

12-1-2014

Senate Minutes 12.01.14

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
December 1, 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
Ana Correa, SJMC
Eli Jean-Mary, Lower Division
Paige Butler, Lower Division
Lauren Peterson, Lower Division
Bendjy Calixte, At-Large
Christopher Morisset, At-Large
Kai Chen, Graduate
Larissa Adames, Advisor

ABSENT

Yumeng Zhang, Hospitality Management
Xuan Di, At-Large

CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on Monday, December 1, 2014 in WUC 221. The meeting was called to order at **3:35 p.m.** by Allhan Mejia, Speaker of the Senate, who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

Senator Morisset moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. Senator Paisley seconded the motion.

Vote

Akheim Paisley- yay
Paige Butler- yay

Lauren Peterson- yay
Bendjy Calixte- yay
Kai Chen- yay
Ana Correa- yay
Faedrah Mahotiere- yay
Eli Jean-Mary- yay
Rebecca Merek- yay
Chris Morisset- yay
Maria Pulido- yay
Allhan Mejia- yay

The minutes were approved by a unanimous decision.

SPEAKER REPORT

- Speaker Mejia said that he has been corresponding with Charles from MMC about the changes to the Elections Code. He said that the senate will have to make a decision on the Elections Code at this week's general meeting because Charles has not sent him the most recent changes yet.

SPEAKER-PRO REPORT

- Senator Pulido said that she had no report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Felix congratulated the senate members on all of the good work they have done this semester.
- President Felix said that attended a WUC Advisory Board meeting with Senator Correa to discuss proposed upcoming changes to the building. The demolition of the theatre will begin in Jan./Feb. and should be completed by fall 2015.
- President Felix said that Steve Sauls, the VP of the university, will be giving a lecture at MMC tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms. He is retiring.
- President Felix reminded the senate that there will be a general meeting on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.
- President Felix reminded the senate that the Picnic With The Bay event is this Thursday, Dec. 4, from 12:30-2 p.m.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Vice-President Williams said that she had no report.

ADVISOR REORT

- Ms. Adames said that the tentative date for the spring semester Town Hall Meeting is Feb. 16 from 2-4 p.m.

- Ms. Adames said that the Midnight Breakfast will be next Monday. The event is '90s themed and there will be a food serving at 10 p.m. and midnight. She also said that this week is Release Week, to help students prepare and relax for final exams.
- Ms. Adames said that Blue Books, pens and pencils are available to students and can be picked up at the SGA front desk.
- Ms. Adames said that if council members were not here the entire semester, they will receive a partial stipend. President Felix added that the stipend amounts are paid by on a weekly basis.

FINANCE REPORT

- Senator Morisset said that the Finance Committee held their last meeting today at 2 p.m. where they funded graduate student Mark Barton for \$500. They also received an incomplete graduate request from Miguel Diaz Pimentel.
- Senator Morisset said that if today's appropriation is approved, \$11,656 will be remaining in the finance funds.
- Senator Morisset also said that the committee is now one member short.

RLJ REPORT

- Senator Merek said that she had no report.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

- Senator Jean-Mary said the committee reviewed the audit reports for SOC and Panther Power last week and that everything is in order.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

- Senator Mahotiere said that she needs to finish reviewing the out of office hour sheets by the end of this week. Speaker Mejia added that members need to turn in their sheets to her preferably by this Wednesday.

STUDENT ADVOCACY REPORT

- Senator Correa thanked all of the members who have submitted their completed surveys.

Ms. Adames asked for a point of clarification: How many surveys are still missing? Senator Correa said that she hasn't counted all of them yet, but probably less than 20 are missing.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Elections Code

Senator Pulido moved to table the approval of the Elections Code until the general meeting this Wednesday. Senator Morisset seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous decision.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appropriation: Mark Barton

This is an appropriation to fund graduate student Mark Barton \$500 so that he can attend the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

Senator Paisley moved to approve Mr. Barton's request. Senator Calixte seconded the motion.

Vote

Akheim Paisley- yay

Paige Butler- yay

Lauren Peterson- yay

Bendjy Calixte- yay

Kai Chen- yay

Ana Correa- yay

Faedrah Mahotiere- yay

Eli Jean-Mary- yay

Rebecca Merek- yay

Chris Morisset- yay

Maria Pulido- yay

Allhan Mejia- yay

The appropriation was approved by a unanimous decision.

B. Operational Review Committee

Speaker Mejia gave chairmanship over to Senator Pulido at 3:53 p.m.

Speaker Mejia said that he does not think Senator Jean-Mary is fit to be chair of the Operational Review committee anymore. He said that Section 404.05 of the Statutes states that a chairperson may be removed from their chairmanship by a majority vote of the senate, or by judicial order.

