Students fine tune Latin Grammys

MARIANA YERN  
Contributing Writer

Internships from the School of Music were few and far between; the wait for the most recent one racked the nerves of two of its students.

But after a month, close friends Lina Borda and Jorge Canovas were told they would represent the school as interns for the Latin Grammy Awards.

Borda, senior music technology major, and Canovas, senior jazz performance major, will work with the production team of the Latin Grammys, the acclaimed and popular award ceremony while having the opportunity to meet top Latin artists.

"Even though I never expected to be one of the semifinalists, I always keep my hopes up," said Borda.

The story of Borda and Canovas began when the School of Music sent an email to all music students saying the school had partnered with several music industry companies. In the email, the school assured the companies they would offer full internships to students who applied and were chosen.

"I got too excited when I read that email because I had previously tried to apply to internships, but the School of Music either did not offer any or too few," said Canovas. "I had lost all hope until I got the email. As usual, all the internships required different qualifications to apply."

The Latin Grammys specifically required its recipients be bilingual, a prerequisite that didn’t get in the way of Borda or Canovas – Borda is Colombian and Canovas is Cuban.

Applications were sent to Lasin Richards, trombone and music business professor, who chose the semifinalists with other music professors.

The applications of the semifinalists were sent to the Latin Grammys staff members who were responsible for whittling the long list of semifinalists to just four finalists.

International Business program ranks 16th nationally, drops from 12th

NEDA GHOMESHI  
Opinion Editor

The U.S. News & World Report has ranked Florida International University’s Undergraduate International Business Program in the College of Business Administration 16th in the nation, a drop from last year’s 12th place.

The rankings are based on surveys conducted by US News. Deans and senior faculty at each undergraduate business program accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business are surveyed. Participants were asked to rate the quality of all programs they were familiar with on a scale of one (marginal) to five (distinguished), based on up to 16 key measures of quality.

“We are delighted to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report for the eighth consecutive year,” said Joyce Elam, executive dean of the College of Business. “I congratulate the faculty for their contributions in enabling us to again offer one of the top international business undergraduate programs in the country. We are committed to this area whose importance in the 21st century continues to expand.”

The measures fall into seven broad categories: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving and graduation rate performance and high school counselor undergraduate academic reputation ratings, but only for national universities and national liberal arts colleges.

“Our students expect only the best from us and being consistently ranked in the top 20, I believe, demonstrates we are providing them with an education that is truly ‘Worlds Ahead,’” said Louis Melbourne, an instructor for the Department of Management and International Business. “Our faculty, with the support of the department chair, Dr. K. Galen Kroeck and Dr. Joyce Elam, is always seeking new ways of improving our performance.”

There are over 700 students and 10 faculty members in the international business program, according to Kroeck, the department chair of management and international business. He explained the recognition is a “great honor for our faculty and students because it shows their efforts, contributions and engagement.”

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The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 · 95.3 · 96.9

COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Sports section in the Oct. 10 issue for coverage on the football game against the University of Akron

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Angeline Petriro  
Contributing Writer

Senators at the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus can now check off weekly reports from their to-do list, forever.

During their Oct. 3 meeting the senate passed SR 1106, a new bill that states weekly written reports are no longer necessary if the senator is present during the senate meeting to give an oral report. The bill, which received only one vote against, also points out that if a senator is absent he/she must turn in a written report for that week.

Fernando Pinheiro, senator for the College of Engineering, proposed this bill because he had two concerns: redundancy and attendance.

“Senators who are constantly present at our meeting on Mondays and regularly give oral reports have to write something every single week for the speaker,” Pinheiro said.

Pinheiro’s bill is also aimed at senators who are sometimes absent from senate meetings.

“Senators sometimes might skip the meeting and would now double think since this written report is required, this would only improve our attendance at senate and therefore the chances of meeting quorum,” Pinheiro said.

Per senate statutes, senators who make from $800 to $3,250 per school year are permitted to miss two meetings per semester. So far, there have been only four meetings and at least 11 absences have occurred.

Donovan Dawson, speaker of the senate and a senator for College of Arts & Sciences, explained that if a senator falls into non-compliance, a grievance will be filed by senate leadership against them.

