

2-24-1998

## Meeting Minutes 02.24.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Florida International University

## Student Government Council

**BI-MONTHLY MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 24, 1998  
2:00 PM**

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms. Valerie Blemur, Chief of Staff  
Ms. Safiya Burton, Vice President  
Mr. Ian Elbrand, Student Services Chair  
Mr. Delano Greene, Director of Student Lobbying  
Ms. Lakisha Holmes, College of Urban and Public Affairs Representative  
Ms. Nia Johnson, Lower Division Representative  
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Finance Chair  
Ms. Nadia McLean, Special Events Chair  
Ms. N. Jasmine Michel, Graduate Representative  
Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr., President  
Ms. Ellen Plissner, Advisor  
Mr. Craig Rapp, School of Hospitality Management Representative  
Ms. Avia Rice, Lower Division Representative  
Mr. Ian Richards, Representative-At-Large  
Mr. Plinio Sanchez, Student Advocate

### **ABSENT**

Ms. Tanisha Drummond, Clerk of Council  
Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair  
Mr. Alfred Inde, Broward Awareness Representative  
Ms. Elisabeth Jacobi, Public Relations Chair  
Ms. Giralda Merkman, Representative-At-Large  
Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr., President  
Ms. Carrie Silverman, School of Nursing Representative

### **GUESTS**

Mr. Mark Hatem  
Ms. Nicole Perkins

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM, by Ms. Safiya Burton, Vice President.

Ms. Burton commented that complaints had been made concerning the meetings not beginning on time, as well as not receiving the meeting agendas in a timely fashion (i.e., January 27, February 10, 1998).

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **FINANCE**

Mr. Gakunga Kihohia announced that no word had been received concerning the budget. The budget for University Park Campus - difficult transmission of information.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Ms. Nadia McLean discussed the success of the AIDS Walk. She informed the Council of another upcoming event, the Special Olympics which were scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 1998 from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM in the Stadium located on the North Campus. Ms. McLean mentioned that the basketball teams were doing quite well (she spoke of the opportunity to travel to their next game: 4 days/all expenses for the cost of \$59.00. Additionally, she mentioned that the first baseball game would take place on Tuesday, March 3, 1998.

Mr. Ian Elbrand stated that he attended the meeting of the Golden Council 100 last Monday night. He was not served food, due to his lack of identification.

## **STUDENT ADVOCATE**

Mr. Plinio Sanchez inquired as to who he would need to speak with in order to advertise in front of the bookstore. He would like to have access to this area/facilities for elections and additional special events. On a related note, he mentioned that he was utilizing his position at the campus gym to sign students up for the elections.

## **ADVISOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Ellen Plissner stated that SGC applications would be available tomorrow, and were due in the Student Activities office no later than Wednesday, March 11, 1998. On a related note, Elections Board applications were now available, and were due by Friday, March 6, 1998. In specific, Ms. Plissner mentioned that the Council should be looking for representatives that were well spoken. This was followed by a brief discussion highlighting what constitutes a good representative (i.e., presentation). She reiterated that it was the responsibility of the Council to recruit possible candidates. Ms. Plissner also addressed the problem of sick students in the office. She requested that students who were not feeling well, stay out of the office, as a benefit to the other students. Additionally, she spoke of the upcoming Student Awards. At this event, freshman interns, graduates and seniors (from both North and University Park Campus) would be recognized for their involvement and leadership skills.

Ms. Burton interjected to announce that the minutes had arrived, and should be voted on. Also, the sign-in sheet was distributed at this time. Council members stated that pages 4 and 5 were inaccurate. In addition, the minutes for January 27 were not complete (i.e., a motion was requested to have appointment(s) accepted). Ian moved to accept the motion. Mr. Craig Rapp seconded the motion. Vote: 7 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion carries. A separate motion was made for the minutes of the February 10, 1998 meeting. There was a discussion on the inaccuracies found within the attendance section. Mr. Kihohia made an amendment to include Mr. Mark Hatzen on the Guest list. Ian seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

A motion was made to decide who will be elected to a Representative-At-Large position. At this time, there were two candidates - Maura Dominguez and Mark Hatzen. Following a questioning session, Ms. Plissner reminded the Council that there were only a couple of weeks for the appointments to be valid until elections...persons who are elected to the Council do not take office

until Friday, May 1, 1998. This was followed by a discussion on whether or not individuals should be appointed at this time. Vote: 5 in favor of Maura Dominguez, 1 in favor of Mark Hatem, 1 abstention. Ms. Maura Dominguez was appointed to the position of Representative-At-Large.

### **ELECTIONS BOARD**

Ms. Plissner announced that thus far, 4 members have been appointed to the Elections Board, which left 7 available seats. Additionally, new flyers are available for the Elections Committee.

The cancellation of COSGA discussed, and it was also mentioned that VOX had received additional funding from both Councils and Dr. Paul Gallagher.

Student Programming Council applications were available at this time. International Student Services Week was fast approaching. The Council would be allocating \$500.00 towards this event. This was followed by a discussion on what the Council members thought of the redecorating that was taking place in the Student Activities office. It was stated that the new facsimile machine should not be out in the open. Nor should the computers, which were currently used by students. Mr. Kihohia stated that strongly believed the use of the computers should be reserved for the staff and the students. Mr. Rapp stated that he agreed with Ms. Plissner that the computers should not be made available to everyone, as the computers were overused. Following this discussion it was decided that there must be a consensus either way.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

It was also reiterated that office hours were mandatory. The approximate cost for the new time clock was \$300.00. Ms. Burton stated that there was a significant problem with people coming into the meetings late. She also apologized for the minutes and the agenda, and announced that a report would be produced for the next Council meeting (at this time, she requested individual job descriptions be submitted by Friday, February 27, 1998. Ms. Burton reiterated the value of group meetings (scheduled to begin today at 5:30 PM). Mr. Kihohia stated that a request was made for \$500.00 for Alternative Spring Break. It was questioned whether or not the funds could be used for other events. A motion was made to grant \$500.00 for International Student Services Week. Mr. Kihohia explained that there were enough monies available to fund both events. Ms. Lakisha Holmes stressed the importance of having a copy of the budget prior to voting on financial matters. Mr. Kihohia also announced that funds were available in the travel account as well, which would be discussed at greater length in future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tanisha N. Drummond, Clerk of Council  
Student Government Council, North Campus