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Meeting Minutes 11.05.97

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

BI-MONTHLY MEETING

**NOVEMBER 5, 1997
5:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Camille Aub, Student Services Chair
Ms. Valerie Blemur, Chief of Staff
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. Daniel Kerness, Representative-At-Large
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
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. N. Jasmine Michel, Graduate Representative
Mr. Craig Rapp, School of Hospitality Management Representative

GUESTS

Mr. Alberdine, Parking Master Plan	Ms/Mr. R. Jackson
Ms/Mr. Midy Aponte	Ms. Nicole Jenkins
Mr. Burdine-Coakley, Parking Master Plan	Ms. Linda Lubin
Mr. Corey Byrd	Mr. Carlton McLeod
Ms. Michelle Buteau	Ms. Shelly Oguste
Ms. Michelle Cooper	Mr. Alex Salinas, BEACON Representative
Mr. Delano Greene	Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers, BVHC Chair
Ms. Rebecca Henry	Mr. Zyne, Parking Master Plan
Mr. Richard Henry	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:13 PM, by Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr., President.

The President introduced the guests present at this meeting, which included representatives from the Parking Master Plan Committee (Alberdine, Burdine-Coakley, Zyne). Following the President's discussion on the Parking and Traffic Committee, Mr. Zyne distributed the Parking

Master Plan Presentation, Part II which contained recent reformations. Ms. Donna-Ann Russell asked, "Why is our (North Campus) option being affected when we don't have the issue (with parking)? Mr. Zyne and Mr. Alberdine commented that as we are one university, it would not be appropriate to increase fees for University Park students, while decreasing the fees of North Campus students. Mr. Alberdine stated that the increase was also based on the fact that there could be a greater need for parking on the North Campus in the future (despite the fact that currently there was not a greater need). Ms. Giralda Merkman stated that this was an issue for those students who do not drive to school; those students were already paying to ride public transportation. Mr. Zyne stated that the University had invested approximately \$130,000.00 in building the new bus loop on the University Park Campus. The increase in decal fees would also include maintenance for university roads. Mr. Alberdine also commented that only 1 to 2 percent of FIU students do not drive to school. Ms. Safiya Burton reminded Mr. Alberdine that on the North Campus, this is not the case. He responded that currently, 8,000 to 9,000 students have not purchased decals, but continue to park on campus; thus parking for free. The Parking Master Plan would eliminate this problem, as everyone would have to pay a decal fee. Both gentlemen argued that this plan was still a "bargain" for the student population. Presently, students pay about \$37.00 per semester...under the new plan, students would only be paying \$23.00 per semester. Ms. Lakisha Holmes asked which plan the administration favored. Mr. Zyne answered that the administration seemed to be in favor of Plan B. He added that he had met with the students on the University Park Campus yesterday, and they seemed to be in favor of these changes. Ms. Camille Aub asked if the committee had ever considered a 2-decal system. Mr. Zyne informed her that this was the basis for Plan C, which was not well received, as it came with a high cost for administration. Ms. Burton referenced her question (with the information on page 10), asking if the committee considered raising the price of the decal for administration. Ms. Merkman asked if this would result in a decrease in the revenue obtained from ticket sales. Mr. Zyne informed her that revenue would be decreased by at least 50 percent.

Mr. Burdine-Coakley introduced himself as a representative of Facilities Management. Ms. Russell asked where expansion would take place on the North Campus. Mr. Burdine-Coakley directed her attention to page 7 of a plan which was circulated during the meeting. Mr. Papillon, Jr. also discussed the Council's dedication to meeting the concerns of (evening) non-traditional students. He also allowed an evening student to voice her concerns on this matter.

Following this discussion, the Council divided into breakout sessions. Mr. Papillon, Jr. reminded the Council that this was a time to reflect on the progress being made thus far, as well as reflection for planning in the months ahead.

B R E A K O U T S E S S I O N R E S U L T S

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President asked the committee for feedback concerning the purchasing of vests for the Council. He also stated that if the Council decided to buy a set, the company was willing to issue a school rate. Mr. Papillon, Jr. commented that there were several departments on the North

Campus who were holding food drives...Ms. Nadia McLean was designated to work with those individuals. Nevertheless, he added that the Council would be participating with the University Center Food Drive, as opposed to coordinating its own. During the next Council meetings, appraisal forms would be issued. This would give Council members an opportunity to find out what areas they needed to improve upon, et cetera. He also spoke briefly about the Miami Rescue Mission Thanksgiving program, which provided the needy with food and accommodations during the Holiday. He asked Ms. Tanisha Drummond to circulate a sign-up sheet for those members who were interested in participating in this project. Lastly, the President mentioned that the referendum for the FIU Law School would be discussed in the next University-Wide Council meeting. He added that there was significant interest in having the Law School erected on the North Campus.

