

6-6-2011

Senate Meeting Minutes 06.06.11

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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MINUTES
SGC-BBC Senate Meeting
June 6,2011

IN ATTENDANCE

Daniel Usma, Speaker Pro Tempore
Oluwatamilore Odimayo, Senator At- Large
Oluwatobi Adekoya, Senator At-Large
Melissa Khan, Senator At-Large
Farah Yamini, Senator Arts & Sciences
Comptroller Gonzalez (Guest)

ABSENT

Pablo Haspel, Speaker of the Senate, **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
Christian Williams, Senator for Journalism and Mass Comm. **EXCUSED**
Alix Sanchez, Senator for the School of Hospitality, **EXCUSED**
Xin Zheng, Senator for the School of Hospitality

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association(BBC) held a Senate meeting on June 6,2011. The meeting was called to order at **3:35**, approximately, by Speaker Pro-Tempore Daniel Usma, who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Usma asks for a motion to table the approval of May 16 and 23rd Minutes because Vice President Collyer does not have them.

Senator Yamini moves to table Approval of Minutes for May 16 & 23 until next Senate Meeting. Senator Khan seconds.

REPORTS

No reports.

OLD BUSINESS

It was called to Senator Usma's attention by the author of the Senate Bill, which has been tabled for the last three weeks, that he has decided on a new strategy. Pablo Haspel, Speaker and author of the Bill, is going to remove the changes and come back at a later time and tackle the entire document, all the statutes, at once, little by little. This is an appealing choice when we compare it to the alternative of rushing things too soon with the Bill.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominations

Open the floor for nominations for chair of the different committees: Finance, Operational Review, Student Advocacy, Rules, Legislation and Judiciary. The way it works: either someone else or you, yourself, can nominate. Someone else has to second. Next week, we will vote.

Farah motions to nominate herself for Finance Chair, no one seconds, motion fails.

Comptroller Gonzalez asks Senator Usma to go over all Committee positions, Senator Usma complies.

Senator Usma, before explaining, asks if he can second a motion even if he is chairing. Senator Yamini and Vice President Collyer inform him he can, the only person that cant is Vice President Collyer because he is Ex-Officio President of the Senate.

Explanation of the Different Chair Positions

Finance Chair

Senator Usma explains Finance Chair. Chair accepts any requests for funding. We can cover these requests from a fund that is allocated to the Finance Committee. Comptroller Gonzalez helps explain what the funding requests are for. Typically used for conferences and research, and anything else that isn't covered and is academic in nature or helps improve the reputation of F.I.U. One condition is that we ask students requesting funding to make sure we are a last resource, to first ask Schools and departments, then clubs and organizations, and once they have done everything they can possibly do, only then can they come to us. An example of something we would fund because it is good for the development of the student but also for the prestige of FIU is the following: lets say some student finds cure for AIDS. We want to fund their trip to a conference for their own academic development and to represent ideas on behalf of FIU. The job of chair requires a lot of paperwork, and we sometimes ask the person to come in and present their situation, and we either approve or reject it. Finance Chair is in charge of this whole process.

Tami asks what happens if there are two senators competing for a position? Senator Usma responds that there will be a vote. Vice President Collyer also notes that there are two active senators that aren't here that can be nominated: Christian Williams and Alix Sanchez. Gonzalez adds on that each Senator has to be part of a committee. Senator Khan states that one Senator cannot be chair of two committees.

Tami asks if you can second your own nomination. VP Collyer affirms. Comptroller Gonzalez adds that incentive to chair is that you earn a little extra money.

Senator Adekoya asks if you can have an assistant. Senator Usma says chair can appoint anyone he/she wants to for any task.

Operational and Review Chair

Senator Usma explains the job of Operational Chair. The role of Operational Review Chair is to audit other organizations on campus : SPC, SOC, Panther POWER, BSU, BVH. Comptroller Gonzalez mentions that if we don't give these organizations any money they won't get it from anyone else, so we have to make sure they get the funds and use them correctly.

Student Advocacy Chair

Senator Usma mentions Student Advocacy Chair. SGC BBC didn't have one last year but Comptroller Gonzalez mentions that in MMC this position is useful because it is the easiest way to put out most official and easiest way to make sure students are satisfied or have any suggestions in any of the schools like Arts and Sciences or Hospitality.

