

5-30-1997

Meeting Minutes 05.30.97

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

BI-MONTHLY MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1997
MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Safiya Burton, Vice President
Ms. Debra Goldman, Broward Awareness Representative
Ms. Lakisha Holmes, College of Urban & Public Affairs Representative
Ms. Nia Johnson, Lower Division Representative
Mr. Daniel Kerness, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Representative-At-Large
Ms. Giralda Merliman, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr., President
Ms. Ellen Plissner, Advisor
Ms. Avia Rice, Lower Division Representative
Ms. Donna-Ann Russell, School of Journalism & Mass Communication Representative

GUESTS

Ms. Melanie Bent
Ms. Tanisha Drummond
Ms. Mireidy Fernandez
Mr. Michael Madrideojos
Ms. Sherri Rossell, Broward Awareness Advisor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM by Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr., SGC President.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WELCOME

Mr. Papillon, Jr. welcomed new Council members and guests to the first meeting of the year. Although this was the first meeting, the President stressed the importance of maintaining order; this would not be a discussion session. If any Council member wanted to speak, he requested that he/she waited to be recognized. Additionally, the President asked the Council members to be conscious of the length of time utilized when asking questions or making statements/comments.

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

Next, Mr. Papillon, Jr. informed the Council of the various meeting he and Ms. Safiya Burton attended in the previous week. One meeting concerned the University's plans for Recreational Centers (one on each campus). \$22 million had been budgeted for University Park and \$6 million had been allocated for North Campus; hopefully the North Campus could secure an additional \$2 million. The cost for these buildings would be subsidized by the Health fee and a student fee (\$50.00 which would be added on to the tuition). However, Mr. Papillon, Jr., Ms. Burton and Mr. Carlos Becerra (SGC President, University Park Campus) were not in favor of students paying

until after the buildings were erected (a survey would be distributed to the students). As students would not be paying for the buildings initially, administrators felt it was unnecessary for the student body to know about the additional fee. The cost for the buildings would also be subsidized by CITF funds (\$3.5 million generated per year) and bonds. The University's primary concern was constructing a building that was not structurally sound, as was the case with the Residence Hall. Mr. Papillon, Jr. and Ms. Burton would also be visiting local universities, such as University of Miami to get ideas for our Recreational Center(s). Nevertheless, the President stressed that figures were not concrete at this time. Council members would receive a more precise breakdown of the figures in their mailboxes.

Another meeting Mr. Papillon, Jr. and Ms. Burton attended last week concerned the cafeteria. Bids for the cafeteria went out last week, and Student Government Council was not notified. Bid meetings were sessions in which outside vendors had an opportunity to make proposals and set up contracts with the University. The President explained that this was why it was important to have Council members on the University's committees. This year's Council members would be appointed these committees, to avoid a lack of student representation. Ms. Burton would be speaking about these particular issues in further detail.

APPOINTMENTS

Executive Assistant/Clerk of Council

The President introduced Ms. Tanisha Drummond, Clerk of Council for the previous academic year. He asked that each applicant limit the discussion of their qualifications to two minutes. The President asked if the Council had any questions for Ms. Drummond. As there were none, he called for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

Finance Chair

There were a total of five applicants for this position: Ms. Nia Johnson, Mr. Daniel Kerness, Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Mr. Michael Madrideojos and Ms. Comfort Usoro. Each candidate gave a brief discussion of their involvement with student clubs/organizations, as well as their qualifications for the position of Finance Chair.