“They are all well aware of that,” Dawson said.

Dawson also expressed concern for last year’s bill requiring weekly written reports.

“When I was in the senate last year I raised concerns regarding the redundancy of the [weekly] reports and was against having the provision placed in the reform bills that were introduced,” Pinheiro said.

As speaker, Dawson felt it was necessary to try and change the bill that was passed last year.

At a Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Committee meeting, Dawson expressed his concerns regarding last year’s provision. Dawson said the “members of the committee agreed with me and [SR 1106] was produced.”

Even with last year’s bill in place and prior to SR1106’s introduction, there have been no written reports so far for this school year.

“I did not enforce the provision for every senator to submit a written report before every meeting because I thought it was very redundant,” Dawson said.

Dawson also agreed with SR 1106 because senators may have considered the weekly reports as busy work.

“The weekly reports may have been lacking in substance and simply composed to appease senate leadership and to get by,” he said.

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The Beacon – Friday, October 7, 2011

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Two Miami-Dade officers credited with saving dog

Two Miami-Dade police officers are credited with saving a German shepherd that was hit by a vehicle and left to die in the street.

Detective Roy Rutland says he was heading to the police headquarters Monday night when he saw a flash of brake lights and a dog rolling on the street. He says he saw the injured dog and two others who were barking.

As Rutland looked for the vehicle that hit the dogs, he saw officer Debbie Hilliard-Johnson in a cruiser nearby. He asked her for help.

The Miami Herald reports the pair wrapped the dog in a blanket and took her to a nearby animal clinic where Rutland paid $200 to have the dog treated.

Now, animal services officials are searching for the dog’s owner.

NATIONAL

Wall Street protest expected to widen

Organizers of the protests in lower Manhattan have sought a permit to gather in a plaza encircled by courthouses and are planning for at least 2,000 people to march.

Police say the group that has been camped out for weeks around Wall Street is planning a rally at Foley Square and expected to use microphones.

Authorities say they realize there may be more people coming and are prepared to facilitate the march. That could mean allowing some on to the streets.

But if protesters purposely try to block traffic in Manhattan they may be arrested.

Last week 700 demonstrators who spilled onto the road at the Brooklyn Bridge despite police warnings were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct.

But if protesters purposely try to block traffic in Manhattan they may be arrested.

One senator voted against bill

Giving reports orally, as the senate did in prior years, is the way to continue, according to Dawson.

According to the SGA constitution, every senator is required to submit a written report twice a semester, at the mid-term and final exam, with the first report due from every senator on Oct. 21. These reports are to include details of bills sponsored, goals, accomplishments, meetings with administration and so on.

“If a senator is not fulfilling their duties, the speaker will be able to recognize that by the lack of action/improvements in his/her report,” Pinheiro said. However, Giovanni Correale, a senator for College of Arts and Sciences and chairman of the finance committee, was the only senator to vote against the new bill.

“My main issue is I have noticed in the past, in our senate we take 30-40 minutes to go over all of the reports, sometimes even an hour,” Correale said. “In that past that has been valuable time that could be used to debate on the worth of a candidate or a bill that we then may have had to table.”

At the beginning of every meeting, the senate must review the minutes, a record of what happened from the week before. Correale proposed an idea to the senate in regard to the new bill, which was rejected.

“My proposal would have been for us to submit oral reports to the clerk, to then include in the minutes for the previous week or the agenda for the current week,” Correale said.

By doing this, Correale felt “it allows the individual senator to extract information they feel is important from the minutes/agenda and to maximize the time that we have in senate.”

The senate rejected Correale’s proposal because the entire point of the new bill was to terminate the requirement of weekly written reports.

The senate has stated that the oral reports are sufficient in proving the senators are keeping up with weekly tasks.

The oral reports will be accessible to the public through meeting recordings that can be found in the SGC-MMC office in the Graham Center and meeting minutes, which are “scheduled to be posted on our new website very soon,” said Dawson.

However, meeting minutes from this school year have not been posted thus far.

While there is concern from at least one senator on whether weekly written reports should still be the favored method of SGA, Dawson thinks it’s indicative of SGC-MMC’s new direction.

