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Senate Meeting Minutes 03.26.12

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

March 26th, 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
Abel Ramos Taype, Arts & Sciences Senator
Oluwatamilore Odimayo, Senator At-Large
Oluwatobi Adekoya, Senator At-Large
Olivia Dehaarte, Senator At-Large, **4:05pm**
Kemeika Clayton, Housing Senator
Kevin Houston, SJMC Senator

Absent

Alix Sanchez, Hospitality Management Senator, **absent**

Guest

Rafael Zapata, Advisor

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a Senate meeting on March 26th, 2012, in the SGC-BBC Conference Room (308). The meeting was called to order at approximately **3:39pm**, by Speaker Haspel who chaired over the meeting in its entirety.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Odimayo moved to approve the Senate Meeting minutes for February 27th, 2012, Senator Adekoya seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE REPORT

Speaker Haspel started his report by stating that the finalization of the budget has been ongoing for the past two weeks. He noted that all campus specific organizations and departments had to be allocated money. All that remained was for the Senate of both BBC and MMC to approve the budget. Speaker Haspel mentioned that the budget shall be emailed to the Senate.

Speaker Haspel concluded his report by thanking all Senators who remained and stayed on council. He stated that it was a pleasure to have met many wonderful and responsible individuals.

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE REPORT

Senator Morisset started his report by stating that he has finished reviewing and checking all Senate Reports. He has noticed that a select few senators have not been filling their Senate Reports nor done their dedicated 10 office hours.

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT

Senator Odimayo started and ended his report by mentioning that an auto conference to Vegas has been approved for \$5,760 out of the \$9,000 requested. The Senate's consent and approval should be given in order for the event to occur and take place.

- Senator Nonhomme wondered about the remaining amount of money left before Finance approved the auto conference.
- Senator Odimayo replied that \$8,240 and \$2,040 for Graduate funds remained before approving the auto conference.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW CHAIR REPORT

No report.

STUDENT ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT

Senator Clayton spoke of behalf of the Student Advocacy Committee and stated that surveys will be handed out to all students concerning the possible implementation tours for International Students. She later concluded that a petition and survey shall be filed by the student population to discuss whether or not the free printing could be raised to 15 pages.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR REPORT

No report.

RULES, LEGISLATION AND JUDICIARY CHAIR REPORT

Senator Ramos Taype started his report by stating that he has been working on the Senate Rule of Procedures. The committee has received two Resolutions. If they were changes needed to the resolutions, corrections shall be made and sent back to the author for review.

- Senator Adekoya asked when the Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Committee met.
- Senator Ramos Taype replied that the meeting takes place every Wednesday at 2:30pm right before the general meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. BUDGET PRESENTATION

Advisor Zapata started the presentation by saying that the university system has several fees that are attached to students' tuition to cover other not related to academics such as Athletic, Health, A&S, Technology, and Environmental fees. Every three years, a fee comes up for review and each of them get rotated. Fees are first introduced in Tallahassee to our representative in the state.

Once the state approves the fee, it brought down to the university level. Once it arrived at that level, it will be up for Student Affairs, Board of Trustees and SGA to promote, discuss, and debate the fee.

Advisor Zapata mentioned that this is why public hearings are held for the general student population. Students are therefore aware of major events ongoing on campus.

Advisor Zapata stated that fees such as A&S fees come from the State and that they cannot be given up for charity. The A&S fee and its disbursement process go to University Wide Budget Committee, which is composed by the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Comptrollers, and Speakers of the Senate from both campuses, and the Speaker Pro Tempore from MMC.

The fee then proceeds to Campus Specific where the money left over is split, where 74% gets distributed to MMC and 26% for BBC.

