

2-20-2017

## Senate Mintues 02.20.17

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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# Florida International University

*Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & FIU at I-75*

## MINUTES SGC-BBC Senate Meeting

### IN ATTENDANCE

Tonie Jean – Speaker of the Senate/ Upper Division  
Jonathan Espino – Arts and Sciences  
Hala Baaj – Arts and Sciences  
Tamera Thompson – Hospitality Management  
Harry Castillo – Communication + Journalism  
Ronan Kelly – Lower Division  
Michaela Suarez – At-Large  
Zhe Huang – At-Large  
Mitesh Addhate – Graduate  
Leonardo Cosio – Vice President  
Larissa Adames – Assistant Director of Campus Life/SGA Advisor  
Gerald Johnson – Graduate Assistant

### EXCUSED

Maria Fauve – Speaker Pro-Tempore/At Large

### ABSENT

Shawn Robinson – Upper Division

### GUEST

Meredith Marseille – Comptroller  
Yihui Zhang – Elections Board Secretary Candidate  
Junxia Wang – Director of International Student Affairs Candidate

### CALL TO ORDER

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on February 20, 2017 in **WUC 221**. The meeting was called to order at **3:35pm**, approximately, by Speaker **Tonie Jean** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Speaker Jean said the meeting minutes were added to the drive but were not emailed to the council so the approval will be pushed to next week.

### **SENATE SPEAKER REPORT**

- Speaker Jean greeted the council said it has been two weeks since the last Senate Meeting.
- Speaker Jean said Advisor Week is coming soon and it is a Senate event. She added the Vice President Cosio, Speake Pro Fauve, and herself are planning the event .
- Speaker Jean said that during Advisor week, each of the major schools on campus will have their own day where the advisors will table and meet student to discuss scholarships, and volunteering opportunities. She added that this will help students know what is going on in their respective majors and schools.
- Speaker Jean said the students will be able to meet SGA and learn about important resources that the University offers.
- Speaker Jean said she is tasking the council with finding scholarships for their assigned schools and departments.
- Speaker Jean advised the council to go to the colleges' websites to view the scholarships that are available.
- Speaker Jean said she would like the council members to find more resources than what the advisors bring so all the information can be readily available.
- Speaker Jean said SGA will be tabling during the week. She added that the time of the events are not yet official, but the windows are approximately 11am – 2pm.
- Speaker Jean said Advisor Week will be the week after Spring Break.
- Vice President Cosio added that it is important to speak to students about SGA's role and goals. He added the council should be prepared to write down student concerns and complaints.
- Speaker Jean reiterated that the task is to find different opportunities for students such as volunteering, shadowing, internships, and scholarships.
- Senator Baaj asked that since she is a Pre-Med Major and an Honors College student, which departments should she look into?
- Speaker Jean said each council member should look into all of the majors in their respective colleges and to collaborate with one another.
- Speaker Jean said she will need the information by Friday at 5pm, and each council member is required to report at least four scholarships.
- Senator Huang asked if she can help out with the Hospitality department because she is a peer mentor and a hospitality major.
- Speaker Jean said yes and advised Senator Huang to collaborate with Senator Thompson.

### **SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE Report**

No Report

## VICE PRESIDENT Report

- Vice President Cosio said he was contacted by FIU's Communication department and they approached him about SGA BBC taking over FIU's Official Snapchat account. He added that different people from the council will be featured, as well as landmarks and important places on campus.
- Vice President Cosio said the Cabinet will be planning everything for this event.
- Vice President Cosio said he is working on a project to update the study rooms in WUC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, where the walls and furniture will be changed.
- Vice President Cosio said he is working with Speaker Pro Fauve to update the SGA BBC website. He added that students have tried to apply for fund from SGA but have had issues because the website is not clear or user friendly.

