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Meeting Minutes 03.13.99

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING UNIVERSITY PARK, MARCH 13, 1999

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Safiya Burton, President
Mr. Tito Omaghomi, Vice President
Ms. Violeine St. Hilaire, Executive Assistant/Clerk of Counsel
Mr. Rafael Zapata, Campus Activities Advisor
Ms. Cristina Sorondo, School of Journalism and Mass Communication Representative
Mr. Ian Grocher, Vice President (University Park)
Mr. Robert Castellanos, Comptroller
Mr. Orlando Amorin, President (University Park)
Mr. Max Orezza, Graduate Student Representative
Ms. Katrina Davey, Lower Division Representative
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Finance Chair
Ms. Zohra Burton
Ms. Marissa Rodriguez
Dr. John Bonan

CALL TO ORDER

Greg Olson arrived late; the meeting was called to order at 11:50a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

11:50

Due to Mr. Olson's tardiness, he only had ten minutes to do his presentation. He spoke on the budget that he was asking for, also, he explained to the Council what the money was needed for. With such little time left he closed his presentation, and allowed questions to be asked of him.

Ms. Zohra Burton had a question as to whether the pool hours were increased. Mr. Olson answered yes the pool hours were increased in the morning. He further explained that the daylight saving hours reflects how long the pool will stay opened at night.

According to Ms. Burton, the students would like for the pool hours to be extended. Mr. Olson agreed that the pool hours do need to be extended, and agree to extend it to at least 5:30p.m. by next week.

Mr. Kihohia suggested that the watts in the light bulbs be increased. Mr. Olson agreed to check into that possibility. Moreover, Mr. Kihohia wanted to know what are the revenues in terms of Marketing. Mr. Olson replied that there are a lot of non-student activities that occur at the pool.

In addition the tennis courts were also discussed; it seems that the tennis court are in more demand in the evening.

12:35

Unfortunately, Mr. Lou Conrad was not present, therefore, Mr. Mike Falcon the Promotions Director spoke in his place. Mr. Falcon went over the budget that was provided to the Council, which includes the Radio Station budget. Mr. Falcon informed the Council that the Radio Station will be on the air next month. The members are hoping to have a very international Radio Station. Radio Station is stationed in homestead, the members are trying to find a location for a translator for the North Campus. Correspondingly, the station will also have access via the Internet. Their web address is as followed: [www. Web radio.com/wrgp](http://www.Webradio.com/wrgp). There will be an expansion to the North Campus as far as promotions. Mr. Falcon stated to the Council that the Radio Station was having a problem with office supplies, they have had to borrow some office supplies.

The President of the University Park Campus request that money is raised for contingency.

Ms. Sorondo advised the Radio Station speak to the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, she thinks that they might be able to help them out.

With no further questions Mr. Falcon brought his presentation to a close.

1:05

The next presenter was Ms. Donna Wybourny; she is from the campus recreation. She arrived there with two of her representatives, Janet Pool and Venessa Barbie who showed up late. The Council was advised that the Recreation center needs some new tiles. Ms. Pool then went over the different quotes that she received for the flooring: the highest quote was for \$98,000, and the lowest quote was for \$21,000. In addition, several new programs were added increasing the operating cost. The equipment is deteriorating, because the amount of people occupying the Recreation center exceeds the amount that it was built to hold. Ms. Burton suggested that the Alumni fee be raised so that revenues may be generated. In addition to the revenues generated from the fee that the Alumni are charged there is guest fees as well as the Pro Shop, the aerobic fee, and the locker fee. The presentation came to a close at 1:30.

1:50

Ms. Ruth Hamilton was the presenter for Graham University Center. Immediately, Ms. Hamilton introduced the members of her staff that attended the meeting with her. Ms. Hamilton informed the Council of all the compliments that the Graham University Center have receive on its appearance. She then expressed her thanks to SGA for all of their support in the past. One major commitment of the Graham university Center is to employ students. Ms. Hamilton then went over the booklet that was provided to the council, which entails the traffic occurring in the G.C, as well as who is using the G.C. Ms. Hamilton also looks at other sources to generate funds. Ms. Hasmilton then went over why the amount asked for is needed and how the amounts given to them in the past have been spent.

Ms. Burton had a question as to what other sources of revenues will be query for allocation. Ms. Hamilton answered that the bookstore is one of the main sources being seek right now. Ms. Hamilton feels that more technology is needed in the Graham University Center. At length, Mr. Castellanos wanted a compromise amount, that amount was a diminution of \$150,000 from the budget. With no further a due the presentation was bought to a close at 2:35p.m.

