

9-20-1996

Meeting Minutes 09.20.96

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
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1996
3:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

- Brian D. Abramson, Finance Chair
- Thania Cantave, Administrative Assistant
- Tanisha Drummond, Clerk of Council
- Amy Ernst, SJMC Representative
- Liliana Gomez, Student Services Chair
- Julian Humphreys, Vice-President
- Jeannie M. Lacroix, School of Nursing Representative
- Mike Madrideojos, Senator
- Ryan Mathews, Senator
- McLamarre Mompremier, CUPA Representative
- Kristina Nikolic, Lower Division Representative
- Arthur Papillon, Jr., President
- Simone Reid, HM Representative
- Julianna Watson, Academic Affairs Chair
- Joanna Wedderburn, Director of Student Lobbying

ABSENT

- Alison Austin-Greene, Graduate Student Representative
- Safiya Burton, Lower Division Representative (EXCUSED)
- Steven Chung, Broward Representative
- Jeff Dismukes, Graduate Student Representative
- Ellen Plissner, Associate Director

GUESTS

- Whit Hollis (Acting SGC Advisor)
- Jennifer Capuano
- Avia Rice
- Chanelle Rose

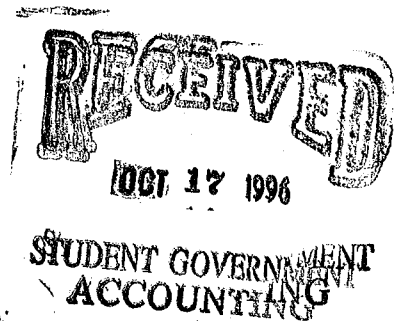
CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 P.M., by SGC President, Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr.

Mr. Papillon, Jr. asked the Council members to review the minutes as the sign in sheet was distributed. Ms. Tanisha Drummond found an error in the previous minutes concerning the Vision '96 Coordinator (Ms. Chanelle Rose). Mr. Julian Humphreys made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted (with the noted corrections). Mr. Brian Abramson seconded the motion. The vote passed: 9 in favor; 1 abstention (Ms. Kristina Nikolic).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President announced that he had received a phone call from Mr. Richard Correnti (Student Affairs) who expressed a despondence with the way in which both campuses were fundraising for the upcoming Florida Student Association (FSA) Vision '96 Conference. He (Correnti) did not believe



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that it was necessary for FIU to have two votes; it was counterproductive to the unity he felt the campuses should be displaying. He decided that he would be donating \$1,000 for both University Park and North Campus. The President clarified that Mr. Correnti had first spoken with Ms. Rose, Vision '96 Coordinator and explained to her that he was against each campus trying to raise \$5,000. Mr. Papillon, Jr. briefed Mr. Whit Hollis on the details of the previous FSA Conference that led up to FIU attempting to gain two votes. He explained that he felt each campus needed their own vote in order to ensure that the North Campus would have sufficient representation. The President also added that FIU would probably get the two votes, but the dues would be increased (\$8,000 - \$10,000). He asked for feedback from the Council members.

Ms. Nikolic commented that it was unfortunate that FIU needed two votes; but it was necessary. However, she could also understand Correnti's concerns, as far as unity is concerned. Ms. Simone Reid commented that FIU needed two votes because we are two different campuses; with separate unions.

Mr. Papillon, Jr. also commented that he felt the Council was falling short of the expectations and goals that SGC had set for themselves and affiliates. There was a brief discussion on the recent article published in the Beacon. Mr. Hollis commented that there have been positive strides made with the Beacon; many of the articles they are publishing are focused on the North Campus and the Wolfe University Center. He attributes this success to the work being done by the present SGC on the North Campus.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Humphreys announced the upcoming unveiling of the new Golden Panther logo on October 3, 1996 at 12 noon on the University Park campus. He stated that Ms. Amy Ernst is no longer with Student Government Council due to the fact that the majority of her classes are on the University Park campus. He then introduced a possible replacement, Ms. Julianna Watson who was a student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Ms. Watson spoke briefly on her behalf; explaining that she graduates in May, which would allow her to serve for one year. Mr. Brian Abramson asked if the Council was planning to advertise for the position and follow the interviewing process. Mr. Papillon, Jr. responded that at this time, the Council would be focusing primarily on Ms. Ernst's recommendations. Mr. Humphreys announced that there was another individual interested in this position, however she was unable to make it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Mr. Abramson discussed the University-Wide Council meeting that occurred last week Thursday, October 12, 1996. The meeting was reported to have gone quite well; significant strides were made as both campuses were able to agree on a 65/35 split. He also mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Hollis to transfer \$25, 000, which was never transferred to Wolfe University Center. He also mentioned that a discrepancy was discovered in the University Park campus' figures, concerning OPS monies (\$10,000 difference). Mr. Abramson spoke of his discussion with the SGC President in terms of the progress being made for computer purchasing, as the Council have not received anything. Mr. Papillon, Jr. suggested cancelling the order placed through Computer Services and purchasing the SGC computers elsewhere.

