

2-26-2003

## Minutes 02.26.03

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Council Minutes

Florida International University • Student Government Council • University Park

February 26, 2003

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

## Roll Call

### Governing Council

Salman Azhar  
Stefanie Cabrera (LT)  
Derek Capo  
Omar Castillo  
Damion Dunn (AB)  
Huguette Esquivel

Luis Martinez (AB)  
Jessica Morffi  
Collette Papa (LT)  
Jag Ramasamy  
Maite Reimundo

Jorge Rosario, Jr. (AB)  
Kimberly Skiffington  
Clayton Solomon  
Jacqueline Sosa  
Bill Wilson

### Standing Committee Chairpersons

Alejandra Cordovez  
Cindy Fraga (AB)  
Roxy Fuentes (AB)  
Maria Garcia  
Patrice Hernandez (AB)  
Samir Qureshi  
Tania Varela

### Standing Council Chairpersons

Panther Rage- Sean Alcindor  
Honors Council- Wendy Fernandez  
GSA- Vicky Salazar  
RHA- Monica Texidor  
SOC- Samir Qureshi  
SPC- Alina Garcia

### Advisor

Vicky Owles

Minutes were passed with no corrections.

### Reports of Executive Board

President Jessica Morffi

Jessica began by thanking all those who had attended the FSA meeting last week. She said they would be deciding on a final proposal for Bright Futures by this Friday. With regards to the Relay for Life, Jessica reported that Aileen, Jorge, and Jacqui would be spearheading the event. All proceeds for the relay will benefit the American Cancer Society and that if anyone is interested in helping out, to please let one of them know. Jessica reported that she attended a Board of Trustees Transition Committee Meeting last Thursday and they approved a PhD in nursing and rules for students in military service. All of these proposals will be recommended to the board at the next meeting. Jessica then thanked all those who submitted budget requests. Jessica announced that she attended the RA auction yesterday and that it was a great success. She commended RHA for their great work. With regards to the meeting this morning with BBC, she

thanked those who participated and she said that hopefully there would be more meetings like that in the future to continue the good work. Finally, Jessica asked everyone to spread the word about elections to get people involved in SGA.

Vice-President

Omar Castillo

Omar reported that there was a STAC meeting today at 6:00PM where they had a presentation about the email. Omar then said he would be following up with all of the representatives to see how their end of the semester projects are going. He said he would also follow up with all of their surveys and results. Omar then reported that this past weekend he went to a Student Alumni Association conference in Virginia where he made good contacts with people from FAU, FSU, FSU and other schools. Omar gave a shout out to Patrice and the International Students Committee for the successful cricket match. Omar announced to the council to check out FIU's main web page because there is an important memo from Provost Rosenberg regarding the budget that everyone should check out. Omar then reported that he would be going to Washington DC next week along with Jessica and Justin to lobby federal issues for FIU and that because of this, Samir would be running next week's meeting. Finally, Omar gave a shout out to David for the newsletter.

Comptroller

Samir Qureshi

Samir reported that he submitted the budget and that it was very similar to last year's with just a couple of slight increases. He then reported that they had a very productive finance meeting with presentations by SOC organizations. Also, Samir said that today there were 3 appropriations up for voting by the council. Samir reported that he took back money from the Academic Affairs Committee and the Student Services Committee. Also, Samir said that if the committees do not have an event planned by March 7<sup>th</sup>, then he would have to take back the money. With regards to the SPC situation, Samir reported that he would have to figure out a solution with Sara Lipman and Dr. Bonnano because of the Ludacris concert. Finally, Samir reported that he would be running the council meeting next week.

Chief of Cabinet

Malik Wilkes

Malik reported that he was going to start meeting with the different council members for the transition binders to look over them and make suggestions. Because of this, he urged the council to start getting to work with it. If anyone was confused about how to make the binder, Malik suggested for everyone to speak to Samir because his binder is coming along well.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

Campus Life

Maria Garcia

Maria began by thanking all of those who had been going to the freshman experience classes for the reach out program. Maria then reported that she would be meeting with the researcher from the Education Department. Finally, Maria asked the council to please pass by the SGA office to get something from Zory.

International Students

Arvi Arunachalam

Arvi reported that the international student committee's cricket match was held last Friday and that it was a resounding success to all who participated and/or attended. The committee's deepest thanks go to Ronnie and Bobbie of Publications who created flyers at the last minute, to Henry of Aramark who was very helpful in setting up the free refreshments, to Hurchell Greenaway of Intramural sports who was the key man in ensuring they had a venue, to Mateen the President of the Cricket Club here at FIU for providing the players and equipment, and last but not least, special thanks to the committee members who attended or helped with the advertising. Arvi reported that pictures of the cricket match would be posted on the SGA website. Arvi said that he hopes that their efforts have encouraged the large population of international students to get involved in their own native sports. With regards to the insurance survey, Arvi reported that short one would be placed on the SGA website. Everyone will be able to access the survey. Arvi said that the committee hopes to receive good feedback regarding how students feel about the current insurance policy. Next, Arvi reported that the meeting that was scheduled with

Ana Sippin at the ISSS office last Friday morning has been postponed to a later date due to the retreat last weekend and that the new date has not been decided upon yet. Arvi announced that the committee would like to remind all international students present to sign up at the ISSS office for their change of I-20 appointment. All international students are required to have new I-20 forms in accordance to the new SEVIS regulations and that there are no exceptions. Finally, Arvi reported that the committee is currently working towards the dates of April 10-13 for their international student fashion show and dinner event. He said the committee hopes these dates are good for students who wish to attend, but would not want to be distracted from finals. Arvi said they are awaiting the replies of various ethnic organizations on campus regarding getting sponsorship for various traditional wear for the show.

