Meeting Minutes 02.04.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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President Carlos A. Becerra called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

I. ROLL CALL:
- Lisa Abate
- Brian Abramson
- Orlando Amorin
- Lester Ares (LT)
- Carlos Becerra
- Ferdinand Desir
- Milette Escaño
- Tony Gomez (AB)
- Billy Jones
- Cedric McMinn (LT)
- Vaughn Nemhbard
- Max Orezzoli (LT)
- Lety Pradere
- Sergio Tigera
- Milette Escaño
- Tony Gomez (AB)
- Carlos Ramirez (AB)
- Lety Pradere
- Carlos Ramirez (AB)
- Cedric McMinn (LT)
- Mikey Tendrich

OTHERS:
- Lisa Abate Ferdinand Desir Vaughn Nemhbard Sergio Tigera
- Brian Abramson Milette Escaño Max Orezzoli (LT)
- Orlando Amorin Tony Gomez (AB) Lety Pradere
- Lester Ares (LT) Billy Jones Carlos Ramirez (AB)
- Carlos Becerra Cedric McMinn (LT) Mikey Tendrich

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES:
- Delta Phi Epsilon
- Accounting Association
- Student Programming Council
- Student Council for Exception Children
- Phi Sigma Sigma
- Society for Environmental Action
- Interior Design Association
- Academic Affairs
- Student Dietetics Association
- Sociology/Anthropology Society
- Caribbean Student Association
- Dominican Student Association
- Peruvian Student Association
- Campus Bible Fellowship
- Am. Medical Student Assoc
- College Republicans
- Alpha Kappa Psi
- Minority Assoc. of Pre-Health Students

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Under "Reports of the Standing Councils", the correct name of the Student Programming Council Chair is Lester Garcia.
Under "Open Forum", checking the State Statue on SGA Budgets was suggested by Rep. Brian Abramson. The minutes were approved with these changes.

III. Reports of the Executive Officers
Becerra announced there is a Personal Safety Committee Meeting at 4:00 PM tomorrow in the Graham Center. This meeting deals with safety issues, and if anyone is interested in attending, they are encouraged to do so. Rep. Amorin said he would attend.

The Traffic Appeals Committee also needs a volunteer to review and give recommendations for people receiving traffic citations. Rep. Nemhbard volunteered to assist. Becerra will forward his name to Vice President Curry.
IV REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Carlos A. Becerra, President

Becerra met with Dr. Gallagher regarding the Budget Draft, and Dr. Gallagher took a copy to review. Becerra also had a meeting with Victor Citarella, Director of Facilities Management, regarding the 8th Street Entrance. The entrance will be closed February 16 for approximately one month. Cars are being rerouted through SW 107 Avenue and SW 117 Avenue.

Becerra reported that at the Faculty Senate meeting, the emphasis was on building more classrooms and that this project was critical.

There is a meeting tomorrow at 2:00 PM with the Associate Deans concerning class scheduling. Various options will be considered. Rep. Desir and Rep. West-Stewart volunteered to attend.

Becerra announced there is an FSA Meeting in Orlando February 20-21, and needs volunteers to attend. Rep. Nembhard volunteered to attend. Becerra is asking for additional volunteers, but Becerra must know of any interest by the end of this week.

Billy Jones, Vice President

VP Jones introduced Mohammed Al-Bedaiwi, former Representative from the School of Engineering, who is leaving tomorrow for his new career in Texas. Former Rep. Al-Bedaiwi shook hands with the Council members and wished them well.

Mikey Tendrich, Comptroller

He announced that the next Budget Meeting is February 10 in GC305.

V REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

Luis Menendez, Student Union Board

Rep. Menéndez announced there was a SUB meeting today at 2:00 PM. He announced that GC140 will be renamed for Margaret Anliker, and there will be a dedication ceremony on March 4. Becerra asked that the Margaret Anliker project be presented in the form of a Resolution.

SUB is not getting the space in GC243 as previously promised. He believes this is a permanent decision; Becerra thought it was temporary. Rep. Menéndez will check if this project has been cancelled permanently or not.

He also reported that there has been a delay with the Health Food Shops and Edy's in the GC Food Court. He will push for these shops to open as soon as possible. There is an ACUY Conference trip scheduled for March 29-April 1.