The present Council members inquired whether or not they could vote. Mr. Papillon, Jr. informed them that they could. Ms. Ellen Plissner was not in favor of this, as it gave Council members an unfair advantage over the other applicants. A short discussion ensued concerning whether or not this was permitted. The President asked all applicants to step outside while the Council voted. Ms. Plissner reiterated why she felt the Council members running for this position should not vote. She reviewed the Constitution and By-Laws for a Point of Order. Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that if the candidates on the Council did not vote, we would not have quorum. A discussion continued

concerning the applicants. Ms. Lakisha Holmes asked, "How critical is experience with Student Government or FIU?" The President informed her that experience was critical. Ms. Burton added that while experience was critical, it can be learned, if the individual has the desire to learn. She informed the Council that she was on the Finance Committee last year and went on to say that she had specific concerns with its organization and planning. Lastly, she stated that "bad experience is the same as no experience at all." Ms. Plissner explained that the position of Finance Chair is two-fold. This individual must be able to handle funds/make financial decisions, as well as run the Finance Committee. Ms. Holmes moved to have a paper ballot. Ms. Goldman seconded the move. The applicants were asked to return to the meeting.

Mr. Papillon, Jr. informed the candidates that were Council members of their right to vote. However, the rest of the Council recommended that the running members abstain. They chose to use their vote. Mr. Kihohia was voted Finance Chair.

Student Services Chair

The only candidate for this position was Ms. Camille Aub (SJMC Representative for 1996-97). The President spoke briefly on her behalf, as Ms. Aub was unable to attend this meeting. Following several comments from Council members (concerning Ms. Aub's capabilities), the President called for a vote. Vote: Five in favor; three abstentions. The motion carries. Ms. Aub was voted Student Services Chair.

Academic Affairs

There were three candidates vying for this position, Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Ms. Giralda Merliman and Ms. Regine Benoit (absent). Ms. Fernandez, a transfer student from Miami Dade Community College, spoke about the skills she felt she could bring to the position. Ms. Avia Rice asked Ms. Fernandez about her former experiences concerning this position and Student Activities on a whole. Ms. Fernandez stated that she had previously participated in school clubs and organizations, however, she did not have much experience with the Academic Affairs Committee. She also mentioned that she was willing to learn and had the time to dedicate to this position, as she was currently not working. Ms. Burton spoke on behalf of Ms. Merliman, commenting on the level of dedication she felt Ms. Merliman could bring to the position. She also mentioned that Ms. Fernandez had shown considerable interest in this position.

The President called for a vote. Vote: Six in favor; one abstention. The motion carries. Ms. Fernandez was voted Academic Affairs Chair.

Student Advocacy (Previously Public Relations)

Ms. Burton clarified the responsibilities of this position, stating that this individual would serve as

a link between Student Services and Academic Affairs. The President spoke of Ms. Thania Cantave, the candidate running for this position. Ms. Plissner interjected that she was concerned about Ms. Cantave holding two demanding positions (Ms. Cantave is also SPC Special Events Chair), in addition to carrying a full-time course load. She reminded the Council that as Special Events Chair, Homecoming would be Ms. Cantave's first priority. She urged the Council to take these factors into consideration before making a final decision. Ms. Donna-Ann Russell asked Ms. Plissner to restate Ms. Cantave's current involvement with Student Activities. Ms. Russell then asked, "What happens if we don't vote her in?" The President stated that this was a position that could remain open if the Council did not vote in favor of Ms. Cantave. Mr. Kerness asked if this was a paid position. Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that it was (a paid position). Mr. Kihohia asked if Ms. Cantave knew about this meeting. Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that Ms. Cantave was aware of this meeting, however she was at the Student Programming Council Retreat in Naples, Florida. The President called for a move. Ms. Rice made a move to vote. Mr. Kerness seconded the move. Ms. Plissner suggested that the Council could speak to Ms. Cantave before voting. Ms. Goldman made a motion to table the vote until the Council could speak with Ms. Cantave. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion. Vote: 6 in favor; 1 abstention. The motion carried.

Special Events

As there were no applicants for this position, Mr. Papillon, Jr. explained the duties of the position to the Council.

Director of Student Lobbying

There were two applicants for this position: Ms. Melanie Bent and Mr. Ian Richards (absent). Ms. Bent spoke of her previous and current involvement with Student Government Council and Student Programming Council. The President called for questions. Mr. Kihohia asked if Ms. Bent was currently involved with anything other clubs/organizations. Ms. Bent stated that she was currently the President of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated. Ms. Plissner asked when Ms. Bent was expecting to graduate. She responded that she anticipated graduating in Spring 1998. Ms. Burton asked Ms. Bent if she would be able to attend meetings, such as the Board of Regents and the Florida Student Association (FSA). Ms. Bent replied that she would be able to do so. Mr. Kerness made a move to vote. Ms. Goldman seconded the move. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Bent was voted Director of Student Lobbying.