- Senator Ramos Taype asked when the budget will be delivered to the Senate.
- Advisor Zapata replied that the Senate will vote on the budget possibly by next Senate Meeting.
- Senator Nonhomme asked if the A&S fees were only required in Florida International University.
- Advisor Zapata replied that all public universities in Florida were required to have the fee.
- Senator Nonhomme suggested making hearing more public.
- Advisor Zapata replied by stating that a hearing is not a closed system. All open to the student population.
- Senator Ekanem requested changing the schedule of these hearings because at the time they normally occur, students are in class. He latter suggested to provide hearings online.
- Advisor Zapata mentioned that email blast are sent to students, date of the hearing are mentioned in the beacon.
- Speaker Haspel pointed out that there was a lack of interest of students because most of them come to school, attend their class, and leave campus.
- Advisor Zapata suggested making goals for the next school year, such as increase student involvement and awareness around campus.
- Senator Ramos Taype wondered about the composition of the fee committee.
- Advisor Zapata responded by saying that the Committee is composed of four students and four staff members.
- Senator Yan asked if there was a standard of money for the allocation of student organizations.
- Speaker Haspel replied by stating that organizations have to fill out a request form where they shall state what they will use their budget for.

B. U-WIDE FINANCE CODE

Speaker Haspel mentioned to the Senate that there has been a revision to the Finance Code by a ruling of MMC Supreme Court. The version we had passed was not approved by the MMC Senate and as such they made some corrections to the document where the major corrections are stated as followed.

- In Section 3.05, part 7, subtitle A it is not noted that the University Wide Budget must be proposed to the MMC and BBC Senate by the first Monday of March.

- In that same section part 7, subtitle B. Upon approval of the University-Wide Budget Committee, the University-Wide Budget shall be voted on by the MMC and BBC Senate and passed with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of each senate A rejected budget shall be returned to the University-Wide Budget Committee for revisions.
 - In that same section little (i) it is noted that: Shall a University-Wide Budget not receive two-thirds (2/3) approval of the MMC and BBC Senate by the last Monday of March the original University-Wide Budget proposal shall be adopted.
 - The University-Wide Budget Committee must submit a revised budget at the following regularly scheduled Senate meeting from the meeting that the budget was denied by either SGC Senate.
 - Each respective Senate has the power and ability to modify any line items on their campus-specific budget with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the respective Senate.
 - (ii) Shall a Campus-Specific Budget not receive a two-thirds (2/3) approval of its respective Senate by the last regularly scheduled senate meeting the original Campus-Specific Budget proposal of that campus shall be adopted.
-
- Senator Odimayo moved to approve the University wide Finance Code as it stood. Senator Adekoya seconded the motion.
 - By rules of Parliamentary Procedure, the document required two readings.
 - Senator Odimayo retracted his motion.
 - Senator Odimayo moved to suspend the rules and approve the U-Wide Finance Code as it stood. Senator Adekoya seconded the motion.
 - Senator Ramos Taype wondered about the composition of the Finance Committee.
 - Speaker Haspel replied by stating the Finance Committee was composed of one Graduate and one lower division, one At Large, and 3 other senators.
 - Senator Odimayo moved to previous question. Senator Clayton seconded the motion.

Speaker Haspel	Yay
Senator Morisset	Yay
Senator Nakagawa	Yay
Senator Yan	Yay
Senator Ekanem	Yay
Senator Nonhomme	Yay
Senator Ramos Taype	Yay
Senator Odimayo	Yay
Senator Adekoya	Yay
Senator Dehaarte	Yay
Senator Clayton	Yay
Senator Houston	Yay
Senator Sanchez	Abstain-absent

By a vote of 12/0/1 the U-Wide Finance Code has been approved.

C. PRINTING RESOLUTION

Senator Ekanem presented a resolution to the Senate in order to increase the free printing pages from 5 to 15 pages daily for the benefit of the student body.

- Advisor Zapata stated that the main problem for the resolution is that the Student Government cannot force a department to raise printing pages if the Student Government does not provide money for the program. He later added that the WUC used to provide free printing; however, they personally asked the Student Government for aid such as cut the program since they could no longer afford it.
- Senator Ekanem stated that Student Government should be able to afford the program because of the costly lectures they approve and the boxes of flyers they put out to be distributed.
- Speaker Haspel stated that the WUC already receive the full amount of money they requested for. The Student Government could no longer give any more money, unless they pay for the program themselves.
- Senator Odimayo mentioned that the suggestion should have been made during budget hearings.
- Senator Nonhomme pointed out that the Student Government allocated money for programs that do not necessarily benefit the student body. The free printing is a program many students benefit from. He could not believe the 83 percent cut.
- Senator Odimayo said that requests have already been made and that Student Government could not allocate more money since the WUC received the full amount of their requested funds.

