

3-26-2003

## Minutes 03.26.03

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Council Minutes

Florida International University • Student Government Council • University Park

March 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 (LT)  
Damion Dunn (AB)  
Huguette Esquivel

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

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

### Standing Committee Chairpersons

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

### Standing Council Chairpersons

Panther Rage- Angelica Fernandez  
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 began by congratulating Cindy, the Elections Commissioner, and all of the good candidates for the great elections so far. Jessica extended her best wishes to all the candidates. With regards to the Board of Trustees, there was a meeting and it ran pretty smooth. The faculty addressed collective bargaining and Jessica asked everyone to let her know if this issue affects anyone. The BOT approved a Ph. D in nursing and they went over the governor's budget. The BOT members addressed the need for continued communication with the legislators and they approved their biggest state priority, which is to continue working for parity. Jessica then reported that she went to Washington, DC along with Omar and Justin for some federal lobbying. They were able to speak to congressmen, aids, and staff about funding programs for FIU. The trip ended up being very successful and then even finalized a \$1 million grant for an aging program.

Jessica then said that she hoped everyone went to the Governmental Relations website launch, which turned out to be great and very informative. The site is <http://government.fiu.edu/>. With regards to FIU Day, Jessica thanked those who had attended and said she would let Omar speak more about the event. Jessica then reported that she went to Tallahassee on Monday and Tuesday of Spring Break for an FSA luncheon where Governor Bush, Senator Pruitt, and Stanley Tate were honored for their service to higher education. She said she also went to an Education Committee Meeting in the House. Jessica then spoke about the bill to change the Bright Futures program, and how we have to continue working and lobbying the state to ensure the changes aren't too drastic. Don Strock is going to be going to Tallahassee to meet with legislators within the next week. Jessica then reported that she had a Governor meeting in Tampa this past Monday and that they are hoping to start a committee including students that would look into the future of higher education in our state. The University Presidents met with the Governor directly following the meeting. Jessica then reminded everyone that Dance Marathon is this weekend coming up, and she encouraged everyone to attend. Jessica concluded by congratulating everyone on getting the Best Student Government award. She said it had been an honor to work with everyone this year, and that without all of the members, the organization would be nothing. She reminded everyone to work on his or her transition manuals and to finish up the year strong.

Vice President

Omar Castillo

Omar began by reminding the council members that they have to work on their transition manuals for the new SGA members. Omar reported that FIU Day was a great success and he encouraged everyone to pay attention to what is occurring in the Florida legislature and to write to his or her representatives. Omar promoted the "Writing Across the Disciplines" Essay Contest sponsored by SGA and told everyone to spread the word about it. Finally, Omar congratulated all of the candidates in the elections for a great job campaigning.

Comptroller

Samir Qureshi

Samir reported that the budget hearings would be this Friday in Biscayne Bay Campus to conclude the remainder of the University Wide Budget Hearings. Finally, Samir said that April 5, 2003 would be the deliberations regarding the budget.

Chief of Cabinet

Malik Wilkes

Malik reported that there would be a committee chair meeting tomorrow at 4:00PM. Finally, he said that he would be scheduling meetings with each person for the transition manual.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

Campus Life

Maria Garcia

Maria thanked Jessica Morffi for all her help for the Campus Life Appreciation Day. She said that everyone loved it and hopefully it would continue in the years to come.

International Students

Salman Azhar

Salman reported for Patrice because she was unable to attend the meeting. Salman reported that Patrice met with Ana Sippin and Sandy Halls of the ISSS office on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to clarify certain issues. The first thing was the fact that what everyone has been referring to as the International Student Emergency Fund is really short-term tuition loan available to any student. The loan is \$600 for undergraduate students and \$900 for graduate students and it is available two weeks prior to the payment deadline for tuition. The next issue Patrice spoke about with Ana Sippin was to address the concerns of the negative feedback SGA gets with respect to customer service in the ISSS office. Patrice said that the response from Ana Sippin was not too promising, but she hopes the comments were taken into consideration. Next, Salman said that an insurance representative visited the University on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> regarding a possible \$100 increase to the present insurance premium paid by international students. The meeting was held in GC 241A from 2:30-4:30PM and there were SGA representatives present from both UP and BBC. The insurance panel came to the conclusion that the increase was the only option compared to other high insurance bids that were offered from other prospective companies and that a reduction in the cost would result in substantial loss of coverage. Finally, Salman said that plans

for their end of the year event have been placed on standstill because the GC ballrooms are booked solid all the way up until the end of the semester. They are currently looking for another location.

