

11-5-1998

## Meeting Minutes 11.05.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Florida International University

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## Student Government Council

**SGC MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 1998**

**6:00 PM**

### IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Aileen Abella, Director of University Relations  
Ms. Veronica Arcila, Student Services Chair  
Ms. Dannielle Boyer, Representative-At-Large  
Ms. Safiya Burton, President  
Mrs. Helen Ellison, Advisor  
Mr. Delano Greene, School of Hospitality Representative  
Mr. Fadi Hatem, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Gakunga Kihohia, Finance Chair  
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. Liana Perez, Director of Community Relations  
Ms. Avia Rice, Representative-At-Large  
Mr. Mervin Robinson, Representative-At-Large  
Mr. Mitchel Saintilmon, Athletics Director  
Ms. Mahasin Salahuddin, Lower Division Representative  
Ms. Veneisha Scott, Panther Power Chair  
Mr. William Stafford III, School of Nursing Representative  
Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers, Bay Vista Hall Council Representative  
Ms. Christina Sorondo, School of Journalism and Mass Communications Representative  
Mr. Rafael Zapata, Campus Activities/ Advisor

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NOV 10 1998  
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STUDENT GOVT. ACCOUNTING

### ABSENT

Mr. David L. Cole, Associate Director of Campus Activities  
Ms. Mireidy Fernandez, Academic Affairs Chair  
Ms. Lakisha Holmes, Vice President

### GUESTS

Ms. Marie Janvier  
Ms. Tada Grey, SGC Intern  
Ms. Ivy Muya, SGC Intern  
Ms. Amber Rinehart, SGC Intern  
Ms. Latoya Christian, SGC Intern  
Ms. Somone Washington, SGC Intern  
Ms. Baiyina Hamed, SGC Intern  
Ms. Michelle Oyola, Student Regent  
Dr. Susan Himburg, SACS Self Study Director; Office of Accreditation

**SGC MEETING**  
**MINUTES RECORDED ON**  
**11/05/98**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President Safiya Burton. Members were asked to review the minutes from the previous meeting. There was a friendly amendment to include that Ms. Giralda Merkman was in attendance at the last meeting. Ms. Nicole Perkins moved to accept the minutes with the amendment. Mr. Kervins Laurent seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the guests present to introduce themselves. Following this, the meeting was turned over to Ms. Baiyina Hamed, SGC Presidential Intern, who chaired the meeting for the afternoon.

- Ms. Burton is in the process of writing a letter to the Beacon newspaper that presents the North Campus perspective on the increase in the Health and Athletic Fees.
- The SGC Mini-Retreat takes place next Friday November 13 at the Kovens Conference Center. Everyone is expected to be there promptly at 9:00 a.m.
- The Panther Power program needs some more attention since Mr. Saintilmon has a lot to do with Athletics. Therefore, instead of him carrying out two functions, the role of Panther Power Chair will rest on someone else. Ms. Burton nominated Ms. Veneisha Scott to fill this position. Ms. Scott originally applied for the position and was assisting Mr. Saintilmon as his intern. Ms. Giralda Merkman moved to vote Ms. Scott as the Panther Power Chair. Ms. Dannielle Boyer seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Mr. Saintilmon had to be re-appointed as Athletics Director. Ms. Boyer moved to vote Mr. Saintilmon as Athletics Director. Ms. seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.
- The position of Director of University Relations had been left vacant after the resignation of Mr. Plinio Sanchez. Upon his recommendation and the recommendation of Ms. Christina Sorondo a member of the Council, Ms. Burton nominated Ms. Aileen Abella to fill the vacated role. Duties of the position are to produce a Student Government Newsletter and to promote a positive image of SGC to the University community. Ms. Nicole Perkins moved to vote Ms. Abella as the Director of University Relations. Ms. Dannielle Boyer seconded the motion. VOTE: 7 in favor, 1 opposed (Ms. Merkman), 1 abstention (Mr. Robinson). The motion carried.

