Students react to New York Senate gay marriage bill

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Asst. News Director

New York: If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere; and now gay rights activists are hoping the same can be said about same-sex legislation.

New York became the sixth state, along with the District of Columbia to join the movement in championing for gay rights. New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo, signed the bill into law on June 24th, making New York the largest state to legalize gay marriage.

The marriage bill’s fate was uncertain under the new republican-led senate and approved 33 to 29.

Just two years ago, under the Democrat led senate, a gay marriage bill failed; however, the success of the new bill reveals several senators had a change of heart.

Twenty-nine Democrats and four Republicans voted yes on the bill, which will take effect 30 days after it’s signing; making it possible for gay and lesbian couples to wed as early as the end of July.

For many this new legislation is a step toward universal marriage rights.

“New York is a monumental gain for the nationwide push for Same-sex marriage. Seeing as how New York was one of the birth places of the LGBT revolution/movement I think it is very fitting to have them join the ranks of [same-sex marriage]progressive states,” said Giovanni Corrallé, a senior psychology major, who is President of FIU’s Stonewall Pride Alliance, an organization dedicated to supporting the needs of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender students of FIU.

For others, the initiative towards equal marriage rights seems a day late and a dollar short.

“It is 2011 it shouldn’t be a great debate whether or not we will allow everyone the same rights. Gay rights have been put on the back burner because we are such a small minority group compared to other groups, such as blacks and Hispanics. Our rights aren’t as prioritized as other people’s rights are,” said Jesse Sanchez, journalism senior and Entertainment reporter for NTN24 News.

New York’s legislature is the first to bypass civil unions or domestic partnerships and simply allow traditional marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Now that New York has joined Freedom To Marry, a campaign to win equal marriage rights nationwide, attention has been called to President Obama to state his stance on the issue, who recently expressed that marriage is a state issue and should be left to the state.

Freedom To Marry’s “I Do” campaign, recently garnered 115,000 signatures for a letter that was sent to Obama asking him to take an active position on the issue and persuade other states to join suit.

GAY MARRIAGE, page 8

High hopes for newly filled University IT position

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

FIU now has a new Vice President and Chief Information Officer for the Information Technology Department. According to a memo to the University community, Provost Douglas Wartok announced that after a complex national search, Robert Grillo, who is the assistant vice president for the Division of Information Technology at FIU, was selected for the important position.

“This new position is an exciting opportunity to be part of many great things to come here at FIU. I’m looking forward to collaborating with so many areas and implementing leading technologies that will enhance the educational and research experience for our students and faculty,” said Grillo.

“There were a total of 120 candidates, according to Wartok. However, “only six were invited to our campus for interviews.” Among those candidates were Mehran Basiratmand, from Florida Atlantic University; J. Brice Bible, from Ohio University; Homer Coffman, from the University of Southern Mississippi; John P. Kearney, from McMaster University and Ramon Millan, from Pfizer, Inc.

Grillo has a Bachelors from Florida International University and a Masters in Finance from Nova Southeastern University, according to the Provost’s memo.

Irma Becerra-Fernandez, professor in the College of Business Administration and vice provost for Academic Affairs, was a great part of the selection process.

“I am delighted to have served as the chair of the search. It was a strenuous process to all of the members of the search and screen committee, as we spent many hours deliberating,” said Becerra-Fernandez. “One day we worked from seven in the morning to about seven at night interviewing candidates via conference call. We had breakfast, lunch and dinner together to make it happen!”

Grillo began his career at FIU years ago, in 2003. He was in charge of managing and leading the enterprise-wide Financial Management Systems implementation. The following year, it was his responsibility to implement Campus Solutions. He was also appointed director of the Panther-Soft and Administrative Software unit, supporting the academic, research and administrative use of enterprise-wide software.

“We [FIU] are leaders in using IT to improve the efficiency of university operations. That leadership has been maintained by Mr. Grillo, who introduced mobile applications for student enrollment during his time as Interim Vice President,” said Wartok.

Prior to belonging to the Panther family as a staff member, he worked for PeopleSoft, Andersen America and Caribbean and Andersen Consulting LLP, now known as Accenture. Vice President Grillo has emphasized that he has many plans for FIU.