Representative-At-Large

There were two applicants for this position; one of which was Ms. Fernandez (newly-appointed Academic Affairs Chair). Ms. Fernandez announced that she would like to withdraw her application. Mr. Kerness stated that he and Mr. Kihohia had conversed about this matter and felt that the next in line (in terms of the votes acquired in the March election) had a right to the

position. Mr. Kerness said that Ms. Nia Johnson was that individual. The President questioned whether this was permitted, noting that Ms. Vanessa McBee was next in line. Nevertheless, she (Ms. McBee) had not shown any interest in the position since the end of the Spring 1997 term. Ms. Plissner stated that this was possible. However, the Council must consider the fact that an election had taken place. Mr. Kerness asked Ms. Johnson if she was in fact, interested in the position. Ms. Johnson stated that she was. Mr. Kerness commented that there was already a Lower Division Representative. Ms. Plissner and Mr. Papillon, Jr. informed him that two Lower Division Representatives were necessary. Mr. Kerness made a move to appoint Ms. Johnson to the Representative-At-Large position. As a Point of Order, Ms. Plissner stated that Ms. Johnson would have to reapply for this position. The President stressed the fact that this meant she would have to be taken off the Council and then reappointed; Ms. Johnson could very well lose her seat on the Council. Ms. Plissner mentioned that more emphasis seemed to be placed on the Representative-At-Large position, when the Council members were all equal in terms of voting. Ms. Burton asked why Ms. Johnson wanted the Representative-At-Large position. Ms. Johnson said she had initially wanted the Representative-At-Large position. Additionally, at the end of the semester she would be classified as a Junior. Mr. Kerness made a move to vote. Ms. Burton seconded the move. Vote: three in favor; two abstentions; 1 opposed. The President (tie-breaker) voted in favor of the vote. The move passed.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NEW OFFICE PROCEDURES

Ms. Burton spoke of the new procedures that would be in effect immediately. A time clock had been placed in the Student Government Council office space. When coming in to complete office hours, Council members would be responsible for punching in and punching out. They would also be responsible for turn in their card at the end of the week.

MEETINGS & CURRENT PROJECTS

Ms. Burton spoke of the two meetings she attended in the previous week. She was particularly concerned about the Cafeteria Bids meeting. As there were a number of student complaints about the cafeteria (i.e., selection of food, pricing), Ms. Burton scheduled a meeting with administrators, including Dr. Paul Gallagher to address these issues. She was also involved with the plans to implement a 24-hour computer lab on campus (which would be located in the old game room). She would present the Council with additional information after her meetings.

RECORDED OFFICE INFORMATION

Ms. Burton distributed the current office hours sheet and information roster. She requested that Council members correct any inaccurate information and return them to her at the end of the meeting.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Burton distributed a list of the University's committees and councils. She informed the Council members that they would each be assigned to at least one. Unless there was a reasonable conflict, it would be the responsibility of the Council members to attend these meetings; it was part of their duty as a Council member. She discussed the possibility of establishing a chair and committee among those members that were assigned to the same groups.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Lastly, Ms. Burton distributed two newspaper articles she obtained from the Miami Herald. These articles concerned tuition increases, as well as the penalties being inflicted on those students who were significantly over the 120 credit requirement (attached).