**STUDENT REGENT**

Ms. Michelle Oyola, student representative on the Board of Regents, attended the meeting after a daylong visit to the North campus. Ms. Oyola is a student at Florida

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Atlantic University where she is studying Elementary Education. She is visiting all schools in the state to see first hand what issues are affecting them so that she can bring them to the Board of regents. Having visited our campus she concluded that we have a very unique school. Ms Oyola stated that she wants to work very closely with SGC at FIU. She advised council members to get really involved in the affairs of the state. One way of doing this is to attend FSA meetings whenever possible and also to visit other schools in the state to see how their student government are run. She reported on Mission Differentiation, which is a project aimed at differentiating among and improving the universities in Florida. FIU, FAU and UCF have a mission to expand on undergraduate and graduate enrollment, and also to expand on research. She touched briefly on the issue of their being a statewide increase in tuition. With regard to FIU getting a Law School, Ms. Oyola informed the council that the Board of Regents had set up a feasibility committee to investigate the need for a Law School in this area.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Construction of the SGC Webpage has begun. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Hatem are working on this project.
- Special Elections will be held on November 17 & 18. The deadline for applications has been extended to November 6. Ms. Nia Johnson is the head of the elections Board and she is the person to see if you are running for elections. Advertisements will be put up around campus in order for people to know what positions are open. The positions that will be running in these elections are 2 Graduate Representatives, Broward Representative, Representative-At-Large, Lower Division Representatives, Vice President and all other elected positions that were appointed in the interim.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Dr. Susan Himburg, a professor in the Dietetics and Nutrition department attended the meeting to speak about accreditation. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), every 10 years must reaffirm all universities for accreditation. FIU was last accredited in 1990. Therefore, the university is up for accreditation in the year 2000. 12 different committees have been set up to investigate all schools and colleges of the university in order to prepare for this event. With regard to the School of Business, Dr. Himburg assured the council that the School did not lose its accreditation. The school does not have special accreditation because its mission statement did not align with that of the university. They now have 3 years to get their act together in order to be considered for special accreditation the next time around.
- The softball game between SGC-University Park and SGC-North Campus has been postponed to a date to be announced.

**SGC MEETING**  
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- On November 13 the Men's Basketball team takes on Michigan at home. Two buses will leave the North Campus to take students down to University Park. One bus will return to North Campus after the game, and the other bus will remain to bring back students who want to stay for the Greek after party.
- Ms. Burton received a visit from Mr. Skapinskas Yonas, who was the assistant to the former crew club director. Mr. Yonas would really like to revive the crew club here at the North Campus. If there is any one who is interested in being a part, please see Ms. Burton.
- The first meeting of the Senate takes place on November 19. Please keep this in mind.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

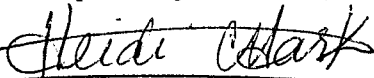
- The Habitat for Humanity community volunteer program had a good turnout of students but SGC members were absent. In the future, members will be required to participate in events. The next activity is November 20, and it takes place at Clarence House for the elderly. More information will be made available in the near future.
- To celebrate Aventura's 10 Anniversary, there will an event called Bobby Socks on the Bay on November 21. This is a 50's revival and the Drifters will be performing. All proceeds go towards F.I.U. Scholarships. Volunteers are needed for this big event. Please sign up with Ms. Barbara in WUC 363.
- The Division of Student Affairs will be hosting a reception tomorrow November 6 at 2 p.m. in GC 150. The reception will highlight careers in the Student Affairs department and also how to prepare for these careers. An event similar to this one may be put on at the North Campus.
- The Volunteer Action Center is collecting relief supplies for the Central America Relief Effort. Please contribute to this worthy venture.
- The Division of Student Affairs will hold its annual Holiday Gathering on December 16 @ 1p.m. in the GC Ballroom. All members are cordially invited to attend.
- The Victim Advocacy Center is collecting items for destitute families. They would like to make up gift baskets for these families for the holiday. Please contribute something useful that has not been used to this venture.
- There will be a Homecoming meeting tomorrow at the University Park Campus. It starts at 11:00 a.m. Please attend if you can.

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- Ms. Burton, on behalf of the entire council, congratulated Ms. Baiyina Hamed on a job well done.
- There will be an Executive board meeting next Tuesday morning at 9:00 p.m. Members please be there on time.

With no further business or comments the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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



# Florida International University

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