Student Union Board

Roxy Fuentes

Roxy reported that she met with Omar for the GC budget. She also met with the management team of Gracie's Grill because there is now a new manager with very promising ideas and new events. Finally, Roxy said that she received all of the feedback from the GC suggestion boxes and that she will give them to the next Student Union Board Chair in her transition manual.

#### Reports of Representatives

- A) Derek Capo (see attached)
- B) Luis Martinez
- C) Jacqui Sosa (see attached)

#### Reports of Standing Council

RHA

Monica Texidor

Monica reported that with regards to RHA elections, voting would begin on March 28<sup>th</sup> and last through March 31<sup>st</sup>. She said that RHA would be hosting its Final Five on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00PM-5:00PM. The best basketball teams from each complex would go on to the Final 5 and compete for the overall housing title. Monica said that refreshments would be provided and that all are welcome to come out and support the teams. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, RHA will be having a recognition BBQ as a thank you to the administrators, residents, council members, and staff for all of their hard work and dedication towards RHA. The event will be by invitation only. Finally, Monica reported that RHA is currently preparing for its end of the year banquet, which will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> in GC 243.

Honors Council

Madelin Ruiz

Madelin reported that Honors Council sent out the invitations for the Graduate Reception, and they are in the midst of receiving RSVP's through voicemail and emails. The on-campus alternative community service projects for March was the Junior Open House held on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The other project was the Academy of Leaders canned food drive for Camilus House, which will be going on until April 8<sup>th</sup>. Honors Council is currently in the process of organizing volunteers for the Graduate Reception and for Commencement. Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the computer science honor society, which falls under the computer science, computer engineering, and MIS majors, is a brand new society now under Honors Council. Madelin then reported that Kappa Delta Pi the education honor society elected their new executive board, and they will be holding a retreat in April with their current and newly elected board members. March 1<sup>st</sup> was the National Day of service for the KDP and the society went to West Date Regional Library for a read-a-loud event. Sigma Omega Zeta, the health sciences honor society, would be participating in Special Olympics on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, held a read-a-thon on March 8<sup>th</sup> and a "Read to the Children" on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, would be attending the district conference on South Carolina on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Madelin reported that coming up for Honors Council will be the FIU Relay for Life on April 4-5<sup>th</sup>. The Graduate Reception will be held on April 26th in the GC Ballrooms at 6:00PM and the officer transition leadership workshop is tentatively scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

SPC

Alina Garcia

Alina reported that due to spring break, SPC does not have any past events. Coming up this web will be the 1st Net Movie "Head of State" at the Regal Cinemas Palace 18 at 8:00PM. There will be two movies coming up: on Thursday it will be "Frida" at 8:00PM in GC 243 and "Die Another Day" on Friday at 7:00PM and 10:00PM in GC 140. The event on Saturday will be "Mega Tron" from 12 midnight to 6:00AM during Dance Maratón. Up for next web with SPC will be the general meeting on Thursday at 5:00PM in GC 150 and on Friday, the movie "Maid in Maniatan" at 4:00PM and 7:00PM and a comedy show at 9:00PM in the GC Ballrooms featuring Tony Woods, DG Benny, and Yamil Piedra. Tickets for the events are available in GC 340.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Announcements**

- A) CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU FOR WINNING BEST SGA OF ALL THE STATE UNIVERSITIES IN FLORIDA!!!! GREAT JOB!

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM.

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## Derek Capo's Report to the Student Government Council

Good Evening Council Delegates: I would first like to start off by saying that it was a very interesting semester working at SGA, I enjoyed meeting the new people as well as working with them. Anyways, at this time would I like to go into my report.

In my last report I set up and envisioned some realistic goals that I personally think I was able to accomplish.

I previously said that we needed to fix the ratio of classes that are being offered. I was able to contact Dean Charles Perry and have worked with him on trying to open at least two more sections for the Financial Accounting classes; some other classes are also being under review to determine if expansion is needed.

I also said that I was going to be working on the surveys, with the help of myself and my novice statistical skills I was able to come out with some interest yet not surprising facts.

The Total Survey's completed was 108.

The Total Net Survey's, focused on business students was 92.

We had some 16 students who were in the area complete the survey, these were discarded since our goal was to focus on the business students needs.