ADVISOR'S REPORT

Ms. Plissner introduced the new Broward Awareness Advisor, Ms. Sherri Rossell. Next, she informed the Council of the success of the recent Peer Orientation Ropes Course. Following the activities of this event, the peer advisors spent the night in the Wolfe University Center. It was Ms. Plissner's opinion that this would be a wonderful project for the Council to undertake. She also commended Ms. Holmes on the CUPA surveys she had distributed. Lastly, Ms. Plissner welcomed Ms. Russell to the Council, as she had not had the opportunity to attend the SGC Retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

OFFICE HOURS

The President announced that he intended to set his office hours in the evening. He also reiterated information about the time clock and the time cards. The President stated that this was a more accurate way of keeping account of office hours; which was in compliance with the FIU auditor. He warned Council members that he would not hesitate to withhold their paychecks if they did not abide by this rule.

FIU SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The President announced that Thursday, September 25, 1997 would mark the 25th anniversary of Florida International University. The committee meeting concerning this event was scheduled to take place on Friday June 6, 1997; Mr. Papillon, Jr. was the chair for this committee. The North Campus would be responsible for events taking place on its campus during that week. He would also be participating in the marathon run (from North Campus to University Park Campus). Ms. Plissner mentioned that there would be an unveiling of the Silver Anniversary Logo on the North Campus on Wednesday, June 4, 1997 at 12:30 PM. She was unsure of the exact location.

ORIENTATION

Mr. Papillon, Jr. distributed the schedule for the summer orientations (attached). He stated that

he expected each Council member to man a table at these events at least once.

PICTURE DATES

This year's Council would have two opportunities to take pictures. The attire would be formal and casual:

- Friday, June 13, 1997 (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)
- Friday, June 27, 1997 (4:00 PM - 5:00 PM)

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ms. Burton advised the Council to take advantage of the summer; this was the time in which to plan. She also congratulated the new members and wished them a good year. To those who were not appointed, she encouraged them to continue to stay involved in Student Government Council.

Ms. Merliman distributed notes from the meeting she had with the School of Nursing Associate Dean, Dr. Jacquelyn Hartley (see attached).

Mr. Papillon, Jr. announced that the next meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 13, 1997 at 5:00 PM in WUC 159.

Ms. Goldman made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Burton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Attachments (5)
053097.MIN



Florida International University

Student Government Council

MEMORANDUM

May 22, 1997

TO: FIELD(Name), FIELD(Title)
FIELD(Location)

FROM: Arthur Papillon, Jr., President
Student Government Council, FIU North Campus

SUBJECT: MEETING DATES

The Fall semester schedule for University-Wide Council meetings is as follows:

- Friday, June 13, 1997 North Campus, SGC Conference Room (WUC 355B)
- Friday, July 11, 1997 University Park Campus, Graham Center Room 305
- Friday, August 8, 1997 North Campus, SGC Conference Room (WUC 355B)
- Friday, September 12, 1997 University Park Campus, Graham Center Room 305
- Friday, October 10, 1997 North Campus, SGC Conference Room (WUC 355B)
- Friday, November 14, 1997 University Park Campus, Graham Center Room 305

For any further information, please contact me in WUC 363 or at extension 5697. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

APJ:td
APJ002

cc: Ms. Ellen Plissner
Ms. Barbara Levy

PANTHER PREVIEW ORIENTATION DATES 1997

NORTH CAMPUS

Wednesday, June 18	Super Summer Freshmen
Thursday, June 19	Super Summer Freshmen
Monday, June 23	Super Summer Freshmen
Tuesday, June 24	Super Summer Freshmen
Thursday, June 26	Super Summer Freshmen
Friday, June 27	Super Summer Freshmen
Thursday, July 10	Fall Freshmen
Friday, July 11	Fall Freshmen
Tuesday, July 15	Fall Freshmen
Wednesday, July 16	Fall Freshmen
Thursday, July 17	Fall Transfer
Wednesday, July 23	Fall Transfer
Thursday, August 7	Fall Freshmen
Friday, August 8	Fall Freshmen
Monday, August 18	Fall Freshmen
Tuesday, August 19	Fall Freshmen
Wednesday, August 20	Fall Transfer

School of Nursing -complaints and suggestions from my meeting with the Associate Dean Dr. Jacquelyn Hartley

