

7-10-1996

Meeting Minutes 07.10.96

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL BI-MONTHLY MEETING

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

IN ATTENDANCE

- Brian D. Abramson, Finance Chair
- Alison Austin-Greene, Graduate Student Representative
- Steven Chung, Broward Representative
- Tanisha Drummond, Clerk of Council
- Julian Humphreys, Vice-President
- Jeannie M. Lacroix, School of Nursing Representative
- Michael Madrideojos, Senator
- Ryan Mathews, Senator
- McLamarre Mompremier, CUPA Representative
- Kristina Nikolic, Lower Division Representative
- Ellen Plissner, Associate Director
- Simone Reid, HM Representative
- Joanna Wedderburn, Director of Student Lobbying

ABSENT

- Safiya Burton, Lower Division Representative
- Jeff Dismukes, Graduate Student Representative
- Amy Ernst, SJMC Representatives
- Liliana Gomez, Student Services Chair
- Arthur Papillon, Jr., President
- Julianna Watson, Academic Affairs Chair



STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTING

GUESTS

- Carlos Diaz
- Keisha Minto

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:41 P.M. by Mr. Julian Humphreys, SGC Vice-President.

Following Roll Call, Mr. Humphreys stated that he would like to entertain a motion to accept the minutes for the June 5th meeting. Ms. Alison Austin-Greene made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; Mr. Brian Abramson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEARCH AND SCREEN COMMITTEE

Mr. Humphreys briefly explained that Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr. was presently attending the Search and Screen Committee Meeting (on the University Park Campus), concerning the Chief of Public Safety position that was previously filled by Mr. Harvey Gunson. There were approximately 120 candidates applying for this position, and both the President and the Vice-President, felt that the outcome looked prosperous. Mr. Humphreys also expressed the fact that he felt this was a step in the right direction, as it could be of tremendous benefit to the Student Government Council/Public Safety relationship.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Humphreys stated that he had spoken with both Carlos and Billy (University Park SGC President and Vice-President), prior to this meeting and they had informed him that the University Park Campus was already undergoing renovations for the Internship Program, on two levels:

Leadership symposiums were held once a month for freshmen. This is a way to increase the interaction of incoming students.

Recruiting volunteers to assist Student Government Council Projects.

One such project that Mr. Humphreys felt would require a contribution from Council members and volunteers, is the Registration Drive that is presently being hosted on the North Campus by two organizations, International Black Student Union and College Democrats. Mr. Humphreys also added that University Park was conducting its own Voter Registration Drive which was enjoying some success.

Ms. Austin-Greene mentioned that, if needed, she would be interested in manning a table at the next Registration Drive. Mr. Abramson inquired as to whether the Vice-President was still looking into establishing a polling station on the North Campus. Mr. Humphreys responded that these organizations would soon be distributing petitions concerning this subject.

ORIENTATION

Mr. Humphreys announced that this coming Thursday and Friday (July 11 and 12) were the dates for the next Freshman Orientation. He explained that SGC would need volunteers for Friday (July 12) to set up for the Club Fair. Several Council members (Mr. Ryan Mathews, Ms. Jeannie Lacroix and Maclamarre Mompremier) stated that they could possibly assist on this day. Mr. Humphreys encouraged them to stay after the meeting for further information. He also mentioned that he needed commitments for future Club Fair

dates, so that the SGC table would be occupied at all times. Ms. Ellen Plissner suggested that Council members sign up on a sheet of paper, indicating what hours they would be available to help with the SGC table, if any at all.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

UNIVERSITY-WIDE AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Ms. Plissner acknowledged the fact that the President, as well as the Vice-President, were signed up on a number of boards and committees on both the North and University Park campuses. She stated that it was important for all Council members to take a more active role in participating on University-wide and Standing Committees. She urged that it was the responsibility of the entire Council to do so, in order to assure that the North Campus was receiving the representation it needed.

Ms. Plissner also stated that she felt that Freshman Orientation had been progressing quite well, and encouraged the Council members to participate on a more regular basis.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Abramson briefly addressed the fact that certain purchase orders had been dropped. However, he informed the Council that he was unaware of which P.O.'s in specific. Other purchase orders, such as the T-Shirts and HALO, were still pending. He also stated that he had a productive meeting, earlier in the week, with Mr. Alex Martinez, Comptroller (University Park campus), concerning the budget.

The two discussed the A & S Fee increase, the budget and proposals. Mr. Martinez conveyed the fact that the University Park did not want the Graham Center to be funded more than \$ 1 million. In addition, University Park would not support shuttle costs. The creation of a University-wide Homecoming Council was not thought to be in the best interests of both campuses. Lastly, it was decided that Emoluments and OPS should be added to the university-wide budget, as opposed to the Student Government Council budget, which would account for \$20,000.

Mr. Abramson also announced that he would begin holding budget hearings soon, and was presently looking for budgets to be submitted. Ms. Plissner asked how far along Mr. Abramson was in budget negotiations, and wondered what these hearings were based on. Mr. Abramson responded that these meetings were based on proposed budget guidelines. A discussion on the format of budget hearings followed.

Ms. Plissner then inquired as to when these meetings took place. Mr. Abramson told her that they presently did not have scheduled meetings. Ms. Plissner suggested that Mr. Abramson attempt to get together some dates for the upcoming semester.

