

9-17-2008

## General Meeting Minutes 09.17.08

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Florida International University

Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & Pines Center

**MINUTES**  
**SGC General Meeting**  
**09/17/08**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms. Ana Maria Silva, President  
Ms. Kenasha Paul, Vice President  
Mr. Carlos Becerra-Pineda, Comptroller  
Ms. Daniela Ottati, Executive Assistant  
Ms. Aisha Williams, Public Relations Director  
Ms. Natalie Vera, Panther Power Director  
Ms. Melissa Douge, Special Events Director  
Ms. Barbara Hawkins, Honors College Senator  
Ms. Karin Guerrero, Lower Division Senator  
Ms. Ronicha Azard, Nursing and Health Sciences Senator  
Ms. Michelle Souza, General Senator  
Mr. Emmanuel Osemota, General Senator  
Mr. Sholom Neistein, Arts & Sciences Senator  
Ms. Jessica Senorin, SJMC Senator  
Ms. Laura Torres, Lower Division Senator  
Mr. David Fonseca, Environmental Affairs Chair  
Ms. Simone Worsdale, General Undergraduate Senator  
Ms. Debbie Brown, Elections Commissioner  
Mr. Didier Georges, Student Union Board Chair (excused)  
Mr. Craig Cunningham, SGA Advisor  
Ms. Larissa Adames, SGA Clerk

**ABSENT**

Ms. Alejandra Salgado, Chief of Staff  
Ms. Mnar Muhareb, Clerk of Council  
Ms. Canela U. Eatman, Graduate Senator  
Ms. Rashida Cohen, Housing Senator  
Mr. Simon Chertmain, Academic Affairs  
Ms. Angelica Gacayan, Student Services Chair  
Ms. Brittany Brewster, Lectures Bureau Chair  
Ms. Summia Chaudhry, Broward Pines Center Senator  
Ms. Jessica Jacques, Chief Justice  
Ms. Christin Battle, Intern Coordinator

**GUESTS**

Carolina Cabal, Student  
Tonie Williams, Student  
Vanessa Olisma, Student  
Zach Trautenberg, Marketing Specialist, Wolfe University Center  
Rafael Zapata, Assistant Director, Campus Life & Orientation  
Jason Almodovar, Graduate Assistant, Campus Life & Orientation  
Barbara Quijana, Writer, The Beacon

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Locale WUC Ballroom Side A. The meeting was called to order at 3:46 p.m., by President Ana Maria Silva who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

**WELCOME**

Ms. Silva began the meeting by asking everyone to look over last week’s minutes and approve them.

*Guest Report.....Mr. Rafael Zapata, Assistant Director, Campus Life & Orientation*

*Ms. Zapata brought before the council a proposed changed to the finance code. Currently procees for SPC, SOC to used the funds already allocated for them is as follows: SPC member would fill out a File for Funds and sign it. Then the SPC treasuere would sign it, then the SPC advisor would sign it and then it would go to the SGC comptroller to sign it and then the File for Funds would be given to Accounting office to input into PantherSoft. The controllers office would check if the funds are available and then send it to the Approver in Campus Life. The approvers endorses the fund and Controllers at Univeristy Park generate a Purchase Order to the requestor of funds. For SOC there is an extra step, before the File for Funds is given to the SOC treasure, the Club Advisor has to sign it and then it begins that process. For SGC and Panther Power it is a little different:and SGA member would reques the funds, the comptroller would sign it, the advisor would then sign it. The FFF would go the Accounting Office to be inputted in PantherSoft. The controllers office would ccheck if the funds are available and send it to the Approver in Campus Life. The Approver would endorse it, Controllers at Univeristy Park then generates A Purchase Order to the requestor. Mr. Zapata is asking if the finance code be looked over and changed so the process of requesting funds that already allocated to a specific council not have to go to the SGA comptroller. This will reduce the time of receiving a Purchase Order for an event, or any other purchase.*

*Guest Report.....Zach Trautenber, Marketing Specialist, WUC*

*Mr. Trautenberg open with a joke, stating that is happy that is not comptroller anymore. HE announced a lecture series that he office of Provost is having this semester named “ Stop: Take a Moment to Consider the Environment” The first lecture will be tomorrow, September 18, 2008 at 7pm in the Kovens Center. They need 200 people to attend this lecture.*

*Comptroller Report..... Carlos Becerra-Pineda*

*Mr. Becerra-Pineda began his report by informing the council that he has been meeting with Matilda Gramling, Budget Director for Student Affairs, about changing the finance code on*

both campuses. They also discussed creating a finance procedures manual, which would include Florida statutes on how the funds are to be used and also that we are following the law. It would also include “cash handling”, ex: funding raising within the councils and to account for that. Mr. Becerra-Pineda also mentioned Accumulated Cash Balance Account. It was thought that the account was only used for the extra money left over every fiscal year, the account is also used to deposit the Activity & Service fee every semester. There was around 9 million in the ACB, 5.5 million of which are A&S fee, which leaves 3.5 million in the account. Of the 3.5 million dollars, 1 million will be used for the renovation of the pool at the Biscayne Bay Campus. In the finance manual that is being created, there will be a section where it will state how the ACB account is to be used.

Mr. Becerra-Pineda nominated Emmanuel Osemota and Ronicha Azard for the finance committee.

Kenasha Paul motion to the council to approve Emmanuel Osemota and Ronicha Azard for the finance committee. By unanimous vote, the council approved Emmanuel Osemota and Ronicha Azard for the finance committee.

