

10-8-1997

Meeting Minutes 10.08.97

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

BI-MONTHLY MEETING

**OCTOBER 8, 1997
5:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Camille Aub, Student Services Chair
Ms. Safiya Burton, Vice President
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
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
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. Melanie Bent, Director of Student Lobbying
Ms. Marvine Laurent, Chief of Staff

GUESTS

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 PM, by Ms. Safiya Burton, Vice President. Ms. Burton announced that Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr. and Ms. Tanisha Drummond were running late and Mr. Craig Rapp would not be attending today's meeting. The sign-in sheet was circulated. In reviewing the minutes, Ms. Burton clarified the date for submitting budget reports. Ms. Donna-Ann Russell made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Mr. Ian Richards seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ellen Plissner reminded the Council of the importance of planning and submitting paperwork in a timely manner. She also urged members to attend one of Ms. Arminda Pravia's meetings. Lastly, Ms. Plissner spoke of the United Way Kickoff, which began today (Mr. Papillon, Jr and Ms. Lakisha Holmes were in attendance). The University's goal of \$160,000.00 included students...she recommended the Council participate by offering a donation.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Mr. Gakunga Kihohia announced that there were four (4) requests that had been brought before the Finance Committee:

- ◆ Minority Student Services Computer Lab - \$400.00 (Student Services Account)
- ◆ International Black Student Union (IBSU) - \$888.00 for a conference (tabled until further revisions could be made)
- ◆ Communications Committee - \$2,200.00 - (tabled for further revisions...semester budget instead of annual budget)
- ◆ Web Page - \$400.00

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Mireidy Fernandez discussed the current projects she was working on:

- ◆ Academic grievances
- ◆ Installation of kiosk machines in Bay Vista Hall Complex (awaiting appointment with Ms. Helen Ellison to discuss in further detail)
- ◆ Teacher Evaluation Booklets (drafts) have been given to Dr. Modesto Madique and Mr. Robert Donnelly.
- ◆ Operation Book Stamp - has referred Ms. Camille Aub to Sargeant Keiffs

Ms. Fernandez and Mr. Plinio Sanchez are currently working on a newsletter which will be released on a bi-monthly basis. The newsletter will serve as a direct link between the student body and the Council. Lastly, she discussed the recent conference she and Ms. Russell attended (Society of Professional Journalists) in Colorado.

STUDENT SERVICES

Ms. Aub announced the recent Food Services meeting she was involved in. It was decided that a survey would be circulated to gauge student interest. Additionally, she was working on a petition with a SJMC student (Ian Elbrand), concerning the construction of a WUFI office on the North Campus. She also spoke of her interest in working with Public Safety on Operation Book Stamp. Ms. Burton encouraged Council members to assist Ms. Aub in her efforts to publicize and distribute the WUFI Petition.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ms. Nadia McLean stated that she was working with Mr. Daniel Kerness, and soliciting assistance from Mr. Richard Taylor (Health and Wellness Center) concerning Mardi PAW. Ms. McLean was also trying to meet with Ms. Arnetta Davis, to discuss the Council's involvement in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Lastly, she encourage the Council members to participate in Panther Rage on a more aggressive basis. Mr. Kihohia asked her about the progress being made on obtaining buses for future soccer matches. Ms. McLean stated that there was some uncertainty with the bus situation, as funds were still trying to be raised. Mr. Kihohia also inquired about Panther Rage representation on the North Campus. Ms. McLean stated that at this time, there was very little, as this committee was hesitant to come to the North Campus. Ms. Plissner asked if any of the Council members had attended the lecture with the soccer coach...she suggested that the Council needed to demonstrate its commitment and support. Ms. Giralda Merkman added that she had a copy of the soccer schedule (distributed).

STUDENT ADVOCATE

Mr. Sanchez spoke of his involvement with the newsletter, and distributed a rough draft for the Council to peruse. He encouraged the Council to submit stories/articles for future issues. Ms. Fernandez discussed one particular article, which would be dedicated to a Council member each issue. She also asked Council members to use this newsletter for announcements and/or commentaries on the progress of their current projects.

NEW BUSINESS

WUFI RADIO STATION PETITION

The student from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications (Ian Elbrand), who was working with Ms. Aub distributed information on the WUFI petition/prospectus. He stated that he felt there was a lack of exposure (and lack of interest) among the students, concerning the radio station. Ian was hoping that WUFI could be a shared effort between both campuses, as it would be of tremendous benefit to the School of Journalism and Mass Communications students (based on the North Campus).

