NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
For candidate, SGA ‘the biggest contribution to University’

STEPHANIE CASTRO
Assistant News Director

Election season has arrived at the University and FIYou candidates say they’re ready to make an impact on the University community.

Once a year, the University conducts student government elections to elect the student body presidents and vice presidents, in addition to senators who will represent their respective colleges within FIU.

This year, the candidates at the MMC come from FIYou, Krista Schmidt and Jordan Thompson for president and vice president respectively.

Schmidt adds that her main goal as president would be to advocate for the changes her fellow students want to see and create programs that will resolve their main issues.

For more information on SGA and the elections, visit sga.fiu.edu or their offices in GC 211 at MMC and WUC 301 at BBC.

Candidates from FIYou are unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

THE BATTLE CONTINUES
SGA supports expansion until County Fair relocate

CEYUN ARIAS
Staff Writer

Back in 2014, FIU considered a win when Miami-Dade County voters approved a referendum that would allow the University to relocate The Miami Duke County Fair and annex the 64 acres of land currently leased to it.

However, there was a catch: the University had to be able to provide the fair a new suitable site equal to or better to the one they have been using for 43 years, the Tamiami land adjacent to the Modesto Maidique campus.

With the fair starting on March 23, FIU has yet to find a new home for The Fair.

“SGA’s position on this issue has remained constant due to an unwavering belief that this expansion is not only important, but necessary to the FIU community and the community as a whole,” wrote SGC-MMC president, Jordan Thompson.

SGC-MMC president from 2014-2016, said: “This petition is really important. FIU literally doesn’t have any more space, and the community need for more people to be educated and have a high quality education grows as the community grows. We don’t have the physical space on our main campus to accommodate what our community needs.

Three possible options have been considered over the years including a Graham site in Miami Lakes, Homestead site and Sunlife site by Sun Life Stadium. However, The Fair has rejected all of them, saying they will lose about 20 percent attendance if they move.

Collazo emphasizes that the University’s expansion onto the Tamiami land would benefit the community tremendously.

“This is no longer a matter of ‘if,’ but a matter of ‘when,’ because the Fair knows that it is going to eventually move, but we need to have everything prepared for when this happens,”

Alian Collazo
President
SGC-MMC

"With FIU currently being Miami’s only public research institution with a population of 50,000+ students, it inevitably leads to the success of our community due to the fact that the graduates each year become the leaders of our community,” he wrote. “I believe that one way or another the Fair will recognize that higher education has a greater value to our economy, to our future, and to the community than an event that comes for two weeks and can be held elsewhere.”

Despite a prolonged agreement and actions between both parties, the FIU community can expect a continual stance from the University that SGA can get a compromise that is good to the Fair, to the community, and to FIU itself.

“We have always been willing to compromise to please both parties. However, the simple answer is that the reluctance of the Fair to move is the largest impeding obstacle in the way for any compromise to occur,” said Collazo. “If the Fair becomes interested in moving, then FIU will find a serious way to make a compromise happen.”

SGA has currently decided to join the efforts of the University’s Governmental Relations, according to Collazo. In conjunction with them, SGA has attended the discussions with local and state officials about this issue and was also discussed at “FIU Day” in Tallahassee.

The expansion is one of the main items SGA will be asking state legislators to fund which will amount to a total of $20 million, according to Collazo.

“This is no longer a matter of ‘if,’ but a matter of ‘when,’ because the Fair knows that it is going to eventually move, but we need to have everything prepared for when this happens,” Collazo wrote.

“Therefore, our main focus currently is to collect enough funds to expand FIU when that moment does come.”

Media Relations was unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

Calendar of Events

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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Mixer with The Candidates</td>
<td>4 p.m. to 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>WUC on the second floor.</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Presidential and VP Forum</td>
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<td>Hosted by M.A.L.E.S</td>
<td>MaryAnn Wolfe Theatre</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Presidential and VP Debate</td>
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<td>Hosted by SGA</td>
<td>Parkview multi-purpose room</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>Movie Night</td>
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<td>Bayview Housing</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
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<td>Panther Square</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
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Candidiates from FIUnited were unavailable for comment at the time of publication.
SGA elections approach as the Fair returns

CAYLA BUSH
Staff Writer

SGA elections are fast approaching. Students are invited to attend debates and are responsible to acquaint them with this year’s candidates. We encourage participation in the political process at every level, national, state, local, as well as student government.

