

10-8-1998

## Meeting Minutes 10.08.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Florida International University

## Student Government Council

**SGC MEETING  
OCTOBER 8, 1998**

**6:00 PM**

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms. Veronica Arcila, Student Services Chair  
Ms. Dannielle Boyer, Representative-At-Large  
Ms. Safiya Burton, President  
Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair  
Mr. Delano Greene, School of Hospitality Representative  
Ms. Lakisha Holmes, Vice President  
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Finance Chair  
Mr. Kervins Laurent, Lower Division Representative  
Ms. Heidi Mark, Administrative Assistant/ Clerk of Council  
Ms. Nicole Perkins, College of Urban And Public Affairs Representative  
Ms. Avia Rice, Representative-At-Large  
Ms. Christina Sorondo, School of Journalism and Mass Communications Representative  
Ms. Liana Perez, Director of Community Relations  
Mr. Mervin Robinson, Representative-At-Large  
Mr. Mitchel Saintilmon, Panther Power/ Athletics Coordinator  
Mr. William Stafford III, School of Nursing Representative  
Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers, Bay Vista Hall Council Representative  
Mr. Rafael Zapata, Campus Activities/ Advisor

### **ABSENT**

Ms. Mahasin Salahuddin, Lower Division Representative (excused)  
Mr. Fadi Hatem, Chief of Staff  
Ms. Giralda Merkman, Representative-At-Large (excused)  
Mrs. Helen Ellison, Advisor

### **GUESTS**

Ms. Latoya Christian, SGC Intern  
Mr. Joshua Smith, Finance Committee Member  
Ms. Kenika Coakley, Invitational Scholars Club  
Ms. Knickeita Vassell, Honors Council  
Ms. Yvelise Jean-Baptiste  
Ms. Veneisha Scott, SGC Intern; Invitational Scholars Club  
Ms. Ivy Muya, SGC Intern

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Safiya Burton. Ms. Burton requested that members read through the minutes from the previous meeting. There was a

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friendly amendment to include that Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair was excused from the last meeting. Mr. William Stafford moved to accept the minutes with the amendment. Ms. Mireidy Fernandez seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Ms. Burton first welcomed everyone to the meeting. Guests were also asked to introduce themselves.
  
- The Florida Leaders magazine has a category for the best Student Government in a state school in Florida. This year F.I.U. Student Government is going after this most coveted title. A committee has been set up by Ms. Kisha Holmes and anyone who is interested in being on this committee, please see Ms. Holmes. A portfolio will be put together to include all the goals and activities of the Council for the year, and any help will be greatly appreciated.
  
- Ms. Burton thanked all the members who showed up at the United Way kickoff on Tuesday.
  
- Members were informed that they should check their mailboxes as the agendas for meetings will be placed in the boxes before the meetings.
  
- There is a huge concert coming up in November, and the university has \$35,000 to put on this concert. The committee has narrowed the artistes down to the Flipmode Squad with Busta Rhymes who is charging \$30,000 and Wyclef Jean who is charging \$21,000 plus airfare and accommodation, The committee is leaning toward Wyclef Jean, but members of the council felt that a Flipmode concert would be more entertaining.

**PANTHER POWER**

- The Panther Power Logo was passed around for members to see. Members were not totally satisfied with the Logo and Ms. Christina Sorondo suggested that she ask her brother who does screen painting if he could possibly design a Logo for the program.
  
- Friday October 16 starts Midnight Madness. Mr. Saintilmon plans to have buses taking North Campus students down to South Campus for this event. There will be a tailgate party and lots of fun. Please keep this in mind.
  
- November 9 is the date of the Softball game between North Campus SGC and SGC UP. There will be a Barbecue and the Cheerleaders will be present.

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- Other events to keep in mind are the Basketball game between Michigan and FIU, and the Basketball tournament on December 6.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Ms. Kenika Coakley, President of the Invitational Scholars Club presented her club's case to the Council. The club had approached Student Government for \$1,400 for 2 students to attend a conference in Atlanta, Georgia. However, the amount of money needed now was \$781. Dr. Correnti made a commitment to the club to provide \$200, possibly more. The breakdown of money was:

Travel R/T	\$146
Hotel	\$360
Conference Fee	\$212.50
Incidentals	\$63

Ms. Avia Rice moved to revote on this issue since it was tabled at the last meeting. Ms. Dannielle Boyer seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Mr. Kunga Kihohia reminded the Council that there was just about \$3,500 in the general account at this present time. At the beginning of the fiscal year there was \$8,000. Mr. Stafford moved to approve the \$781 for the Invitational Scholars Club from the general account. Mr. Mervin Robinson seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: Ms. Holmes was concerned that the Council had the rest of the year to go through with just \$3,500. Mr. Saintilmon commented that the council has spent money for the students to enjoy themselves in the form of parties, now the council should pay for students to attend this very important conference. VOTE: 5 in favor, none against, 3 abstentions. (Mr. Greene, Mr. Laurent, Ms. Perez)

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Joshua Smith, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee produced an attestation following the Inspector General's report on the former Associate Director of Campus Activities. Mr. Smith then submitted a bill for payment to the Finance Chair claiming that the Finance Chair verbally promised that he would be paid for his services constituting a contract. He also stated that in order for the audit to maintain its' independence, SGC must pay him for his services. Mr. Kihohia disputed the claim that Mr. Smith was promised payment for producing the attestation and then went on to explain how anyone gets paid from SGC. A written contract must first be drawn up by the SGC accountant before anything else proceeds. This was not done in this case, therefore if Student Government pays him now it would be unconstitutional. In the E-board meeting held on Tuesday, Mr. Smith mentioned that he would like to be paid, but Mr. Kihohia never promised that he would in fact be paid. Mr. Kihohia assigned this task to his Vice Chair since he has knowledge of accounting because it was the decision of the Executive Board that an independent auditor would not be hired at the time that this report was done. Therefore, the E-board decided that Mr. Smith would

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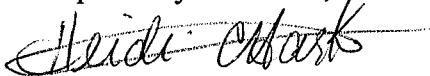
not be paid. Mr. Zapata advised that this matter be sent to legal counsel for determination.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

- The Habitat for Humanity community volunteer program has been rescheduled for October 31. Please keep this in mind.
  
- Due to unfortunate family circumstances, Mr. Plinio Sanchez has resigned from his position as Director of University Relations. Mr. Sanchez has been a very dedicated and hard working member of the Council and we wish him and his family all the best.
  
- United Way Business Blitz is tomorrow. Please be on time.

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.