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## Meeting Minutes 04.10.96

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Florida International University

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Student Government Council

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL BI-MONTHLY MEETING

MINUTES RECORDED ON  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1996  
3:30 P.M.

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Brian D. Abramson, Finance Chair  
Safiya Burton, Lower Division Representative  
Steven Chung, Broward Representative  
Jeff Dismukes, Graduate Student Representative  
Tanisha Drummond, Clerk of Council  
Amy Ernst, SJMC Representatives  
Liliana Gomez, Student Services Chair  
Julian Humphreys, Vice-President  
Michael Madrideojos, Senator  
McLamarre Mompremier, CUPA Representative  
Kristina Nikolic, Lower Division Representative  
Arthur Papillon, Jr., President  
Ellen Plissner, Associate Director  
Simone Reid, HM Representative  
Joanna Wedderburn, Director of Student Lobbying  
Julianna Watson, Academic Affairs Chair

### ABSENT

Alison Austin-Greene, Graduate Student Representative  
Jeannie M. Lacroix, School of Nursing Representative  
Ryan Mathews, Senator

### GUESTS

Arnetta Davis  
Johane Jean-Baptiste

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:41 P.M. by Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr., SGC President.

Following Roll Call, Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that he would like to entertain a motion to accept the minutes for the July 26th meeting, provided that there were no corrections. Mr. Brian Abramson stated that he mentioned that University Park Campus would not be interested in funding \$90,000 for the Wolfe University Center, in fact they would block it. Also, both he and Alex Martinez (Comptroller, University Park) were against forming a University-wide Homecoming Council. Mr. Julian Humphreys made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; Mr. Jeff Dismukes seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (ARTHUR PAPILLON, JR.)**

Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that he was displeased with the present status of Student Government Council. Not only did he feel the Council was disorganized, he felt that the SGC was in a state of limbo. He reminded the Council members that their duties and responsibilities were discussed at the Retreat. As there were only 3 weeks left before the beginning of school, the President encouraged the Council members to begin planning and organizing immediately; once school started, it would be too late. He then opened the floor for any comments and suggestions.

Mr. Abramson expressed his belief that there was too much cross involvement between Student Government Council and Student Programming Council. The President responded by saying that if this was the case, then SGC, as a body, needed to make adjustments. In addition, if any Council member is not fulfilling his/her requirements, said individual will not receive emoluments.

Ms. Ellen Plissner said that she felt that SGC was moving in a positive direction. She has seen an increase in the commitment of Council members and felt that they were taking SGC more seriously. She also recommended keeping a log of SGC office hours. Mr. Papillon, Jr. reminded the Council that each member must schedule 5 hours per week in the Student Activities Office (mandatory). Mr. Humphreys suggested allocating time in SGC meetings to Council members, in order to monitor their progress. Mr. Jeff Dismukes stated that he felt it was important to keep a positive focus at all times. He did not feel that the Council was disorganized; but was in a transitional period. As they have began a new committee, he suggested that the President start disseminating as much responsibility as possible. Mr. Papillon, Jr. agreed, but said that he felt the Council needed to be more collective.

### **ADVISOR'S REPORT (ELLEN PLISSNER)**

Ms. Plissner discussed the preparation of Student Activities and Wolfe University Center for the first weeks of school. She urged the Council to have programming within the first three weeks of school in order to attract the attention of the freshmen. While it is a hectic time, she encouraged members to take advantage of the freedom in their schedules. Once again, start planning NOW.

Ms. Plissner then gave an extensive list of ideas and activities that WUC would be participating in and persuaded Council members to become a part of. In addition, she informed SGC that the Grand Opening of the Ballroom would be coming in the next few weeks. As the SGC President would be speaking at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, she felt this would be a good opportunity for the new Council to receive exposure.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **FINANCE**

Mr. Abramson stated that the Finance Committee had met today, to discuss and review requests made to the Council, which included the Honors Club (\$4494), Catholic Ministry (\$104), Volunteer Action Center (\$1700, Alternative Spring Break) and Phi Beta Lambda. Mr. Abramson announced that he was able to refer each organization to other sources. He also discussed his meeting with Carlos Becerra, which covered the sales of space in the Student Handbooks. Mr. Abramson discussed the fact that students who sold space in the Handbooks could receive a 10% commission. He announced that he would be speaking with the Legal Foundation for further information. Lastly, Mr. Abramson told the Council about his meeting with Marissa at University Park Campus, concerning requisitions.