“Our technology services will continue to be enhanced for students, faculty and staff this coming fall 2011. There will be additional mobile device functionality for student enrollment, remote desktop support, redesigns of our shpups.fiu.edu user interface and additional software applications to our virtual lab environment, elabs.fiu.edu,” he said.

He said that The Division of Information Technology’s strategy will be to support the University’s academic, research and administrative areas and to help fulfill the president’s World’s Ahead strategy.

Grillo also said that he worked well with former CIO Min Yao in creating the foundation of FIU’s technological environment.

“The next steps are to expand and create new services and ensure a robust infrastructure to support the growth of the University in the years to come,” said Grillo, who added that the university that taught him a lot of what he knows today.

COMING UP | Opinion

Check out Borderless with Brooklyn, Opinion’s newest column on global interaction and its effects on human rights.

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The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 - 95.3 - 96.9
Unions to keeping fighting set aside of pension funds toward retirement

**BRENT KALLESTAD AP Staff**

Despite an unfavorable judicial ruling on their first stop, union leaders representing teachers and other public employees say they have just begun their fight against a new state law that takes effect Friday that requires workers to contribute 3 percent of their salary to the Florida Retirement System.

On Thursday, Circuit Judge Jackie Fulford rejected the union’s request to set aside those contributions into a separate account until the courts have a final say.

She wrote that she had to assume that if the law is eventually struck down the state would comply with a court order to return the contributions, although there is no statutory mechanism for such a refund.

“This hearing is only the first battle in what will be a long legal war against this anti-worker legislation,” said Alphonso Mayfield, president of the 19,000-member SEIU Florida Public Service Union. “Our focus remains on trying to overturn this unconstitutional income tax on public employees.”

The lawsuit, which is likely to end up before the state Supreme Court, names Gov. Rick Scott as a defendant in his role as chairman of the State Board of Administration, which oversees $131.5 billion pension system’s investments.

The board’s other two members, Attorney General Pam Bondi and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, also are defendants.

The unions contend the new law violates public employees’ contract, property and collective bargaining rights under the Florida Constitution.

The new law requires teachers, state and county workers and some city employees to contribute 3 percent of their salaries to the Florida Retirement System.

As a result of Fulford’s decision, the pension fund began deducting 3 percent from the pay of 560,000 public employees on Monday.

The contributions are expected to save the state and local governments $806 million in the first year as their revenues are reduced.

“Scott has led the Legislature to require contributions of 5 percent, contingent on the state of fairness since employees in the private sector and in other states already contribute toward their pensions.”

Chavez revealed he is fighting cancer after surgery

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez revealed that he is fighting cancer after having a tumor removed in Cuba, raising uncertainty about Venezuela’s political future even as he assured his country he expects to fully recover.

There is no obvious successor to the charismatic Chavez within his political movement, and his illness may also affect his leadership within the ALBA alliance of leftist Latin American nations.

Chavez said he had two operations in Cuba, including one that removed a tumor. The president said he has been suffering from cancer for two years.

With raising funds and resources essential to the progression and growth of the University, Corton and Emas have recently accepted positions as Assistant Vice President for Development. Together, they will be responsible for overseeing fundraising efforts for the schools within the University.

“We have so many students, especially on the graduate level, but [also] on all levels, that need access to education and it shouldn’t be money that stops anybody from going to school,” said Emas, whose efforts for the schools are their top priority.

“So our job is how do we provide and create partnerships with private philanthropy to help that happen.”

Emas comes to FIU from the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami, where she served as the senior director of development.

“FIU is educating the youth to set aside from the backyard and fill the gaps as we go forward.”

Emas said she is an FIU Alumni with a degree in political science. Most recently, Corton served as the senior director of development at the University of Miami School of Business Administration, where he assisted in efforts that raised over $12 million.

His efforts at FIU may be seen by just taking a walk down one of the hallways in the College of Law, as he is responsible for obtaining building dedications and funds that named throughout the school.

After interning for an FIU program in Washington DC, he realized he loved working for the University and began his journey as the head of the College of Law’s annual fundraising efforts.

“FIU is going to be at the forefront for its success and that’s what we are here for,” said Corton, “to find those people and secure the resources to make it happen.”
**Search for new coach marks new era for program**

**When schools like Louisiana State are plucking up coaches from your school, something is clearly going right.** And even if it is for coaches in non-revenue sports like softball, it speaks volumes of the school that got raided. In this case: FIU.

