Meeting Minutes 11.05.98

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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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. Jacquelle Sconiers, Bay Vista Hall Council Representative
Ms. Christina Sorondo, School of Journalism and Mass Communications Representative
Mr. Rafael Zapata, Campus Activities/ Advisor

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
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 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
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.
• 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.
• 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.
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