MIRAMAX REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Burton introduced Luis, a graduate who was previously elected to the Graduate Representative position. Due to outside priorities, he could not fulfill this duty, and was currently serving as the College Representative for Miramax Productions. He offered the Council an exclusive opportunity to attend a viewing of Fairytales, a new film starring Harvey Keitel and Peter O'Toole. He also left 100 free passes with the Council and promised to keep us updated as Scream II was scheduled for release in the Spring.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Burton reported that she was still working on the Computer Lab Proposal/24-Hour Study Room. Those who had any suggestions and/or input should see her after the meeting. Ms. McLean stated that there were several computers in the School of Hospitality Management that

were available for purchase. Mr. Kerness added that there were also computers in the Library that belonged to the Council (and were not being used). Next, Ms. Burton distributed information from the Florida Leader Magazine's annual competition. She also spoke of the progress being made on the Council's Master Plan. She urged the Council members to review their goals and objectives. Lastly, she encouraged members to participate in the Internship session that would be taking place on Friday, October 17, 1997. The FIP Committee had received wonderful resumes and this would be the opportunity for members to screen possible students/candidates they would like to work with. This session would be held in WUC 157 from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

REMOVAL OF BROWARD AWARENESS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Papillon, Jr. apologized for arriving late. He then informed the Council that he had not yet received a resignation letter from Ms. Debra Goldman. As she has missed three Council meetings, it is procedure to have her removed from the Council. Mr. Kihohia made a motion to remove Ms. Goldman from the Council. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion. The President opened up the floor for discussion. Mr. Richards asked if she had been contacted. Ms. Burton stated that Ms. Goldman had come into the office and announced that she had found full-time employment. However, she had been unable to meet with the President to submit her resignation letter. The President assured the Council that this was strictly a formality, as Ms. Goldman was still on payroll, et cetera. It was also necessary to clear this situation up immediately, with budget meetings approaching; Ms. Goldman was the fourth vote. He also mentioned that he would like the Council to purchase a gift for Ms. Goldman as she would be graduating at the end of the year. The vote: unanimous.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

'WHEN TWO CULTURES MEET' TICKETS (MINORITY STUDENT SERVICES)

The President spoke about his concern that he was consistently receiving mail late. He had just received a letter from the Office of Minority Student Services. Only 15 to 18 tickets were given out by Student Government Council, thus the Council was only responsible for covering the cost of those tickets distributed. Again, he reminded the Council that we **COULD NOT** pay for services after the fact. Ms. Russell inquired if the Council was responsible for \$600.00, as fees/charges have already been submitted. The President stated that since the Council only utilized 15 to 18 tickets, our monetary obligation was limited to between \$150.00 and \$180.00. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Kihohia reminded the Council that since this was an audit year, whatever the Council decided it would not be advisable to vote on this matter.

RESIGNATION OF CHANCELLOR

Chancellor Reed of the Board of Regents (State University System) has resigned. He will be moving to the California area, where he intends to work in State University System. Consequently, the FSA meeting previously scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 1997 has been canceled.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

The next Parking and Traffic Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 10, 1997 at 10:00 AM in PC 521.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

A consultant team will be on the University Park Campus tomorrow (Thursday, October 9, 1997) from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM in GC 243. These consultants will be on hand to help assess better ways for the University and students to manage their time and energy. This session is open to everyone.

REMOVAL OF DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LOBBYING FROM PAYROLL

Mr. Papillon, Jr. informed the Council that Ms. Melanie Bent had also found full-time employment and would not be able to attend mandatory meetings. She would however, continue to function as Director of Student Lobbying, in whatever fashion possible. For this reason, Ms. Bent had requested that she be removed from the Payroll. Ms. Sandoval made a motion to remove Ms. Bent from the Payroll. Ms. Nia Johnson seconded the motion. The vote: unanimous.

HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC

The President began a brief discussion on the focus/purpose of the Homelessness Conference in Washington, DC (October 23-27, 1997). Mr. Kihohia interjected to announce that due to paperwork being submitted late, no one would be able to attend this conference. Ms. Johnson stated that during the last meeting, Ms. Plissner had told the Council that forms had to be turned in the next day. Both she and Mr. Sanchez had submitted everything on time...why were they being penalized for the disorganization of others? She continued by saying that she had rearranged prior obligations (class examinations, work schedule) to make herself available for this conference. Ms. Plissner stated that she had met with Mr. Kihohia the following day (after the last meeting), and at that time, no paperwork was in. The discussion then shifted, as Ms. Plissner mentioned that she had received a phone call concerning this specific conference. She explained to the Council that minutes were being read by everyone, and the suggestion that was made to her was that perhaps this was a more appropriate conference for the Volunteer Action Center (VAC) or Student Services..."People are reading the minutes, and they are watching what you do." Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that the Council should be aware of the fact that any trip/conference taken by members will be scrutinized. He asked that concerned members convene after this meeting. As for the ACUI Conference, he announced that if your paperwork had not been turned in by today, do not expect to be attending this conference.

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Ms. Rice inquired about what was happening with the Alternative Spring Break situation, which was tabled in a previous meeting. Mr. Kihohia stated that he had asked the ASB Representative, Mr. Jeremy Baker had asked for \$3,000.00. In turn, Mr. Baker was to submit a revised proposal/budget, which to date had not been submitted. Mr. Richards stated that

since the trip to Washington, DC had been canceled, wouldn't funds be available? Ms. Johnson felt that the Council should wait to speak with Mr. Baker before making a decision. Ms. Holmes stressed the importance of realizing how limited in funds the Council was. Ms. Burton said that Mr. Baker was currently lobbying several organizations. Since he did not submit the required revisions, they should not receive money. Ms. Rice agreed. Mr. Kerness moved to end this conversation. Mr. Richards reminded the Council that they were just about to send several Council members to a similar event in Washington, DC. This is a great "hands-on" opportunity. Ms. Burton retorted that this was not personal; it was simply protocol. Ms. Sandoval stated that this was not a priority, since this event was in Spring Break. Ms. Rice made a motion to give up to \$100.00 towards Alternative Spring Break. Vote: 1 in favor, 6 opposed, 5 abstentions. Motion does not pass.

PARAPHERNALIA

At the previous meeting, the Council had addressed allocating \$4,000.00 towards the purchase of SGC and 25th Anniversary paraphernalia. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

- ◆ 48 Polo Shirts (\$805.00)
- ◆ 144 Hats (\$905.00)
- ◆ 144 Tab T-Shirts (\$1,128.00)
- ◆ SGC Shield (\$400.00)
- ◆ Key Chains (\$150.00)
- ◆ T-Shirts (\$300.00)
- ◆ 48 SGC Denim Shirts (\$200.00)
- ◆ SGC and 25th Anniversary Stickers (\$115.00)

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ms. Russell announced the community service project she and Mr. Sanchez were currently working on (Operation Santa Claus). The committee was in the process of selecting an organization to work with. She also contacted Mr. Julian Humphreys (SPC Chair), who loved the idea, she was still waiting to speak with Mr. Dale Ayres (SOC Chair) to see if he was interested in participating. Ms. Russell said that she would like to send a cake/pastries to those organizations that were not selected for this project. The Council agreed that this was a nice idea. Ms. Burton reminded the Council of the importance of attending group meetings. These meetings were mandatory and if a member could not attend, they needed to make the proper arrangements to find out what happened. It was also expected that Council members would telephone/leave a message in the event that you could not attend. Freshman Internship Program was going quite well...Mr. Richards was to be commended on the job he was doing with the web page class. Mr. Kihohia felt that the attendance at the last Comedy Show was lacking, perhaps Council members could meet with SPC and convey this message/offer helpful suggestions. Lastly, Mr. Papillon, Jr. announced that he and Ms. Burton would be attending a conference in Orlando (Walt Disney World). The cost was \$269.00 per person; the funds would be coming out of the Discretionary Account. He also announced that the time clock was

broken and would be too expensive to repair. However, Ms. Barbara Levy had found another clock for \$238.00. As this clock was used by the Tri-Council, he was thinking of asking Ms. Plissner to take the funds out of the Student Activities Account.

Lastly, Ms. Sandoval discussed a recent phone call she had received from the College of Health on the University Park Campus. Due to the fact that the School of Nursing had been placed under the College of Health, this representative had called to inform Ms. Sandoval that she no longer had a position. Mr. Papillon, Jr. assured the Council that he and Ms. Burton had spoken with this individual and the situation had been taken care of.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanisha N. Drummond

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

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