Next, Mr. Abramson discussed the SGC Carnival proposal (taking place on October 4-6, 1996), and suggested getting local city councils involved as well. He also mentioned considering the re-funding of the organization, Phi Beta Lambda, provided that they could furnish the Council with receipts for any and all purchases made.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

(Chair not present)

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

(Chair not present)

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LOBBYING

Mr. Humphreys stated that Ms. Joanna Wedderburn's report would be delayed, as she was running late.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEES

As there was some confusion to the date of the meeting, Mr. Humphreys apologized for the absence of Ms. Arnetta Davis who was scheduled to discuss all University-wide and Standing Committees and their duties. Instead, Mr. Humphreys suggested that Council members write down the various committees they were interested in joining, on a sheet of paper that was being distributed. He asked that this sheet be returned to Ms. Tanisha Drummond by the end of the meeting. Next, Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Abramson attempted to give a brief description of all the committees listed on the memo distributed by Mr. Humphreys.

APPOINTMENTS

As Ms. Austin-Greene was not at the last scheduled meeting, when a motion had been made concerning her appointment to the Finance Committee, Mr. Humphreys suggested that the Council address it now. On her behalf, Ms. Austin-Greene told the Council of her extensive background in finance, Hospitality Management and Tourism. Ms. Plissner asked if there were any special areas Ms. Austin-Greene felt should be funded. Ms. Austin-Greene responded that there were none. However, she was particularly interested in how student dollars are being spent. The voting passed unanimously.

SGC PICTURES

Mr. Humphreys stated that the date to take SGC pictures would be set, pending the status of the requisitions. As soon as this was settled, Mr. Humphreys, Ms. Drummond or Ms. Thania Cantave would call Council members to establish a specific date.

SPIRIT DAY

Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Papillon, Jr. had recently met with Ms. Mary Pankowski (North Campus Vice-President), who had designated every Friday, "Spirit Day". Ms. Plissner added that FIU was looking into giving out awards/special recognitions for "school spirit". This would be handled by a Council that was presently being created. She also encouraged Student Government Council to become a part of this.

NEW COORDINATOR

The new Student Activities Coordinator, Mr. Raphael Zapata, would be in on Monday. Mr. Humphreys asked that the Council members help him to feel welcome by attending a small gathering, in his honor, on July 17, 1996 at 3:30 P.M. in UC 363). On the same note, the last day for Mr. Derrick Veasey would be on Friday, July 19, 1996. Mr. Humphreys and Ms. Plissner stated that there would be a small gathering to celebrate in the Faculty lounge on Thursday, July 18, 1996.

SGC T-SHIRTS

Mr. Humphreys announced that printing of the Student Government Council t-shirts would begin, once funding can be allocated.

COMPUTER UPGRADES

Mr. Humphreys discussed the recent purchases of some computer equipment and software. He stated that this would be of tremendous benefit to the Council, as it would allow them to link up to all of North America, literally.

BEACON PRESS RELEASE

The Vice-President stressed the importance of issuing the Beacon Press Release, as it would allow the North Campus to have representation as well as help students get involved with issues concerning their campus. He discussed the fact that Ms. Amy Ernst was handling this, however, in the event that she could not, the responsibility for this would rest with Mr. Ryan Mathews.

NEW BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY-WIDE

Mr. Humphreys announced that he and Mr. Carlos Becerra (University Park SGC President) were trying to have a university-wide meeting, but could not set a date as yet. They had both proposed August 7, 1996, as the first date, July 31, 1996 was not good for Ms. Plissner.

ACCIDENTS

Mr. Humphreys briefly discussed the rash of accidents involving Council members that had

taken place lately, and gave an update on the status of the three Council members.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LOBBYING

Ms. Wedderburn informed the Council of the recent FSA Conference she and Mr. Papillon, Jr. had attended. While there were a number of issues discussed at this forum, the two main issues that were addressed were the approval of rate and tuition increases and a state-wide/national voter registration drive that was being implemented.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D.)

Mr. Humphreys announced that he had spoken to Mr. Billy Jones (University Park SGC Vice-President), who informed him that FIU had received clearance for a tower and would be going FM shortly. Mr. Humphreys announced the Radio Station meeting on Friday, July 12, 1996 (University Park) at 12:00 P.M. for further information concerning this matter.

The deadline for the Tri-Council calendar was July 17, 1996 at 1:00 P.M. Also, the Council would be creating a web page for the Internet. This web page would contain the SGC Constitution, past/present goals, forums and openhouses.

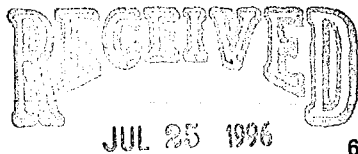
GET ORGANIZED

Lastly, Mr. Humphreys urged Council members to begin planning for the Fall and Spring semesters. He advised that Council members must continue to organize and plan for the coming academic year, as the summer was drawing to an end quickly; because once school begins in August, time would be limited.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mr. Humphreys announced that College Democrats would be holding a meeting on Thursday, July 11, 1996 at 2:00 P.M. in UC 363. In addition, International Black Student Union would also be holding a meeting Thursday, July 11, 1996 at 6:30 P.M. in UC 363. He also encouraged Council members to stop by the IBSU Book Sale that was taking place Mondays and Wednesdays in Academic One, from 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Ms. Simone Reid announced the upcoming dates for the HMSA Luncheons, which would be held on Thursdays and Fridays. She also distributed flyers with such information.

Mr. Humphreys stated that he would like to entertain a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Michael Madrideo; it was seconded by Ms. Lacroix. The meeting adjourned at 5:08 P.M.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTING



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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 Madridejos seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.