Senate allocates funds for organization trips

MELISSA CACERES
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Four student organizations received funding for trips from the Student Government Council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

During the SGC-MMC meeting on Feb 27, the Senate approved the funding allocations for the organizations through some senators felt that certain programs should be allocated more money.

“Just because we have a lot of money doesn’t mean we should just throw it out there,” said Samir Patel, speaker pro tempore.

Many organizations have trips taking place next month and await funds from the Finance Committee for expenses such as conference fees, airfare, and hotel stays. Currently, the committee is working with $20,000 of their remaining $30,000 budget.

The trips include the Honors College “Confronting America” trip to Washington, D.C., Engineers Without Borders’ trip to an 2012 EWB International Conference in Las Vegas, the Fine Arts Student Association’s trip to NASA’s Lunabotics Mining Competition at the Kennedy Space Center.

The SGC Finance Committee assures that funds are “properly handled for the benefit of all students.” They hear presentations, investigate, and deliberate over all requests for funding.

EWB’s funds were one of the most contentious among the Senate. Several senators pushed for EWB to be funded $100 more per student to help them cover airfare. The organization was given $1,000 for the conference fee.

Members of the Finance Committee emphasized that it would not be practical or equitable to give EWB additional funds since there are other organizations in need of funding as well.

“There have been plenty of groups that have come to us and have done great things,” said Jose Garcia, vice-chair of the Finance Committee and Honors College senator. “We just want to be fair.”

The FIU Lunabotics team received full funding for their trip. Previously, they were set to receive $244 for a banner and t-shirts; but after deliberation among the senators, they were allocated $2,169 to include the group’s hotel expenses.

Finance Committee Chair Giovanni Correale had been against funding hotel and airfare for any of the groups since spending money on those expenses does not directly benefit the student body.

“Just because we have a lot of money doesn’t mean we should just throw it out there,” said Andrea Fajardo, engineering and computing senator, felt differently.

“If you don’t stay at a hotel, you won’t be able to be there to put a banner out and actually put FIU’s name out there,” said Fajardo.

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The Graham Center director brings life experiences to work

Ruth Hamilton, director of the Graham Center, talks to Brandon Jones, student coordinator for building operations and Sanjeev Udhnani, SGC-MMC vice-president about new GC programs.

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Comprehensive Assessment Test would automatically have been met with heavy opposition from superintendents, parents, and advocates for disabled students and English language learners.

Under the changes, schools where less than 25 percent of students score proficient on reading and math will be automatically assigned a grade of 'F' under a proposal the Board of State Legislatures and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test would automatically be given an 'F'.

German lawmakers approve new Greek bailout

The German parliament approved a second, euro130 billion ($173 billion) loan package for Greece on Monday that would make drug testing mandatory for welfare recipients, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. And Wisconsin lawmakers advanced such a proposal this week.

Driving the measures is a perception that people on public assistance are misusing the funds and that cutting off their benefits and saving money for tight state budgets — even as statistics have largely proved both notions untrue.

"It is an intelligent way of cutting," said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson, who is overseeing the federal housing program for low-income people. "It is an intelligent way of cutting, not judging me for how I am and who I am," said Danny Fe said. "That is why people respect her more than anything else."

"Another thing I really love about Ruth is that she has an incredible way of continuing her college studies, Patton decided to sponsor Hamilton at the University of Mount Union in Ohio.

"A wonderful soul, he is my American father and I adore him," she said of Patton. "He took a chance on me and didn't even know me."

After studying education and early childhood education, Hamilton got her master's in counseling from Kent State University and is now a counselor at Ohio University, opening up her world to administration.

Daily, you can find Hamilton pacing GC in her business suit, high heels and her 80s-style big hair.

"Ruth, in one word, is extravagant. She is full of life," Pradeep said. "She just keeps going and going. But the great thing about Ruth is that she is so talented that she never does anything wrong."

Three years ago, Hamilton once again faced a challenge when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. "This was a shock because you see through life a lot of energy and feeling well," she said. Her hopes, though, weren’t quenched. "I learned that God put me in this place for a purpose and understand that it is not forever," Hamilton said.

Whenever the chance presents itself, Hamilton does not hesitate to help students. "I needed a job and I ran into Fresh Foods and we had a talk right then and there," said Danny Hernandez, a student custodial staff worker in GC.

"She hired me right on the spot, not judging me for how I was dressed back then. It goes to show that she really cares about the students."