## ADVISOR REPORT

- Advisor Adames said elections applications are due on Friday. She asked the council to encourage their peers to apply and reminded them to turn all application materials in on time.
- Advisor Adames said the Michelle Bernstein Lecture is on March 7<sup>th</sup>. She added the Ms. Bernstein will be speaking on entrepreneurship and how she built various businesses in her community.
- Advisor Adames said University Wide Budget Deliberations will continue at MMC and BBC. She said the final deliberation is on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Advisor Adames said the Health Services Kickoff is next week Tuesday in Panther Square at noon.
- Speaker Jean asked how many students will the Health Services department bring to campus.
- Advisor Adames said between 700 and 1000.
- Speaker Jean said therefore, it is important that the council welcomes them and to make sure to stop by the event, even if it is a very quick stop. She added that it is not always about who you know, but who knows you.

## FINANCE CHAIR Report

- Senator Suarez said today, hopefully, the council can appoint a new finance committee member.
- Senator Suarez said there are still available seats in the finance committee. She added that if the council would like to learn how to manage funds, said position would be a great addition to their resumes.

## RLJ CHAIR REPORT

No Report

## OPERATIONAL REVIEW CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Kelly said he had his first meeting and it was a blast.
- Senator Kelly said his committee is open to new members as well and asked the council to please speak with him if they are interested in joining.
- Senator Kelly said he will delegate roles to his committee members and make it any easy transition for them.

## INTERNAL RELATIONS CHAIR REPORT

- Senator Espino said he made an hours spread sheet that is really cute.
- Senator Espino reminded the council to turn in their Senate Reports on Mondays by 3pm.

## STUDENT ADVOCACY CHAIR REPORT

- Speaker Thompson said she has gotten feedback about the food compost bins but is not sure of the regulations on the proper disposal of food. She said it will be complicated but she is speaking with the Hospitality Dean and Kitchen Manager about the issue.
- Speaker Thompson said one of her concerns is the excess credit surcharge. She added the many students are not aware of it so it is important for the council to work to inform everyone.
- Speaker Jean said that maybe advising week will be a good time to inform students of the surcharge.
- Senator Baaj asked if the surcharge is only for a completed class or does it count for a dropped class after the add drop period.
- Senator Thompson said the surcharge would count for the coursed dropped after the add drop period as well.
- Speaker Jean agreed that it is extremely important to inform student about these matters because many people are not aware of the specifics, including herself.
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## Old Business

### **A. Emoluments - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

- Comptroller Marseille said as the council knows, the emoluments were updated and need to be redistributed because of the loss of one cabinet seats and four senate seat.
- Comptroller Marseille said office hours for senators are not committee chairs lowered from 7 hours a week to 5. She added that the committee chairs will continue to complete 7 office hours per week.

- Vice President Cosio requested a point of clarification on what was changed from the previous senate meeting and now.
- Comptroller Marseille said the Director of Governing Councils position was removed as the 10<sup>th</sup> position and Director of Elections was moved from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the constitution.

Senator Thompson moved to approve the 2016-2017 SGC BBC Emoluments in the amount of \$63,875 along with the removal of the Director of Governing council's position.  
 Senator Suarez seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Senator Jean – Yay  
 Senator Suarez – Yay  
 Senator Espino – Yay  
 Senator Kelly – Yay  
 Senator Baaj – Yay  
 Senator Castillo - Abstain  
 Senator Thompson - Yay  
 Senator Huang – Yay  
 Senator Addhate – Yay

By a vote of 8/0/1, the motion passed.

## **B. Online Budget Part 2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

- Comptroller Marseille said two weeks ago, President Mejia presented the Online Budget Part 2 to the council.
- Comptroller Marseille said online students now pay half of the A&S fees that on campus students pay and that budget was deliberated and voted on.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$414,553 was allocated the first time around and \$732,811 was allocated the second time.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$7,979 and \$6,500 was allocated to Campus Life BBC for filming equipment.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$60,000 was allocated to Campus Life MMC for programming.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$12,000 was allocated to Changemaker Initiative for their Social Intelligence Software project w/ proviso language that they will provide Student Affairs with marketing intelligence obtained from the software.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$0 was allocated to Changemaker Initiative for Crowdsource FIU.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$28,000 was allocated to Changemaker Initiative was allocated to Changemaker Initiative for FIU Link with proviso language stating “If and when FIU Link Software and/or other aliases software products are developed

and if revenue is earned from it, SGA will receive the initial investment and a minimum of 5% of those revenues.”

