

2-5-2003

## Minutes 02.05.03

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Council Minutes

Florida International University • Student Government Council • University Park

February 5, 2003

Jessica called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

## Roll Call

### Governing Council

Salman Azhar

Stefanie Cabrera

Omar Castillo

Damion Dunn (AB)

Luis Martinez

Jessica Morffi

Collette Papa

Jag Ramasay

Maite Reimundo

Jorge Rosario, Jr.

Kimberly Skiffington

Clayton Solomon

Jacqueline Sosa

Bill Wilson

### Standing Committee Chairpersons

Alejandra Cordovez

Alex Diaz (AB)

Cindy Fraga (LT)

Roxy Fuentes (AB)

María Garcia

Patrice Hernandez (AB)

Samir Qureshi

Tania Varela

### Standing Council Chairpersons

Panther Rage- Sean Alcindor

Honors Council- Wendy Fernandez

GSA- Vicky Salazar

RHA- Kimberly Skiffington

SOC- Samir Qureshi

SPC- Alina Garcia

### Advisor

Vicky Owles

Minutes were passed with no corrections.

### Reports of Executive Board

President

Jessica Morffi

Jessica reported that she has been meeting with State Representatives Rubio, Cantens, Barreiro, Llorente, and Prieguez to discuss the Bright Futures issue. She said that the response from them was fairly good but pretty varied because some were not sure. Jessica thanked all those who had been working on Bright Futures and she said words could not express how much she could appreciate it. So far there are about 2,000 petitions signed and a lot of people have been going to high schools and working hard. With regards to the rally in Tallahassee, two buses each fitting 49 students will be leaving on February 13<sup>th</sup> at midnight and it will be back on Friday morning at 1:00AM. She said she has sign up sheets now for everyone to fill them out and return them to her ASAP. Attached to the sign in sheet there is a memo that everyone could give to their professors explaining why they would have to miss class on that day. Student Government will

be providing 3 meals for the day. With regards to transportation around campus, there are two more parking garages that are going to be built soon. There has already been talk about some arrangements to take away the burden of obstructed traffic. A golf cart will be picking up people at specific points and drop them off where they want in order to ease the flow of traffic. Jessica then reported that the Search and Screen Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences Dean has narrowed down its choice to 6 candidates. They will be holding interviews next week. If anyone is interested in seeing the resumes and information of any of the candidates, she said to please feel free and ask her. Finally, Jessica reported that she went to Mr. and Mrs. Housing and she congratulated RHA for a great program.

Vice-President

Omar Castillo

Omar reported that he has been meeting with the different representatives of Florida and as Jessica mentioned, they have successfully participated in the lobbying efforts visiting the different Miami-Dade delegation. Omar then reported that there would be a student rally on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the GC pit for Bright Futures. He said he would finalize all the details soon and that he needed everyone's support in spreading the word out. Omar said he was going to send an email to out and for everyone to please forward it to their organizations. He then reported that he is working on the proposal for the email project. He asked the council to let him know if they had any ideas. Finally, Omar announced that tomorrow there would be a "STAC" (Student Technology Advisory Committee) meeting at 7:00PM and if they needed more details to please see either him or Bill Wilson.

Comptroller

Samir Qureshi

Samir reported that he met with Dr. Bonanno and Marisa and that he would be getting copies of the budget expenses year to date. Samir then said that the budget books are being prepared. He said he had a meeting with Vicky, Sharon, and Omar and they went over the SGA budget to clear up some items that were causing confusion. Also, Samir said he met with Vanessa Reyes to speak about the university fee committees. Samir then reported that he met with Jessica and Ruth Hamilton to attempt to change the policy that students must pay a fee to use the GC Ballrooms. Samir also said that the rally to Tallahassee next Thursday would approximately be costing \$4,000 and it is being taken from the SGA lobbying account. Finally, Samir announced that there would be a finance committee directly after the meeting.

Chief of Cabinet

Malik Wilkes

Malik reported that our school had been nominated for the award of Best Looking/Appearance Campus. Finally, Malik said that there would be a committee chair meeting tomorrow, Thursday, at 4:00PM.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

Academic Affairs

Tania Varela

Tania reported that the applications for ARA program would be out tomorrow, and that they will be available in the SGA office. She said that she would be sending an email promoting the program to all Honors College students, the Political Science Honor Society, and the Pre-Law fraternity. Next week, on February 10<sup>th</sup>, she said she would be making a presentation at the Honors College Society meeting and Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003, she said she would be making a presentation at the Honors Council meeting and the NSCS meeting. Tania then reported that the deadline for the applications would be Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> before 5:00PM. Then Tania said that on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, her committee would be meeting to select 10 advisors, which will then be trained by the Office of Academic Affairs, specifically by Ken Johnson and Dr. Rebecca Salokar. She said that her entire committee will be trained and hopefully a couple of the other council members. The training is scheduled for the second week of March. Tania then reported that she is working on trying to bring three new National Honor Societies to FIU, namely the Physics, Chemistry, and Biology Honor Societies to provide FIU students with the opportunity to join these prestigious organizations. Finally, Tania reported that she would be attending an Academic Hearing tomorrow with Clayton.