Students running for candidate positions, the elections season brings promises of inclusion, as candidates are reaching out to students commonly overlooked in SGA initiatives, including students at the engineering campus. Other issues such as the elusive Full Break and possibilities of addressing student concerns with the Golden Panthers Express bring hope of a truly worlds ahead academic environment.

We encourage students to both vote for student government this coming April and enjoy the fair. Osahar added that this is a great opportunity to understand the voting process and allows students to voice their concerns directly. While SGA will host a separate debate on March 31, the organization feels that mostly address general University issues like parking and transportation.

“[Students] have the opportunity to get to know what’s going on in student government,” said Sizova. “They will have a chance to meet the people that I could vote for,” said Gaston Israelwicz, a freshman hospitality major. “Plus, I would have a chance to get to know what’s going on in school and see if I can get more involved.”

The second campaign event, scheduled for March 3, is a movie night with the candidates, during which students will network with members of SGA and enjoy the movie, “21 & over,” starring Miles Teller.

“I would really like to meet the people that I could vote for. Plus, I would have a chance to get to know what’s going on in school and see if I can get more involved,” said Gaston Israelwicz, Hospitality Major.

The fair brings nostalgia and life to the corner of FIU year after year. Students weigh in on their favorite foods, rides and what an experience working for the Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo provides for FIU students.

However, the debate continues on the fairgrounds property, with insight from student government, and self-proclaimed fairgoers. As an editorial editorial board, we urge both sides of the fairgrounds debate to act civil.

The fair is an opportunity for SGA candidates to voice their major or their future representatives and the majority of my time off.”

The best thing is that the candidate’s campaign comes to me,” said Israelwicz. “When I’m not in class, I’m in the game room for the majority of my time off.”

Once candidates have been elected, there will be plenty of events for students to get familiar with their new council, Sizova said. “They will have a chance to meet up with them, and voice their concerns about the campus and what changes they would like to see.” said Osahar. “Of course, the SGA will come with their events to host so they will keep you posted out.”

For more information on the events and SGA, visit the Student Affairs page at http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu or at GC 211 at MMC and WUC 301 at BM.

Meyer Grauberg contributed to this report.

W
ith only about two weeks left until elections for student government take place at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Student Government Association wants students to get to know and meet their candidates. On March 24, SGA will host a “Mixer with the Candidates” event to break the ice between candidates and the student body.

“Students can meet up with the candidates and get a chance to learn more about the candidates’ plans to make BBC a better campus,” said Anastasiya Sizova, director of events for SGA at BBC. “We also want the students to see that SGA can be a fun organization as well, and that SGA is worth being a part of.”

There will be food games, FIVA and video games for attendees and students to enjoy. Sizova said in addition to meeting students, the candidates are “there to have fun.”

The campaign event, scheduled for March 3, is a movie night with the candidates, during which students will network with members of SGA and enjoy the movie, “21 & over,” starring Miles Teller.

“Anyone and everyone are welcome to join,” said Sizova. “Students will meet with candidates and see what they are about. They get a chance to hear from candidate platforms and have their voice and concerns heard.”

SGA, who is responsible for allocating their budget to multiple clubs and groups holds elections every year and consists of a legislative, judicial and executive branch.

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“Plus, I would have a chance to get to know what’s going on in school and see if I can get more involved.”

I
on order to showcase the work of graduate students, Graduate and Professional Students Committee is hosting a Graduate Student Week from March 27 to March 31.

The committee, which comprises graduate, law and medical school senators from SGC-MMC, focuses on representing graduate students and working to educate undergraduate students of the work that will be expected in grad school.

“We have guest speakers come out and we allow students to present their work that they’ve been doing while they’re in school. It gives them a chance to promote themselves and all the great things that they’ve been doing in their courses with the help of professors and mentors,” said Mwai Osaah, the chair of GSA.

