University pioneers new loan program

Government-funded initiative offers flexible payment options

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA Staff Writer

Students with a need for financial aid may now borrow directly from the government, as the University has just enrolled in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program.

The FDSLP is a newer, federally operated loan program that allows students a number of options when it comes to borrowing and paying back money for a college education.

At the FDSLP, where the federal government is the lender, is a recent switch from the University’s former financial aid program, the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), which many universities still utilize and where banks are the lenders.

The new student loan program offers subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans, Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) loans and loan consolidation.

Among the advantages of switching to FDSLP are faster disbursement, expanded repayment options and pushing FIU ahead of political currents in Washington.

Francisco Valines, director of the financial aid department, explained that under FDSLP, the institutions disbursing the loans are responsible for withdrawing funds, as opposed to FFELP protocol, in which banks send funds to the institutions.

“This makes a faster turnaround to pay students,” Valines said.

FDSLP is also the only loan program that offers loan consolidation. With the consolidation program, students in heavy debt can stretch-out payment over longer periods of time. If students have borrowed from multiple sources, they can consolidate their payments into a single FDSLP, page 2

SGC-MC

Lack of attendance may result in firings

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA Staff Writer

Anthony Rionda, president of Student Government Council at Maidaque Campus, held a cabinet meeting to address problems with attendance and the creation of a new position.

At the meeting, held on July 8, Rionda outlined on a white board what it meant to be a cabinet member.

On one side of a chart he listed the good qualities of a cabinet member that included doing their jobs, attending meetings and working office hours on behalf of SGA.

On the other side of the chart was simply not doing those things.

“People who have chronically not attended meetings will be fired this week,” said Rionda at the meeting. “People who have chronically not done their jobs will also be fired.”

Of the seven cabinet meetings held by the current administration, nine members had missed more than half of the meetings, according to the official meetings’ minutes. Two members missed all seven, another two missed six, two missed five and three missed four.

“These meetings aren’t supposed to be boring,” Rionda said. “What I want these meetings to be is where we can exchange ideas.”

Rionda also told his cabinet that if someone was not attending because of class schedule they would be asked to step down.

“We have asked [for the cabinet] not to take certain classes during this time,”
Maidique may receive double of promised bonus

Outgoing University President Modesto A. Maidique may receive a $100,000 bonus up from the originally proposed $50,000.

According to The Miami Herald, the Board of Trustees’ compensation subcommittee gave Maidique a “superior-rating” and, as a result, moved to double his bonus.

This rating was given based on Maidique’s 22 years of service to the University and his efforts with regards to both the College of Law and the College of Medicine. His current salary is $478,000 per year.

The decision still needs to meet the approval of the full Board of Trustees.

Maidique’s final day as president will be Aug. 3.

NEW ON CAMPUS

**NEW ON CAMPUS**

**Funding for education underway**

President Obama’s campaign Web site, one of his running platforms, was the elimination of subsidies to student loan providers.

The establishment of the FDSLSP was a key move in accomplishing this, as the federally operated loan program effectively cuts private lenders from the process.

By getting on board early, FIU not only sees the benefits of a federally operated loan program; it also provides a position for Attorney General to help draft bills in proper, legal language.

Advisory boards to overlook the Recreational Center, the Athletics department, the 16 colleges and Veteran Affairs are also being created.

Additionally, Badger and Chelsea France, who is in charge of public relations for SGC-MC, have been working on a print newsletter that is near completion.

The current draft is eight pages.

According to Communications Head Moses Alucio the newsletter will feature student leadership, athletes and the University administration.

“People are realizing that they need a degree in order to get ahead in life and in any career,” Alucio said.

The newsletter is an avenue the administration is exploring to better connect with the student body, which has been set as a major goal.

Both SGA councils will meet next week at the Biscayne Bay Campus for a University-Wide Council meeting.

**Possible new position to oversee bills’ language**

CABINET, page 1

he said referring to the hour-long weekly meetings.

SUC-MC Press Secretary Ben Badger said he had not heard of any firings; he believes the tough talk was used as a motivational tool.

“Last year there were several cabinet members that checked out rather early, and that situation is trying to be avoided,” Badger said.

Rionda told cabinet members that they were going to receive a project sheet, which needed to be completed by July 27. Rionda called the date a “teething” for the cabinet, as it marks both the cabinet’s accomplishments and his own birthday.

“Everything needs to be done,” he said.

**CHANGES AND ADDITIONS**

The SGC-MC is also looking to create a position of Attorney General to help draft bills in proper, legal language.