## Elections

Cindy Fraga

Cindy reported that she met with Jessica and Malik to see new and upcoming changes to the Elections Code. She said that the latest revision would be up to vote on by the council next week at the meeting. Cindy reported that the applications for the general election would be ready by February 19<sup>th</sup> and due by March 5<sup>th</sup>. Finally, Cindy said that the Elections Board will be up for approval at the meeting today and that she knows they are a hard-working, unbiased, and eager to get involved group.

## Student Services

Alejandra Cordovez

Alejandra reported that she met with Alberto Delgado and they went to the site where the sidewalk will be built. He gave her an estimate for the cost, but she is waiting on a confirmation from him to see if the funding will be taken from the Parking and Traffic budget, or whether funds will be provided. She said she would know for sure by next week. Alejandra then reported that next week her committee would be conducting the student service awards surveys. She spoke to the department heads in order to get their permission to do the surveys and in return, she will provide the department with survey results. Alejandra said she is looking into awarding the department with the best results with a free breakfast. She then said that her committee is compiling a "Did You Know?" pamphlet and that hopefully by next week, she will have much of the information together to have the pamphlet completed by March.

## Reports of Representatives

- A) Luis Martinez (see attached)
- B) Jacqui Sosa (see attached)

## Reports of Standing Council

### Panther Rage

Angelica Fernandez

Angelica reported that Panther Rage would not have a meeting next Monday. She then said that the flyers announcing baseball, basketball, and softball games are out. The Panther Rage Games of the Week are highlighted on the flyers. Angelica reported that the Panther Rage game of the week would be the FIU vs. UM baseball game today at 7:00PM in the UM stadium. She reported that they have reserved 25 tickets for Panther Rage members. Angelica reported that Panther Rage would be participating in Dance Marathon beginning with the Lyp Sync competition. Finally, Angelica reported that the Panther Rage banquet would be on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### GSA

Vicky Salazar

Vicky reported on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the entire E-board met to have a mini retreat session. They discussed their vision and goals for the rest of the semester. Vicky then said that unfortunately, their Library Affairs Chairperson resigned this past week. Vicky said that on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, she met with two representatives of the INFORMS club to discuss funding towards their Spring 2003 events. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Vicky said she met with the new University Graduate School Associate Dean, Mandayam Thirunarayanan (Thiru), to discuss the creation of a Graduate Focus Group, the implementation of the Graduate and Professional Appreciation Week (April 7-11), the revision of the Graduate Catalog, and GSA's participation in the Graduate Open House in GGC on March 11 from 5:00-8:00PM. Vicky reported that upcoming events for SGA include the Competitive Edge Seminar on Grad Tax Compliance on February 6<sup>th</sup> from noon-1:00PM at WC 130. The speaker will be Eric Davidson from the Controller's Tax Compliance Office. Vicky said that he would discuss the basic tax regulations for tuition waivers, teaching & research assistantships, loans, and new tax credit laws. Vicky reported that pizza and refreshments would be served at the event. On February 7<sup>th</sup>, GSA will hold a pre-Valentine's Grads Keller from 6:00PM-8:00PM in Gracie's Grill. During the Grads Keller, they will be passing out a survey dealing with the Graduate Catalog Revisions and participants will be receiving a free T-shirt. The next GSA E-board meeting will be on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at HLS 216 from 3:00-5:00PM. The next general meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in CP 153 from 3:00PM-5:00PM. Finally, Vicky reported that GSA will be having another mini-retreat session on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at HLS 216 from 3:00-7:00PM.