Point of Personal Privilege requested by Senator Odimayo at **4:58pm.**

- Senator Houston asked for the price of one sheet of paper.
- Speaker Haspel replied that one sheet of paper cost 8 cents, so the additional 10 would be an additional 80 cents per person per day.
- Senator Ramos Taype wanted to know how long WUC offered the free printing.
- Speaker Haspel replied by saying that the program began a few years ago.
- Senator Clayton pointed out that that printing service benefits the students; however, the 30 pages daily was a waste since students printed things they did not need. She also added that the cost of a lecture is sometimes not on par with student attendance, but she thought that the 5 pages of printing daily would force the students to print what they need.
- Speaker Haspel asked how much the additional pages would cost
- Senator Ekanem stated he didn't know, but that it should be funded anyway because of the benefit to the student body.
- Senator Morisset asked if the resolution stated that SGA or the WUC is going to pay for the extra 10 pages.
- Senator Ekanem replied by saying that SGA would fund the program.
- Speaker Haspel mentioned that the Student Government cannot force a department (the WUC in this case) to provide a program, SGA already allocated for.
- Senator Houston suggested putting aside \$2,000 for SGC BBC.

- Advisor Zapata suggested doing more research to figure out how much the 15 pages daily will cost per year.
- Speaker Haspel suggested tabling the resolution.
- Senator Adekoya moved to table printing Resolution for the next Senate Meeting. Senator Morisset seconded the motion.

Speaker Haspel	Yay
Senator Morisset	Yay
Senator Nakagawa	Yay
Senator Yan	Yay
Senator Ekanem	Nay
Senator Nonhomme	Nay
Senator Ramos Taype	Yay
Senator Adekoya	Yay
Senator Dehaarte	Yay
Senator Clayton	Yay
Senator Houston	Nay
Senator Odimayo	Abstain-absent
Senator Sanchez	Abstain-absent

By a vote of 8/3/2 the motion passed and the Printing Resolution has been tabled.

D. FINANCE REQUEST

The Finance Committee approved a request of \$5,760 for 18 students from Hospitality Management from the original asked amount of \$9,000 to cover travel expenses.

- Senator Ekanem asked how the event will benefit the FIU community.
- Speaker Haspel replied that the event is a world convention. The students will represent FIU, thus creating exposure. Students will acquire better networks of contacts and there's a chance of them acquiring internships.
- Senator Houston wondered how the work will be monitored.
- Speaker Haspel replied that the students will have shifts. If they don't report to their shifts, there will be repercussions.
- Senator Nakagawa asked if the 18 students were selected.
- Speaker Haspel replied by stating that the event was opened to the entire student body, but the 18 students got together to make the request. They chose SGA to cover travel expenses.
- Senator Ekanem asked how much SGA will be covering.
- Senator Nonhomme suggested that the Student Government should not cover for food.
- Speaker Haspel replied that \$320 per person will be covered. The rest will be up to the students.

Senator Adekoya moved to approve Finance Request. Senator Clayton seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Speaker Haspel	Yay
Senator Morisset	Yay
Senator Nakagawa	Yay
Senator Yan	Yay
Senator Ekanem	Nay
Senator Nonhomme	Nay
Senator Ramos Taype	Yay
Senator Adekoya	Yay
Senator Dehaarte	Yay
Senator Clayton	Yay
Senator Houston	Nay
Senator Odimayo	Abstain-absent
Senator Sanchez	Abstain-absent

By a vote of 8/3/2 the motion passed and the Finance Request has been approved.

Speaker Haspel adjourned the meeting at **5:39pm**.