

2-27-2012

Senate Meeting Minutes 02.27.12

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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Florida International University

Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & Pines Center

MINUTES

SGC-BBC Senate Meeting

February 27th, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE

Pablo Haspel, Speaker of the Senate/Honors College Senator
Christopher Morisset, Speaker Pro Tempore/Lower Division Senator
Ami Nakagawa, Business Administration Senator
Xue Yan, Hospitality Management Senator
Inemesit Ekanem, Nursing & Health Sciences Senator
Desir Nonhomme, Arts & Sciences Senator
Oluwatamilore Odimayo, Senator At-Large
Olivia Dehaarte, Senator At-Large, **4:05pm**
Kemeika Clayton, Housing Senator
Kevin Houston, SJMC Senator

Absent

Alix Sanchez, Hospitality Management Senator, **excused**
Abel Ramos Taype, Arts & Sciences Senator, **excused**
Oluwatobi Adekoya, Senator At-Large, **excused**

Guest

Kevin Gonzalez, Comptroller

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a Senate meeting on February 27th, 2012, in Locale WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at approximately **3:35pm**, by Senator Haspel who chaired over the meeting in its entirety.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Odimayo moved to approve the Senate Meeting minutes for February 20th, 2012, Senator Houston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE REPORT

Senator Haspel started his report by stating that the whole budget hearing has been recorded. Deliberation will take place this Friday in 155 at approximately 12pm. Senator Haspel later added that he had met with MMC Senate Speaker Donovan Dawson regarding the Finance Code. MMC Finance Chair Giovanni Correale was thinking of not changing them. Both Senates have passed different bills. The University Wide document has to be identical.

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE REPORT

Senator Morisset started his report by reminding the Senate that a select few Senators have not been submitting their Senate Report. All Senate Reports should be written and submitted every week since it will allow the council to know the specific issues that need to be addressed or reviewed.

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT

Senator Odimayo started his report by mentioning that an event with Chaz Bono have been approved for \$5,000; however, the Senate's consent should be given in order for the event to occur and take place.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW CHAIR REPORT

Absent

STUDENT ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT

Absent

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR REPORT

Senator Houston started his report by mentioning that starting Wednesday, the Internal Affairs Committee shall hold meetings in the Conference Room (300) at 2:30pm.

RULES, LEGISLATION AND JUDICIARY CHAIR REPORT

Absent

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. NOMINATIONS

Senator Haspel reminded the Senate that an open position is now available for the Finance Committee and that vacancies must be filled.

Senator Odimayo moved to open nominations. Senator Morisset seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Senator Haspel mentioned that the purpose of the Finance Committee is to take charge of funding graduate requests, conference requests, and possible events.
- Senator Odimayo nominated Senator Nakagawa for Finance Committee. Senator Nakagawa accepted the nomination.
- Senator Odimayo nominated Senator Yan for Finance Committee. Senator Yan accepted the nomination.
- Senator Yan wondered about the number of positions currently open in the Finance Committee. Senator Haspel replied that only one position was available.
- Senator Haspel nominated Senator Ekanem for Finance Committee. Senator Ekanem respectfully declined.
- Senator Haspel nominated Senator Nonhomme for Finance Committee. Senator Nonhomme respectfully declined.

- Senator Odimayo pointed out that every senator has to at least serve in one committee.

B. APPROPRIATION REQUEST 2012.08

- Senator Odimayo started by saying that an event called: an evening with Chaz Bono will be held on April 16th, 2012 at 6:00pm. The purpose of the event is to create awareness about the issues the LGBT Community face. Finance Committee has approved the event for \$5,000.
- Senator Haspel added that the event has been allocated more than \$400; as a result it has to be approved by the Senate in order for the event to occur.
- Senator Ekanem asked how the amount came about. Senator Haspel replied that SPC, Campus Life, and other organizations have raised \$17,500. The Student Government was the last source of funding for the event.
- Advisor Zapata asked how much money was left in the budget. Senator Odimayo replied that roughly \$11,000 was left in the budget.
- Senator Houston asked who the LGBT Community was. Senator Haspel replied that LGBT meant Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and & Transgender.
- Senator Nonhomme asked if Finance Committee was funding the event because they didn't know what to do with the rest of the money. Senator Haspel replied that this was a lecture for the benefit of the students since it will provide them the opportunity to be educated.
- Senator Nonhomme mentioned that he was disappointed of the attendance of the sex Carnival. Senator Haspel added that Sex Carnival was held in Panther Square, so students were coming in and out.
- Senator Odimayo pointed out that the Finance Committee isn't made up of only one person; it's not an individual opinion. Finance Committee is made up of different people with their own values and beliefs, who cooperated together in order to make this event happen for the benefit of the students.
- Senator Ekanem mentioned that the Sex Carnival could've been fully funded, the same way as an event with Chaz Bono. Senator Haspel replied that the Sex Carnival was funded. There was an agreement between the Wellness Center and the Student Government where SGA funded half as agreed between the two parties.
- Comptroller Gonzalez mentioned that Finance Committee has a limited amount of money, so they try to make the best use of the money.
- Senator Houston asked who Chaz Bono was. Advisor Zapata replied that Mr. Bono was known to be an advocate for the LGBT Community. He has recently appeared in the show Dancing with the Stars.
- Senator Clayton moved to approve the Appropriation Request. Senator Morisset seconded the motion.