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SGC-MC
SGC-BBC has full council for first time in years

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus senate unanimously voted to approve three new members, making it the first time in years the organization has had a full council.

“In the 13 years I’ve worked here, I can’t even remember the last time there were justices on SGC-BBC,” said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life & Orientation. “This is the first time they’ve appointed justices in a long time, so this is actually an improvement.”

Flora Madriz, Jermaine English and Tanha Dil were appointed as the new SGC-BBC justices on July 1. As members of the SGC-BBC judicial branch, the justices’ main responsibility is to safeguard the constitution and interpret it, as well as decide the constitutionality of laws, according to Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president.

Among the many duties of the appointed council members, the goal is marketing events to students, according to Neistein.

“We are trying to ensure student participation transpires,” Neistein said.

As a new justice, Madriz hopes to uphold the constitution, contribute to BBC’s growth and remain as unbiased as possible – an essential quality for anyone working in SGA, Madriz said.

“I do believe that with a strong foundation, a document would need only be changed with the times throughout the week. For more information, call 305-919-4595.

Although Madriz, a senior public relations major, has no previous judicial experience, she is confident about succeeding in her new position.

“I am aware of my abilities and I know that in time the council will be proud of their decision,” Madriz said.

Like Madriz, English has never held a position as a justice or worked with SGC, but he does know how the judicial system operates.

“I have taken numerous constitutional and judicial process courses to be able to know how the justice system functions,” said English, a senior political science major.

English is certain he will be able to accomplish existing goals and relieve the chief justice’s workload, which is the primary reason the senate decided to elect the new members.

During the initial interview, the justices presented their goals to council members and were asked to wait outside until the senators collected their votes. Although the senators deliberated between themselves, none of the justices were asked follow-up questions.

“I was nervous and I mentally prepared myself to answer any questions,” said Dil. “My only concern was that the council did not further inquire about what I would accomplish with my new position.”

Dil, a senior public relations major, has been a graphic artist for Campus Life & Orientation for the past three years. Prior to elections, she was constantly attending SGA meetings.

“I’m bringing forth issues and concerns not just from the perspective of a justice, but also from the point of view of a concerned student,” Dil said.

As a new justice, Dil wants to create an ethnic and social relations committee, as well as a BBC radio station.

“We have a plethora of culture and religion among our student body, and I wish to bring that forward during various SGA events on campus,” Dil said.

With the elections behind them, the justices must now be watchful of all council members, Neistein said.

“They are the guardians of the constitution,” said Neistein. “They have a hold and power over it.”

Additional reporting by Daiana Kuwawas.

SPC hopes to attract more students with Summer Splash

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SPC-BBC OPENINGS

Available co-chair positions:

- Fall Fest
- Hispanic Heritage
- Homecoming
- Affair of the Arts
- Pan-African Heritage Celebration
- One World Celebration
- Women’s Celebration
- Spring Fling
- Marketing / Recruitment
- Special Events

To apply:
- Submit a letter with your name, Panther ID, FIU classification and GPA.
- Two positions of interest
- Experience (if any)
- Reasons you would be a good candidate
- Contact information

Send letters to the SPC-BBC office in Campus Life, WUC 141C, or e-mail Melissa Binns at melissa.binns@fiu.edu

YEARNING FOR YOGA

WARRIOR STANCE: Enidra Porter, a junior nursing major, demonstrates a variation of the Warrior Two pose. Classes are offered by the Recreation Center at various times throughout the week. For more information, call 305-919-4595.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

University BOT’s generosity ‘ill-conceived’

While acknowledging Mr. Maidique’s contribution to FIU, I find the largesse of a $100,000 bonus to be ill-conceived and lacking in the common sense one assumes board members hold in ample abundance.

One had hoped that Mr. Maidique’s paltry half-million dollar salary would soften his hard landing in retirement. And all this time, I foolishly assumed educators found their worth from the intrinsic and intangible joy of broadening eager minds. I was assured that educators shared a love for teaching that was not overwhelmed by love for one’s self.

Correction: it is the Board of Trustees who are showing the love – or rather, the money. Somehow, the timing bothers me.

My hope is that followers of the Dalai Lama inform him of the Board’s generosity. Being a man of his word, the check from His Holiness will, I’m sure, arrive as promised. And, if His Holiness has a sense of humor, he’ll chortle this up as a new wrinkle in “zero-sum” equations. Still, I’m troubled, and not a little outraged.

