

9-10-1998

Meeting Minutes 09.10.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council

**SGC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 1998**

6:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Veronica Arcila, Student Services Chair
Ms. Dannielle Boyer, Representative-At-Large
Ms. Safiya Burton, President
Dr. Hellen Ellison, Advisor
Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair
Mr. Fadi Hatem, Chief of Staff
Mr. Kervins Laurent, Lower Division Representative
Ms. Heidi Mark, Administrative Assistant/ Clerk of Council
Ms. Giralda Merkman, Representative-At-Large
Ms. Nicole Perkins, College of Urban And Public Affairs Representative
Ms. Avia Rice, Representative-At-Large
Mr. Mitchel Saintilmon, Panther Power/ Athletics Coordinator
Ms. Mahasin Salahuddin, Lower Division Representative
Mr. Plinio Sanchez, Director of University Relations
Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers, Bay Vista Hall Council Representative
Ms. Christina Sorondo, School of Journalism and Mass Communications Representative
Mr. William Stafford III, School of Nursing Representative
Mr. Rafael Zapata, Campus Activities/ Advisor

ABSENT

Mr. Arthur Papillon Jr., Director of Student Lobbying
Ms. Liana Perez, Director of Community Relations (excused)
Ms. Nia Johnson, Representative-At-Large (excused)
Mr. Delano Greene, School of Hospitality Representative
Ms. Lakisha Holmes, Vice President (excused)
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Finance Chair (excused)

GUESTS

Mr. Steve Coate, Beacon Newspaper

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Safiya Burton. Ms. Burton requested that members read through the minutes from the previous meeting. Since there was no quorum the minutes could not be accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Ms. Burton informed the Council that the Faculty Club is no longer in existence. Therefore, she met with Whit Hollis, Director of the Wolfe University Center and was successful in acquiring the front half of the room to serve as a small lounge. The back half will serve as a meeting room. The lounge will be furnished with comfortable chairs and a television. This room will be up and running in about a week or two. Ms. Holmes is in the process of forming a lounge committee and anyone who has ideas for the lounge, please see her.
- There is a Space Committee meeting on September 21, from 2-4 p.m. Student Services should be at this meeting.
- On September 22, there will be an executive luncheon with President Madique and his associates. About 7 select students can take the opportunity to meet with President Madique on this day. If interested, please see Ms. Burton.
- Ms. Burton and Ms. Mahasin Salahuddin attended a Commencement meeting this morning. The committee is exploring the possibilities of changing the format of the commencement exercise. Anyone who is interested, please note that there are going to be more of these meetings coming up so please keep this in mind.
- The Blue Moon Café will be starting on the first Wednesday in October. This event is intended to provide entertainment for the evening students who cannot participate in activities during the day.
- The Three-Tier system that has been proposed by Chancellor Herbert will be voted upon by the Board of Regents today in Tallahassee. The Tier system was set up mainly to establish differential funding among the state universities in Florida. Right now F.I.U. falls into the second Tier classified Research. In order for us to move into the first Tier classified National Research, we need to have at least 40 million Federal dollars. As of now, F.I.U. has \$37 million across the board. The University also has to grant a certain number of doctoral degrees. The University has recently hired a Vice President of research, so even though we have a long way to go to get into the first tier, it is possible.
- Executive board meetings are Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in President Burton's office. All concerned, please be there promptly at 9:00 a.m.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Dr. Ellison informed the Council about the laundry situation in Housing. Basically, the situation is slowly being improved. The University lawyers have built a case on the fact that the vendors have not lived up to the expectations of the contract. This case was built from evidence provided from letters of complaint from residents in Housing. The options that the University has right now are to buy out the remainder of the contract or to cancel the contract and face a possible lawsuit. Administration is leaning toward buying out the remainder of the contract.

- Tomorrow, Mr. Rafael Zapata will be checking on members' eligibility for SGC.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- Ms. Fernandez spoke about the Society of Professional Journalists' Sports Day. This will be held on Thursday September 24, at 12 noon. Members please attend this event. There will be free food provided by Shells Seafood.

- She read a letter addressed to Professor Ratner, Chair of the Media Advisory Board from Christina Stefanova who was suspended from her job as Editor of the Beacon. Ms. Stefanova wanted Professor Ratner to cite the reasons for her suspension. The Council is somewhat involved in this issue because it funds the Beacon in some way and also because the Beacon wants more money from SGC. Therefore, even though it is an Academic Affairs issue, the Council needs to be aware of it as well.

STUDENT SERVICES

- Members need to read the report that was put in your boxes. Important issues are Ms. Arcila is working on resolving the Panther Express problem. Students have complained of broken air conditioners and overcrowding on the buses. There should be a resolution in the near future.

- Members need to restock the booth whenever you go down to sit in the booth. Please remember to do this because there needs to be material to hand out to students when they pass by.

DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

- Members need to sign up for the Feeding the Homeless activity as soon as possible.

- This committee is also working on a Carwash in which the tickets will be presold.

- Members need to help out with the United Way Campaign. The committee has come up with a lot of ideas in conjunction with the community relations committee, but there is a lot of work to be done and a lot of help is needed.

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PANTHER POWER

- Ms. Boyer spoke about the Foot Soldiers and their involvement in publicizing SGC and Panther Power events and activities. She is also working closely with the SGC Internship program trying to recruit persons who want to be foot soldiers from this pool of young and energetic interns.
- Next Monday starts the Voter Registration Drive. There are a lot of activities planned for the week and help is needed to carry out these activities. Please sign up to help in any way that you can.

OLD BUSINESS

- Please remember to encourage anyone you meet to vote during next week for the Voter Registration Drive.
- Ms. Sorondo handed out some designs for mascots and she is still doing research to find the best one at the best price.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Burton has just received the report from Ted Guba, Inspector General on the allegations made against the former Associate Director of Campus Activities. At the next meeting, members will receive more information about this matter.
- Students have complained that there is no study room for them to study after hours. Campus police had cause to confront a particular student last semester who was studying after hours in a room that he was not supposed to be in. The library cannot be open 24 hours because of the fact that the University cannot afford to do so and class rooms cannot be left open after hours because they need to be cleaned and ready for classes the following day. Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers suggested that maybe students could use the Housing facility since there is a 24-hour security desk present. This can be looked into to ascertain the feasibility.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Dr. Hellen Ellison suggested that since the Council has so many activities planned that it should target the Freshman Experience classes for volunteers. These students have to get involved in campus activities for credit in these classes so this could be a way for them to do so. The Council can write a letter to the instructors advising them of the activities planned and the instructors can then suggest to their students that these are activities that they can take part in.

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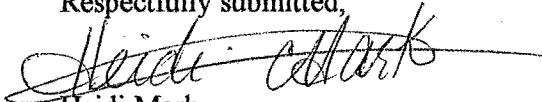
- Members felt that there was not enough communication between the E-board and the rest of the Council. Minutes will be made available to members so that they can have an idea of what the E-board is doing. Also, members are welcome to attend these meetings if they so desire.

- Orientation for the Internship program is September 26 at 10:30 a.m. in WUC 100. All Council members need to be present.

- University Housing Hall Council meetings are on Mondays at 9:30 p.m. Members please make an effort to attend.

With no further business or comments the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Mark

Clerk of Council, Student Government Council, North Campus.