*** The NCLEX (Nursing College Level Examination) had a passing rate of about 96%. The current passing rate is about 70% (a drop of about 26%). Dr. Hartley thinks that this is mostly due to the lack of computers available for Nursing majors use. The NCLEX is now held on the computers and the students need a seperate lab to use due to their errant schedule, even 5 or 6 computers.**

*** Nursing students have classes all day on Mondays and half day on Tuesdays. Wednesdays -Fridays, they have their clinicals and they don't have the time during the day to use the computers. The labs are usually full by the time most of these students can come to the school to use a computer.**

***Many students have to use the shuttle to the south campus to go home and they usually come from work to classes and then the ticket office is closed and they can't get tickets. I would suggest vending machines for tickets after office hours.**

State to students: Take too many courses and it will

TUITION, FROM 1B

count toward degrees, flunking a class or two, double majors or extra courses for the heck of it.

But if they hit the excess-hours mark before picking up a bachelor's degree, their academic fee will jump 50 percent. The penalty doesn't apply to fees supporting such activities as athletics, student government and health care, so their total tuition bill would rise by one-third.

For most students enrolling in universities as freshmen, it works out to 138 credit hours at regular tuition. The standard bachelor's degree is 120 hours of course work plus the cushion of 18 hours.

Transfer students get regular tuition for the minimum number of hours required to complete their degree plus 15 percent — a total of 69 hours for most.

Special allowances

The surcharge kicks in later for undergraduates in majors such as

engineering and some areas of music that require highly specialized training. The excess-hours surcharge will also apply to graduate students.

Is it needed? The Legislature thinks so. A Senate study completed two years ago showed that students accumulated an average of 21 credit hours above those required for their degrees before graduating — a figure most schools disputed.

The Legislature started moving toward its "excess hours" surcharge last year, raising the academic fee 25 percent for those who exceeded their allotted number of hours. No students who entered last year have had time to graduate.

On Friday, the Board of Regents incorporated the 50 percent surcharge and the Legislature's 7.8 percent increase in undergraduate, in-state tuition into the new fee schedule for the coming year.

Regular tuition for in-state

Students entering state universities this year will pay more if they exceed a new maximum number of credit hours for their degree.

undergraduates will average \$66 per credit hour — \$1,980 for students taking 15 hours a semester for two terms.

Florida public university students will still pay close to rock-bottom tuition, university system Chancellor Charles Reed said. It appears Florida tuition will rank 48th in the nation next year. This year, Florida is 49th, he said.

Ending the 'five-year plan'

At the 1998-99 tuition rate, the excess-hours surcharge would raise tuition to \$89 per credit hour for students who have exceeded their quota. That would raise tuition to \$2,670 for a student taking 15 hours for two

semesters — close to the national average for public university tuition.

Florida International University Provost James Mau said his institution will look at past students' performance to project how many current and future students might be affected. He predicts that only students who want to take extra classes enough to pay premium prices will feel the brunt of the policy.

"They're given four years' warning to avoid it," Mau said.

FIU will publicize the excess-hours surcharge and work on academic advising to make sure students can finish without paying the surcharge, Mau said.

The excess-hours surcharge is

part of an effort to get students moving through Florida's higher education system faster.

It started when legislators who were frustrated by complaints of state universities turning away applicants learned that the "five-year plan" has become the rule for full-time students, particularly at residential universities.

Graduation data showed that large numbers of full-time students around the state were taking 5½ years, six years or longer to earn a bachelor's degree.

Paring curriculums

Florida's large number of commuter students who go to college part time led legislators to shift their focus from time spent earning degrees to the number of courses taken before degrees are awarded.

Students who want to lengthen their college experience or don't want to go to 8 a.m. classes are just part of the problem, said Sen. Don Sullivan, R-Seminole, chairman of the Senate Ways and

cost you

Means Committee.

Sometimes, classes in a student's major fill up fast, so they wind up taking electives instead.

Some students do not receive adequate academic advice and enroll in classes they don't need. And even though they don't count toward a degree, flunked courses do count as excess credits.