And it also speaks high values of the job that former Coach Beth Torina did in four years turning around the Golden Panther softball program, which was on the decline when she arrived on the scene.

Just before Torina came on board, the Golden Panthers had finished the 2007 season 12 games below .500. Three seasons later, the improvements were self-evident, and she helped build a winning mentality at FIU.

Whoever will take her place will inherit a club that finished 17 games over .500 and went to the NCAA tournament for the second time in history. And they also picked up the first ever win at the tournament in program history.

The shoes are going to be much bigger for Torina’s successor than it was for her. And that is an especially good thing for FIU.

Torina was one of the new wave of coaches brought in by Athletic Director Pete Garcia to help turn around programs that were struggling to compete. And like many of her colleagues, she was immediately successful in doing so in a fast amount of time.

But now as she departs for the Bayou, she becomes the first hire of the Garcia era to leave FIU. And this could be just the beginning as other FIU coaches may begin getting offers from conferences with greater payers.

The challenge now will be to find a coach that can sustain the growth and progress that Torina helped foster.

In terms of importance to the survival of an athletics program in general, softball does not rank as high as football or men’s basketball. But how the coaching search is conducted in this particular case could end up foreshadowing future coaching searches in other FIU programs.

**NEXT STAGE**

Torina moving to the SEC is actually the heralding of a new stage in FIU’s attempt to reach athletic relevance at the national level.

Since Garcia arrived and began shuffling the deck, the aim had been to start building a solid foundation and to start having these sports programs grow.

Now we are starting to see many sports at FIU beginning to get closer and closer to having that solid footing, showing signs of increased strength and the ability to compete with schools from more prominent conferences.

After years and years of building on sand, it appears that coaches such as Torina, Mario Cristobal and Turtle Thomas among others have found a rock for the Golden Panthers to build and stand on.

The question now becomes whether or not they, or whoever may end up taking their place, will be able to build on that rock.

**SEARCHING FOR MORE**

The kind of qualities that Beth Torina had made the Golden Panthers successful in the past few years and whoever comes in will need to have all those qualities.

They will need to be able to go out and find quality talent that will help the team win ball games. Earn the trust of the players and coaching staff. Make real-time decisions during games that will help put the team in the win column.

But they will also need to have something more. Something that will be able to not just sustain the winning atmosphere that was created, but to build on it and make it flourish. Torina was on the verge of something special with this team. We are seeing that as well on the gridiron and on the basketball diamond.

Now the program will need someone to finish.

The team needs someone who can walk into the living rooms of blue-chip recruits and get the deal done. They need a coach with an impressive résumé and with past success that can duplicate here in this corner of the country.

Torina will become that coach. And the bottom line is that FIU now needs the kind of coach that Torina appears destined to become.

So how we see this search conducted may be an indicator of what’s to come when other schools come calling and dangling offers to FIU head coaches.

And we will be watching.
Swimming & Diving

New recruiting class comes in at No. 23 in the nation

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

After finishing fourth in the Sun Belt Conference Championships, the Golden Panthers were in need of talent to compete in the conference next season.

Swimming & Diving Head Coach Randy Horner went out and found 12 student-athletes, half from the United States, to give the FIU the 23rd ranked recruiting class in the nation, according to collegeswimming.com.

“It is an honor to be recognized by collegeswimming.com for our recruiting class,” Horner said.

Among the incoming class is Sonia Perez Arzu, a transfer from the University of Bridgeport. The Barcelo-
na native won the 100m in 2007 and 200m in 2008 back in the Spanish Junior Championships.

“Sonia is going to be a great addition to our team,” Horner said. “Her experience internationally as well as last season on the NCAA national stage will be an asset to our program as we grow this season.”

Bringing depth to the breaststroke swimmers is Klara Andersson, born in 1993, his grandparents told him that he was going to have to go far from home to play college baseball and playing with great teammates and coaches.

“Valeria is a very hard worker and trains with Youth Olympic Champion and Ukrainian Champion, Darya Zevina,” Horner said. “We are excited to pick up where Coach Zevina left off and continue to develop Valeria into a top flight collegiate sprinter.”

Popova feels ready to contribute right away, although she feels she can improve greatly.