Perhaps, instead of being so generous with the University’s endowment, the respected members of the Board of Trustees will be so moved with the “wonderfulness” of President Maidique, that each member will reach into his own pocket and, with an unbounded joy, show him that your love and appreciation come not only from your hearts – but from your pockets.

Joe D. Fitzgerald, M.Ed.
Harvard University (’79)

OPINION

Honduras acted justly in order to preserve democracy

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Astaw Opinion Editor

On June 28 the Honduran military arrested the sitting president of the country, Manuel Zelaya, and quietly – if not forcibly – expelled the now ex-president to Costa Rica, placing interim President Roberto Micheletti in his place.

For South America, this sounds like government as usual; one military-backed group seizing power from another corrupt government party, all the while paying lip-service to some convenient beneficent purpose like God’s will, the proletariat, or the other side looking funny. Bloodshed usually ensues and nothing changes.

This is what makes the Honduran “coup” so interesting; it was done for democratic purposes, completely in line with the laws of the land. The military’s actions were designed to deter the rise of another Castro or Chavez, not create one. The attempts to change the laws it qualifies as “coup” so interesting; it was done for democratic purposes, completely in line with the laws of the land. The military’s actions were designed to deter the rise of another Castro or Chavez, not create one. The attempts to change the laws it qualifies as treason, the charges Zelaya faces. These laws are ironclad to the Hondurans and so seriously interpreted because of the country’s long history with dictators, military takeovers and the conflicts that succeed them.

This is why both the Honduran Supreme Court and the country’s attorney general, Luis Alberto Rubi ordered Zelaya’s arrest, to prevent the rise of a dictator who disrespects constitutional law.

It’s worth noting Zelaya is also a close ally of Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez. Chavez has so far as to lend a plane to Zelaya during his feckless attempt to return to Honduras post-ejection. (Birds of a feather do flock together.)

So while the U.N., the U.S. and various other governments and governmental agencies might condemn Honduras’s actions, I do not. This is why a Separation of Powers exists in any democracy. It’s an action any Founding Father could be proud of, Jefferson himself said, “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of tyrants.”

The Hondurans were just a bit more peaceable about it than Jefferson. Instead of using an ice-pick in some Trycktomey-like fashion, the Hondurans did the best thing – they gave him a one-way ticket to Costa Rica.

Savannah Altvater
Senior, International Relations

BONUS BLUES

You Really Shouldn’t have...

With news on global warming on the rise (along with temperatures), many are urging others to “go green” – to recycle, to carpool, to use the “green” movement too much nowadays? Have we boarded enough?

Send responses to opinion@fiu.edu.com

DAILYQUOTATION

“The task of a judge is not to make law, it is to apply the law… I have applied the law to the facts at hand.”

Sonia Sotomayor
Supreme Court nominee, during her hearing July 13

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the editorial voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, managing editor, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding an article, response to its editorial, and all op-ed pieces.

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In an effort to be more health conscious and energy efficient, the University has placed Dyson Airblades, a new innovative type of hand dryer, in the Graham Center restrooms.

"The hand dryers are specially designed to dry a pair of moist hands in "about 12 seconds," according to the company's Web site. "You put your hands under other dryers, rub them a bit, then give up and wipe your hands on your trousers. It's something that's always annoyed me," said famed inventor Sir John Dyson, referring to conventional, warm air dryers.

"The way the Airblade works is very complex. Using "patented dyson technology" too magical to put into words, the Airblade forces warm air through razor thin openings creating a high-speed sheet of air traveling at more than 400 mph. The Airblade also runs on 80 percent less energy. According to the company’s Web site, "22 people can dry their hands using a Dyson Airblade hand dryer for the price of a single paper towel."

These dryers are not only designed to have you out of the bathroom quickly but, also, with the cleanest hands possible.

NSF International, a non-profit public health company, certifies the Airblade to be the "only hygienic hand dryer" because it complies with the ominous-sounding "NSF Protocol P335."

NSF Protocol P335 is not the self-destruct plan for the Death Star, but rather a list of features a hand dryer must have in order to be considered hygienic. The Dyson Airblade satisfies all of these stipulations as it has HEPA filters, unheated air, can dry their hands using a Dyson Airblade hand dryer for the price of a single paper towel."

"The study shows that paper towels are likely to cause considerably less contamination of other users, as well as the washroom environment, than the jet air dryer which was shown in this study to disperse artificial hand contamination to a distance of at least two meters, well within the range of adjacent dryers observed in a real washroom.