The Legislature ordered community colleges and universities to pare curriculums to make sure that bachelor's degrees, except those requiring intense specialized training, can be completed in 120 credit hours.

"This effort is probably the thing that's going to directly affect more students than anything else we've done," Sullivan said.

To make sure students get the point, the Legislature also stipulated that students who flunk a course twice will be charged 100 percent of the cost of instruction for additional attempts.

MDCC tuition up 9 percent; 6 percent for FIU undergrads

By JACK WHEAT
Herald Staff Writer

Miami-Dade Community College tuition will rise nearly 9 percent this fall, while in-state undergraduates at Florida International University are looking at a 6 percent increase.

MDCC trustees passed an 8.6 percent tuition increase for in-state students this week. It will add \$85 to the cost of attending MDCC full-time for two semesters, making the total \$1,075.

In-state undergraduates at FIU taking the same number of classes will pay about \$1,584 — \$92 more than last year — under fee increases authorized by the Legislature and the Board of Regents.

The Legislature raised out-of-state and graduate tuition at state universities almost 11 percent. Out-of-state undergraduates will

The student body presidents of the five MDCC campuses endorsed the increase.

pay about \$263 per credit hour, in-state graduate students \$131.50 and out-of-state graduate students \$389.50.

The Legislature controls two-thirds of state university tuition. Regents set fees for activities like athletics and student government that vary slightly among universities.

The 8.6 percent increase at MDCC takes the community-college tuition to the maximum level the Legislature has authorized — \$44.80 per credit hour for in-state students.

The student body presidents of the five MDCC campuses endorsed the increase, said Julio Hernandez, co-chairman of the MDCC Collegewide Student Governance Leadership Council. "It wasn't an amount that would affect us that much." Students understand that MDCC is having financial problems, Hernandez said. "It was something we expected."

Most MDCC students attend part-time. For Florida residents, the cost of a standard three-hour college course will rise by \$10.65, to \$134.40, while fees for non-credit programs will rise from \$34.50 per hour to \$37.50.

For out-of-state students, tuition will rise from \$145 per credit hour to \$157.45 for credit courses. For noncredit classes, out-of-state tuition will rise from \$129.60 per hour to \$140.70.

Committee Appointments !!!

1. Computer Committee

- Safiya Burton
- Everton Garvis
- Nicole
- Annette Sandoval
- Nia Johnson
- Ian Richards

2. Cafeteria Committee

- Gakunga Kihohia
- Daniel Kerness
- Avia Rice

3. International Student Services

- Lakisha Holmes
- Ian Richards
- Donna - Ann Russell
- Giralda Merkman

4. Communication Committee

- Gakunga Kihohia
- Donna- Ann Russell
- Daniel Kerness

5. Handbooks

- Lakisha Holmes

6. Internship Committee

- Avia Rice
- Nia Johnson
- Daniel Kerness
- Camille Aub

7. Media Committee

- Donna-Ann Russell

8. Panther Rage

- Avia Rice
- Camille Aub

9. Survey Committee

- Kunga Kihohia
- Nia Johnson
- LaKisha Holmes

10. Athletic Committee

- Daniel Kerness

11. Registration Committee

- Camillee Aub
- Daniel Kerness
- Donna-Ann Russel

12. Bookstore Committee

- Geralda Merkman

13. Finance Committee

- Debra Goldman

University-Wide Committees

1. Media Committee

- Donna-Ann Russel

2. Universtiy Master Plan Committee

- Arthur Papillon Jr.
- Safiya Burton

3. Financial Aid Committee

- Nia Johnson

4. Academic Grievance
 - Academic Chair (TBA)
5. Affirmative-Action Committee
 - Kunga Kihohia
6. Student Fees Committee
 - Safiya Burton
 - Debra Goldman
7. Panther Rage Committee
 - Camille Aub
8. Traffic Appeals Committee
 - Arthur Papillon Jr.
9. Parking and Traffic Committee
 - Camille Aub
10. University Aid Committee
 - Annette Sandoval
11. Personal Safety
 - Annette Sandoval