Osaah said that there will be presentations from all of these events from graduate students of each college I’m not in,” he said. “I spoke with the manager out there and he said that when he opened the location he had grad students in mind because there was nothing geared specifically to grad students, so it’s a very fitting location.

In addition to these events, there will be presentations from graduate students of each school, which Osaah says he’s most excited for. “I like the presentations because it allows me to get a glimpse at the future of who my colleagues I’m not in,” he said. “You have all these different presentations from all of these different first generation students.

This year, the week will focus on innovation. Osaah says it’s a major priority for GSA because the organizing that is being done by students in their first generation students. GSA has a theme but it’s a tradition he’d like to see continue.

“I don’t think any student who is involved in the school has a whole lot of range of things,” Osahar said. “For example, some student in the educational field might not be asked immediately how they play an innovative role in the future, but once you pose that question they’ll have the time to think about how educators help with innovation, leading them to understand they foster creativity in the student.”

According to him, the events are created to provide graduate students the opportunity to hone their skills for the professional world.

“[Presenters] have the ability to educate someone who may not have any idea of what’s going on in that field at the time. If the presenter is a glider and they can draw back and be memorable down the road as someone who knows how to do a niche thing,” Osaah said.

The events taking place during GSAW are open to the students of graduate and undergraduate students. The events will kick off with a symposium Monday, March 27.

Graduate Student Week

Committee plans week-long event

DOUGLASS GAVILAN
Editor in Chief

The week of events consists of a symposium, keynote address, comedy show and networking social.

“The social is going to be on Thursday at Vick’s (sic) and they have an event that night as well which is an open mic night, so it should be fun,” Osaah said. “I spoke with the manager out there and he said that when he opened the location he had grad students in mind because there was nothing geared specifically to grad students, so it’s a very fitting location.

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Club to host debate on minorities’ concerns

MARTINA BRETOUS
News Director

The Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success organization wants their voice heard by SGA candidates in this upcoming election so they will host their own debate in collaboration with other minority-focused groups on campus.

“We feel that being part of the SGA election is very important being that, our voice isn’t really heard as much as it should be and … that’s an issue,” said Kelsey Youte, president of M.A.L.E.S.

“We want to make sure our concerns are being heard as well.”

M.A.L.E.S. will host the debate with the presidential and vice-presidential nominees at the MMC on March 29 to discuss issues and concerns by minority groups at the University.

“It’s very important that people get involved in any election process. Right now, we’re in college but college is a really good representation of what you see in the outside world as far as voter turnout and things people care about,” said Mwai Osaah, treasurer of M.A.L.E.S and graduate senator candidate. “When the wrong person gets elected or someone that doesn’t do the right thing once they gain office, people complain.”

Osahar added that this is a great opportunity to understand the voting process and allows students to voice their concerns directly. While SGA will host a separate debate on March 31, the organization feels that mostly address general University issues like parking and transportation.

“We reached out to the Global Indigenous Group and CSA, those smaller groups that haven’t really risen to the forefront...” said Osaah. “[Then] within their organization, they are going to come up with questions of their own and bring them to the table so they can address them at the debate.”

The organization stressed the importance of not disclosing the questions before the event to prevent any scripted speech.

“We want them [candidates] to answer honestly, we don’t want them to have any preparation or give any scripted answers when it comes to certain things,” said Osaah. “We want to make sure they’re supporting the right candidate … not the person that has the best scripted answer.”

The debate is from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29 at the Parkview multi-purpose room.
Students ‘freak out’ over funnel cake

Freak Out: 51
Speed/Mach 3: 5
Mega Drop: 21
Crazy Mouse: 26

Expanding the Fairgrounds is ‘not used to the best of its abilities’

I think that the idea of Miami Youth Fair coming around is something that gives us a warm and fuzzy feeling. We have all gone to the fair with our families, pigged out on all the different foods that they offer and of course, rode the rides until we felt like we were going to be sick.

