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Meeting Minutes 09.24.97

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

BI-MONTHLY MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 24, 1997
5:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Camille Aub, Student Services Chair
Ms. Safiya Burton, Vice President
Ms. Melanie Bent, Director of Student Lobbying
Ms. Tanisha Drummond, Clerk of Council
Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair
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. Giralda Merkman, Representative-At-Large
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
Ms. Chanelle Rose, Graduate Representative
Ms. Donna-Ann Russell, School of Journalism & Mass Communications Representative
Mr. Plinio Sanchez, Student Advocate
Mrs. Anette Sandoval, School of Nursing Representative

ABSENT

Ms. Marvine Laurent, Chief of Staff

GUESTS

Mr. Ian Elbrand, Sophomore
Mr. Raymond Garcia, Junior
Mr. Alex Salinas, BEACON Representative
Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers, Bay Vista Hall Council Chair

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM, by Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr. The President welcomed the Council members and guests to the meeting. He mentioned to the Council that there was a reoccurring problem with documents/items being moved or removed from his office. As many of these documents/items were usually of grave importance, he informed the Council that there were a restricted number of people he wanted sitting at his desk (Drummond, Laurent). This was to be the procedure followed with Mr. Gakunga Kihohia's desk, as well.

He asked the Council to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Sandoval asked for clarification on the paragraph pertaining to the petition. She stated that her understanding was

that the petition was for graduate students; the language in the minutes seemed to suggest that the petition applied to all students. Several Council members were in agreement with her. Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that the petition would affect all students, in the sense that if the graduates were affected, the undergraduates would be affected. Ms. Lakisha Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, with the noted correction. Ms. Giralda Merkman seconded the motion. The vote: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (S. Burton).

OLD BUSINESS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST

JANUARY 1998

Mr. Papillon, Jr. mentioned the discussion held in the last meeting, concerning the MLK Breakfast in January. Previously the Council had discussed allocating \$500.00 towards the annual event. This would cover the cost of a SGC table/tickets for students. Mr. Craig Rapp made a motion to allocate \$500.00 out of the General Account towards the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. Mr. Gakunga Kihohia seconded the motion. The vote: unanimous.

WHEN TWO CULTURES MEET

The Council was given 60 tickets (\$10.00 per ticket) to attend this event. At the time of the meeting, the President had received a bill for \$600.00 from the Office of Minority Student Services; he asked if any Council members attended this event. A member stated that there were about 15 students from Bay Vista Housing Complex who were in attendance. As there were no Council members present at this forum, the President said there was no further need for discussion. Ms. Ellen Plissner asked how the Council was planning to pay for the tickets, after the event had already taken place. Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that a letter of request had been issued. Ms. Plissner stressed the importance of doing paperwork (that involved funds) in a timely manner, as this was a major problem for our department during the audit.

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL (ACUI)

Mr. Papillon, Jr. discussed the possibility of Council members attending the upcoming ACUI Conference (November 6-9, 1997), in Orlando, Florida. He asked if the Council wanted to send 4 representatives or 8 representatives. Mr. Kihohia made a motion to send 8 representatives to the ACUI Conference. The motion was not seconded. The motion died. Ms. Merkman made a motion to send 4 representatives to the ACUI Conference. Ms. Avia Rice seconded the motion. After a brief discussion on pricing per representative, the President called for a vote. The vote: 3 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions (Russell, Burton). The motion died. Mr. Kihohia made a motion to send up to 8 representatives to the ACUI Conference. Ms. Chanelle Rose seconded the motion. The vote: 5 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstention (Russell, Burton); the motion passes.

HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC

There was a brief discussion on the focus/purpose of the Homelessness Conference in Washington, DC (October 23-27, 1997). Mr. Kihohia made a motion to send 5 to 8 representatives to this conference. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The vote: 7 in favor, 2 opposed; the motion passes.

PARAPHERNALIA

The President asked the Council about purchasing paraphernalia (t-shirts, keychains, stickers, et cetera), as we were currently celebrating FIU's 25th Silver Anniversary. He added that the funds would have to be taken out of the Contingency Account (\$4,000.00). Ms. Holmes made a motion to allocate \$4,000.00 out of the Contingency Account towards the purchasing of paraphernalia. Ms. Nia Johnson seconded the motion. During discussion, Ms. Plissner said that she would check to see if it was possible to use funds from the Contingency Account this early in the semester. Ms. Rice asked how much was currently in the account. Ms. Plissner stated that it was \$7,000.00. Mr. Rapp made a motion to table this issue, until further information could be obtained. The vote: 9 in favor; the motion passes.

TIME MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Mr. Papillon, Jr. reminded the Council that this was conference that would be held in the Joe Robbie Stadium. Mr. Kihohia made a motion to send 7 representatives (Rice, Johnson, Papillon, Jr., Kihohia, Burton, Holmes, Rose) to the conference. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The vote: 6 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention (Rice).