“I believe that I did not achieve my potential,” Popova said. “I want to be a champion. I need the right guidance from the coach that will make me the best I can be. I know that I can swim very fast and I will achieve it.”

The Panthers signed Klara Anderson, from Helsingborg, Sweden. Anderson competed at the Swedish Nationals and Florida Marlins. He spent time with the South Florida in 1993, his grandparents told him that he was going to have to go far from home to play college baseball and playing with great teammates and coaches.

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The Panthers signed Klara Anderson, from Helsingborg, Sweden. Anderson competed at the Swedish Nationals and the Swedish Youth Nationals since 2006. She is ranked in the top 20 in Sweden in the 50m breaststroke.

Klara is an exciting swimmer to bring to our program,” Horner said. “She has continued to drop time every meet in the past year and her potential is limitless.”

The recruiting class joins sophomore diver Sabrina Beaugue and junior Chelsea Kidd. Beaugue was named the SBC Diver of the Year, after winning the SBC Diving Championships. Kidd swam the 200 back in 2:03.89 after breaking the record in the prelims.

With the talent that Horner has recruited, and the championship athletes already on the team, Horner believes this can make FIU contenders in the SBC.

“Coach Gayo and myself are extremely happy with the quality of young ladies we are bringing to FIU this fall to continue building a championship program,” Horner said.

Jackson Wolek
Staff Writer

Former FIU catcher Jose Behar recently got drafted in the 30th round of the MLB draft on Jun. 6, by the Florida Marlins. Since then, he has lived in Jupiter, Florida. Behar recently got drafted in the 30th round of the MLB draft on Jun. 6, by the Florida Marlins. Since then, he has lived in Jupiter, Florida. Behar recently got drafted in the 30th round of the MLB draft on Jun. 6, by the Florida Marlins. Since then, he has lived in Jupiter, Florida.
along with an exemplary extracurricular background, allowed her to become a part of the community. After successfully graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in 2007, she packed her belongings and moved to Miami hoping to embark on the beginning of an exciting journey. “It wasn’t as difficult as I thought it would be to make friends,” said Connor. “I am a very sociable girl and I love having a great time. I had noticed my Miami friends saying ‘hi’ was usually more than enough. Even those small details took some time to get used to.”

Katy Perry’s performance ignites fireworks

Katy Perry thrills her fans with her songs of self-acceptance accompanied by lead guitarist Patrick Mancera at the BankAtlantic Center on June 7. Perry’s ideologies have “changed [her] life forever.” Adriana has seen Perry twice in concert, the last time at a smaller venue in Ft. Lauderdale in 2006 where Perry’s “performance was nowhere near as glitzy, but still as touching to watch. It’s not often you get to see a pop sensation who has so much spirit it rips through the crowd.”

The essence of a culture is not tangible cultural elements but how the members of the group understand, use and recognize them. Perry’s ideologies were her playful outfits adorned with swirling candy mints accompanied by empowering speeches that singled out each audience member, reminding them that being oneself is the most enriching aspect of life.

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She went on to say, “People defend the ‘Three Kings’: Lebron, Wade and Bosh, as if they were relatives of theirs. I am not complaining, GO HEAT!” The impact of culture has a significant impact on the behavior of individuals. In general, a person’s perceptions, attitudes, motivations and values all add to the culture shock they experience while in a new place.

Back in Texas ‘hi’ was usually more than enough. Even those small details took some time to get used to.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Miami food trucks offer a unique dining experience

Food truck meet-ups are quickly becoming a popular hangout for people of all types. Usually a family-friendly event, nothing beats smelling delicious aromas in the air and traveling from truck to truck sampling the best they have to offer, oftentimes with local bands playing upbeat music to set the pace.

The trucks themselves are often a mix of indie favorites and established restaurants, and all of them offering their best to hungry devotees and rarely for over $10 a dish.

The most recent meet-up attended was held on June 17 at the Palmetto Bay Village Center. What a scene it was! In the courtyard, food trucks of all cuisines made a neat square around their customers, a perimeter of deliciousness if you will.

I would estimate that over 100 people were there when I arrived with more showing up as the night went on. As much as I would have loved to sample every single truck, I was only limited to a precious, albeit yummy, few.

MAC’N SOUL FOOD’S FRIED GREEN TOMATOES

To kick things off, I decided I’d better get my vegetables out of the way, and the Mac’n Soul Food truck had just the thing: fried green tomatoes.