Finally, the Bay Vista Hall Council has finally submitted a Finance Report. The committee has also

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received this month's Finance Report from Recreational Sports. He mentioned that he had spoken with Mr. Alex Martinez, University Park Comptroller who expressed the fact that University Park was experiencing financial difficulties concerning Homecoming. Lastly, Mr. Abramson stated that he has completed the first draft of the contract for the sale of space in the Student Government Council Handbooks.

As for the University-Wide Council meeting, Mr. Abramson also felt that the meeting was productive. The A & S fee was raised from \$6.64 to \$8.25. The North Campus had wanted \$1.7 million for the Wolfe University Council, but received \$1.5 million. Mr. Michael Madridejos distributed handouts concerning proposed budgets. He explained that the Council tried to fund as close to last year's figures as possible. Mr. Humphreys asked that Mr. Madridejos make a correction to the proviso language concerning the advertising space in the SGC Handbook.

As for the Tri-Council Banquet, Mr. Abramson suggested one banquet to cover all facets of Student Activities (which would include Wolfe University Council). Mr. Hollis commended the Council's efforts to cut costs by having one banquet, but did not agree that this banquet should cover Wolfe University Council, as WUC has a different agenda, in terms of recognizing students.

Mr. Humphreys reminded the Council members that the handout is a suggestion; pending the Fees Committee's meeting. Mr. Abramson added that Mr. Correnti was in full support of the A & S Fees increase. There was a brief discussion in support of the increase. Mr. Hollis added that planning for this year's UWC meeting gives the Council more credibility than they have had in the past.

The next finance meeting has not been scheduled as of yet.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Julianna Watson stated that she spoke with Ms. Liliana Gomez (Student Services Committee Chair) and the two committees would pool the resources. She encouraged Council members to assist her with advertising in terms of informing students on Academic Affairs events. Mr. Humphreys inquired as to the status of the Teacher Evaluation Booklet. Ms. Watson responded that she is presently working on the project with the University Park Academic Affairs Chair. In addition, Ms. Watson and Ms. Gomez were planning a Book Market, which Ms. Gomez will discuss in report. Both the President and Vice President gave suggestions as to what Ms. Watson could do to solicit help from other Council members.

STUDENT SERVICES

Ms. Gomez discussed the progress she had made with her committee, in terms of dividing up responsibilities among her members, who would be reporting to her. Each member would be responsible for specific areas (ie Housing, Public Safety, etc). Next, Ms. Gomez gave the Council a run down of the conflicts and problems that students were experiencing.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LOBBYING

Ms. Joanna Wedderburn reported that there has been a positive interest displayed in participation on a Lobbying Team. Both she and her Vision '96 Coordinator (Ms. Rose) were keeping in touch with the students, and would be giving an update on the status of the Lobbying Team and Lobbying Committee at a later time. Also, the deadline for Vision has been extended to September 25, 1996. There was a brief discussion on the necessity for sponsorship in order to ensure that Vision '96 was

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a success.

NEW BUSINESS

The President suggested postponing the vote on the budget, as he would like for all Council members to have a chance to review the documents distributed in today's meeting. Mr. Abramson disagreed, stating that the Finance Committee had worked hard to develop said budget; he did not see any purpose in postponing the vote. There was a brief discussion on postponing the vote, which was eventually agreed upon.

In addition, the constant absences of Mr. Steven Chung was addressed. Mr. Madridejos and Mr. Abramson informed the Council that after missing three or more bi-monthly meetings (consecutively), the Council member is automatically removed from the Council (as is stated in the By-Laws).

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The President encouraged Council members to become participants in the TAGS Program being implemented by Big Brothers/Big Sisters (a flyer with all pertinent information was distributed). Ms. Wedderburn thanked the Council members for their efforts in making Vision '96 a success; however she encouraged the Council members to continue their efforts as there was still time left for students to sign up. Ms. Ernst commented that she had enjoyed her time serving as SJMC Representative, and that she wished this year's Council much success. Ms. Nikolic announced the upcoming Lower Division Forum for the freshmen and sophomores (a flyer with the pertinent information was distributed). Ms. Jeannie Lacroix announced that the recent Community Blood Drive was a success; they would be holding another on 9/30 and 10/1 from 10 AM - 4 PM. Mr. Abramson announced a College Democrats meeting which would be taking place on 9/25 at 4 PM. Ms. Watson reminded the Council members to check their box for flyers that they should distribute, in reference to upcoming Academic Affairs events. Ms. Reid announced upcoming luncheons, sponsored by Hospitality Management (distributed flyers) and the Job Management Club Fair taking place on 9/25 from 11 AM to 4 PM.

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Reid seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanisha Drummond



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