“[SR 1106] simply removes what I believe is an excessive provision composed at a time [last year] when SGA was more divided within itself than focusing externally on helping to improve the lives of the students who sent us here to serve them.”

Ranking still considered an honor by business school

The consistently high ratings have persuaded students to attain an international business degree. “Originally, I was going to single major in finance, but after I did some research, I learned a lot about FIU’s prestigious international business program,” said Christopher Paton, a senior majoring in finance and international business.

Although most students are pleased with the current program, some expressed disappointment and concern about the lower ranking.

“I’m glad we are still in the top 20, but the lower ranking makes me question the future of the program,” said Christopher Dos Santos, a senior majoring in international business, business management and marketing. “Professors don’t focus enough on current world events. I think that affected the ranking.”

Krocak is not concerned about the lower ranking. He does not believe the fluctuation is a poor reflection of the department or the department’s performance.

“Because the rankings are based off surveys, one or two additional votes can swing the University’s position several places. As long as we are in the top 20, I’m fine,” he said.

For the 15th consecutive year, The University of South Carolina was ranked number one. Other schools on the list include, New York University at number two and University of Pennsylvania at number three.

Regardless of the fluctuation, “It brings visibility and recognition to the University,” said Krocak. “After all, we are Florida International University.”
Reyes went cross-country and back before landing at FIU

ALFREDO ROIG  Staff Writer

FIU Goalkeeper Eric Reyes has had an interesting journey on his way to becoming a Golden Panther. Reyes’ journey began one year ago out in the Golden State—Pembroke Pines, Florida. “Obviously, being from Miami helped us to ‘get back to basics.’” Reyes said.

Reyes had no idea he was being watched when he was in high school. "We had a great coach, who organized the back of the field well and was a tremendous stop-shot-stopper," Reyes said. "Eric has stepped in and gotten it done," said Eketsb. "It seems like the only challenge for him is staying healthy for every game.”

Reyes acknowledged the task ahead of him and has all the confidence that he and the rest of his Golden Panther backfield need to rejuvenate the FIU men’s soccer program and bring it back to where it was during its championship years. The team is looking to make the best out of their conference play with their tough Conference USA schedule.

After suffering a heart breaking loss in double overtime against South Florida, the FIU men’s soccer team will take on their next game on Oct. 7 in Miami against South Florida rival Nova Southeastern University.

With the rest of the season still lying ahead, Reyes has surprisingly high expectations for where this team can go and believes that they are not far off from attaining them. "If we take care of our game and do the simple things right, play with confidence, and finish our chances up top, FIU soccer fans will be in for an amazing conference tournament," Reyes said. "And possibly an NCAA tournament run."
The Comeback Kids

Tony Romo can make or break the Cowboys week-to-week. One game, he puts the team on his back with a punctured lung; the next, he throws a heart-breaking three interceptions. Matthew “D-boy” Stafford took quite an advantage from Romo’s mishaps.

He came back from a 17-7 deficit, throwing for 240 yards and two TD’s in the Lions 34-30 victory. Staff wrote about Romo after the game was played really competitive. The game was Alpha Xi Delta’s; however, leading his team to a 24-23 victory with an impressive 291 yards and two touchdowns.

Andy Dalton (Cincinnati Bengals)-Although he played a very weak Bills defense, Dalton rushed and threw for a touch down to go along with his 298 yards passing. In a thin league, Dalton is a solid backup with potential.

Willis McGahee (Denver Broncos)-What happens when talking about Willis? I’m talking about picking up McGahee after running for 103 yards against a solid Green Bay defense. McGahee is the Thomas Jones of the Broncos, if this makes any sense. He takes the workload, but flies under the radar.

Do not be surprised if Knowshon Moreno loses the starting job to Willis. Blue Collar Back.

Pierre Garcia (Indiana Colts)-Finally, a Colts player that has had a productive game. Garcia is also the only explosive player they have on the team.

Curtis Painter will come into his own and make Garcia a favorite target.

With 148 yards and two touchdowns, he is an easy steal for many owners. He would have had a touchdown and at least 100 yards in week three if Painter had overthrown him. Haitian Sensation.

