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Meeting Minutes 10.18.96

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

BI-MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES RECORDED ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1996
3:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian D. Abramson, Finance Chair
Thania Cantave, Administrative Assistant
Liliana Gomez, Student Services Chair
Whit Hollis, Acting Advisor (Ellen Plissner)
Jeannie M. Lacroix, School of Nursing Representative
Mike Madrideo, Senator
Ryan Mathews, Senator
McLamarre Mompremier, CUPA Representative
Kristina Nikolic, Lower Division Representative
Arthur Papillon, Jr., President
Ellen Plissner, Associate Director
Simone Reid, HM Representative
Julianna Watson, Academic Affairs Chair
Joanna Wedderburn, Director of Student Lobbying

ABSENT

Alison Austin-Greene, Graduate Student Representative (EXCUSED)
Safiya Burton, Lower Division Representative (EXCUSED)
Jeff Dismukes, Graduate Student Representative (EXCUSED)
Julian Humphreys, Vice-President (EXCUSED)

GUESTS

Everton Garvey
Avia Rice, BEACON Representative
Desdemona Joseph
Julio Fumero
Gudrun Reiner
Alexander Reyes
Mustapha Assurhain

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:42 PM by SGC President, Arthur Papillon, Jr.

A representative from the Community Blood Drive was present in order to formally thank

Student Government Council (North Campus) for assisting with their blood drive(s). She presented the Council with t-shirts and a plaque. She also announced that the North Campus had donated 23 gallons of blood.

Mr. Papillon, Jr. called for any amendments or corrections being made to the minutes that were submitted. Mr. Brian Abramson stated that there was a transfer of \$20,000 (as opposed to \$25,000). He also commented that his committee only made a recommendation for an increase in A&S fees. Ms. Kristina Nikolic made a motion to accept the minutes with the proposed changes. Mr. Michael Madrudejos seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Following a brief introduction of himself and the Council members, the President asked that all guests and attendants identify themselves.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

Mr. Whit Hollis gave a brief account of the upcoming I-LEAD Conference (affiliation of Association of College Unions International - ACUI) which will be taking place in New Orleans. Mr. Hollis stated that there was funding in the WUC budget for two students. Though he encouraged everyone to apply, he stated that there would be particular preference given to lower division students. The deadline for all interested participants was December 1, 1996; however, all paperwork must be turned into Mr. Hollis by November 15, 1996.

In closing, Mr. Hollis announced that he could not stay for the duration of the Council meeting. He requested that the Council address any budget issues and the implementation of the Elections Board as soon as possible. Mr. Abramson stated that the Council did not have quorum at this time. Mr. Papillon, Jr. also commented that four students would be attending the ACUI Region Conference in Puerto Rico, in the coming week.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Again, the President reiterated the success of the Vision '96 Conference that had taken place in Tampa, Florida. He also informed the Council of a newspaper article that had been featured in the St. Petersburg Times in reference to a specific incident. Ms. Joanna Wedderburn interjected that she felt the students were extremely well-behaved throughout the entire trip.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Abramson stated that there was nothing specific that he had to report on; however, he

did think the Council needed to vote upon the budget that was presented in a previous meeting. Again, it was stated that the Council did not have quorum, hence no voting could take place. Mr. Papillon, Jr. reminded the Council that the agreed upon budget, which was reached at the last University-wide Council meeting was of historical proportions (65/35 split).

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Julianna Watson distributed flyers for the Council members to pass out flyers to their respective colleges/schools for the upcoming Academic Affairs Forum. She added that Academic Affairs and Student Services were planning to do a Book Market (this was followed by a presentation from Ms. Watson and Ms. Liliana Gomez). Ms. Watson stressed the importance of assistance from all SGC members. The idea was to decorate the exhibition like a food market, with fruits and vegetables. This was followed by a brief discussion on the organization and interaction of the schools and colleges on the North Campus. Several Council members and guest suggested involving SMART in the matter.

STUDENT SERVICES

Ms. Gomez discussed last week's Student Services meeting (which the SGC President was able to attend). She announced that the committee was intending to hold a forum to response to suggestions that Student Services had received from students and faculty. This would assist the committee with programming in the Spring semester. She also mentioned the possibility of obtaining a column from the Beacon to discuss student concerns, such as the shuttle.