The study went on to say that, in this particular case, Dyson's claim that this is the "most hygienic hand dryer" could not be confirmed because of its "potential for dispersing bacteria."

The final part of the report also noted the Dyson Airblade's ability to allow colonization of various forms of bacteria on its surface.

"The results show that jet air dryers can be colonized by bacteria and have the potential to transmit them to washroom users. Both the numbers and types of bacteria found to be contaminating the jet air dryers in this study are similar to those found associated with warm air dryers."

The study suggests "that paper towels should be used in locations where hygiene is paramount."

This includes places such as hospitals, schools and places where food is handled or prepared.

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"The manufacturer’s claim that the tested [jet air dryer] is the ‘most hygienic hand dryer’ is confirmed, assuming that the term ‘hand dryer’ refers to electric devices only because its hygiene performance compared to paper towels was significantly worse in all respects," according to reports from the study.

Also, the study found the Dyson Airblade to be more likely to contaminate surrounding bathroom occupants than paper towels.

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"The study shows that paper towels are likely to cause considerably less contamination of other users, as well as the washroom environment, than the jet air dryer which was shown in this study to disperse artificial hand contamination to a distance of at least two meters, well within the range of adjacent dryers observed in a real washroom.

The study went on to say that, in this particular case, Dyson's claim that this is the "most hygienic hand dryer" could not be confirmed because of its "potential for dispersing bacteria."

The final part of the report also noted the Dyson Airblade's ability to allow colonization of various forms of bacteria on its surface.

"The results show that jet air dryers can be colonized by bacteria and have the potential to transmit them to washroom users. Both the numbers and types of bacteria found to be contaminating the jet air dryers in this study are similar to those found associated with warm air dryers."

The study suggests "that paper towels should be used in locations where hygiene is paramount."

This includes places such as hospitals, schools and places where food is handled or prepared.

"The study found that the Dyson Airblade actually led to an increase in bacteria in comparison to paper towels. However, the increase pales in comparison to the traditional hand dryers."

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Yasumicon offered FIU students an opportunity to show off their inner “character.” Starting on July 11 and ending on July 12, Yasumicon took place at the Modique Campus with events going on in the Graham Center and the Green Library.

GC offered Yasumicon attendees the opportunity to meet other people dressed as their favorite anime or video game personalities, while registering for the various events that were being offered.

Once registration was out of the way attendees were encouraged to head over to Fresh Food’s annex to the Epic Sugarworks Maid Café for a bite to eat and something to drink.

The café aimed to create a fun atmosphere with a fully costumed head-mistress, innkeeper and waitress-maids. In the GC Ballrooms guests could find merchandise from their favorite anime, Japanese food and music for sale and plenty of rick rolls.

The Green Library offered concerts and costume play also known as “cosplay” on stage, where anime devotees dressed up in costumes improvised in character in front of a live audience.

Each building offered students many activities providing those in attendance an opportunity to get lost in a fantasy world.
Tomic recruits her first all-freshmen class

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Former Golden Panthers linebacker

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Bostic taking ‘humble’ route toward the NFL

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Panther linebacker started life. During that time of self-reflection, the former Golden Panther linebacker started asking himself questions he had never thought about. "How did [Barnes] get chosen and I didn't when we went to high school and the same college together?" Bostic said. "I was trying to rationalize. Did I fail because I didn't make the NFL, or did I fail because now people are asking me this?" Bostic said.

Still, Bostic will not graduate high school until 2011. He has not fully developed from a physical standpoint. "His lift is not great at this point mainly because of his lack of conditioning," Rankin said in the same report. "Chris needs to work at running the floor harder which should improve as he gets in better shape. He is still very much a work in progress but with steady improvement Coleman will dominate the lane and be an impact player." Coleman sparked interest from Big East teams such as the University of Connecticut and West Virginia. North Carolina and Wake Forest were other big name schools interested in the young center.

This is the seventh player recruited by coach Thomas since he was hired by FIU on April 14. Coleman is the first high school player recruited; the other six recruits are from junior colleges and Arkansas State University.

## THE BIG STAGE

The Golden Panthers have Ohio State University on their radar. "ESPN.com reported that the Golden Panthers may face the Big 10 powerhouse for the first game of the 2009-10 season on Nov. 9. The deal is not official yet, but an announcement is expected to be made by the end of the summer.

Coach Thomas is familiar with the Big 10 Conference as he played college basketball for Indiana University. He feels playing a team like Ohio State could be great exposure for the program. "Big 10 country," Thomas told the