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Senate Minutes 09.23.13

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
September 23, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE

Fu Zhou Wu- President
Richard Azimov- Vice President
Kerline Honore- Senator at Large/ Speaker of the Senate
Sola Adebodun- Senator at Large/ Speaker Pro-Temp
Rafael Zapata, SGA Advisor
Ismail Hassan- Arts and Sciences Senator **3:43**
Zico Fremont- Arts & Sciences Senator
Jazmin Felix- Nursing and Health Sciences Senator **3:38**
Yanfei Zhang- Hospitality Management Senator
Dulanga Abeyirigunawardena- Hospitality Management
Karen-Michelle Sepulveda- Business Administration Senator
Lu Zhang- Graduate Senator
Olivia Dehaarte- Senator at Large **4:09**
Emerald Nesbitt-Housing Senator
Briana Boone- Lower Division Senate
Allhan Mejia- Lower Division Senate
Michema Lafontant- Lower Division Senate **3:38**

GUESTS

Donaldy Salvant- Chief of Staff **4:12**
Elianis Nieves- Lower Division Senator appointment
Ariel Miller- Director of Marketing appointment
Nasim Massoudi- Director of Lecture appointment

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on Monday, September 23, 2013 in WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at **3:45p.m.** by Kerline Honore Speaker of the Senate who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

SPEAKER REPORT

- Speaker Honore stated that SGA almost has a full senate. In addition, she added that some committees still need members to join.
- Senator Yanfei Zhang interjected a question, asking if her committee of six members has too many members.
- Mr. Zapata answered Senator Zhang by saying as long as other committees are not lacking committee members, then it is ok for Senator Zhang's committee to have six members.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- To begin his report, Vice-President Azimov stated that two members are needed for the United Way committee. Members will work directly with Mr. Zapata to maintain the University's and United Way's partnership.
- Mr. Zapata interjected that in the past, the committee has held ice cream socials, sold pizza, and had kickoff parties to fundraise for United Way.
- Finally, Vice-President Azimov expressed his concerns that there are individuals coming to the SGA office after hours. He pleaded to the Senate to not bring friends up to the office, unless it is for student related issues.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Zapata stated that he sent an email out to the exec-board about showing support for FIU by attending the City of North Miami council meeting at 7 p.m. on September 23. He added that issues such as adding a second road access to the Biscayne Bay Campus will be discussed at the meeting.
- Vice-President Azimov interjected that SGA's desk assistant Kathleen Devaney will be leading the City of North Miami in the Pledge of Allegiance at their council meeting at 6 p.m. on September 25.
- Mr. Zapata also announced that Homecoming events are approaching, and there are a couple events that Senate members should attend: 1)The Color Run 2) LXV Lounge (FIU's Homecoming dance at the Kovens Center) 3) Kickoff event
- Finally, Mr. Zapata added that the Meet the Dean event is one that everyone should attend.

RLJ CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Felix announced that the committee will be having a meeting right after the Senate meeting.
- In addition, Senator Felix said that the committees meetings will be held every other Monday of the month, since the Internal Affair meetings are held at the same time.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

- Senator Hassan stated he had no report, but that his committee will have a meeting on Tuesday September 24, 2013 at 4p.m.

INTERNAL AFFAIR REPORT

- Senator Zhang stated that Senator Lafontant was added to the committee.
- Senator Zhang reemphasized what Senator Felix said about the two committees having the same meeting times. The Internal Affair meetings will be held every second and fourth Monday of the month, and the RLJ meetings will be held every first and third Monday of the month.

STUDENT ADVOCACY REPORT

- Senator Abeysirigunawardena stated that there are three people in her committee, and that she wants to know if anyone else would want to join. She added that their committee meets every other Wednesday at 2 p.m.