But what happens when the fair starts to interfere with our normal lives? This is the issue that has been presented to the FIU community. Every year the Fair comes to town for a few days. You have to think; is this worth it in the long run for FIU when we have the need to expand?

Last year was the first time I ever attended the Fair. Prior to going, I had heard rumors that the Fair would not be around much longer because the property now belongs to FIU.

Nevertheless, I attended the Fair and had an enjoyable time with friends. But this fun event is something that only lasts a few days. And before you know it, the rides are being taken down and packed up, only to sit around for another year before it was once again time for the Fair.

This is not to say that the land is not used throughout the rest of the year. But it’s just not used to the best of its abilities.

FIU has bigger plans for this large amount of land, however, according to the Miami Herald, FIU “unveiled a 150 million dollar engineering center that it wants to build on 64 acres of county parkland.”

When I think about it, the decision is not as easy as it may appear. On one hand, we have a community that is passionate about traditions and having a place as an outlet for entertainment. But on the other, we have a community of students and staff who would benefit from expansion.

Many students want more parking and a bigger and better campus. We want the money that we are putting into the school to be reflected in and around campus.

Like President Rosenberg said, “sometimes hard decisions have to be made...The mayor has the power of leadership” and “understands, if he’s really committed to jobs, what is at risk here.”

Personally, I think that if we are going to be “Worlds Ahead” then it’s time that we start using the land allocated for the Youth Fair to help enhance our campus.

This is not only a matter of convenience, but enhancing our campus. We want the money going to cater our own wants and needs.

Some people want old traditions to continue so they can continue going to the Fair each year. Personally, I would love to see the land used for more parking and room for classrooms.

I am a hospitality major and although it may sound boring, I am dedicated to this major, I think we would have more luck using the land for some of the things mentioned above.

Eyes on the Earth

Students voted the least for Speed/Mach 3 giving it only five votes but voted Freak Out their favorite by giving it a total of 51 votes.

Interest in Crazy Mouse and Mega Drop fell in between these two extremes. Crazy Mouse received 27 votes while Mega Drop got 21 votes.

The second poll asked students to vote for their favorite snack at the fair. They had five choices to pick from including funnel cake, corn dogs, popcorn, smoked turkey leg, and cotton candy.

Cotton Candy was the snack the least voted for earning only 12 votes out of 100. Funnel cake on the other hand got 49 votes, securing its place as student favorite.

Corn dogs fell behind with 18 votes, popcorn had 15 votes; the smoked turkey leg had 14 votes.

Whether their favorite ride or snack earned the top spot in these polls or not, students can’t wait until it opens on March 23 and enjoy an enjoyable time with friends. But this fun event is something that only lasts a few days. And before the Fair would not be around much longer because the property now belongs to FIU.

If we could all have our own way, I am sure that we would like different things to be done with their land. We all want something that is going to cater our own wants and needs.

Election season may be long passed, but in April students will be able to vote for the new president and vice president of the BBC Student Government Council.

In the face of this coming transition, certain members of SGC-BBC reflect on the goals achieved during their time in office, and those that were not quite finished.

“We have increased the followers on social media by engaging students through [numerous] social media sites. The town hall meeting was something we also did. We met with the Bayview students to hear and listen to their issues,” said Leonardo Cosio, junior broadcast media major and current vice president of SGC-BBC.

Though certain goals were met, there were still some that Cosio felt he personally has not realized yet.

SGC-BBC: ‘Keep on more don...’

SGC-BBC reflect on the goals achieved during their time in office and the issues that the town hall meeting was something we also did. We met with the Bayview students to hear and listen to their issues,” said Leonardo Cosio, junior broadcast media major and current vice president of SGC-BBC.

Though certain goals were met, there were still some that Cosio felt he personally has not realized yet.

