

6-3-1998

Meeting Minutes 06.03.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

BI-MONTHLY MEETING

**JUNE 3, 1998
5:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Safiya Burton, President
Ms. Erin O'Brien, Broward Representative
Ms. Nicole Perkins, College of Urban and Public Affairs Representative
Mr. William Stafford III, School of Nursing Representative
Mr. Fadi Hatem, Chief of Staff
Ms. Mahassin Salahuddin, Lower Division Representative
Ms. Christina Sorondo, School of Journalism and Mass Communications Representative
Mr. Ian Richards, Vice President
Mr. Duayne Bernal, Executive Assistant to the Vice President
Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair
Ms. Dannielle Boyer, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Plinio Sanchez, Director of University Relations
Ms. Nia Johnson, Representative-At-Large
Ms. Lakisha Holmes, Graduate Representative
Ms. Heidi Mark, Administrative Assistant/ Clerk of Council
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Finance Chair
Ms. Jasmine Michel, Graduate Representative
Mr. Kervins Laurent, Lower Division Representative
Ms. Avia Rice, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Raphael Zapata, on behalf of Ms. Ellen Plissner, Advisor

ABSENT

Ms. Giralda Merkman, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Arthur Papillon Jr., Director of Student Lobbying
Mr. Delano Greene, School of Hospitality Representative
Mr. Jomo Duncanson, Panther Pride/ Athletics Coordinator
Ms. Veronica Arcila, Student Services Chair

GUESTS

Ms. Liana Perez
Ms. Sandra Jean

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Ms. Safiya Burton, SGC President

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Ms. Burton requested that the Council read through the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Dannielle Boyer made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Erin O'Brien seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Burton gave the council an update on the retreat, which is to be held the weekend of June 12- 14. It is mandatory that all council members attend this retreat. The Council is to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Friday June 12, in the SGC Office, and we all leave at 10:30 a.m. Sessions to be held at the retreat include goal setting, public speaking, parliamentary procedures, grooming and etiquette etc. A representative of the Counseling Center, as well as other guest speakers will conduct these sessions. The dress code for the retreat is casual.

Next Tuesday, June 9, there will be a very special commencement ceremony for the Prime Minister of Spain, the Honorable Jose Maria Aznar. He will be conferred an Honorary Degree from FIU, and Ms. Burton asked that all Council who could make it should please try to attend. The ceremony will be held at the Werthiem Performing Arts Center on the University Park Campus from 10:30- 11:45 a.m.

Several members of the Council attended the Florida Student Association retreat last weekend, and Ms. Burton gave the council a brief synopsis of what was discussed. The major event was that the 1998/99 SGC Budget was approved. More details will be given at the SGC retreat.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Richards passed out a sheet of Committee assignments that he had made. He advised that if there were any problems at all with the Committee assignments, that members should speak with him after the meeting, so that any problems could be rectified.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

There was no advisor's report

STANDING COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Fernandez announced that a new Academic Provost is being sought since James Mau has accepted the position as Chancellor. A major committee that she wants to serve on is the screening committee because she feels that SGC should play an instrumental role. To this end she has contacted President Madique's assistant Bob Donnelly so that she may be able to get on the committee. Lastly, she was involved in resolving a situation with a student who had a grade discrepancy.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kihohia informed the Council that he had not yet made the final decision on who his Finance Committee would be comprised of. However, his decision should be announced at the next meeting. Therefore, Mr. Richards advised those Council members who had signed up for the Finance Committee, to attend either the Student Services or Academic Affairs Committee meetings for the following week until the final decision on the Finance Committee is made.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Mr. Sanchez was involved in handling a complaint a student had with the fitness center and pool facilities. He was also speaking with consultants about increasing SGC visibility and awareness on campus and on the community level. Lastly, he had made contact with the Beacon to have a declining credit account setup for advertisement purposes. Upcoming projects include a promotional video for SGC, a newsletter and a Beauty Pageant/ Talent show. Any suggestions are welcome.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Hatem was working on acquiring a copier and fax machine for the SGC office. \$1,400 will be spent on this project. Also, there is to be a computer program introduced during the next two weeks that will be used to record the hours of the Council members.

MEDIA ADVISORY BOARD ISSUES - MS. CHRISTINA SORONDO

Ms. Sorondo informed the council that the Media Advisory Board consists of 3 faculty members, 3 students, 2 members of administration, and 1 outside professional. The head of this board is Professor Ratner, an English professor. This Board handles the allocation of funds for the Beacon and the radio station. She stated that she attended a meeting of the Board and professor Ratner wanted to come to a SGC meeting to address certain issues related to the funding of the Beacon and the radio station. Basically the board would like to receive funding from SGC. However, SGC feels that the media should be independent and income should be from advertising. It was agreed by the council that Professor Ratner should come in and make his case at the next SGC meeting.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- President Burton wished to thank Ms. Sorondo, Ms. Fernandez, Mr. Papillon Jr., and Mr. Sanchez for attending the publications photo shoot last Thursday.
- Mr. William Stafford III volunteered to serve as the interim Student Services Chair in the absence of Ms. Veronica Arcila. There was a motion to accept. Vote: unanimous.
- Ms. Fernandez announced that there will be a rally next Wednesday June 10, to protest against the Dade County School Board, which wants to restrict free speech.

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- Mr. Richards gave a brief update on the university Wide Committee meeting. SGC can now regulate what banners go up outside of the WUC and Housing.
- Ms. Burton announced that there will be a Football forum tomorrow Thursday June 4, at the Werthiem Conservatory. All Council members were urged to attend
- Ms. Burton introduced Ms. Liana Perez who is a candidate for the position of Director of Community Relations. This position will be voted upon soon.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Mark, Clerk of Council
Student Government Council, North Campus