

10-13-2014

## Senate Minutes 10.13.14

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**  
**October 13, 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Faedrah Mahotiere, Arts and Sciences  
Maria Pulido-Velos, Arts and Sciences  
Akheim Paisley, Arts and Sciences  
Allhan Mejia, Business Administration  
Rebecca Merek, Hospitality Management  
Yumeng Zhang, Hospitality Management  
Ana Correa, SJMC  
Eli Jean-Mary, Lower Division  
Paige Butler, Lower Division  
Lauren Peterson, Lower Division  
Xuan Di, At-Large  
Bendjy Calixte, At-Large **3:36pm**  
Christopher Morisset, At-Large  
Larissa Adames, Advisor

**GUESTS**

Briana Boone, Appointee for Press Secretary  
Valeria Ocampo, Appointee for Press Secretary  
Kai Chen, Appointee for Graduate Senator  
Ying Lin, Appointee for Graduate Senator  
Karol Ariza, Intern  
Alex Blencowe, Beacon Reporter  
Jeffrey Berson, Kiwanis Presenter

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on Monday, October 13, 2014 in WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at **3:34 p.m.** by Allhan Mejia, Speaker of the Senate, who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

Senator Merek motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Senator Correa seconded the motion. By a unanimous decision, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

### **SPEAKER REPORT**

- Speaker Mejia began his report by saying that he will be holding statutes workshops because he eventually wants to change the bylaws. Robert's Rules will also be taught. The workshops will be every two weeks and the next session will be on October 27.

### **SPEAKER-PRO REPORT**

- Senator Pulido said that it is really important for council members to participate in Homecoming events.
- Senator Pulido also said that she went to the last Student Advocacy meeting and discussed with committee members how to add more Honors classes at BBC.

### **ADVISOR REORT**

- Ms. Adames said that the Homecoming parade is on Saturday. Members interested in riding the float should let Magda know by tomorrow. SOC, SPC and Panther Power have also been invited to participate.
- Ms. Adames said that the SGA suite tickets for the Homecoming game are already filled, but she can still add interested members to the waiting list.
- Ms. Adames said that there will be a SGA Reunion on October 17 at 6 pm before the LXV Homecoming dance. Council members are encouraged to attend.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

- Senator Morisset said that he had no report.

### **RLJ REPORT**

- Senator Merek said that she had no report.

### **OPERATIONAL REVIEW REPORT**

- Senator Jean-Mary said that the committee voted to meet bi-weekly on every other Thursday.

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

- Senator Mahotiere said that she had no report.

### **STUDENT ADVOCACY REPORT**

- Senator Correa said that the committee is working with the Honors College to add more classes to BBC.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Press Secretary Appointment**

#### **Valeria Ocampo**

Valeria Ocampo feels that her prior jobs have prepared her for the role of press secretary. She knows Wordpress, has skills with social media and has dealt with press releases.

#### **Briana Boone**

Briana Boone was a prior SGA-BBC council member. She has served previously as secretary for Student Advocacy and RLJ. She is studying Journalism, English and Political Science. She loves to edit and write.

Senator Merek motioned to appoint a new press secretary. Senator Calixte seconded the motion.

Senator Mahotiere deliberated the decision, saying that both candidates have a lot of experience.

Senator Peterson questioned how much time each candidate has to devote to SGA on a weekly basis. Valeria Ocampo said that she realizes that there are five required office hours per week and that she will devote the necessary amount of time on any projects she will work on. Briana Boone said that she can be at SGA any time necessary. She has a flexible work schedule.

#### **Vote**

Akheim Paisley- Valeria  
Yumeng Zhang- Valeria  
Paige Butler- Valeria  
Lauren Peterson- Valeria  
Bendjy Calixte- Valeria  
Xuan Di- Briana  
Ana Correa- Valeria  
Faedrah Mahotiere- Valeria  
Eli Jean-Mary- Valeria  
Rebecca Merek- Valeria  
Chris Morisset- Valeria  
Maria Pulido- Valeria  
Allhan Mejia- Abstained

By a vote of 11 for Valeria Ocampo, 1 for Briana Boone and 1 abstained, Valeria Ocampo became the new Press Secretary.