Internal Affairs Chair

Senator Usma is thinking of eliminating Internal Affairs. Senator Adekoya asks why. Senator Usma responds we can't vote on it when there is no description in the statutes. Since we haven't changed the statutes we can't come up with a description for it. Comptroller Gonzalez explains the position at BBC, which regulates student government from the inside and makes sure everyone is following the requirements that are listed in the constitution and statutes. If you aren't they give you a warning. Senator Usma asserts that we cannot vote on it until there is a description in the statutes. When we change the statutes, at that point, we can appoint a chair.

Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Chair- Oversees documents, bills, and resolutions; he/she will make sure we are following proper procedure so that it can be approved by the Senate.

Important Discussion about Internal Affairs Chair

Senator Yamini wants to make sure we are not nominating an Internal Affairs Committee. We ask for Advisor Rafael's opinion and he asks if it is in the bylaws. We respond it is but there is, not a description in the statutes. Rafael doesn't feel strongly that we need it or not. Vice President Collyer asserts that Internal Affairs would be good because it would double check that people follow through with their duties. Something VP Collyer observed last year is that people clocked in and out but no one actually kept track if people were really in their office. He says they took attendance and that was it, no one made sure people attended meetings and that people followed through with their duties as outlined in the constitution such as senators having to meet once a month with the dean. This needs to be enforced so that we make sure we are running efficiently because it is something that didn't happen last year. That bill needs to be added in as soon as possible. If need be, we can do it today and pass it on Monday.

Senator Yamini motions to call a 5 minute recess to process the information.
Senator Odimayo seconds.

Senator Usma meeting is called into order again at 4:01. Senator Usma opens the floor for nominations.

Nominations for Finance Chair:

Senator Adekoya nominates Tami, Tami seconds.

Senator Khan nominates Senator Yamini, Senator Usma seconds.

Senator Usma also nominates Senator Sanchez and Senator Khan seconds.

Nominations for Operations Review Chair

- Senator Yamini nominates Khan for Operations Review Chair. Senator Khan seconds.

- Senator Odimayo nominates Senator Adekoya. Senator Adekoya seconds.

Nominations for Student Advocacy Chair

- Senator Yamini nominates Senator Sanchez. Senator Khan seconds.

Nominations for Rules, Regulations and Judiciary

- Senator Odimayo nominates Senator Khan. Senator Adekoya seconds.
Senator Khan respectfully declines.

- Senator Yamini nominates herself, Senator Adekoya seconds.

Senator Usma says nominations will be open till next week.

B. Questions about Constitution and Statutes

a. Senator Yamini asks about Title IV, Chapter 401, section 8. How does the student body participate in the formulation of policies other than surveys?

- Senator Haspel responds that we are minutes are open
- Comptroller Gonzalez mentions that even though are meetings are officially public our senate meetings aren't located in a very public location since it is inside the office, perhaps we can have our meetings in the same room that we hold our general meetings?
- Advisor Rafael responds that the second floor of the WUC will open up sometime this summer so we should have more space and can probably hold it there.
- Senator Usma mentions that we were also thinking of purchasing a suggestion box and asks Advisor Rafael about this
- Advisor Rafael responds that he thinks the Vice Provost is going to purchase one

- Senator Yamini asks if we could ask Senator Williams to ask someone from the School of Journalism to publish articles.
- Senator Haspel responds that that costs money but anyone of us is free to submit an editorial in the school newspaper about senate meetings.
- Comptroller Gonzalez also mentions that when we have the website up and running we will be able to post the agenda and so forth.
 - o Senator Haspel inquiries about an update on the website
 - o Advisor Rafael says it should be working by the August 1st a couple of weeks before school starts. He suggests that we can have some festivities centered around a release party. Also we want to see if we can get stories about SGA tagged and linked onto our website. Heather Wright should be keeping us in the loop.

b. Article III, section 6, subpoint 8

C. Comptroller Kevin asks Senators about attendance in Senate Meetings and General Meetings

- i. Since General meetings are relatively short and we have drive to campus twice a week, what do we think about the Speaker of the Senate Makes reporting to us the Senate, about what happens in the E-board and Cabinet meetings and vice versa, the Speaker reporting to the E-board and Cabinet about Senate meetings. He believes it makes for a more streamlined efficient process.
- ii. Advisor Rafael responds and says that he brought it to Denise's attention about having General Meetings every other week. We have many options and as soon as Denise gets back we can discuss it in an E-board meeting.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Usma wants us to table for the resource fair during Freshman Orientation.