Radio staff

Guiana Major, a junior studying mechanical engineering is an SGA Frames the Future member. By offering her own talent in sound engineering, she is able to work on more don...
SGA FRAMES THE FUTURE

pursuing’ student concerns

I haven’t accomplished working the BBC shuttle, I think a lot more work needs to be done. I have a lot on it, but I hope the new administration [will] put the same amount of work into it, if not more administration will put the same more work needs to be done. I have working on the BBC shuttle, I said Cosio. With his time in his current office going to a close, Cosio reflects on how he got his start in SGC-MMC, helping a friend who was running for senator. “Through the whole process, I got to meet important individuals that were already in SGA, so I was able to apply to the MMC cabinet and join. My friend who was also running joined as well,” said Cosio. Because Cosio is majoring in broadcasting, he was switched over to BBC and from there he transitioned over to chief of staff, which oversees the cabinet. Cosio also shared his final words he would like to say to the new administration. “I just want to encourage the next administration to keep pursuing all those different things we have been doing this year,” said Cosio. Leonardo Cosio plans to run for president this term to make sure that these issues are addressed. Election times are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4 and Wednesday, April 5.

SGC-MMC wants extended break in fall

Juarez says that fall break will definitely be on her platform for president. Other issues that this year’s SGC-MMC administration wishes they could have covered better include engaging students at the engineering center, and better educating students on FIU resources. On behalf of this year’s SGC-MMC administration, Juarez encourages the next administration to “take into consideration, not just one issue… but look at [the issues at FIU] from a big point of view” and collaborate consider collaborative issues between MMC and BBC student government.

brings ‘roar’ to Miami Youth Fair and Expo

The Fair arrives soon to MMC, and one of our own is helping to ensure that it gets up and running, and that the music stays pumping. Quiana Major, junior mechanical engineering student and assistant engineer at “The Roar,” is currently working in tech services for the upcoming Miami-Dade County Fair. “I build stages, I set up sound systems, and I run the sound systems. Unofficially, it’s pretty much just like the Miami-Dade County Fair. There are some surprises in store for anyone attending the annual fair, working for the fair is a fulfilling experience. “I’ve been going to The Fair since I was a kid, and I always wanted to work there [because of the] nice sounds and lights and people having fun; it’s just an enjoyable experience. I always wanted to be a part of that in some way,” said Major.

For someone like Quiana Major who grew up attending the annual fair, working for the fair is a fulfilling experience. “I can’t really give too much on what different types of shows are gonna be there, but I can tell you there’s going to be local bands on the local stage… that’s the only thing I can tell you,” said Major. For any student wondering how to get a job at the fair, Major said that she got her job by word of mouth. She was recommended by a friend of hers to the staff of the upcoming exposition. As for benefits that come from working for The Fair besides the experience, Major says, “you get discounts on tickets and you get free admission for yourself.” For someone like Quiana Major who grew up attending the annual fair, working for the fair is a fulfilling experience. “I haven’t accomplished working the BBC shuttle, I think a lot more work needs to be done. I have a lot on it, but I hope the new administration [will] put the same amount of work into it, if not more administration will put the same

Fair priced: Youth Fair offers discounted tickets

Students might remember the Miami Youth Fair last year for a number of reasons, including the heavy traffic and relentless sound of amusement teasing their walk to and from classes for 3 weeks straight. For those students who plan on joining in on the festivities this year, here are some tips for making the most of your visit.

“Just the Tip” is a visual column of life hacks and tips for navigating college life successfully.

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<td>29</td>
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<td>“Bring your FIU ID to get free admission to the fair”</td>
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PantherNOW.com Panther Magazine – Thursday, March 23, 2017 PantherNOW.com
Students living in pro-expansion bubble

WAIT FOR IT


to playing devil's advocate, there is another side to this story. According to our editorial, the reason why FIU and the Fair are still fighting all comes down to a legal contract—a lease. Under this 90-year lease with Miami-Dade County, the Fair is entitled to Tamiami Park until 2085. This means that if they don’t want to pack up their bags and go, they legally don’t have to. Only the county has the power to evict them, but as their 1995 lease agreement states, if evicted, the county would be required to find a location that the Fair considers to be of equal value, pay for the relocation, and reimburse them for any removal, reinstallation or improvements they made “within the Fairgrounds or elsewhere in Tamiami Park, or other County or Park property.” Under this contract, the county would have to reimburse the Fair $93.7 million for its improvements alone, according to the 2015 appraisal that was conducted by Slack Johnston Magenheim for both The Youth Fair and FIU. Now if in 2017, it would probably cost more. However, a 2014 referendum (which passed with 65 percent of the vote) transferred this burden. FIU now has permission to expand onto 64 acres of the fairgrounds, voters said, but the University must ensure that “no county funds be and frankly, it just sounds too expensive: relocation alone is estimated to cost $115. 2 million to $32.3 million depending on what location you look at. These figures also don’t include the purchase of land. Plus, while the actual Youth Fair may only come once a year, it hosts 70 events yearly at its convention center and shares a portion of its revenues with the county. If it’s moved to the wrong location, the county could lose a considerable amount of money.

