseille said that BBC has a weekly roundtable with council presidents.
- MMC Vice President Sirven suggested giving the agencies and bureaus autonomy.
- MMC President Schmidt said she is in favor of keeping them close to SGA. BBC President Cosio agreed.
- BBC Graduate Assistant Johnson asked about the programming at MMC.
- MMC President Schmidt said that SGC-MMC is cutting down on programming.
- MMC Secretary of Governmental Relations explained the event she held today.
- BBC Graduate Assistant Johnson explained how his undergrad university student government collaborated with their agencies and bureaus.
- MMC President Schmidt asked about the selection process for the members of agencies and bureaus.
- BBC Advisor Adames explained that there is an application process, and the outgoing council interviews and selects the incoming council.
- MMC President Schmidt suggested senators sitting in on the selection process.

MMC Campus Life Director Toscano reminded the committee of Dr. Lunsford's deadline, and proposed setting an agenda on what to tackle for future meetings.

MMC President Schmidt suggested creating sub-committees.

BBC Speaker Pro Noel asked if the combined SGA is the solution to the lack of togetherness between both campuses.

MMC President Schmidt and MMC Vice President Sirven said yes.

BBC Vice President Marseille said that there instead should be regulations on how often campus presidents meet.

MMC President Schmidt said that isn't always the case.

MMC Secretary of Governmental Relations said that this plan does not leave room for personal feelings to hinge collaborations.

MMC Vice President Sirven said that this would help with access for both campuses with administration.

MMC Campus Life Director Toscano asked how reporting to advisors would work with the expansion of cabinet and senate.

MMC President Schmidt said that advisors would still advise respective campuses.

MMC Vice President Sirven said that this model would replicate other universities'.

MMC Chief Justice Eisinger said we have to decide if we want to go forward with proposal.

BBC Vice President Marseille asked how this would affect the university's 2020 plan for online students.

MMC President Schmidt said she doesn't see how the restructure would affect online students.

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs DeSantis suggested creating opportunities for meetings to be streamed for online students.

BBC Chief of Staff Adelson asked about campus specific statutes.

BBC President Cosio said we would have to dissolve each, and combine into one document.

BBC President Cosio said we shouldn't have to vote on new SGA structure, but should go through constitution and make edits.

MMC Chief Justice Eisinger said we should decide now if we would implement new SGA structure.

MMC Vice President Sirven moved to eliminate both SGC-MMC and SGC-BBC and move to a single SGA.

MMC Chief Justice Eisinger second.

Roll Call Vote:

- Leonardo Cosio (Yea)
- Krista Schmidt (Yea)
- Meredith Marseille (Yea)
- Jose Sirven (Yea)
- Cooper Eisinger (Yea)
- Jamie Adelson (Yea)

The committee listed edits that need to be made to constitution:

- Format
- Structure
- Language
- Budget
- Election

## Transition

MMC Chief Justice Eisinger moved to have a 5 minute break.  
MMC Vice President Sirven second.

Committee had break at 4:51 p.m.  
Committee reconvened at 4:56 p.m.

BBC President Cosio and MMC President Schmidt suggested going through sections of constitution and making edits.

### Constitution edits:

#### **Authority, II Jurisdiction**

1. The format was edited.
2. Question as to what constitutes as the “student body” was asked.
3. “and all A&S funded entities” was added.

#### **Student Rights, Section 3 Rights**

1. Subsection A, number 3: Question raised by MMC Vice President Sirven regarding ability of students to file appeals of petitions for legal review.
2. Subsection A, number 5: “Governing Council” changed to “agencies and bureaus” for consistent language.
3. Subsection B, number 1: “student affairs” changed to “student body” due to confusion between affairs of students and the Division of Student Affairs.
4. Subsection B, number 2: “To request SGA monies to fund academic, professional, and/or personal advancement” was changed to “To request SGA funding for academic, professional, and/or personal advancement.”
5. Subsection B, number 3: “Request SGA monies to fund university-wide, and/or campus specific improvements” was changed to “Request SGA funding for university-wide, and/or campus-specific improvements.”
6. Subsection B, number 5: the format was edited.
7. Subsection B, number 5: percentage sign added after (15).
8. Subsection B, number 5: MMC Vice President Sirven said committee needs to Review for contradiction in raising this number to apply to a higher number of student input.

#### **Article II, Section 1 Student Body**

1. MMC President Schmidt asked who is classified as students in regards to SGA.  
To be discussed at next meeting.

#### **Article II, Section 2 Governing Bodies**

1. Section removed.
2. Subsection D: “Sunshine State Laws” will be moved to Article 6 Due Process

#### **Article II, Section 3 Branches of Government**

1. Section 3 changed to section 2
2. Subsection B: MMC Vice President Sirven raised question about power of executive board. Definition of executive board to be defined in statutes.

#### **Article III, Section 1**

1. “The Legislative powers of the Student Body in MMC and Engineering Center shall be vested in the SGC-MMC Senate. The Legislative powers of the Student Body in BBC and I- 75 Center shall be vested in the SGC-BBC Senate.” changed to “The Legislative powers of the Student Body shall be vested in the Senate.”

**Article III, Section 2**

1. Subsection A: Campus Life Director Toscano requested current enrollment numbers for each college.
2. Subsection A: 1-14 removed, and will be added to statutes. Committee discussed if the number of senators per college should be changed.
3. Subsection C: BBC President Cosio suggested changing the one senator requirement to two senators.

**President Cosio** adjourned the meeting at **6:11 p.m.**