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 70 of The Beacon in the Life section, the article “380 students work with industry’s best at WFF event” incorrectly states that Rachael Ray is a Food Network celebrity chef. She is a Food Network celebrity chef.

In Vol. 23, Issue 70 of The Beacon in the Sports section, the article “Seniors start fresh against Jaguars” incorrectly states that the men’s basketball team will be playing FAU on March 3. They are playing WKU.

In Vol. 23, Issue 70 of The Beacon in the Art section, the article “Students get a taste of the industry at the Bay” incorrectly states that Rachael Ray is a Food Network celebrity chef. She is a Food Network celebrity chef.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBCC at 305-919-4722.
Faltering offense leads to three losses in Boca Raton

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Staff Writer
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The Panthers dropped three games out of four over the weekend in Boca Raton. The team combined to score seven runs in four games during the Strike Out Cancer Tournament, also known as the FAU Invitational.

FIU finished the FAU Invitational 1-3 and left with an even .500 record of 7-7.

TULSA,4,FIU 1

With FIU coming off the heels of a five-game winning streak, the Panthers hit a snag as they started out the Strike Out Cancer Tournament with a 4-1 loss against Tulsa on Feb. 24.

Right out of the gate the Panthers didn’t skip a beat as Ashley McClain hit a leadoff home run in the first, giving FIU a quick lead. That one run was all FIU could muster in the contest as Tulsa’s pitching kept the Panthers’ bats quiet.

Opportunities became more and more scarce for the Panthers. FIU had an opportunity in the third when they loaded the bases with no out but could not cash in, stranding three runners on base that inning.

Hurricanes’ starter Lacey Middlebrooks got out of the jam with a fielder’s choice off the bat of Brito Rojas, a day where the Panthers did not score their first run until the eighth inning. They eventually lost 2-1. Sophomore right-hander Michael Ellis was one of the few bright spots of the day, pitching six innings, allowing only three hits and striking out six batters in his first start of the year.

Senior Pablo Bermudez got on base four times in five chances and junior Adam Kirsch had the team’s lone RBI. Panther killer James Ramsey, the player responsible for the Seminoles’ three runs on Saturday, struck again on Sunday with a solo home run in the fourth inning to put his team on the board.

The Panthers committed an error they could not afford in the seventh inning when reliever John Costa oversowed a runner to the plate but lined out, leaving Rojas stranded.

With the lack of run support, the pressure on FIU’s starter Jenn Gniadek was that much greater. Gniadek stood strong for four innings, giving up just a run on a double in the second inning, but was tagged for two more runs in the fifth inning and was replaced by McClain.

LMU’s pitching was spectacular as their starter Molly McEldros kept the Panther bats off-balance, surrendering four hits and striking out two out.

FIU now falls to an even .500, standing at 6-6 after starting out FAU Invitational at 6-4.

AUBURN 3, FIU 1

After dropping the first two games respectively.

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT 3, FIU 0

The Panthers’ bats once again could not wake from their slumber as they only recorded four hits through seven innings against Loyola Marymount. The Lions shut the Panthers out 3-0 in the second game of the tournament on Feb. 24.

The only chance FIU had of making any noise came in the fourth inning when Brie Rojas advanced all the way to third base. And with two outs, Jessy Alonso came to the plate but lined out, leaving Rojas stranded.

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Errors cost rubber game at FSU

AJ Woodward and Kayla Buri then subsequently struck out, taking out the air from FIU’s momentum. FIU recorded only four hits in the game.

Mariah Dawson started the game and pitched five innings, giving up three runs and striking out two in a less than stellar performance.

Tulsa won the pitching battle and their offense was able to execute sporadically, scoring a pair in the fourth inning and one in the fifth and sixth inning and one in the fifth and sixth inning.

PANIERS split two conference matches

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
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The two years of dominance in the Sun Belt Conference has come to a halt – at least for now.

In an attempt to initiate their Sun Belt Conference matches on a high note, FIU returned home with a 4-3 victory over the Jaguars of South Alabama but faltered against the North Texas Mean Green in a 4-3 defeat.

The last time FIU (2-9) faced off against the Mean Green in a 4-3 defeat.

Furthermore, the Panthers could not keep up their winning ways, squandering to 0-2 in the doubles portion of the match.

“Overall we had some beautiful moments in all of our matches. Even though we did not show our front foot in doubles [play] against South Alabama, we turned it around in singles [play],” coach Applebaum-Dallau said.

Despite South Alabama taking the edge in doubles, the Panthers clawed their way back in and won their singles match in convincing fashion with victories from senior Lisa Johnson leading the pack.