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Nesbitt spoke on behalf of Senator Dehaarte, stating that in their committee meeting they approved \$2000 for a Campus Life float. She added that Campus Life was originally asking for funds of \$3200.
- In addition, Senator Nesbitt said that the committee approved \$150 for a student to go to a conference.
- Finally, it was concluded that there is about \$15,000 leftover in the committee's account.

NEW BUSINESS

- Senator Adebodun motioned to approve last week's minutes. Senator Hassan seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by a unanimous decision.

Appointments

- **Lower Division Senator**

- Applicant Elianis Nieves stated that she is a freshman studying human resources. She also works as a lifeguard at the FIU pool and is an SOC representative.

-Nieves stated that she is not new to leadership skills, since she was the president of her high school's National Honors society.

-Nieves said she was hesitant about being a Lower Division senator at first because she wants to study law, however she wants to help the University and thought that joining SGA would be a good way to help.

-Vice-President Azimov noted hoe Nieves has already helped volunteer at some SGA events.

-Mr. Zapata stated that Nieves was supposed to be an intern at first, but her name was mentioned in regard to fulfilling rhe position of a Lower Division senator.

Senator Fremont motioned to appoint Nieves for the position of Lower Division senator. Senator Abeysirigunawardena seconded the motion.

By a unanimous acclamation, Elianis Nieves became the new Lower Division senator.

- **Director of Marketing**

-Applicant Ariel Miller stated that she is a junior transfer student from Richmond, VA studying Hospitality/Management. She noted that prior to transferring, she was a Business student with a focus in Hospitality. She also has a strong interest in Marketing

-In regards to marketing, Miller also stated that she has some prior knowledge of working with graphics.

Senator Abeysirigunawardena motioned to appoint Miller for the position of Director of Marketing. Senator Fremont seconded the motion.

All in favor by a unanimous vote, Ariel Miller became the new Director of Marketing.

- **Director of Lecture**

-Applicant Nasim Massoudi stated that she is originally from Iran and that this is her first month living in the USA and Miami.

- Massoudi is working on a Master's in English translation into Farsi.

- Massoudi added that she heard SGA is a good opportunity and she wanted to get involved.

-Finally, Massoudi said that she doesn't have trouble understanding English, but that she does have trouble understanding some accents.

- Senator Lafontant interjected and asked if Massoudi would feel more comfortable starting off as a Senator.

Senator Abeysirigunawardena motioned to appoint all Masim Massoudi as the Director of Lecture.

Senator Hassan seconded the motion.

Vote:

Senator Fremont	I
Senator Abeysirigunawardena	I
Senator Zhang	Nay
Senator Nesbitt	I
Senator Lu Zhang	I
Senator Hassan	I
Senator Dehaarte	abstained
Senator Felix	I
Senator Lafontant	Nay
Senator Boone	Nay
Senator Mejia	I
Senator Sepulveda	I
Senator Nieves	I
Senator Adebodun	I

By a decision of 11 yays, three nays and one abstained, Nasim Massoudi was appointed as the new Director of Lecture.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Vice-President Azimov reminded members about the Haitian Late Day Latte event at 4 p.m. on September 26.
2. Vice-President Azimov also reminded members about the career fair from 11-3 p.m. on October 3 in the Ballrooms.
3. Vice-President Azimov reminded members about the Meet Your dean event at 2 p.m. on October 2.
4. Senator Adebodun stated that for the benefit of the new incoming senators, it is polite to keep your phones silences because it is disruptive when they go off during the meeting,
5. Mr. Zapata announced that the new members can get their photos taken after the meeting.
6. President Wu asked members to please register for the Color Run, stating that is a free event for students and \$50 for anyone else.
7. Vice-President Azimov stated that it is imperative for members to learn and understand Robert's Rules of Order.
8. Senator Dehaarte interjected to appoint Senator Mejia into the Finance committee. Senator Abeysirigunawardena seconded the motion.

By a unanimous vote, Senator Mejia became a member of the Finance committee.

The meeting was adjourned by Speaker Honore at **4:27 p.m.**