SOC

Samir Qureshi

Samir reported that SOC held the Spring 2003 club fair. The theme of the club fair was "Pantherstock" and it ran from January 27<sup>th</sup> through January 30<sup>th</sup> in the GC forum. Samir reported that all of the student organizations participated in the table displays as well as the lipsync and costume competition. Samir thanked all those who helped on behalf of SOC. Samir then reported that SOC held their general meeting yesterday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 5:30PM. He said that at the meeting, a new appointment was made: Amanda Healy, former SOC secretary, has been appointed to be SOC Vice Chair. Because of this, there are now two positions open in SOC: treasurer and secretary. Samir said that Ron Hollis and Omar were guest speakers at the SOC meeting. Samir reported that the Engineering Council be holding E-week from February 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> and the Veterans @ FIU will be holding a pizza party on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM in DM 156.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

- A) Status of Judicial Board Chairperson position  
-Alex Diaz, Judicial Board Chairperson, officially removed from office by the council.
- B) Approval of Elections Board  
-Elections Board unanimously approved by the council
- C) Bill 03-01 Amendment to the SGC-UP Bylaws (Representatives At-Large Jorge Rosario and Clayton Solomon)  
Favor: 14      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0

#### **Announcements**

- A) **SAVE THE DATE:** On February 12, 2003 at 12:00 noon (12<sup>th</sup> at 12) there will be a rally on the GC West Wall for the Bright Futures scholarship program. **PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD BECAUSE WE NEED A LOT OF PEOPLE TO ATTEND!!!!**
- B) **PLEASE SIGN UP** for the rally in Tallahassee for Bright Futures on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003. We need A LOT of people to attend!!

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

**Luis F. Martinez**  
**College of Engineering Representative**

**1. Goals and Plans for Spring Semester**

- Improve student life in the Engineering Center by creating more recreational areas.
- Increase campus involvement by helping, promoting, and organizing campus life activities.
- Create and hand out surveys, which will give a better insight on the concerns and issues related to the College of Engineering.
- Create a better SGA presence in the Engineering Center.

**2. Current Projects**

- Campus Life Committee: Attended Miami Children's Hospital and hope to organize events at the Engineering Center.
- Student Services Committee: Hand out surveys concerning PC service award and bus ticket dispenser, and helping in a special pamphlet concerning student services.
- Ad-hoc Engineering Committee: Trying to setup basketball area, ping-pong table, encouraging the Health and Wellness Center and Recreation Center to promote their events. Also going to organize the "2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Student leadership Luncheon". Participate in the Engineering Gala Fashion Show.

**3. Monthly Meetings with the Dean**

I still continue to meet with Dean Vish Prasad on a monthly basis.

**4. Status of Surveys**

Hopefully by March, the surveys will be created and handed out. I feel confident that my target of at least 100 surveys will be achieved.

## Things I've done so far for Spring:

- Went to the Psychological & Counseling center, as well as the Womens center to get "Did You know" question for "Student Service" pamphlet.
- Went to a Board of Trustees on January 13, 2003 with Clayton & Bill.
- Attended a Freshmen Panther walk to speak to incoming FIU students about involvement in FIU & my overall experience along with Damion & Malik.
- The survey results are in from my fall semester. They will be given to you now.

## Goals for Spring 2003

- Email professors about visiting class
- Working with highschool advisors to expand the outreach program as done in summer 2002
- Complete another survey for spring.
- Work well on my committees of Campus Life, Student Service, & Finance.

**Council: This is the survey result taken in Fall (December 2002)**

**Dealing with question number 1.:**

When asked if students knew whom SGA was 100 out of 126 said yes.

Some of the answer of how they knew was through:

1. Orientation
2. Friends
3. Publication

**Dealing with question number 2.:**

When asked what students liked or disliked about the university or of college in general, the responses for like were:

1. Environment
2. People
3. Research
4. Spirit
5. Faculty
6. Ways to get involved

Things they disliked:

1. Security
2. Parking
3. No credit cards
4. Foods not open late
5. Academic advising
6. Tuition cost
7. Repeat surcharge fee
8. Ticket
9. Registration
10. Entrance requirement
11. Spirit
12. Not enough sidewalks
13. Class size
14. Crowded GC
15. Bookstore manager

**Dealing with question 3.:**

When asked how their first year or first two years had been so far the results were as follows: 84 out of 126 said it was good.

**Dealing with number 4.:**

When asked what was something that could be done to improve the first year or first two years of college the responses were:

1. More specific information regarding books, tuition, advisors
2. Should have gotten involved
3. More morning activities
4. Parking guide maps
- Knowledge of university resources
- More classes
- Lower cost of food and tuition



**Dealing with number 5.:**

When asked what is one thing that needs to be improved in the university the answers were:

1. More classes
2. Parking
3. Advising
4. Communication of services
5. Campus life
6. Registration
7. Guide maps
8. Academia
9. Spirit
10. Cafeteria and food close too early
11. Security
12. Moral
13. Food
14. Acceptance of credit

**Dealing with number 6.:**

When asked if there was anything they wanted SGA to know they said:

1. Hype games
2. Help foreign students
3. Nothing
4. Good work
5. Better office hours for teacher
6. Get different people involved build more parking lots
7. Help students learn about SGA