- Comptroller Marseille said \$30,000 was allocated to FIU Libraries for Demand Driven E-Book Purchases.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$0 was allocated to FIU Libraries for Project Muse 2017 E-Books.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$0 was allocated to FIU Libraries for Business Expert Press E-Books.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$0 was allocated to FIU Libraries for Streaming Video Collections.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$0 was allocated to FIU Online to fund salaries.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$42,889.00 was allocated to the Graham Center with proviso language stating the funds will go toward rooms 140, 150, and 243 only.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$0 was allocated to the Graham Center for the EventMobi App.
- Comptroller Marseills said \$2000.00 was allocated to the Office of Study Abroad w/ proviso language “\$2000.00 to be used as a onetime allocation, future funding will need to be requested.”
- Comptroller Marseille said \$39,520.00 was allocated to the Wolfe University Center with proviso language stating the funds will go toward rooms 155, 157, and 159.
- Comptroller Marseille said \$503,923 was allocated to the central reserve.
- Speaker Jean said the \$503,923 was placed into the central reserves in case of an emergency.
- Vice President Cosio said the BBC specific budget deliberation is on March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8am-5pm.

Senator Kelly moved to approve the 2016-2017 Online Budget Activity and Service Fee to allocate \$228,888 to the respective departments.

Senator Baaj Seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Senator Jean – Yay  
Senator Suarez – Yay  
Senator Espino – Yay  
Senator Kelly – Yay  
Senator Baaj – Yay  
Senator Castillo - Yay  
Senator Thompson - Yay  
Senator Huang – Yay  
Senator Addhate – Yay

By a vote of 9/0/0, the motion passed unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **A. Appointment Zhe Huang – Finance Committee Member**

- Senator Huang greeted the council and said, as the council knows, she has been a Senator At-Large for nearly 12 months.
- Senator Huang said she has worked hard to get students involved on campus.
- Senator Huang said besides SGA, she is a peer mentor and works at the Career Services Office and helps students with their resumes.
- Senator Huang said joining the finance committee will be a great opportunity to learn how to manage budgets.
- Senator Thompson asked if Senator Huang has had budget managing experience before.
- Senator Huang said no, she has not.
- Senator Kelly asked if Senator Huang has had any financial experience overall.
- Senator Huang said she has had some experience in her accounting course.

Senator Espino moved to appoint Senator Huang as a finance committee member. Senator Addhate seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Senator Jean – Yay  
Senator Suarez – Yay  
Senator Espino – Yay  
Senator Kelly – Yay  
Senator Baaj – Yay  
Senator Castillo - Yay  
Senator Thompson - Yay  
Senator Huang – Yay  
Senator Addhate – Yay

By a vote of 9/0/0, the motion passed unanimously.

Senator Thompson moved to amend the agenda and go back to the Elections Secretary Appointment.

Senator Espino seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Appointment Yihui Zhang – Elections Board Secretary**

- Speaker Jean asked for clarification on the role of the Elections Secretary.
- Advisor Adames said the Elections Secretary keeps record of what happens during the elections committee meetings.



- Ms. Zhang said the council can call her Lily.
- Ms. Zhang said she is from Chin and is a senior.
- Ms. Zhang said she is honored to stand in front of the council and understands the secretary role well.
- Ms. Zhang said that although most think clerical work is boring, she finds it interesting and understands its importance.
- Ms. Zhang said she excels in organization and paperwork.
- Ms. Zhang said, in China, she used to work the a New Media Student Organization and worked to connect with other schools, organizations, and departments and thinks that experience will help with the new positon, if she were appointed.
- Senator Suarez asked Ms. Zhang to describe her leadership style.
- Ms. Zhang said she is detailed and will approach team members with a helping hand.