LOWER DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES/REPRESENTATIVES-AT-LARGE

Ms. Avia Rice announced that she and Ms. Nia Johnson were in the process of planning a holiday party for freshman and sophomores (INVITATION ONLY). Mr. Papillon, Jr. asked if they felt the meetings (with the Vice President) were productive. Ms. Rice responded that the meetings were working. Mr. Ian Richards gave an overview of what each Representative-At-Large was currently working on: PIP (Merkman), increased supplies for classrooms (Kerness), progress of the web page (Richards). He also apologized for this committee's reoccurring absences during meetings with the Vice President. Ms. Burton interjected that the time selected for these meetings was based upon this committee's school/work schedule. Thus, it was not acceptable for members to simply not show up. She also stated that this would be reflected in their appraisal/assessment sheets. Ms. Burton closed by saying that these sheets could also be used to remove individuals from the Council and therefore should be taken seriously.

SCHOOL/COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Russell stated that this committee has been meeting quite regularly. Ms. Anette Sandoval had run into some difficulty in setting up future blood drives. Mr. Whit Hollis informed her that he would be handling any future blood drives, as the blood banks would be on probation for the next year. Ms. Sandoval felt it was beneficial for the nursing students to participate in these projects, while Mr. Hollis wanted WUC employees to participate in the blood drives, and was also requiring that the blood banks pay for WUC employees during the time that they were staffing the blood drives. Mr. Papillon, Jr. said that a meeting would be set up with Mr. Hollis to discuss this matter in greater detail. Ms. Holmes was working on increasing interaction between the different areas within CUPA, i.e. through surveys. Ms. Russell reported that Operation Santa Claus was progressing rather well. Additionally, she spoke with Dr. Lillian Kopenhaver about obtaining ID Badges for SJMC students, which would cost about \$5.00 per student.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Gakunga Kihohia announced the dates for upcoming budget proposal meetings: November 13 and November 18. Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that there was a great need for Council members to attend these meetings...show student support. Ms. Burton requested that Mr. Kihohia put memos in the mailboxes (as a reminder of upcoming meetings), as well as a current breakdown

of the SGC Budget. Ms. Aub reported that Freshen Yogurt and Starbucks Coffee is now a reality!! Mr. Papillon, Jr. praised her for her hard work and efforts. Ms. McLean also reported on the status of Mardi PAW, noting that there was a friendly session being held on Tuesday, November 25, 1997.

GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Chanelle Rose reported that the Graduate representatives were able to fill the Graduate position on the Student Programming Council. They were in the process of planning evening forums/"coffee/snack" breaks for the evening students. She stated that this was an event that would be an ongoing process, which was being coordinated by the current Graduate representatives and their interns. She mentioned that one student had displayed interest in the possibility of establishing a yearbook. Lastly, the representatives were working with administration to see what could be done about changing class times to accomodate more evening students.

VALERIE BLEMUR, CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Papillon, Jr. announced that Ms. Valerie Blemur had expressed interest in filling the Chief of Staff position. He offered the Council a brief overview of her credentials, as most of the Council was familiar with Ms. Blemur. He asked for the Council to vote on this issue. Ms. Russell made a motion to appoint Ms. Valerie Blemur to the position of Chief of Staff. Ms. Burton seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous.

CHANELLE ROSE, ELECTIONS CHAIR

Mr. Papillon, Jr. explained to the Council that Ms. Rose had expressed considerable interest in filling the position of Elections Chair; a position she has held for the past two elections. However, she could not hold position of Elections Chair, while receiving a salary as the Graduate Representative on the Council. Therefore, she was requesting to take a temporary hiatus from the Graduate Representative position (and salary) to work as the Elections Chair. Mr. Daniel Kerness made a motion to temporarily remove Ms. Rose from the Graduate Representative position, which would allow her to complete her duties for the upcoming elections. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The vote: unanimous.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Burton announced the next University-Wide Council meeting, which was scheduled to be held on Friday, November 14, 1997 at 3:00 PM. Some issues that would be presented were: changes in the Constitution and SGC Scholarships. The next Freshman Intern Program meeting would take place on Friday, November 14, 1997 at 12:00 in WUC 155. She reminded the Council that interns were not to be used as personal secretaries. These students were there to learn about SGC.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The President reiterated information concerning the Miami Rescue Mission Thanksgiving program. Ms. Drummond circulated a sign-up sheet for all interested parties. Next, he

mentioned that Ms. Merkman, Ms. Burton, Ms. Rice and himself would be out of town until Monday, as they were attending the ACUI Conference being held in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Albert Franguz of the Beacon made a special appearance concerning the relationship between the Beacon and the Council. He stated that he had been told that the Council felt the Beacon was not doing its job, and that one individual in particular had been circulating misinformation. Mr. Papillon, Jr. clarified that there was a problem with articles written by North Campus students, reaching the University Park in a timely fashion. As for the circulation of misinformation, the student in question was not present to discuss this matter, thus now was not an appropriate time to conduct this conversation. Mr. Franguz also commented that he had spoken with Dr. Paul Gallagher, who assured him that the trailers would not be utilized as a space for a North Campus Editor-in-Chief, nor had one been appointed. A student who was present asked if the Beacon had considered using the shuttle to transport mail. Mr. Papillon, Jr. agreed that this was a good idea that could be looked into. The President also mentioned that the tickets to "They Came Before Columbus", a lecture being hosted by Dr. Ivan Van Sertima (Friday, November 7, 1997) was sold out. Ms. Linda Lubin announced that the last Blue Moon Cafe of the semester would be held on Wednesday, November 12, 1997.

The meeting adjourned 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanisha N. Drummond

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

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