### *ACADEMIC AFFAIRS*

Ms. Julianna Watson discussed her plans for the Fall semester, which included forums and/or discussions on campus. She also mentioned that Academic Affairs had held a meeting last Tuesday in the Student Activities Office. In addition, she announced that her Committee would be requesting \$100 from Student Government Council to help in the funding of upcoming events. Mr. Abramson informed her that Academic Affairs had its own account. She responded that her committee still required additional funds. For future reference, Ms. Watson informed the Council that Academic Affairs would be meeting at 11 A.M. on Tuesdays in the Student Activities Office. Mr. Papillon, Jr. requested that if Ms. Watson was going to schedule meetings in the Activities Office, she should book the Conference Room, as opposed to having meetings in the Student Government area. Ms. Plissner agreed, stating that Ms. Watson could schedule the room through Barbara, and other rooms through Jennifer. Mr. Dismukes asked where these Academic Affairs Forums would be held, and asked what would be discussed in these sessions. Ms. Watson referred him to her handout, which covered said material in detail.

### *STUDENT SERVICES*

Ms. Liliana Gomez apologized for not having a report at this time, however, she would be calling members to establish a date and time for her committee meetings. Most likely, she would be holding the first meeting on Thursday of next week.

### *DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LOBBYING*

Ms. Joanna Wedderburn distributed packets concerning her plans for a Lobbying Committee, which would consist of five members (preferably one representative per class). This team would be responsible for educating students on the issues, and attending meetings in the absence of the DSL. She also told the Council members about FSA's "Vision '96". Mr. Papillon, Jr. asked if Ms. Wedderburn could obtain materials for all Council members concerning Vision '96. Ms. Wedderburn stated that she would attempt to do so at the next scheduled FSA event.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### *SGC SCHEDULES*

Mr. Papillon, Jr. announced that his new office hours were as follows:

- ◆ Monday (12 - 2)
- ◆ Tuesday (2 - 4)
- ◆ Wednesday (9 -12)
- ◆ Thursday and Friday (9 - 11)

He then distributed schedule sheets and asked the Council members to put down the times that they were available for office hours. These worksheets were to be returned to Ms. Tanisha Drummond.

### *FRESHMAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM*

At this time, there were 50 applicants for the Internship Program. Mr. Humphreys would be meeting with Mr. Billy Jones, (SGC Vice President, University Park) who has been in charge of FIP for the past 2 years. For further information, all Council members were told to check their mailboxes within the next few weeks.

### *SCC PICTURES*

The President suggested a date (August 2, 1996 from 1 - 4 P.M.), which was met with some conflict. He informed the Council that they were trying to meet a deadline for the Beacon layout.

### *DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES*

Mr. Papillon, Jr. asked if each Council members was certain of what duties and responsibilities accompanied their position. Ms. Plissner responded that if Council members had any confusion as to what his/her position entailed, feel free to speak with the President privately. Mr. Papillon, Jr. suggested that this was the time and place to discuss such issues. Mr. Humphreys gave a brief account of the roles of all Council members. Mr. Papillon, Jr. added that he would like to see more programming geared towards the older FIU students.

### *UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES*

The President reminded the Council members of the importance of providing representation on all University-wide Committees, and advised Council members to sign up for as many of these committees as possible.

### *OLD REQUISITIONS*

At this time, the Council had not purchased any computers, as the \$2000 dollar requisition was not approved. However, SGC had purchased two printers. Mr. Papillon, Jr. asked for feedback from Council members on this matter. Mr. Dismukes expressed some concerns about the allocation of funds for a new computer. Ms. Plissner explained that the present SGC computers were outdated and could not be updated. Mr. Papillon, Jr. reiterated that the Council was in tremendous need of a new computer. Ms. Plissner agreed to put up \$1228 if Student Government Council could assemble the latter \$1000 to cover the cost of a new computer. The President stated that he would like to entertain a motion to transfer \$1000 out of the SGC General account for this specific purpose. Mr. Abramson made a motion to transfer \$1000 out of the SGC General account. Mr. Humphreys seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

### *STUDENT GOVERNMENT T-SHIRTS*

Mr. Papillon, Jr. the allocation of \$1000 for Student Government t-shirts (ask SPC for \$500?). Mr. Dismukes suggested that the Council decline from purchasing t-shirts at all. Ms. Kristina Nikolic inquired as to what the original purpose of the t-shirts was for. Mr. Papillon, Jr. responded that it was to publicize SGC; he felt the Council should have some form(s) of paraphenelia. The Council then discussed possible budget cuts and fundraising methods. Ms. Plissner suggested ordering items that students will use frequently (i.e. keychains, pens/pencils), and they should be available for the beginning of the school year.

Noting the time, Mr. Papillon, Jr. suggested meeting on August 2, 1996, to discuss the remaining issues on the agenda. At the close of the meeting, the Council had tentatively agreed to assemble on said date.

Ms. Safiya Burton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mike Madrideo seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.