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Burton reported that she had attended "tons of fabulous meetings" this week. The last cabinet meeting (for Lower Division Representatives and Representatives-At-Large) would be held tomorrow (Thursday, September 25, 1997) at 12:00 PM. This meeting, which was mandatory would only be thirty minutes, as Ms. Burton had to meet with Mr. Papillon, Jr.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

Ms. Plissner told those Council members that had been approved for travel, that they needed to have their TAR forms put in by tomorrow (Thursday, September 25, 1997). For the time management conference, the TAR forms must be in by Monday, September 29, 1997. Next, Ms. Plissner thanked those Council members who participated in the Torch Run (Tuesday, September 16, 1997)...she added that she saw many of us on the evening news. The next event FIU was coordinating was a Jazz Festival, scheduled for the Spring term. Ms. Plissner stated that the University was in the process of obtaining \$100,000.00 (scholarship) in order to fund this event, which was scheduled for February 7 or February 21; this would be a nice tie into the FIU Homecoming. Lastly, she encouraged the Council members to make use of the excellent (FREE) forums held on campus, concerning a variety of issues (i.e., time management).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Mr. Kihohia announced that the Council had "no money". To those Council members that had been approved for travel, he stressed the importance of submitting File For Funds Forms in a timely manner. Council members, were still not remembering to clock in/clock out...please be mindful of this when completing your office hours. Lastly, he announced that the deadline for budgets would be extended to Monday, September 22, 1997.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Mireidy Fernandez did not have a report, as she had already left memos in the Council members boxes, concerning the progress being made on her projects.

STUDENT SERVICES

Ms. Camille Aub thanked the Council for their participation in her committee's meetings. She also spoke briefly on a conflict she was currently working on. Apparently, there was a charge made that the Shuttle Bus to the University Park Campus, left earlier than the scheduled time; Ms. Aub would keep the Council updated on this case. Lastly, Ms. Aub spoke of her intention to set up Student Services Comment/Complaint Boxes, which were to be donated from a local shoe store.

STUDENT LOBBYING

Ms. Melanie Bent spoke of her recent Florida Student Association (FSA) Retreat, also attended by the President, Ms. Burton and Mr. Kihohia. She was particularly interested in the Register Once Program (Voter Registration Program). Ms. Bent also announced her intent to circulate a newsletter beginning in October, as well as planning a Legislative Breakfast or Lunch, tentatively scheduled for November or January (depending upon level of interest displayed). Mr. Rapp asked her what the purpose was behind such an event. She responded that the last one SGC held was rather successful, and gave students an excellent opportunity to discuss issues and concerns with legislators.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ms. Nadia McLean thanked the Council for its involvement with the Torch Run. Additionally, she spoke of the soccer game she attended; this too was a success, however, she was currently looking into alternative methods of transportation. Lastly, she announced that there would be a Mardi PAW meeting held tomorrow (Thursday, September 25, 1997) at 3:30 in the WUC 363 Conference Room.

STUDENT ADVOCATE

Mr. Plinio Sanchez thanked Ms. Fernandez for her assistance in manning the "Student Advocate" tables that were set up in front of the FIU Bookstore. He announced that he was currently looking for a new locale (i.e., AC I, AC II or the Library), as he was not reaching as many students as he would like.

NEW BUSINESS

STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Ms. Burton and Mr. Papillon, Jr. spoke of a relatively new organization on our campus. The Student Alumni Association (which was only \$10.00 per year) gave students the opportunity to interact with alumni, form mentorships, et cetera. Their meetings were currently held on Thursdays at 3:30 PM in GC 150. The association was however, looking into the possibility of holding some meetings at the North Campus. Applications were distributed.

CAMPUS SAVINGS GUIDE

Mr. Papillon, Jr. told the Council of his recent meeting with Rachel, a representative from Campus Savings Guide. The guide would serve as an alternative to the SGC Handbook, and would include an FSA page, as well as discounts/specials from locals vendors.

TOWN MEETINGS

The President spoke of the importance of the Council finding innovative ways in which to serve the evening student population. A student from one of his classes was scheduled to speak to this effect, but had to leave unexpectedly. Ms. Rose stated that she had recently set up a session with graduate/evening students, which was quite successful. She said the students were receptive and she intended to hold such a forum several times within the semester.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Mr. Papillon, Jr. spoke of the need for action NOW, as far as the Housing situation on the North Campus was concerned; whether it be media coverage, or having someone survey the property, something needed to be done. Ms. McLean and Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers spoke to this effect (i.e., carpeting was being removed from dorms and replaced with tile). Ms. McLean also mentioned that Ms. Lynn Hendricks (Coordinator for the Bay Vista Hall Complex) was leaving and the Residence Assistants might be having a meeting with a prospective replacement tomorrow (Thursday, September 25, 1997) at 10:30 AM. Both the President and the Vice-President were unaware of this information and felt students should also have an opportunity to meet this individual. A brief discussion on this matter continued.

SGC SCHOLARSHIPS

Ms. Burton announced that a scholarship program was established in SGC's name in 1988. As there was approximately \$40,000.00 lying dormant in an account, she and Mr. Billy Jones (Vice President, University Park Campus) were in the process of reestablishing this project. The Councils would set the qualifications/requirements.

FSA MEETING IN BOCA RATON

Mr. Papillon, Jr. announced the upcoming FSA meeting in Boca Raton scheduled for Friday, September 26, 1997. He encouraged Council members to participate.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

An Athletics meeting was scheduled for October 17, 1997 in GC 206; a Leadership Forum is being held on Friday, October 3, 1997 from 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM in the GC Ballroom. Mr. Whit Hollis is the guest speaker; a Scheduling Seminar (with Jennifer Hernandez) is mandatory for all clubs/organizations who intend to hold events on the North Campus. This meeting is to take place on Thursday, September 25, 1997 in WUC 155 from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM; the President distributed petition forms for the FIU Law School, which administrators such as Eddie Handal wanted to be placed on the North Campus; he also told the Council of the University's plans to build a Recreational Center by the year 2000 (the one on the North Campus would hold up to 5,000 students)...