2:40

Mr. George Smith presented the next presentation. Mr. Smith represented the Graduate Student Association. Mr. Smith explained to the Council why the amount requested was needed. The amount is imperative in order to get Florida International University into research one status. However, F.I.U. must have a minimum of fifty PHD graduates. It is substantial that F.I.U. reaches research one status, because it will benefit the student community as well as the people as a whole.

Mr. Smith construed to the Council the different programs that the budget will be funding. The budget is funding the GSO, theConference reimbursement, and the Thesis Dissertation Scholarships. Mr. Smith closed his presentation at 3:23.

3:25

Ms. Anna Sippin is a representative of the International Student Orientation Committee, with her was Ms. Maria Leviste, the Assistant Director of the International Student Orientation. The total request is for \$54,000 for both campus. Ms. Sippin advised the committee that GSA is their only source of funding. She further explained that the budget went up from last year because of the increase of International students enrolling at F.I.U. An Additional budget is needed for a new program of which the Orientation committee will give the International students a historical tour of Miami.

3:40

Ellen Plisner was the next presenter, she was representing the Orientation Committee. Ms. Plisner came along with her intern Cedrick McMahon. Ms. Plisner is requesting that an additional fifteen thousand dollars be added to the budget that they had last year. The reason for this increase is because of a new budget for the North Campus, furthermore, the increase is due to the increased enrollment at F.I.U. Ms. Plisner bought her presentation to a conclusion at 3:50.

:05

The next presenter was Ms. Majorie Agüero the Chairperson of the Honor Council. The Honor Society attends regional conferences annually. Furthermore, they also employ interns, providing opportunity for students to work with different companies. Community service is another experience that honor society members have the chance to participate in. Likewise, on campus the members provide information to the students of F.I.U daily. The Honors Council also encourages involvement in the Student Government Council. Ms. Agüero also advised the Council that the different Honor Society receive their money based on a point system.

Ms. Agüero then went over with the Council the different events that the Honors Council did last year. Last year the Honors Council partook in the Graduation Reception, as well as the leadership workshop. Ms. Agüero was asked to give the Council a compromise amount, Ms. Agüero agreed with \$70,000. Ms. Burton further asked for a breakdown of the money spent on the North Campus. With no further question from the council Ms. Agüero then brought her presentation to a close.

4:35

Mr. Whit Hollas the Director of the Wolfe University Center, was the following presenter. Mr. Hollas contiguously gave each member of the Council an outline, then proceeded in going over the outline. The outline made a comparison of last year's budget to that of this year's. Mr. Hollas explained the reason for the increase in the budget. Seemingly, additional funding is needed for the mandate raise. Besides, the computer lab is still not completed. The money allocated for the computer lab last year simply went towards renovation of the space. Mr. Hollas adds that one million dollars may allow for the computer lab to remain open for twenty-four hours. The money that is requested is not for the building of new facilities; it is to sustain the appearance as well as operation of the existing facilities.

Mr. Hollas explained that he only had two choices, he can either generate the revenues that is needed, or he can allow for the W.U.C building to be closed. In addition, there will be a Credit Union placed next to the Identification office. With that said Mr. Hollas brought his presentation to a close.

5:30

The next presentation was from the VOX; one of the VOX main concerns is becoming University wide. The representative further explained that an adequate budget is needed for the cost of printing. The VOX is a non-profit organization. Lastly, the representative illustrated to the Council how vital it is that they get a Mac machine. The VOX need a Mac machine for them because they cannot share a system with anybody. The presentation ended at 5:45.

6:05

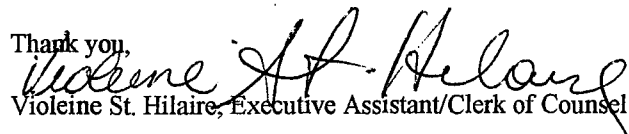
The final presentation was by the Volunteer Action Center; Sean Kramer who is member of the Alternative Spring Break Committee gave the presentation. The ABS is in its fifth year, and it provides an alternative for students from parties, pool, and other Spring Break activities. In 1997 they received the Program of the Year Award. Florida International University is the only school that uses a Rope course. There are about one hundred and thirty students in the program. The fund provided by SGA goes toward the ABS travels, and registration fees. The program cost eighty-five dollars per participants. This year the ABS received four hundred applications. Last year the ABS was able to generate fifty thousand dollars aside from SGA funding.

A representative from the Dance Marathon Committee came along with Mr. Kramer. She explained that the Dance Marathon last for twenty-five hours. The program started last year in order to raise money for the Miami Children's Hospital. This year they were able to raise \$21,000. It is a student ran event, which includes both the North and the University Park Campus. The program provides an atmosphere for both the campuses to come together for a great cause.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further a due the meeting was adjourned at 6:21.

Thank you,


Violeine St. Hilaire, Executive Assistant/Clerk of Counsel