Expansion, financially speaking, would only benefit FIU as more space would lead to more enrollment. And let’s not forget that tuition increases tend to be connected to enrollment.

So, if the county can’t pay it because of the ballott’s language specifically saying “no county funds” and FIU can’t pay it because of its state dollar budget, then who can?

Our destiny: take over the fairgrounds

It’s unfortunate that the Fair is only here for a month through- out the year and the rest of the year, the fairgrounds stay empty.

Keshia St. Louis
Creative Director

Public Relations Student Society of America

It has even been reiterated, for those who are concerned about the cost of this relocation, that “FIU said county money will be used for the expansion work.” The problem is though, the Fair refuses to move. They still have 70 years left on their lease and will only be removed if the event is evicted from the premises.

In a letter to County Hall, the fair dismissed as “unsustainable” a proposal that it move to fairgrounds equipped with only temporary buildings and structures that could be removed once the four-week event ends every spring. That scenario called for the Fair to continue using a collection of buildings at the Tamiami site for a year-round schedule of smaller collectible shows, consumer expos and banquets that account for about 9 cents of every dollar the fair’s parent organization earned last year,” as stated on miamiherald.com.

Yes, it may be a hassle to find another location to put the Fair, and I know that the territory is used for other events besides the Fair, but the ends justify the means. A university is meant to expand. It’s just human nature. The population will never remain the same. It’s steadily increasing and with that growth comes the possibility of change and hence, expansion. I’m pretty sure that no matter the distance, the impact that the Fair has on the people who’ve attended it will not cease and that love will move with the Fairgrounds.

Fabienne Fleurantin is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, Politicidiez, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide.

Panther Magazine – Thursday, March 23, 2017

PantherNOW.com
The battle with the Fair needs to end

Panthers should care about SGA because we all attend FIU, and in the end, we are the ones that can make or break FIU.

It’s because of SGA that funds are properly allocated for the benefit of all students. It’s also because of the work that the Senate, working closely with the administration, is able to do in order to ensure that the FIU community, fellow Panthers should know and understand SGA is a group of students and social issues, many students don’t know about SGA or what it is they do.

Since its establishment in 1973, FIU’s Student Government “has continued to strive for excellence in the lives of all Panthers.” Despite SGA’s potential to represent students and act in their best interests on academic, extracurricular and social issues, many students don’t know about SGA or what it is they do. As part of the FIU community, fellow Panthers should know and understand SGA is a group of students and social issues, many students don’t know about SGA or what it is they do.

SGA works in coherance with the ideology of checks and balances, thus is divided into the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. Each school year, SGA works tirelessly to expand our university’s efforts, engaging local, state, and federal officials to help accomplish goals.

In order to do so, SGA requires the concern and participation of the FIU student body because only can we say what needs to be fixed and what can be enhanced.

Several students I spoke to had no idea what SGA was or what it does, while others felt like SGA was inactive or inefficient. As a result, students’ voices do not count as much to their elected student officials for help, do not care to keep up with what their student government is doing, and do not vote in student government elections.