### **B. Graduate Senator Appointment**

#### **Ying Lin**

Ying Lin wants to strengthen the relationship between FIU and the Tianjin University of Commerce in China.

### **Kai Chen**

Kai Chen said that she has had a lot of prior experience working in customer service that she feels can be beneficial if she were to become an SGA member.

Senator Mahotiere motioned to appoint a new graduate senator. Senator Paisley seconded the motion.

### **Vote**

Akheim Paisley- Kai

Yumeng Zhang- Ying

Lauren Peterson- Ying

Bendjy Calixte- Ying

Xuan Di- Kai

Ana Correa- Kai

Faedrah Mahotiere- Kai

Eli Jean-Mary- Kai

Rebecca Merek- Ying

Chris Morisset- Kai

Maria Pulido- Kai

Allhan Mejia- Kai

By a vote of 8 for Kai, 4 for Ying and 0 abstained, Kai Chen became the new graduate senator.

### **C. Finance Committee Appointment**

Senator Morisset nominated Senator Chen as the new graduate member for the finance committee. Senator Mahotiere seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **D. Kiwanis Presentation – Jeffrey Berson**

A member of the North Miami Beach/ Sunny Isles Kiwanis chapter, Jeffrey Berson presented the idea of starting a Circle K chapter at BBC. He is looking for a faculty adviser to oversee this student run outreach club.

### **E. Meet Your Dean Catering**

Speaker Mejia stated that there is \$2,500 in the senate discretionary fund.

Larissa Adames said that it will cost approximately \$1,900 to feed 150 people finger foods from Exquisite Catering for the Meet Your Dean event.

Senator Morisset motioned to open the floor for discussion. Senator Mahotiere seconded the motion.

Senator Peterson stated that Exquisite Catering is charging nearly \$12 per person for this event. She doesn't think it's a good deal.

Larissa Adames clarified that there are vegetarian options on the menu, which include the spring rolls and jalapeno poppers.

Rafael Zapata suggested since the event is next week, a decision to allot the money should be made soon.

Senator Paisley asked if there are any other events that the senate could use the money for. Speaker Mejia said that there are no other events at this time. Senator Mahotiere clarified that the senate will not get any more money added into the discretionary until the next fiscal year.

Larissa Adames said that she and Marcy Alstrom can look into other catering options tomorrow, but that the senate can make a decision to allot a certain amount of money at this time.

Seantor Jean-Mary suggested that the senate should allot \$1,300 for the catering.

Senator Peterson suggested that the senate should allot \$1,000 for the catering, planning to feed 100 people instead of 150.

Senator Morisset motioned to end the discussion. Senator Calixte seconded the motion.

Senator Mahotiere motioned to approve \$1,200 for the catering costs for Meet Your Dean. Senator Peterson seconded the motion.

### **Vote**

Akheim Paisley- Yes

Yumeng Zhang- Yes

Lauren Peterson- Yes

Bendjy Calixte- Yes

Xuan Di- Yes

Ana Correa- Yes

Faedrah Mahotiere- Yes

Eli Jean-Mary- Yes

Rebecca Merek- Yes

Chris Morisset- Yes

Maria Pulido- Yes

Allhan Mejia- Yes

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Speaker Mejia said that some people in the council are planning to dress up as minions for Halloween.

2. Alex Blencowe, the reporter for the Beacon, introduced herself. She said she will be able to cover most of the senate meetings from now on.
3. Senator Morisset said that Badminton club will officially begin today at 5 pm.
4. Rafael Zapata said that the Student Leader Reunion will be this Friday at 6 pm. Council members are encouraged to attend to mingle with SGA alumni.

The meeting was adjourned by Speaker Mejia at **4:31 p.m.**