Orlando Amorin, Student Services

He announced there are two Resolutions on the table: the Shuttle Bus System Route and the two potential new Council Seats. The next Student Services meeting is February 16, 3:30 in GC312.
La-Shanda West-Stewart, Academic Affairs
There was a meeting on January 29, and the Resolution for Teachers' Evaluation was addressed. There will be a publication for this evaluation on March 23. There will be a Cram Jam on April 18. The next Academic Affairs Meeting is scheduled for February 12.

VI REPORTS OF THE STANDING COUNCILS
Lester Garcia, Student Programming Council
Dr. Nikki Giovanni will give a lecture tomorrow night in the GC Ballroom at 8:00 PM. There is a Comedy Show next Wednesday at 10:00.

Robert Castellanos, Honors Council
The next meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 4:00 PM.

Zahra Burton, RHA
She announced they are moving into new offices immediately. There is a meeting tonight at 9:00 PM. It was announced that an RHA Representative is running for the Florida State Board. The bus service is still on their agenda. There is a meeting on February 13 regarding SGA funding to RHA.

Brian Abramson, Graduate Student Association
Rep. Abramson announced GSA has not moved into their new space; there appears to be a problem with the telephone lines.

VII NEW BUSINESS
A. Graduation Task Force Volunteers:
Environmental Health and Safety will be addressed at next week's meeting. Volunteers are needed. Rep. Desir and Rep. West-Stewart both volunteered. Becerra asked for volunteers to serve on a Graduate Task Force of the Faculty Senate. The following people volunteered:
Zahra Burton,
Marjorie Aguero
Nicola Murray
Lisa Abate

B. Elections Code Draft
The by-laws from last fall were distributed. Changes should be made at next week's meeting. Please see Pfaeffle with any suggestions. Campaigning will take place March 23-30. A debate will be held March 25. Elections will be held March 31-April 1. The runoff election will be April 7. In addition, Pfaeffle is asking for six people to volunteer for the Elections Board. He is planning on meeting with Rod Lipscomb regarding posting policies. In addition, he is suggesting expenditure caps. Discussion followed concerning pros and cons of these caps.

C. 1998-1999 Budget Draft
The Finance Committee met yesterday. Tendrich distributed an updated Budget Guidelines draft. Discussions followed pertaining to how, to whom and how much monies have been divided to various organizations.
D. RES 97-23 Shuttle System Route
The importance of setting routes and times for the shuttle service and then ascertaining that these routes are put in conspicuous locations was discussed. Rep. Escano recommended that schedules be made and distributed.

E. RES 97-2 New Council Seats/Representatives
Rep. Amorin reported that Dr. Mau, Provost, said addressing the issue of new Representative Seats has to be done. Rep. Abramson distributed a report detailing his findings with the School of Computer Sciences and the School of Accounting, along with his recommendations. Discussion followed. He reported there are three at-large seats, and a total of 15 seats on the Council. It is his recommendation that the Council seats be increased to 18. He stated it appears the School of Computer Sciences should, in fact, have its own seat; however, due to the close connections the School of Accounting has with the School of Business, they should not get a separate seat. Therefore, Abramson recommended the at-large seats would increase from 3 to 5, and with the addition of a seat for Computer Sciences, the total Council seats would be 18.

F. RES 97-3 Setting Council Meeting Times
It was recommended that starting with next semester, the Council Meetings would be held on Wednesday's at 5:00 PM. Those required to be at the meetings would be the President, Vice President, Council and Committee Chairs, and the Representatives. Starting with next semester, the policy of missing three meetings will necessitate impeachment being enforced.

G. Other
The University is considering commencement alternatives. Dr. Toni Bilbao, College of Education, addressed the Council, and solicited commencement ideas. Discussions ensued on the importance of the commencements themselves, and the pros and cons of splitting the commencement by colleges or having three separate commencements, etc. A proposal was distributed showing commencement suggestions. Dr. Bilbao will entertain any suggestions brought to her attention. Becerra told her a Council vote could be taken to be certain we have a commencement which has been officially endorsed by the Council.

VIII OPEN FORUM
Zahra Burton recommended that a maximum length of time of two hours be set for Council Meetings to prevent loss of quorum which delays voting and is time consuming. Discussion followed.

IX ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. FIU's first softball game is Monday, February 9, 3:00 PM
B. There will be a Public Hearing on the Budget, Tuesday, February 10, 2:00 PM
C. Rep. Abramson announced the graduate assistants are unionizing.
D. Rep. Amorin is celebrating his 21st birthday today.

X ADJOURNMENT
Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM

Carlos A. Becerra, President