

11-19-1997

## Meeting Minutes 11.19.97

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Florida International University

Student Government Council

**BI-MONTHLY MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 19, 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  
Mr. Delano Greene, Director of Student Lobbying  
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  
Ms. N. Jasmine Michel, Graduate Representative  
Mr. Arthur Papillon, Jr., President  
Ms. Ellen Plissner, Advisor  
Ms. Avia Rice, Lower Division Representative  
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. Valerie Blemur, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Craig Rapp, School of Hospitality Management Representative  
Mr. Ian Richards, Representative-At-Large

## **GUESTS**

Mr. Ian Elbrand, Intern  
Mr. Richard Henry, Intern  
Mr. Raphael Jackson, Intern  
Mr. Charles Lopez  
Ms. Nicole Perkins, Intern  
Ms. Carrie Silverman, Intern

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM, by Ms. Safiya Burton, Vice President.

Ms. Burton requested that the Council read through the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Anette Sandoval made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Nia Johnson seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: Ms. Holmes commented that her guest's name was listed as Ms. Nicole Dinkins, however, her name is Nicole Perkins. Mr. Gakunga Kihohia made a friendly amendment to include that the minutes reflect that Mr. Delano Greene was voted into the position of Director of Student Lobbying. The vote: unanimous. In closing, Ms. Burton stated that Mr. Arthur Papillon,

Jr. might be unable to attend today's meeting, due to a prior commitment on the University Park Campus.

### **ADVISOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Ellen Plissner stated that she had discussed this previously, with the President and urged that the meeting date and time for the Spring be decided before Friday, as this was the day for priority registration. Then, Ms. Plissner circulated flyers about the Mortar Board (National Honor Society) and encouraged the Council to pick applications, whether for themselves or their constituents. Another area of interest she mentioned was the Live, Learn and Intern Program (taking place during next summer), for further details interested parties could speak with her, as well as Mr. Papillon, Jr. There was a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 1997 at 5:00 PM for those who were on the ballot (in the approaching Special Elections). Concerning this issue, Ms. Plissner commented that those who were posting flyers, et cetera should be aware that such items must be stamped. She also stressed the importance of posting materials ONLY in the designated areas. Lastly, Ms. Plissner announced that the date for the Jazz Festival has been set: Saturday, February 7, 1997. A general meeting for faculty, staff, administration and students is scheduled for the month of December.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kihohia announced that the budget hearings were proceeding nicely...he appreciates the attendance of the Council members. The next meeting/hearing has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 1997 at 12:30.

#### **STUDENT SERVICES**

Ms. Camille Aub reported that a Friendly Meet in Panther Square on Tuesday, November 25, 1997 from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM, in Panther Square. She asked Mr. Kihohia if the time and date for the next budget hearing was solidified, as this was in direct conflict with the Friendly Meet. Mr. Kihohia commented that this date and time was most definitely immutable. She continued by saying that the last Friendly Meet was a huge success, thanking Ms. Mireidy Fernandez for her participation as well as that of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ). She encouraged Council members to attend.

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Ms. Fernandez announced that she had met with Dr. Paul Gallagher concerning the placement of additional kiosks on the North Campus. Secondly, the Teacher Evaluation Booklets had been delayed until the Spring semester, due to Inter-campus conflict. Lastly, she encouraged the Council members to attend an upcoming lecture. Guest speaker, Mr. Ronnie Ward of Channel 2 was expected to address the North Campus on Monday, November 24, 1997 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in WUC 157.

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Ms. Nadia McLean announced that Mardi PAW was being held this Friday, November 21, 1997

from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. She encouraged the Council to form a team (for competitions, activities), as the Student Programming Council has already done so. Ms. McLean mentioned that also needed Council members who were willing to staff tables/booths, et cetera. She stressed the importance of participation from the Interns and encouraged them to form a team as well. Lastly, she thanked Mr. Plinio Sanchez and Ms. Fernandez for announcing Mardi PAW in the recent edition of the SGC Newsletter.

### **STUDENT ADVOCATE**

Mr. Sanchez commented that positive steps were being taken as a result of the complaints issued. Mr. Sanchez gave an example of a student who had unfairly been issued parking tickets; this debt was nullified. He mentioned he was also working on other issues, such as having telephones placed at the bus stops (near the library). Mr. Ian Elbrand asked that Mr. Sanchez looked into putting up phones that had "call back capabilities", as the telephones in the library could not receive pages/beeps.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **UNIVERSITY-WIDE COUNCIL MEETING**

Ms. Burton announced that the next University-Wide Council meeting was scheduled for Friday, December 6, 1997 at 12:00 PM in WUC 155.