True, this wasn’t the healthiest option in organic food truck was nearby, after all) and it also wasn’t their signature dish of macaroni and cheese, but my inner Southern girl couldn’t resist the opportunity to try one of the macaroni and cheese and try to make them taste like this.

CHEESE ME’S KOBEE BEEF SLIDERS

The Cheese Me truck is famous for its gourmet take on the simplest of meals: the grilled cheese sandwich. Using artisan breads and cheeses (where else can you get Gruyere on pumpernickel) alongside the original stuff (white bread and American cheese will forever be delivered with an impressive slider menu, Cheese Me has homemade quite a following.

My brother (Hi Justin!) was kind enough to try one of the beef sliders from Cheese Me. One of these will forever make you a burger snob.

Optimus Prime and the rest of the Autobots to save the world.

I went on Tuesday night, the night before the opening, for a 3D screening and let me say this: I had fun watching this movie.

Seeing the robots smash one another in different ways was cool. Enough eye candy for both men and women.

With that said, the plot was pretty weak. A secret government conspiracy, the Decepticons’ plan to enslave the human race and bring their home planet of Cybertron to Earth; it sounds solid on paper, but ultimately has plenty of holes when shown on film. There is a moment in the film where, as an audience member, I asked myself, “Why don’t the Decepticons finish them off?” You will ask yourself the same thing when you see it.

Terrible acting contributed to the poor quality of the plot. LaBeouf is the same loud, obnoxious guy from the first two movies, except now he is looking to be a “somebody.” I never felt bad for LaBeouf’s character, although the movie tries to push me to feel bad for him. Frances McDormand is new to the franchise, playing CIA agent Charlotte Mearling, in charge of the Autobot initiative. She is fierce, but a fun character to watch. It seems as though McDonnell is there to steal any fun the movie is having, and she does it well. Patrick Dempsey plays a car collector who has a hidden agenda, ultimately, a role that seems to be big but never lives up to the potential.

The Victoria Secret model had no acting experience and is not even prettier than Fox. Going into the movie, I expected her to totally bomb, but she did not disappoint, well, she did. Huntington-Whiteley made any interaction with her interesting.

You will admit, “Dark of the Moon” is not a great movie in the sense of award winning quality, but it is a fun summer blockbuster. I think the biggest reason people are criticizing Transformers is that they are expecting an Oscar-worthy movie. In the words of a friend of mine, “It’s a movie about robots, not Hamlet.” If you go to a movie, you’ll enjoy “Dark of the Moon,” if you expect more, don’t watch it.

"Reel to Reel is a weekly column. Look for it every Wednesday this summer."
Movie tickets not worth the expense

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

This summer has been full of awesome movies and it is looking like they are just going to get better. The big names and action-packed trailers are enough to make anyone a little giddy, so it sucks that most of them are going to get better. The big names and movies and it is looking like they are just almost impossible to budget for what will amount to a $20 night.

In 2010, with the success of 3D films, such as James Cameron’s “Avatar” and Tim Burton’s “Alice in Wonderland,” movie theaters across the country universally bumped their prices by a margin of about four percent. Ticket prices for the supposedly less expensive 2D movies jumped as well.

According to the Motion Picture Association of America, ticket prices since 2000 have gone from an average of $5.39 per ticket to close to $10 each in 2011. That is a huge jump in price in the short time of a decade. With an inflation rate of about 33 percent, the prices should have only gone up to about $7.30.

In the year 2000, the price was $2.00 to see a 7:30 p.m. showing of “Green Lantern.” It was a Thursday night, but I did not get a student discount option and there was no 2D showing available; the cinema forced me to pay the highest ticket price just for the pleasure of seeing a movie.

It is a great experience to see a film on a giant screen with surround sound and 50 percent of viewers pay for the movie’s entire cost, but to lower the price so more people can come in. In this case, the better deal would be quantity of viewers over the quality of the projection.

While I would much rather go to the theater to see “Captain America: The First Avenger” on a two-story screen, until prices go down or I have more money, I am going to have to wait until it comes to my Netflix Instant Queue. Sorry, Captain.

Every Monday at 10 a.m.
95.3 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM or online at FIUSM.com.
Call in at (305) 348-3575
“Like” us on Facebook

Dear Moviegoers,

Do you have any ideas for new movies or events that you would like to see? We would love to hear from you!