The Trash BIN

Hines Ward (Pittsburgh Steelers)-What happened to the big smile I always see on Ward’s face? After his 19-yard game last week, it looked more like a frown. I do not know if Ward is worth starting anymore.

He is a lot older and seems to be fading in the limelight of Mike Wallace. Ketchup: no Heinz.

Andy Dalton (above, #14) is congratulated by teammates after his rushing touchdown against the Bills on Oct. 2.

FOOTBALL, page 3

a certain amount of carries, it’s just however the play calling goes,” Rhodes said. “It’s a game time decision, it’s up to coach.”

The other weapon on offense that the Zips have is wide receiver Keith Sconiers. With 24 catches for 420 yards and four touchdowns, he has 16 more catches and 334 more yards than their next leading receiver Marquepolo Suel. Even though Sconiers is their biggest threat, Cristobal is not just concerned with him.

“There’s a focus on stopping and slowing down their offense across the board,” said Cristobal. “When there’s a player statistically like Sconiers, of course they always require the attention of your football team as you prepare.”

Injuries continue to plague FIU this week.

The defense cannot stop a nose bleed. But Carroll is destroying defenses and the run game is a nice complement. They get it done.

BASHING BRAYLON

I would never wish an injury upon any professional athlete because it destroys their livelihood. Braylon Edwards is out for three more weeks with a knee that he is going to get surgery on. Maybe it is time I move on to bashing another player and let Edwards R.I.P. recover in peace.
Green Library under utilized, lack of attention to resources

BROOKE WERTMAN
Contributing Writer

When students walk into the Green Library, they may stumble upon people studying in quiet spaces or using the computers. What they may not notice is the enormous quantity of books the library holds.

Many students are familiar with some of the more accessible services offered at the library, for example, the laptops and study rooms that are available for checkout, the computer labs, copiers, printers, study tables and designated quiet areas.

While a lot of students take advantage of these features, the University’s library has much more to offer - it is one of the largest libraries in the southeastern United States.

“I think our collection is more extensive than people realize,” said Roberto Pacheco, the senior library technical assistant.

The library houses a collection of books that number in the millions and subscribes to thousands of scholarly journals - both of which contain boundless quantities of information that could be used for research and academic papers.

The fifth floor of the Green Library contains the School of Architecture’s library, along with books related to the fine arts on the fifth floor, journals and audio-visual materials.

“We have a vast collection of movies, documentaries and music, but really only the film and music students ever check out items,” said Rochelle Radford, a sophomore majoring in social work, who works as a desk assistant in the Sound and Image Resources Department.

Today, the Latin Grammys Awards took place in Las Vegas on Sept. 13, 2009. The Latin Grammys are at the top of the music industry. The company comprises all music fields and genres without focusing on something specific or characteristic, which makes it stand out from all the others.

Both Borda and Canovas have high expectations for this internship.

“The company comprises all music fields and genres without focusing on something specific or characteristic, which makes it stand out from all the others. Both students agreed that since they are both Latinos, it would be a great honor to be part of the group of people who expose Latino music to the world,” said Borda.

According to Canovas, his family could not be more proud of what he is doing. “My mom’s ‘wow’ expression had it all.” said Canovas.

Among the several internships offered to them, Borda and Canovas revealed the reasons why they chose the Latin Grammys.

The Latin Grammys honors the music produced in places other than the U.S. and was formed in 1999.

The first Latin Grammy Awards took place in Las Vegas on Sept. 13, 2000. Today, the Latin Grammys are at the top of the music industry. The company comprises all music fields and genres without focusing on something specific or characteristic, which makes it stand out from all the others.

Both students agreed that since they are both Latinos, it would be a great honor to be part of the group of people who expose Latino music to the world.

“The other part of their job will be to help with the production of several events the Grammys will be involved in as the award ceremony approaches. They will work at the Latin Grammys office in Miami for a month and then travel to Las Vegas for the main event.

“Sometimes I still cannot believe that I am going to be at Las Vegas producing the actual Latin Grammy Awards,” said Borda.

Both Borda and Canovas have high expectations for this internship.