Senator Morisset stated a point of clarification: When making this decision, senate members should separate friendship from work.

Senator Paisley asked for a point of inquiry: Will we fill the vacancy? Senator Pulido answered yes.

Senator Merek asked for a point of inquiry: Why do you think that Senator Jean-Mary is not fit for the position anymore? Speaker Mejia answered that he was looking through the Operational Review binders and that there was barely any paperwork in them. He also said that Senator Jean-

Mary leaves inquiries about the audits until the last minute, as he was checking into some today and the semester is almost over. Finally, Speaker Mejia stated that the Budget hearings are approaching in February and the audit reports need to be accounted for.

Vice-President Williams asked for a point of inquiry: Had you spoken to Senator Jean-Mary prior to this meeting. Speaker Mejia said that he had a meeting with Senator Jean-Mary and Ms. Adames and discussed that he would bring up Senator Jean-Mary's dismissal at today's meeting.

Senator Peterson asked for a point of inquiry: Will the person who takes over his position have enough time to make up for his lack of work? Speaker Mejia answered that the person who potentially takes over Senator Jean-Mary's position will need to work fast to account for the audit reports, but he can help them in any way to speed up the process if necessary.

Senator Jean Mary spoke on his account and stated that he feels he has put in the necessary amount of work and thinks that the members of his committee can attest to that. He said that the paperwork may not be in the binders, but that's because he hasn't printed it. He also said that unlike previous committee chairs who have had email correspondence with the different on-campus organizations, he has spoken to them in-person every time. Speaker Mejia replied by saying that Senator Jean-Mary should not assume what the previous committee chairs have or have not done.

Senator Paisley asked for a point of inquiry: Will Senator Jean-Mary get paid for his position for this semester? Ms. Adames answered yes.

President Felix stated a point of clarification: She said that she doesn't want to see people make decisions based on the fact that there's going to be an open committee chair position. She also suggested that the senate table any decisions until this week's general meeting, so that Senator Jean-Mary can send all of the work that he says he has completed to the senate to be reviewed. She asked that he email his completed work to the senate immediately after this meeting.

Senator Jean-Mary stated a point of clarification: He said that it has been hard to access some of the Campus Life audit reports because Ms. Ivy Siegel Mack has been on maternity leave. He said that Speaker Mejia told him to speak to her to access the reports.

Speaker Mejia stated a point of clarification: Speaker Mejia said that he told Senator Jean-Mary to speak to Ms. Ive Paul, the office accountant, not Ms. Ivy Siegel Mack.

Senator Pulido said that she wants to hear from some of the other Operational Review committee members.

Senator Butler, a member of the Operational Review committee, said that all of the meeting minutes are completed but they just need to be printed out. She also said that maybe there are some email conversations that can be reviewed as proof of Senator Jean-Mary's work.

Senator Correa, a member of the Operational Review committee, said that she did not know when the meeting times were, due to a lack of communication.

President Felix asked for a point of inquiry: Who are the members of the Operational Review committee? Senator Jean-Mary said that the members are Xuan Di, Ana Correa and Paige Butler.

Senator Paisley moved to end the discussion. Senator Chen seconded the motion.

Vote

Akheim Paisley- yay
Paige Butler- nay
Lauren Peterson- yay
Bendjy Calixte- yay
Kai Chen- yay
Ana Correa- yay
Faedrah Mahotiere- nay
Eli Jean-Mary- nay
Rebecca Merek- yay
Chris Morisset- nay
Maria Pulido- yay
Allhan Mejia- nay

By a vote of 7 yays and 5 nays, the motion to end the discussion passed.

Speaker Mejia moved to remove Senator Jean-Mary as the Operational Review chair. No one seconded this motion.

Senator Paisley moved to table the discussion of Senator Jean-Mary's dismissal until the general meeting. Senator Merek seconded the motion.

Vote

Akheim Paisley- yay
Paige Butler- yay
Lauren Peterson- yay
Bendjy Calixte- yay
Kai Chen- yay
Ana Correa- yay
Faedrah Mahotiere- yay
Eli Jean-Mary- yay
Rebecca Merek- yay
Chris Morisset- yay
Maria Pulido- yay
Allhan Mejia- nay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Vice-President Williams announced that she will be acting in the play "Where Did I Go Wrong?" along with President Felix and Senator Mahotiere on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Tickets for students are \$10. They are also receiving donations at [gofundme.com/wheredidigowrong](https://www.gofundme.com/wheredidigowrong).

2. Senator Correa said that Wine To Water will be selling stockings/Christmas hats for \$3 on Wednesday to help fundraise for their trip to Dominican Republic.
3. President Felix said to bring in small gifts to help make goodie bags for children in the hospital as a part of Marquele's service project.

Senator Pulido moved to end the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Senator Morisset seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.