We also were able to get through the surveys that 81.52% are full time students while 18.48% were part-time students.

We also found out that 10.87% of the students were international students.

45.65% of the students in the business school are full time workers.

While 26.10% are part-time workers, the other 28.26% answered that they didn't work at all.

We then asked some hard ball questions that would get us to the core of our problems.

A question was asked: that out of three categories: parking, classes, and advising, which one of them affected them the most?

61.96% said that the parking was a problem

39.13% said that class scheduling was a problem,

40.22% said that the advising department was a problem.

\*\*\*The percentages do not add up to 100% because some students choose more than one as their responses.\*\*\*

In reviewing these numbers I addressed the following issues through a MASS e-mail that was sent to the students, this could not have been accomplished with out the help of Mrs. Lauren Wass, Director of the Advising department. If you want to see this e-mail just tell me I will e-mail it you.

However, to summarize, the parking situation is something I can't control per se. The class scheduling is hard to satisfy the students because with students going to work and school it's difficult in finding the PERFECT TIMES. And as for the advising department two programs have been started up to meet the demands of the students. We have a web advisor and we now have

group sessions in which 10 students can get advised at the same time. AWESOME IF YOU ASK ME!

On a fun yet somewhat sad note only 39.96% of the students know I or the position of SGA business representative exists. I just want to mention that these surveys were done last semester, I am sure that the number has changed since I got into office.

Thirdly I stated that I would try on working to eliminate the fees being charged to students for using paper in the BA labs. Regrettably, I wasn't able to accomplish this task this semester. However, I found out that the BA labs spend \$4000 a year on maintaining the labs through the toner and other miscellaneous expenses. I am asking that the College of Business cover these costs for the next fiscal year. I think it's unfair we charge students 10 cents for a piece a paper. They get charged enough!

Fourthly I also wanted to install a Copy machine in the BA building by getting a corporate sponsor and possibly other areas of FIU. Well I have been talking back and forth with reps from Xerox and are working on some pricing on either purchasing or leasing the equipment for the next fiscal year. Again, its all about the flow!

I also said I wanted to fix the free phone and sell the advertisement spots to local companies or student groups to provide funding for possible future events. Well regrettably I found out that the phone service thing was bankrupt, go figure, let this be a lesson to all, when the deal sounds too good to be true, it most likely is.

Finally, I know it's been a bit long of a report, but I am taking advantage of the podium time since I won't be here next year.

I would like to encourage the next administration to increase the expansion of technology or panther card networks around the school. The need to expand this service to students is needed. After talking with the auxiliary services they are very slow on expanding these services. Personally I think it's terrible that the college of business students will not be able to vote for the SGA president at the Ryder business building until the year 2010 since there is no technology that supports this. Yeap, its that bad!

Anyways, I met the dean, she is cool. She is making the business school into a power house!

And well I want to conclude in saying its been a fun semester.

This concludes my report.

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**FIU**

Jacqui Sosa  
Report #2 for Spring 2003

Outreach has definitely been something I have been working on. So far Barbara Goleman has asked us to return, cause they thought we were great. We are scheduled for mid April. Cassandra, former SGA secretary, is teaching and has asked for SGA to come and make presentations to her classes. This will occur the week after SGA elections. I know that Jorge is working with St. Brendan. Fellow Intern Nick is going to be speaking to Southwest High school to make arrangements for us to attend. That too will be schedule for after elections. So all looks well in that department. If you are interested in helping me out in this area and assisting in the process of this, please let me know.

As far as Student Service I have had to do surveys as well composed a set of questions for our new release on "Did YOU Know" pamphlet. I want to thank the interns, Nick & D.Jenny, who has been very helpful in getting this done. YOU GUYS ARE GREAT!

went

F.I.U.  
day →

~~I will be leaving~~ to Tallahassee ~~tomorrow~~ as an ambassador, but more importantly as a student representing her fellow classmates and university...SGA I'll see you there. Yeah!

As far as the Finance Committee, all I can say is that the budget hearing Friday before Spring Break, went extremely well.

Considering the term is almost done I have not set out anything new goals due to time constraint. I however would like to end my term talking to high school about the importance of involvement and the greatness of being an FIU student. ~~I will do my transition binder for the next Lower Division Representative.~~



I just wanted to take the time and say that I have grown and learned so much this year, in SGA and in my committees. Best wishes to all who are running.

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