“I expect to gain experience not only in my field but in all the professional tracks around me by getting out of my comfort zone,” said Borda. “Even though I am going to do my best on the job, I know I will probably get screamed at. I expect to learn from this experience and to have fun all the way. Who knows if I could get a job after doing this internship,” said Canovas.

Both students said they will work hard and give their best every step of the way.
“Moneyball” character-driven, movie of the year

Brad Pitt plays a risk-taking General Manager for the Oakland Athletics.

Photo Courtesy of Sony Pictures

Library offers new features to keep up with digital age

I come to the library everyday, but only to study

Jacqueline Perez
freshman majoring in business finance

These databases can often lead to articles written by credible sources which have information more specific to the topic being searched. One of the new features now available through the website is the Filmaker’s Library Online. This site has a collection of documentary subjects ranging from autism education to pollution in China. In addition to being able to view the documentary, students can read the transcript, embed the link on a website and make clips from the video.

Despite the plethora of materials available, students continue to use the library mainly for the space it offers. “I come to the library everyday, but only to study,” said Jacqueline Perez, a freshman majoring in business finance. The services the library offers have become more valuable as students progress further down the path to their degree, where they find themselves required to have better sources of information. “I do use the study rooms, but I also check out books, and I use Illiad a lot, as well as the online resources,” said Anna Ladowky, a graduate student working on a masters in religious studies.

In the era of Google, libraries are no longer the unique hubs of information they once were. Knowledge is more accessible now than ever before and from the comfort of home as well, but not everything can be found online, or if it can, it often comes at a price. The library is still unique in being entirely free for University students.

Here, one can find articles from journals dedicated to exploring one topic in great depth, rare and out of print books, both of which would be difficult to find and costly to order online on your own.

Scheduling time for fitness a guaranteed way to stay fit

advantage of the unlimited amount of space to edit and add dates.

HAVE A GAME PLAN

Now that you have committed to a workout time, it is time to decide what your fitness goals will be. Before you get to the gym, decide whether you are doing strength training, cardio, lower body, upper body, or a combination of everything.

Also, being the busy person you are, make sure you have a plan in mind beforehand. Know more or less how many reps you plan on crunching or how long your treadmill run will be.

In addition, have a plan of how intense you want the workout to be and don’t forget to allow yourself some recovery and rehydration time between exercises.

As tuition-paying students, you are spending money on the Recreation Center. It is up to you to make use of the access you are paying for. If you do not have time to hit the gym, opt for some fresh air with a 20-minute run or bike ride.

GET ORGANIZED

One of the first things I try to do when I arrive home from work is lay out all of the equipment I need for the gym the next day.

Always remember to pack your bag with all of your necessary clothing, proper shoes, toiletries, a change of clothes, water, snacks and headphones (if you use them). There is nothing worse than racing to the gym only to find out that you have to cancel a workout because you cannot run around in socks. I know this from personal experience.

CATCH UP WITH A FRIEND

Whenever I want to avoid a dinner date or a lazy afternoon of movie marathons accompanied with junk food during the summer, I would convince my friends to play a game of tennis.

Not only did we have a great time laughing at our poor serving techniques, but we also worked up a sweat within minutes of playing.

If hand-eye coordination is not your thing, try a brisk power walk. The best part about powerwalking is that anyone can do it and you can go at your own pace.

Walking with a friend is even better because you can utilize that added compe -
University undermines music education

JUNETTE REYES Contributing Writer

Being musically educated is treated merely as an option – rather than the necessary skill it was once considered to be in the aristocratic times. The elementary school years are the only time you can be mandated to take music classes, once considered to be in the aristocratic times. The elementary school years are the only time you can be mandated to take music classes.

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Send us your letters:

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Friday, October 7, 2011

ALEX SORONDO Staff Writer

Should you find, upon graduating, that you never attended a Student Government Association meeting and never got to see how $95,000 in annual student funds looks in live action, don’t worry. Few students ever did, and you never missed much.

In all honesty, your senator probably wasn’t there either. Also, should you be reading this now, a conscientious student with some time to kill, and feel at your curb the tug of obligation, the dreaded sense that you probably should go to at least one meeting even though you expect to find more fun in a broom closet for two hours on a Monday, be assured that texting and perusing social media are not only amusing but endorsed by your senatorial peers, who, if you sit in the back, can be seen passing around an old University yearbook.