-Dennis Quiroz
Opinion Editor

COVER TO COVER

Depression era novel an uplifting classic

STEPPING into a world of magical, freakish and unknown wonders is something every University students encounter everyday. Between learning new things and meeting strange and wonderful characters, it is an experience everyone can relate to.

These events, coupled with the trauma of death, are parallel to those created by the imaginative mind of Sara Gruen in “Water for Elephants.” The dangerous and ultimately splitting novel, “Water for Elephants” is the perfect book for the college student.

Using extreme hyperbole and romantic metaphors, the novel sweeps readers into the world of the circus during the Great Depression in the United States. The adventure begins when Jacob Jankowski’s parents walk away and he walks out on his veterinary finals at Cornell and ends up working for the Benzini Brothers’ Greatest Show on Earth, a world in which chaos and tragedy are a regular occurrence.

Jacob goes on to fight constant battles throughout the book, as any student can relate to on a daily basis. He battles for whom he loves, even after getting shot down over and over. He battles for friendship and he fights for love. He battles fear and depression. In his eventual triumph Jacob will inspire readers of this realistic fiction story to reach for exactly what it is that they fear to be.

During the Great Depression in the circus world, it was not uncommon for circus workers to be thrown out of a moving car in their sleep when their bosses no longer had the means to feed them. The characters struggle finding work, money and sometimes even food, like many do in our own time of recession.

After all the chaos, the Benzini Brothers’ Greatest Show on Earth comes crashing down, Jacob returns to school and finishes his finals. This time, instead of carrying the great burden of his parents’ death, Jacob carries along with him a wife, a child, an elephant and eleven horses.

After witnessing a world in which all differences are accepted and everyone can share some sort of grief, Jacob’s story begins again as he ventures off into another new world.

The novel is a trying tale of redemption, one that any college student can relate to. With her beautiful description and magical and real tone, Gruen is sure to sweep you away in her breathtaking and incredibly reliable masterpiece.

“Cover to Cover” is a biweekly book review column.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reject animal cruelty

I am writing to express my utter disgust with FIU and any FIU students who believe in the treatment of animals as depicted in the video.”Worlds Ahead” in its vision, ethics, consciousness, and it should end a charity event that is founded to promote ignorance and ethical flaws towards animals.

Student scholarships should be funded by charity events that promote goodness and expanded ethical abilities, including deeper consideration toward lower animals, even if it’s only a fish.

The animal Alumni Fish Tournament is nothing more than an occasion for empty bragging rights and it does not serve FIU’s core values of awareness and ethics.

-Janay Lang, Senior, English

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www.fi usm.com

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Cover to Cover

OPINION

Too many students, not enough advisors

Over the years, our diverse editorial board has had interesting experiences with the University’s advisory council. Most of the time, we leave their offices in a state of confusion; our questions are not answered and our path to graduation seems even longer.

Unfortunately, the poor academic advising infrastructure fails to properly accommodate all students. Efforts to improve the advising infrastructure include the hiring of 21 new advisors in April, 2011 and the addition of an online degree auditing system. Although efficiency has slightly improved, an adequate system still does not exist.

The current student-advisor ratio is a problem that exists in several of the University’s schools. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has 1,500 students with only one undergraduate advisor and one bridge advisor. A bridge advisor splits his or her time between graduate and undergraduate students, occasionally leaving all 1,500 undergraduate students to only one advisor.

Similarly, there are 6,515 students and six advisors in the College of Business Administration, which makes each advisor responsible for over 1,000 students. With these circumstances, we believe it is difficult to provide the best services.

One of our editorial board members is enrolled in the School of Business Administration. She has observed that a university advisor week a month in advance and the advisor only was available to meet for 10 minutes, the standard time allotted for each appointment. After her meeting, she was still unsure if she was on the right track for the four-year plan. Clearly, the infrastructure of advising in the College of Business Administration cannot support the number of students currently enrolled.

In contrast, one of the best student-advising ratios at this University is with the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. With 1,833 students, there are three undergraduate advisors and one bridge advisor. The student-advisor ratio is 459 students to one advisor.

The University implemented the online auditing system for faculty to accommodate, however it finds unreliable and difficult to use. We, like most students, feel more confident meeting with an advisor than independently creating a graduation plan without the guidance of an advisor.