Carlos will inform, at a later time, the times of the finance committee members to its members.

***Presidents Report***.....*Ms. Ana Maria Silva*

Ms. Silva began her report by reminding those council members who have not turned in their office hours to do so as soon as possible. Some of the council members who have not posted their hours are the following: Aisha Williams, David Fonseca, Cristina “Cici” Battle, Canela Una M.A. Eatman and Brittany Williams. She would like to have the missing office hours by 6pm today.

Ms. Silva mentioned that she will be looking over all the duties that each council member is required to do and make sure the council members are fulfilling those duties. Ana is also planning to have one on one with everyone regarding their duties. The council members should be receiving an email regarding the one on ones. During the one on one’s you will discuss what have done, answer any questions might have about your duties. If you have not been fulfilling your duties, there is a possibility that you would be put on probation.

Ms. Silva also mentioned that she attended the Faculty Senate Meeting. During this meeting the Provost and Faculty Senate discussed the budget, class issues among other things. Some of Biscayne Bay issues was housing. They were planning to build more housing units on the BBC but due to the budget crisis, that is out of the question. There is a possibility that they just might have some renovations to Bay Vista Hall. Another BBC issue is the directories that are old and not readable. The issue of having a limited amount of classes for School of Journalism and Mass Communication was brought up. There are many seniors who are not able to graduate on time because of this problem. The provost heard all these concerns and will take them into consideration. There is also a possibility of a raise in tuition and next year’s budget was also discussed by the Faculty Senate. Ms. Silva also attended the Faculty Convocation, where a Dr. David Lee gave a lecture about the environment and the history of the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Ms. Silva announced to the council that there was a meeting today about the third floor space and the plan was finalized today. The suite will include an 18 chaired conference. If anyone would like to see the layout of the office to please ask Craig Cunningham, Kenasha Paul or Ana Maria for it.

Ms. Silva ended her report by encouraging all the senators to email their Deans and introduce themselves to the Deans. Also mention to the Dean that you would like to meet with them to discuss what you plan to do for the students.

Vice President's Report.....Kenasha Paul

Ms. Paul opened her report by stating the Jessica Jacques and herself attended a Judiciary Meeting at Univeristy Park regarding the changing the constitution, ex: the senate structure. They have been looking at other models to guide themselves by.

Ms. Paul also attended a finance meeting with Robert Chung, the comptroller at University Park, about creating a University Wide finance code. The ideas for the changing the finance code will be present to the senate for approval; the senate over sees the finance code. The finance manual will give clubs ideas on how to use their money and follow the Florida Statues at the same time.

Ms. Paul mentioned to the senate that the time cards and reports need to be turned in to her. Time cards will not be accepted if the times are written in, the time card machine has ink. Ana Maria Silve, Larissa Adames and herself are the only people authorized to intial the time cards. If the time cards are not initialed, the hours will not count. For those senators who have not meet with Kenasha for their one on ones, need to do so. The council also needs to tally up their surveys and work on any nessecary bills. Any discussion on the bills will be done during the senate meeting, which is right after the general meeting.

*Advisor's Report*.....*Mr. Craig Cunningham*

*Mr. Cunningham opened his report by thanking everyone who attended the Peace Pole dedication ceremony. The area where the Peace Pole is a great place to mediate. The peace pole was a token from last year's council and so was the time capsule. This council sould have in mind what token they would like to leave the BBC.*

*Mr. Cunningham reminded that "Rock the Vote" event is next month and that he lectures committee should be working on that event. He also mentioned that the SGA alumni event is November 5<sup>th</sup> 2008.*

### **New Business**

Arnisha proposed a motion to make an amendment to the By-Laws to add a marketing position to Bay Vista Hall Council. Jason Almodovar, advisor to BVHC, he explained that the BVHC is a bridge between housing and the Biscayne Bay Campus. The reason why the BVHC is in need of a marketing position is the rest of the council is overwhelmed with their duties and do not have the time to create a brand for the council. With having this position, the council will be able promote their events as well. The cost for this position would be \$800, \$400 for Fall and Spring respectively. One of the major requirements would be the student running for the position would have to live in Bay Vista Hall.

Debbie Brown announced that special elections will be October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-7pm. For the senators that were appointment as well as the vice president need to apply for the position that they are currently in. the Candidate meeting is on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and campaigning will begin October 2<sup>nd</sup> til October 7<sup>th</sup>.

SGA polos are in the process of being ordered. The sized do run big, color of polo will be navy blue with white stitching.

Kenasha motioned to add Tonie Williams to the agenda for appointment for the Business Administration Senator.

Sholom motioned to vote Kenasha second.

Appointments

Tonie Williams self presented herself as Business Administration Senator. She was voted by majority vote: Yes: Barbara Hawkins, Karin Guerrero, Simone Worsdale, Ronicha Azard, Michelle Souza, Emmanuel Osemota, Sholom Neistein, Jessica Seniorin, Laura Torres, No: 0, Abstain: Kenasha Paul

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

September 18, 2008- Pep Rally from 11am-3pm in Panther Square

September 19, 2008- Movie Mantanee 12-4pm in the Recreation Center

Pimp Your Ride 6pm Bay Vista Hall

September 20, 2008- Power Rally 1pm

FIU vs. USF 5pm, New FIU Stadium

October 15, 2008- Rock the Vote, Panther Square

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 SGA Alumni Event

**The meeting was adjourned by President Ana Maria Silva at 5:01 p.m.**