You can sit next to me when you get there, just text me in advance and hint at how well you can make it. This will allow me to call ahead and call me once the meeting starts. I might answer in a whisper, but it’s okay, we can do that.

While there might be an interesting point of discussion in any given meeting, quell your concerns of a rambling debate. Your senators are just as bored and disinterested as you, and the charade of professionalism is employed only by – which does honestly make things awkward sometimes, to have two or three people taking everything so seriously when everybody else is so relaxed.

But, on the bright side, they pretty much all know how uncomfortable it is, and everybody strives to speed things up. Strong and sensible arguments will be laid to rest quickly for the sake of just getting things done, and when an argument of serious conviction comes up and sounds engagingly contentious debate, it is promptly made tame by the uncontented admission beforehand that the argument is facile, that what is being argued cannot by any means be changed. This is safer, of course, to argue passionately about the things over which nobody has any power.

Part of the Senate’s routine

University undergraduates full of distractions, delays progress

While there might be an interesting point of discussion in any given meeting, quell your concerns of a rambling debate.

A new bill was passed that eliminates the requirement for senators to submit written reports to the clerk before delivering them orally at the meeting. Instead, written reports will now be submitted only by senators who are absent from the meeting. The benefits of this bill were stated as such:

1) The avoidance of redundancy (why waste time writing what you’re about to say?)

2) It provides incentive for senators to attend meetings.

Now, I am not a senator, but I am quite lazy, so I certainly have the necessary credentials to at least think like one. The real reason this was enacted – I presume – was to lessen the Senate’s responsibilities, which, as were not enough, they tried to mask their alphanumeric laziness with an inane reason.

It provides incentive for senators to attend meetings. Perhaps the $95,000 of student funds used to pay their salaries should be enough of an incentive to show up to work. There should be no incentive to attend, only serious consequences for unwarranted absences.

Conscientious Student, while I cannot assure you that a good time will be had at the meeting you attend, that much will be learned or anything of interest said, you will at the very least be able to walk out and say, “I just attended an SGA meeting.”

Then supplement the honor with a hearty pat on the back, which must be a privilege of considerable eminence, given that it appears to be the only thing our senators are striving for.

VERBATIM

“It may be unfair, but what happens in a few days, sometimes even a single day, can change the course of a whole lifetime…”

-Khaled Hosseini

“I want minimum information given with maximum politeness.”

-Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis

“Noncommunicable diseases - cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, cancers, and diabetes - are responsible for 63% of all deaths worldwide.”

-Fareed Zakaria

“It would be monstrous to allow Somalis to starve to death because they lost the same lottery of birth that all of us won.”

-Nicholas Kristof

SEND YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WC 312. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, and year. The Beacon reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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Letters and Op-Eds

LET THEM EAT CAKE
Roary, the University mascot, cuts into his birthday cake during the Student Alumni Association’s first ever birthday party for the the Panther.

Citizens petition for forgiveness of student loans

KATE LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

A petition website designed by the White House has shown strong support for the forgiveness of student loan debt, a topic that has been brought up in various political circles and has also been demonstrated for in the recent Occupy Wall Street protests.

Student loan debt is slated to top $1 trillion this year and societal unrest in the business of education and general displeasure with our economic state has led to some radical ideas for improvement. The website, titled We the People, gives citizens a chance to voice grievances and, upon reaching a certain amount of signatures, will be looked at by White House policymakers and an official response will be issued.

The petition to “forgive student loan debt to stimulate the economy” has received more than 27,000 signatures since its creation on Sept. 23, making it the second-largest petition on the site. A petition calling for the legalization and taxation of marijuana leads with more than 50,000 signatures.

“Forgiving student loan debt would provide an immediate jolt to the economy by putting hundreds of billions of dollars into the hands of people who will spend it—not just once, but each and every month thereafter—freeing them up to invest, buy homes, start businesses and families,” the petition, penned by Robert Applebaum, who started the petition, writes on the website.

But total forgiveness, although heralded by many Washington players and college grads who are ready to graduate from Ramen Noodles, has sparked hot debate as a macroeconomic policy by top economists as well.