#### **SPRING SEMESTER MEETINGS DAY/TIME**

Mr. Papillon, Jr. stated that the meetings for the Spring semester would be decided at this time. He offered the following days and times:

- ◆ Mondays: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- ◆ Tuesdays: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM or 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- ◆ Thursdays: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Following a vote, it was decided that next semester's meetings would be held on **TUESDAYS FROM 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM.**

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Ms. Burton stated that she had met with Mr. Billy Jones, SGC Vice President of the University Park Campus, concerning SGC Scholarships. The two had decided on the following categories:

- ◆ International Students (3)
- ◆ Minority Students (1)
- ◆ Disabled Students (1)
- ◆ Graduate Student Life (1)

Applicants for all scholarships must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and would receive approximately \$250.00 per semester. The Review Committee for these scholarships

would be composed of 4 representatives from the North and University Park Campuses. At this time, Ms. Burton stated that Ms. Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair had been designated as one of the North Campus representatives. Ms. Burton also stated that she and Mr. Jones were investigating the possibility of raising the GPA standard of Council members as well. A brief discussion continued, concerning the feasibility of raising the GPA standard of Council members. Ms. Plissner suggested that the scholarships of the Council needed to also be available to, "non-minority, healthy, non-graduate students." Following this comment, the Council debated both sides of this issue. Ms. Burton commented on how she and Mr. Jones arrived at the breakdown of categories for scholarships. She continued, saying that a suggestion was made to Student Programming Council, requesting that revenue from the Homecoming be used to replenish these funds, on an annual basis. Lastly, Ms. Burton thanked Ms. Aub and Ms. Giralda Merkman for their participation in the Run for Miami.

### COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ms. Burton announced that there was a Graduate Mixer/Social tonight, at 8:30 PM in WUC 155. This Friday, November 21, the Parking and Traffic Committee would be voting on the decal fee situation; thus far, they were in favor of Model C and would be opposing Model B. There would be an Alumni Breakfast on Friday at 8:00 AM, for further details, please see her after the meeting. Lastly, the Intern Graduation was scheduled to be held at the Olive Garden...attendance for this event would be limited. For further information, she instructed the Council to speak with Ms. Johnson. Ms. Fernandez stated that the December issue of the SGC Newsletter would be dedicated to the Fall 1997 graduates -- and would be the last edition for the semester. Ms. Plissner stated that the Special Elections would be held on December 2-3, 1997 and encouraged the Council to submit names/nominations for the Elections Board. She also encouraged Council members to become involved with the Homecoming Committee, as SGC was in need of representation. Following the introductions of guests, Ms. Sandoval introduced Ms. Carrie Silverman, her intern, and hopefully, next year's School of Nursing Representative. On Friday, January 9, 1997, there is going to be a SGC (NC/UP) Mixer in the WUC Ballroom; further details would be provided as the date approached. Mr. Greene announced that he was currently working on developing a Lobbying Team. Ms. Holmes inquired about the possibility of the Council having a Christmas dinner or pot luck, to close out the semester. This idea was met with agreement from several Council members. Ms. Burton asked her to oversee this project, as it was her idea. Ms. Donna-Ann Russell gave an update on Operation Santa Claus. She had received a count from the Children's Home Society, and presents/gifts were needed for 18 girls and 15 boys. She mentioned that she was receiving assistance from International Black Student Union on this project. Mr. Brian Abramson introduced himself, and asked that the Council also consider establishing a scholarships for students with the most improvement (in GPA) per semester. Ms. Linda Lubin introduced herself, and announced that SPC was holding a social on Monday, November 24, 1997 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in WUC 155. She encouraged the Council members to use this as an opportunity to interact with representatives from SPC. Ms. Burton mentioned that she had limited (free) tickets to Sloppy Joe's. All interested parties should see her after the meeting for further details. Mr. Papillon, Jr. thanked Ms. Burton for the efficient manner in which she handled the meeting and announced that she would be doing this more

often in the Spring semester. In closing, he reminded those Council members that were graduating, to submit letters of resignation, as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned 6:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tanisha N. Drummond*

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

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