

6-17-1998

Meeting Minutes 06.17.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

BI-MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 17, 1998
5:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Safiya Burton, President
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
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
Mrs. Jasmine Michel-Yacinthe, Graduate Representative
Mr. Kervins Laurent, Lower Division Representative
Ms. Avia Rice, Representative-At-Large
Ms. Ellen Plissner, Advisor
Mr. Arthur Papillon Jr., Director of Student Lobbying

ABSENT

Ms. Giralda Merkman, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Delano Greene, School of Hospitality Representative
Mr. Jomo Duncanson, Panther Pride/ Athletics Coordinator
Ms. Veronica Arcila, Student Services Chair
Ms. Erin O'Brien, Broward Representative
Ms. Dannielle Boyer, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Finance Chair

GUESTS

Mr. Robert Ratner, English Dept, Chair Media Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 PM by Ms. Safiya Burton, SGC President. Ms. Burton requested that the Council read through the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Ian Richards made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Nia Johnson seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

**SGC BI-MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES RECORDED ON
06/17/98**

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Richards thanked all those Council members who participated in the SGC Retreat in Key Largo. He then produced a list of all members who had been absent from general Council meetings and Committee meetings. All Council members were reminded that being part of a Committee is mandatory. Thus, an absence from a Committee meeting counted as an absence from a general Council meeting. Therefore, all members should attend Committee meetings to avoid being removed from office.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

Ms. Plissner informed the Council that it was the first day of Orientation, and that the Super Summer 98 program was the biggest that North Campus has ever had. She felt that SGC should take full advantage of this great opportunity and try to recruit some new students for the Council. The key here is to GET INVOLVED!! She then spoke about two new people who were appointed at North Campus. One was David Cole, the new Director of Admissions, and the other person was Joyce Wilson, Assistant Registrar. Ms. Plissner urged Council members to take some time out to go by these offices and introduce ourselves.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Burton thanked Ms. Fernandez for the Pizza that was brought to the meeting. Ms. Fernandez expressed her disappointment at the lack of SGC participation at the rally held in support of high school students for their right to a free press. If SGC members commit to an event, they should be committed enough to turn up for the event. Ms. Fernandez felt that this demonstrated a lack of team spirit for SGC and FIU on a whole. With regard to the appointment of a new Assistant Registrar, Ms. Fernandez reported that she had already introduced herself, and that she had also offered help on behalf of Academic Affairs, and by extension SGC. She had 2 of the pictures that were taken by the Council blown up to be placed in the President and Vice Presidents' offices. She informed the Council of a documentary that will be done for SGC. This documentary will be sent to Barbara Walters, host of 20/20, and Oprah Winfrey so that the country can see what Florida International University is all about.

STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Stafford met with Greg Wilkins, WUC Director of Operations to discuss the problem of feminine products in the female bathrooms. Mr. Wilkins stated that approximately \$10,000 would be needed to fix the problem in each bathroom. SGC felt that this price is totally ludicrous. Mr. Stafford succeeded in getting 'Out of Order' signs placed in the

**SGC BI-MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES RECORDED ON
06/17/98**

bathrooms. Basically, the matter remains unresolved. Mr. Stafford also worked on putting in a proposal to Whit Hollis, Director of the Wolfe University Center to have the Oasis booth in Academic I reserved for SGC. Mr. Stafford wants to set up this booth as a visible place where students can see SGC and more importantly, become involved in SGC.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LOBBYING