We believe that advising is one of the most crucial services a university offers. The poor academic advising currently available at the University is in need of reform. Only hiring an additional 18 advisors and implementing an online auditing system is not sufficient.

The University should continue hiring additional advisors to keep up with the rising student population. As the student load continues to increase, the poor academic advising issue will only get worse if the University does not take further action.
SGC-BBC looks to fill vacant council positions

By JONATHAN SZYDLO

With both councils seeking to fill their respective vacancies, the need for a two council system comes into question. However, Zapata feels that the current system is the best due to the individual dynamics that make up BBC and MMC.

"This comes up every couple of years. We feel confident that the best system that we have right now is the one that we have in place because it gives representation to both campuses because they are both so unique and 30 percent of the student body makes up BBC," said Zapata.

SGC-BBC VACANT POSITIONS

• Executive Assistant
• Press Secretary
• Elections Board Commissioner
• Special Events Coordinator
• Special Projects
• Marketing Coordinator
• Director of Governmental Relations
• Director of External Relations & Outreach
• Director of Internal Relations

JONATHAN SZYDLO

BBC Managing Editor

As the 19th Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council comes into session for the 2011-2012 academic year it is faced with the challenge of filling the 22 vacant positions on the council.

SGC-BBBC has been attempting to spread the word of the available council positions via email, Twitter posts, Facebook updates, and posting signs throughout campus.

According to Larissa Adames, the SGA clerk at BBC, these recruitment efforts have been successful. "Usually when we put up the posts we get a couple of emails or calls, asking about the positions," said Adames.

Representatives of SGC-BBBC have also been attending orientations for freshman and transfer students in an effort to recruit members for the council.

Rafael Zapata, SGA Faculty Advisor, said that bringing new FIU students onto the council presents certain qualifications and issues for new appointments, but there are certain standards that are looked for in the individual applicants.

"If a [freshman] student comes up and says they’re interested and that they want to add experience to what they already have from high school [with different student organizations], and have some type of resume, and are interested in the lower division seat, then we might consider them for the council," said Zapata.

Zapata added that the same standards apply to transfer students.

"When we go to transfer orientations and a student was involved in student government at Miami-Dade Community, for example, there is always going to be a transition going from one student government to another, but they still have the skills necessary to be on the council," said Zapata.

SGC-BBBC also offers students who are looking for a leadership position the opportunity to be on the council, said Zapata.

SGC-BBBC also offers internships to allow new students to adjust to the operating procedures of FIU’s student government councils. The internship positions serve as a stepping stone onto the council, yet is not a requirement to operate the council.

When comparing the returns of recruitment between freshman and transfer orientations, Farah Yamin, SGC-BBBC College of Arts and Sciences senator, admits that “transfer orientations don’t go as well [as freshman orientations].”

There are three types of positions currently up for appointment; Cabinet, Senate, and Judicial. Cabinet positions are selected by the SGC-BBBC president or chief of staff, and then approved by the senate, senators are subject to a live interview at senate meetings and then voted upon by the senate, and justices are selected by the Chief Justice with the approval being approved by the senate.

SGC-BBBC isn’t the only council plagued with vacancies. As reported in the June 26 edition of The Beacon, the Modesto Maidique Campus council is also looking to fill their vacant council seats.

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SGC-BBBC aims to equip FIU's Hispanic students to immerse themselves in the media industry. As the 19th Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government looks to fill vacant council positions, many are hoping that New York will be the battle has been fought for over 40 years and needs to cross the finish line.”

For many this is simply an issue of equality. It is an issue that has times have changed especially considering that republican senators, who are traditionally more conservative, made legalizing gay marriage in New York possible.

But for many inequality still lurs in the air.

"We can’t deny classes of people rights simply because they are not in a “normal” relationship anymore than we can deny an inter-racial couple from getting married. We, including lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans-gender people, give the government the power to protect our rights... not bar us from them," said Correale.

According to Merrian-Webster, marriage is defined as: the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law. Sanchez hopes one day to see a different definition.

"I think marriage should be defined as a union between to consenting individuals," he said, “who love one another regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation or disability.”

The two-semester course will allow students to gain hands-on experience in the media industry. Towards the end of the second semester, students will be expected to have enough knowledge to perform the job of a real life professional.

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