Justin Wolfers, a contributor to Freakonomics wrote “If we are going to give money away, why on earth would we give it to college grads? This is the one group who we know typically have high incomes, and who have enjoyed income growth over the past four decades.”

“College grads with debt are unlikely to spend more than a tiny fraction of the money they save by debt forgiveness, making this, in economic terms, the “worst macro policy I’ve ever heard of,” continues Wolfers. “Nor would loan forgiveness encourage more people to go to college and get the skills they need to succeed, because forgiveness, by definition, is retroactive.”

“What your forgiving is future reprimands, which our country needs to survive,” says Dr. Jorge Salonar-Carillo, a professor of economics at FIU. “The problem is, our country is kind of broke. I think this would just add to the debt problems of the nation.”

Forgiving student loan debt also does not erase the debt, Salazar-Carillo points out. It simply shifts the burden, which would most likely fall upon the taxpayers.

“It is important to look at this question from the perspective of lenders,” said Daniel Venture, a recent graduate of Creighton University with a Master of Security Analysis and Portfolio Management, and $75,000 in student loan debt. “This money has been lent out and they have balanced their future cash flows and earnings to reflect. Banks and other lenders make their money by lending and collecting interest over the long term. It costs money to restructure debt. How fair would it be for the government to force lenders to take these expenses when a conscience borrower entered into the agreement? The student has made a choice and has signed a contract. To pursue a government bailout on your college loans just seems insane to me.”

Most students look at the idea as a free pass, and economies with this type of policy have seen it backfire with economic collapse, such as the case in Greece.

But recent unrest and strong activism from citizens have kept the idea alive. “The American taxpayers bailed out Wall Street for their rednessness. It’s time for Wall Street to do right by the American people who did absolutely nothing wrong, but who feel punished every day,” writes Applebaum.

Pressure on the White House has increased as Occupy Wall Street has opened up debate on a myriad of demands from citizens claiming to be “the 99 percent.”

Student loan debt is just one of many issues that the government must carefully consider. But the balls have been lobbed and are now in the White House court. What they choose to do with them remains to be seen.

SGC-BBC auditing A&S fee funded organizations

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

At the Oct. 3 Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus weekly senate meeting, operational reviews committee chair and senator at large, Oliver Chow Adelajo, announced that he will commence the auditing process of all organizations at BBC funded by Activities and Services fees.

“Traditionally, the auditing of A&S funded organizations takes place during the Spring semester as a segue into SGA budget hearings and deliberations for the following academic year. However, according to Kevin Gonzalez, SGC-BBC comptroller, the way auditing has been handled in the past is not very effective.”

“It’s better to start early than wait for the Spring,” said Gonzalez. “Last year we received some audits on the second or third day of budget hearings and deliberations, resulting in an unorganized process.”

The purpose of this campus-wide auditing process is to make sure organizations are keeping organized records of their finances and to prevent the over-spending of a fee.

“Fiscal responsibility is a shared feeling between me and Adekoya,” said Gonzalez. “It’s about doing what’s right and preserving the integrity of the campus.”

To facilitate the proper spending of A&S fees, Gonzalez has scheduled an Activity and Service Fee Spending Orientation with BBC organizations on Oct. 19.

To monitor A&S funded organization spending, the comptroller is implementing the use of budgeting software that provides real time account reports for SGC-BBC President.

“We currently have the framework for the software in place with the cash amount originally budgeted to these organizations,” said Gonzalez. “The software should be updated within a month to reflect the current spending of organizations.”

According to Adekoya, the auditing isn’t meant to be intrusive but to serve as event reports as a system of checks of the mentioned organizations.

“Assuming that organizations are organized with their finances, the auditing paperwork shouldn’t take longer than an hour,” said Adekoya. “We are seeking for the audits to come in within a week of events.”

Catherine Vega, Student Programming Council president, is in agreement with these audits.

“It’s a good idea for [SGC-BBC] to be requiring these audits because it will result in student councils being fiscally responsible and accountable for their actions,” said Vega. “The fact that they are doing this so early on in the year is a sign that SGC-BBC has what’s best for the students in mind.”

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