Student Union Board                      Roxy Fuentes  
No report.

#### **Reports of Representatives**

- A) Stefanie Cabrera (see attached)
- B) Damion Dunn
- C) Jorge Rosario (see attached)

#### **Reports of Standing Council**

RHA    Kimberly Skiffington  
Kim reported that RHA would be hosting Unity on Friday in the Housing Quad from 5:00-9:00PM. The event will have different organizations, music, and fun.

Honors Council                              Madeline Ruiz  
Madeline began by announcing that she is the Honors Council intern and that she would be reporting for them today at the meeting. Madeline reported that Honors Council held a general meeting yesterday. They also held a networking luncheon for all of the societies in February 14<sup>th</sup> and that it was a great success. Alpha Pi Mu, the Industrial and Systems Engineering Society participated in E-week. They also brought in two guest speakers from H & R block, who gave a tax seminar. Also, the society sponsored the first engineering student faculty cruise in collaboration with the College of Engineering and UNIFORMS. Madeline then reported that Phi Mu Alpha, the finance honor society, had a recruitment session on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Phi Theta Epsilon, the occupational therapy honor society, is raising money for MDS and they invited three US army speakers. Sigma Omega Zeta, the health sciences honor society, held their executive board nominations. Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, helped to coordinate Pan-African week and they will be holding a reading marathon. Coming up for Honors Council, the societies will be participating in another Spud busters at Indian Hammocks Park and Habitat for Humanity.

SPC    Alina Garcia  
No report.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

- A) A 03-04 In support of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Catalog (Jacqui Sosa, Lower Division Representative and Bill Wilson, Representative at-Large)

-Tabled until next meeting.

- B) A 03-05 In support of FIU Representation in the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Conference (Jorge Rosario, Representative at-Large and Clayton Solomon, Representative at-Large)

Favor: 12

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

- C) A 03-06 In support of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers' "Engineering: The Reality of Your Future" conference (Jorge Rosario, Representative at-Large and Clayton Solomon, Representative at-Large)

Favor: 11

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 1

**Announcements**

- A) Please spread the word about the SGA Elections to all of your organizations. The applications are due next Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003 by 5:00PM
- B) If anyone is interested in participating in the Relay for Life, please see either Jacqui Sosa or Aileen Grosz because SGA is trying to put together a team for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38PM.

Stefanie Cabrera  
College of Education Representative

- I have completely finished handing out my surveys and only need to sort out the results.
- I have finally been able to set up another Student Advisory Board meeting, with my dean at the College of Education to continue to bring to light different problems that students have been encountering. Luckily I have finished the surveys in to bring them to the meeting so that everyone that is attending can see first hand the comments that have been made by the students themselves.
- I have been also meeting with the CHUA representative Maite Reimundo to assist her with her survey project.
- On behalf of the Academic Committee I will be attending a grievance trial this coming Monday as well.

Second Spring 2003 Report

I. Relay for Life Project/Campus Life Committee

- I'm going to attend the Team Captains meeting this Sunday evening with Aileen. The meeting will be held at St. Brendan High School. All those interested in participating please speak to Aileen or myself to get more details.
- Last week I attended two First Year Experience Classes with Djenny the intern. The freshmen loved us.

II. International Films through SPC/International Students Committee

- It was brought up within the committee that more international films should be shown through SPC. I'll be contacting the SPC films chair to find out how they go about choosing the films and how feasible it is to show an international movie.
- I'll also be assisting in putting together an International Student Fashion Show with Patrice and the other committee members. This event is tentatively scheduled for the second week of April.

III. Special Funding through Finance Committee

- The Finance Committee has appropriated over \$5,000 in the past month. As a committee we decided to fund a special project that will appropriate a large sum of money to SOC which will assist their more active organizations.
- I recently sponsored two appropriations with Clayton which totaled nearly \$3,000. One appropriation assisted in sending three graduate students to a national Campus Recreation Conference and the other helped fund the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.
- I'll be attending the Budget Hearings on March 14, 2003.

IV. Miscellaneous

- I attended FSA last week with Morffi, Aileen, and Clayton. I had a great time and I met many cool people from other universities. Adrian Carter and Hank Schramm from BBC were interesting as well.
- Last week Luis Martinez and I participated in the Engineering Fashion Show. We worked the runway and the ladies loved us.

**\*The reason I'm not here is because I'm completing my orthodontic treatment. I no longer have braces. If any of you wish to take me to flanagans and buy me a full rack of ribs and corn on the cob, I promise I won't object. Thank you.\***