Mr. Papillon reported on the FSA meeting held recently which was quite successful, and on some important happenings that came out of this meeting. Ms. Safiya Burton was elected as Vice Chair of the State Council of Student Body Presidents (SCSBP). This is quite an achievement for FIU. The FSA retreat will be held the weekend of July 23-26 in Tampa. The cost is \$250 per delegate. FSA dues have been increased from \$15,000-\$20,000. Tuition is going up by 7% for in-state students, and 12.5% for those out of state. This increase in fees is to go toward technology. Also a new student Regent has been appointed for the 1998/99 term. Her name is Michelle Oyola from Florida Atlantic University. Lastly, Mr. Papillon has been appointed to coordinate the One Voice / One Vote program.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Mr. Sanchez was involved in writing an article on the pool facilities, which he had submitted to the Beacon. With regard to the Beacon account, the price estimated for full-page ads for the year was \$2670. Mr. Sanchez stated that he was trying to get another estimate for a smaller size ad. He is also working on the promotional video for SGC, the newsletter and the Beauty Pageant/ Talent show. Any suggestions are welcome.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Hatem gave the Council a demonstration of the time clock, which will be implemented to record the office hours of the Council members. Basically, all members need to do is punch in their password and the clock records the time. When leaving, punch in their password again and the system logs off. This system will be implemented by Monday 22, so please remember to punch in and out.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Burton brought up the issue of whether or not the Panther Pride/ Athletics Coordinator, Jumo Duncanson, should be removed from the Council. Ms. Nia Johnson made a motion that Mr. Duncanson be removed from office. Ms. Nicole Perkins seconded that motion. However, Ms. Lakisha Holmes stated that the issue should really be whether the Council votes to keep Mr. Duncanson on the Council since the Constitution states that three absences is basis enough for removal from office. Therefore,

**SGC BI-MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES RECORDED ON
06/17/98**

the Council voted on whether or not Mr. Duncanson should be kept on the Council. There were 6 in favor, none against, 3 abstentions – Ms. Avia Rice, Ms. Mahassin Salahuddin, and Mr. Kervins Laurent. Ms. Burton stated some very important dates that Council members should keep in mind:

-Thursday July 2 - visit from FSA officers, Kevin Mayeaux, Executive Director; John McGovern, SCSBP Chair; John Carey, FSA Chair.

-Wednesday July 15 – Board of Regents votes on Law School for FIU in Tallahassee. Plans are being put in place to have buses of students going up to Tallahassee for this very important event.

-July 23-26 - FSA Retreat. Please see Mr. Hatem if you are interested in going. However, Ms. Burton stressed that those members who have been absent from meeting will not be going on this retreat.

Ms. Burton will be out of office from June 18 till July 29. All presidential duties will be handled by Mr. Ian Richards.

MEDIA ADVISORY BOARD ISSUES – PROFESSOR ROBERT RATNER

Professor Ratner introduced himself and congratulated the council on the progress of the meeting. He stated that in order for the FIU community to know what is going on in the University, faculty, staff and SGC meetings should be covered in the media. The Beacon should be invited to come to meetings and report the happenings of these meetings in the newspaper as well as on the radio station. The Media Advisory Board is in place to prevent stagnation of the media. The board has a lot of passion, but no budget. In order for the board to do its job, funding must be had. The goals of the board include production twice a week for the beacon and major advertising business. His idea of a healthy Media Advisory Board is one that has a common goal, one that allocates funds from a budget, and one that receives funding from a media fee of some sort. Professor Ratner states that the board wants to work with SGC, but financial clout is needed in order to avoid stagnation. He then thanked SGC for allowing him to come in to the meeting and he hopes for many more positive discussions in the future. He even suggested having a sub-committee within SGC set up to discuss the issues. Ms. Burton placed Mr. Richards in charge of setting up this sub-committee.

INTRA OFFICE COMMUNICATION – DUAYNE BERNAL

Mr. Bernal hopes to implement an electronic message board that will dispatch information and make communication more effective among council members. He is hoping to set up some computer training classes that he will instruct so that members can use the system to post memos, proposals, minutes, agendas etc.

SGC BI-MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES RECORDED ON
06/17/98

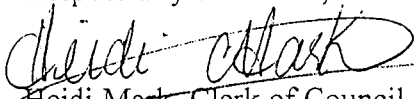
Anyone interested in the SGC Intern Committee, please see Mr. Laurent to sign up.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

There were no community comments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Mark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Heidi Mark, Clerk of Council

Student Government Council, North Campus