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Every year there are handful of articles and op-eds covering the great battle between FIU and the Youth Fair, and each story uncovered more details that prove the battle is an even messier situation with no determinable outcome. There are too many factors for years has for years been the 64 acres of fairgrounds, situated in Tamiami Park, in order to build a $150 million engineering complex, new dorms, and a host of other academic and research-oriented projects. Now the problem is that the Fair currently holds a 90 year lease – good until 2085 – on Tamiami Park. Even though FIU has suggested funding the relocation of the Fair in Homestead, the Fair argues that we stop trying to fight the Fair. The petitions, the public backlash, the referendums, and any potential court cases – none of these may make a difference in the student in the future. There are too many factors for years has for years been the 64 acres of fairgrounds, situated in Tamiami Park, in order to build a $150 million engineering complex, new dorms, and a host of other academic and research-oriented projects. Now the problem is that the Fair currently holds a 90 year lease – good until 2085 – on Tamiami Park. Even though FIU has suggested funding the relocation of the Fair in Homestead, the Fair argues that they have been succumbing. If construction is absolutely necessary, maybe the school should look into building vertically instead of using more open land. 300 years ago this time to pick our battles, and taking over the fairground might have to be a sore that FIU stops agoraphobia until at least 2085 when it has a little more leeway.

SGA is your voice

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Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents.

Send Us Your Letters

Have something on your mind? Send an email to opinion@fiusm.com. Be sure to include your name, major, and year and a photo of yourself. Letters must be less than 400 words and may be edited for clarity and length. Panther Press will only run two letters a semester from any individual.
As the Nature Preserve has come to an end, new practice fields for FIU athletics are on the works. The University is planning to build new practice fields for the athletics and recreational program. The fields will be located at the Northern region of the Nature Preserve located right in the center of all the athletic fields. President Mark Rosenberg, administration and board of trustees supported the endowment of the Nature Preserve and the renovations for athletics. Some athletes believe this would help expand FIU, too.

“You can’t go anywhere without seeing any construction,” said senior linebacker Anthony Wint. “It’s good to see the University building and growing. I think we’re like the fifth big university and by the time all the construction is done, we might be the second behind Arizona State. That’s big things having more people come to our school, more alumni, and a bigger atmosphere.”

In addition to a new practice field, the program is also adding brand new turf inside Ocean Bank Field, and a jumbotron to the stadium to attract fans, according to first year head coach Butch Davis. “It’s exciting to see all the projects that we got going on,” said Davis. “Adding the jumbotron will be great for the fans and will give great videos during instant replays and a lot of school board and advertisement. The two new practice fields, we’re anxious for that. We get a chance to practice on grass as well as field turf.”

Rosenberg is all in with the new beginning for the football program and the Butch Davis era, according to Davis and a couple of the returning starters from last season. “It means a lot for our president to sign a check and all that to let us know that the school is behind us and want us to achieve great things,” said senior quarterback Alex McGough. “I know that he cares about us as individuals. It’s not the first time he talked to us. He probably talked to us four or five different times since Butch Davis got here. So, he really cares and we’re starting to see that and it’s really helping us a lot.”

Alian Collazo, president of the Student Government Association, supported the students who wanted to keep the preserve. Knowing that the University is limited with spacing, Collazo also understands the necessity of practice fields for the athletics. “I would have preferred that the preserves weren’t touched,” said Collazo. “But there is big massive need for both athletes and recreational sports and the thing about FIU is that there’s isn’t enough space. That’s the reality.”

Even though the North side of the preserve is gone, the Southern region of the preserve, where it is filled with swamped grass and damp areas, is still intact. Collazo and SGA are working on projects involving it, according to the SGC-MMC president. They will develop what is called the green project, in which they will be adding more wetlands and a natural lake that is institutioned with the reserve. “We want the Southern portion to be organized around and what was in the Northern part, being the same type but better and wetlands still existing,” said Collazo.

The SGA president didn’t comment on the costing of the project, but is grateful of the funding that was received for the project, along with other projects in the future. Even though the Nature Preserve is lost, Collazo is looking forward to developing the green project as he reaches toward the end of his term as SGA president. “The best thing that came out of this was the money given to the green project will be in for sustainability that would not only affect the preserve but all of the MMC campus,” said Collazo.

SGA and FIU athletics will still be working together going forward despite the disagreement of the preserve. The renovation is under construction and the date has yet to be announced on when the the practice fields will be ready.