The President informed the Council and guests that within the next three months, FIU would have a guaranteed, reliable bus system. He also urged Council members to get involved if they witnessed any bus incidents; get names and numbers. Ms. Thania Cantave interjected that it was also important to keep students informed on the progress of these situations. A brief discussion followed on how to get students to record complaints.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LOBBYING

Ms. Wedderburn reiterated the President's earlier comments on the success of FSA's Vision '96 Conference. Overall, she was very pleased with the behavior of the group. Though there were some minor conflicts (broken down bus), she felt FIU was represented in a positive light.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Papillon, Jr. announced the pending arrangements for the Fall Festival, which would have an international theme. He stated that he expected the cooperation of all SGC

representatives and delegates from all departments on the North Campus. He also stressed that the Council needed to encourage diversity, which would be difficult as we would be catering to individuals ranging from 17 - 50 years old. The Council would also be asking administration to participate (the event would run from 12 PM - 5 PM). Ms. Cantave announced that the Council was expecting Mayor Alex Penelas, Carrie B. Meek, Kendrick Meek and Senator William Turner to be in attendance. Ms. Nikolic stated that administrators on the Panther Pride Committee should be invited to these meetings in order to give their input.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Chair

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Council needs to appoint a new Finance Chair as soon as possible. At this time, Mr. Madridejos is the only candidate that has expressed an interest in this position. Mr. Madridejos briefly spoke of his qualifications and answered several questions concerning why he felt he was the best nominee for this position.

HMGSA Computer

President Wangura of HMGSA has found that there is a persistent problem with those who are unable to remain in the United States because of an expired or unapproved visa. This results in the loss of valuable networking and/or job opportunities. HMGSA would like to begin a computer service that would help HM students in furthering their career. However, at this time they are simply unequipped with the necessary resources. Ms. Wangura stressed that a computer (not necessarily a new computer) with vast memory--that was accessible was the answer.

Ross Perot Campaign '96

Mr. President informed the Council that he had spoken with Mr. Ross Perot on October 17, 1996 in reference to visiting the North Campus on October 23, 1996. He suggested to the Council that this event be done in conjunction with the Academic Affairs Committee.

Panther Pride Committee

Ms. Nikolic summarized the purpose of this board, stating that its primary function is to promote school spirit on the North Campus. Ms. Ellen Plissner mentioned that there were considerable rewards and prizes that would be distributed (ie, a parking space for a semester, waiving of registration hassles). Ms. Nikolic stated that a meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 1996 to discuss the more intricate details of this committee and its purpose(s).

Change in Scheduled SGC meetings

Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that several Council members had expressed an inability to attend the SGC meetings at the scheduled time (Every other Friday at 3:30 PM); this needed to be addressed as soon as possible. Ms. Plissner commented that there would always be a conflict when scheduling a specific time for so many people, but this was a paid position, and as such, should be treated as a job. Mr. Papillon, Jr. echoed his agreement. Ms. Tanisha Drummond explained that she and Ms. Cantave had reviewed the submitted schedules of all Council members, and found that the only other feasible time for meetings would be on Saturdays after 2 PM. Ms. Drummond and Ms. Cantave also stressed that these were the only times they could possibly attend the meetings, as they had specifically requested these hours from their jobs. Many Council members agreed. Ms. Cantave stated that the CUPA Representative would not be able to attend the meetings at 3:30 due to academic and professional commitments; other members who had previously stated grievances had resolved the conflict(s) on their own. In closing, the President suggested moving the meeting time to 5:30 PM in order to ensure that all Council members would be able to attend the mandatory meetings.

As the Council had achieved quorum (following Mr. Maclamarre Mompremier's arrival), the President suggested the Council move to approve the budget. Mr. Madridejos made a motion to accept the proposed UWC budget as submitted; Mr. Ryan Mathews seconded the motion. This was followed by a brief discussion on the Finance Committee handouts. The vote passed unanimously.

As there were no community comments, Mr. Madridejos made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Mathews seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.