Senator Baaj moved to appoint Yihui Zhang as Elections Board Secretary.  
Senator Kelly Seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Senator Jean – Yay  
 Senator Suarez – Yay  
 Senator Espino – Yay  
 Senator Kelly – Yay  
 Senator Baaj – Yay  
 Senator Castillo - Yay  
 Senator Thompson - Yay  
 Senator Huang – Yay  
 Senator Addhate – Yay

By a vote of 9/0/0, the motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Appointment Junxia Wang – Director of International Student Affairs**

- Ms. Wang said she also goes by April.
- Ms. Wang said she is extremely interested in the Director of International Affairs position because she is an international student and shares the concerns of the other international students, such as learning how to study efficiently in new environments and gaining employment in the US.
- Ms. Wang said it is never easy to begin a new life in a foreign country and she wants to be the medium for the international students to deliver their concerns.
- Ms. Wang said would like to teach international students that they do not have to struggle simply because they have different origins and speak a different language. Ms. Wang added that there are various departments, professors, and resources to reach out to for help.

- Ms. Wang said she wants to personally be a resource to students and doing so will be a huge achievement for her.
- Ms. Wang said some of her ideas include conducting a survey online for international students to record their concerns as well as tabling events where they can write their concerns.
- Ms. Wang said she is also interested in holding social events to figure out the top five concerns of international students and hopes to hold a workshop during the semester.
- Senator Baaj asked if Ms. Wang could elaborate on her survey idea.
- Ms. Wang said she will ask the student about their concerns and what is troubling them.

Senator Espino moved to appoint Junxia Wang as Director of International Student Affairs.

Senator Kelly seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Senator Jean – Yay  
 Senator Suarez – Yay  
 Senator Espino – Yay  
 Senator Kelly – Yay  
 Senator Baaj – Yay  
 Senator Castillo - Yay  
 Senator Thompson - Yay  
 Senator Huang – Yay  
 Senator Addhate – Yay

By a vote of 9/0/0, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **D. Nomination – Hala Baaj – Rules, Legislation, and Judiciary Chair**

Senator Kelly moved to nominate Senator Baaj as Rules, Legislation, and Judiciary Chair.

Senator Baaj accepted the nomination.

- Senator Baaj said she has been an Arts, Sciences, and Education senator for about six months now.
- Senator Baaj said she was interested in RLJ chair for about two months but the position was filled at the time.
- Senator Baaj said she is the co-chair for Operational Review and Student Advocacy and has a great understanding of teamwork.
- Senator Baaj said she understands what the positions entails and she plans to meet with the RLJ chair at MMC if she were appointed.

- Senator Baaj said she thinks the chair position will help her have a greater purpose in the council.

Senator Thompson moved to appoint Senator Baaj as Rules, Legislation, and Judiciary Chair.

Senator Kelly seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Senator Jean – Yay  
Senator Suarez – Yay  
Senator Espino – Yay  
Senator Kelly – Yay  
Senator Baaj – Yay  
Senator Castillo - Yay  
Senator Thompson - Yay  
Senator Huang – Yay  
Senator Addhate – Yay

By a vote of 9/0/0, the motion passed unanimously.

## **ANOUNCEMENTS**

- Deliberations U-wide @ MMC: 9am-5pm - GC 325, February 22, 2017
- SGA Election Applications are due by 5pm, February 24, 2017
- Deliberations U-wide @ BBC: 9am to 2pm - WUC 221, March 1, 2017
- Deliberations BBC Specific - 9am to 3pm - WUC 221, March 3, 2017
- LSAT, GRE, and MCAT free practice tests.
- Tuesday Times Roundtable tomorrow
- Tunnel of Oppression
- Senate RLJ Workshop next week before the senate meeting.

The meeting was dismissed by Speakers Tonie Jean at **4:40pm**