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| Senator Houston | Nay |
| Senator Clayton | Yay |
| Senator Odimayo | Yay |
| Senator Morisset | Yay |
| Senator Haspel | Yay |
| Senator Nakagawa | Yay |

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| Senator Yan | Yay |
| Senator Nonhomme | Nay |
| Senator Ekanem | Nay |
| Senator Sanchez | Abstain-absent |
| Senator Ramos Taype | Abstain-absent |
| Senator Adekoya | Abstain-absent |
| Senator Dehaarte | Abstain-absent |

By a vote of 6/3/4 the motion passed.

- Point of Clarification requested by Senator Odimayo where he asked if the appropriation had to be approved by a supermajority vote in order for it to pass.
- Advisor Zapata mentioned that as long as the Senate have quorum, only the people present in the current discussion constitute the Senate has a whole.
- Senator Haspel added that if some people voted abstain, it didn't mean that the people voted against.

ANNOUNCEMENT/CONCERNS

A. ADRIAN GRENIER

- Adrian Grenier from Entourage will be coming on campus on Wednesday, March 7th, 2012 where he will talk about the latest film he has directed "Teenage Paparazzo." Senator Haspel wished that all Senator should advertise in classes. Ticket can be picked up at the end of the week.

B. BUSINESS DINNER

- The business dinner will consist of three course meals. The purpose of this event is to show and demonstrate students how to properly dine with business partners and possibly future employers. It will be held on Thursday, March 8th, 2012.

C. LUST FOR SGA

- On Wednesday, March 1st, 2012 the Student Government Association will be tabling which will be a great opportunity for the council to speak to students about upcoming events and the elections period.
- Senator Haspel mentioned that the Activity & Service Fee were up for an increase this year. If increased by 1 percent, the A&S fee will increase by 50 cents per credit hour. The Activity & Service fee is used to fund any organization on campus such as the Wolfe Center, Career Services, SOC, SGA, and org sync.
- Point of Clarification requested by Senator Odimayo where he asked if the A&S fee was a state tuition fee. Senator Haspel replied that the fee isn't based on your international or educational background. It is a flat fee, meaning it not based on tuition.

- Senator Nonhomme was concerned about the attendance during the previous public hearings. He wanted more students to attend since the A&S fee concerns every student in the university.
- Senator Odimayo wondered about the composition of the committee. Comptroller Gonzalez replied that the committee was composed of 4 faculty members and 4 students.
- Senator Odimayo asked if the fee would need to be passed by the Senate in order to be approved. Comptroller Gonzalez stated the A&S fee is a university fee. It will pass by a 2/3 vote of the committee. He later added that the rate set by the committee is a recommendation. President Rosenberg will decide on whether the fee will get an increase or not.
- Senator Nonhomme asked about the cultural background of the committee. Comptroller Gonzalez stated that the committee is composed of six Hispanics and two white American.
- Senator Nonhomme added that the campus doesn't get improved. The university charged too much and that students get fewer services. He later stated that specific majors available on this campus required taking some classes only available at the Modesto Maidique Campus where students are obligated to take to bus to save for gas money.
- Senator Haspel mentioned that the two thirds of the buses going to MMC and vice versa are paid by the Parking and Transportation fee.
- Senator Odimayo added that if all majors were on the Biscayne Bay Campus, tuition would've raised even higher. All clubs are covered by the A&S fee. The Parking and Transportation had no relevance in the matter.
- Senator Dehaarte wondered about the occurrence of the fee. Comptroller Gonzalez stated that the fee is potentially brought up every 3 years and the increase rate vary from 0 to 5 percent.
- Senator Ekanem asked how the Senate vote will reflect this. Comptroller Gonzalez stated that he wanted a general idea how the number of students who would agree or disagree on the A&S fee increase; however, the final say rests on the hand of President Rosenberg.
- Senator Nakagawa suggested promoting because students should be surveyed and aware of this.

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| Senator Clayton | No increase |
| Senator Houston | No increase |
| Senator Morisset | An increase of 2.5 % |
| Senator Haspel | increase |
| Senator Nakagawa | An increase of 1.5% |
| Senator Yan | An increase of 2% |
| Senator Nonhomme | No increase |
| Senator Ekanem | No increase |
| Senator Dehaarte | An increase of 2% |
| Senator Odimayo | An increase of 0.5% |
| Senator Sanchez | Absent |
| Senator Ramos Taype | Absent |
| Senator Adekoya | Absent |

Senator Haspel reminded the Senate that the deadline to submit the application will be on Wednesday, February 29th, 2012 at 5pm.

Senator Haspel adjourned the meeting at **4:24pm.**