“I think our team played very well and showed a lot intensity,” Johnson said. “Our team kept up the focus and emotion and came out with the win.”

Johnson dominated her opponent, two sets to none (7-6, 6-4) victory.

Maisak, McLean and freshman sensation Kayrin Johnson leading the pack.

FIU 4, USA 3

The Feb. 25 match that pinned 74th ranked FIU against unranked South Alabama (4-6) marked the first victory for the Panthers over a team within the Sun Belt for the 2012 season.

FIU got off to a positive start in doubles play with a stellar performance by the duo of junior Rita Maisak and freshman Sarah Mclean, who downed Emily Newton and Chinnie 6-4.

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In an attempt to initiate their Sun Belt Conference matches on a high note, FIU returned home with a 4-3 victory over the Jaguars of South Alabama but faltered against the North Texas Mean Green, defeating the Panthers in the 2010 Sun Belt Championship match.

Their loss to North Texas snapped a 10-game unbeaten streak in the conference.

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Maisak, McLean and freshman sensation Kayrin Johnson leading the pack.
FIU suffers first conference defeat

**SOFTBALL, PAGE 3**

of the FAU Invitational, FIU’s losing streak would reach to three games as the Panthers dropped a 2-1 contest against No. 24 Auburn on Feb. 25.

For the third game in a row the Panthers’ bats were stifled, this time by Auburn’s Angel Bunner who allowed a total of three hits all of which came off the bat of Beth Peller.

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The lone run for FIU came in the second inning when Peller faced a double to right center and then scored on an error by Auburn.

**BASEBALL, PAGE 3**

were on the verge of tying it until an odd play unravelled before them. Junior Jahari Henry hit a line drive to the third baseman that rebounded off him and right into the hands of the second baseman for a force out. A hit would have tied the game.

Robert Bencina then closed the game for FSU.

For the second straight series, FIU out hit their opponents. They tallied 26 hits over the weekend, seven more than the Seminoles.

Martinez showed why his bat was sorely needed in the Rice series, hitting for a whopping .500 average with three walks to boost his on-base percentage even higher. The Panthers’ starting pitching was solid overall, managing a 3.57 ERA and striking out 17 Seminoles in only 15 1/3 innings. The walks, however, just continued to pile up, with 14 from the FIU pitchers.

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Audiences should expect unique experience at Arabian Nights

ALFREDO APARICIO
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Arabian Nights tells the story of the young maiden, Scheherazade, who tries to prevent her death at the hands of King Shahryar by capturing his attention through the stories she tells. In doing so, she demonstrates the importance and power of storytelling. The play, written by Mary Zimmerman and directed by Associate Professor Phillip Church will be the last production of the semester.

“When we think about everything we do [on a daily basis], we tell a story or are living a story and sometimes the story can be about the future through a dream or wish,” said Church.

“The importance of storytelling is displayed in the way) Scheherazade tells a story and engages the king’s attention. (It) sends the message that we live by storytelling; it’s a diet that keeps you alive.”

“I don’t think [our] society really values this value to stories. We don’t realize how we feed each other. We are so literal, like ‘How many calories are in my bottle of water?’ We also need to feed our minds through imagination,” continued Church. “I anticipate that the audience will take away a greater sense of what stories truly mean. Hopefully they leave thinking more about the value of the stories.”

The set design of Jesse Dreikosen, head of design and production at the Department of Theatre, relies heavily on the audience’s imagination.

“There are multiple locations throughout the piece and the scenery needs to simply define those spaces very quickly. The design of the set needed to be abstract, suggestive and on the audience’s imagination.”

Students’ votes decide Movie on the Lawn event at The Frost

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After one month of uncertainty, the Frost Museum has finally announced the winner to the movie that will be airing in this month’s Movie on the Lawn event. For the first time, students were able to decide what will be the highlight of the evening.

Popular series like “Pirates of the Caribbean” and “Harry Potter” may have won a lot in the box office, but they trailed behind in the polls. Even winners of the Academy Award, such as “Wall-E” and “The King’s Speech,” were only able to tie for second place.

Showing across the Blue Garage on the Frost Museum’s wall, the 1968 film, “2001: A Space Odyssey,” is expecting a big turn out on March 1. This science fiction film was produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick.

The story deals with two astronauts on a space voyage as they trace a mysterious signal emitted by alien technology found on the moon. Accompanying them is HAL 9000, the supercomputer that holds control of the spaceship Discovery One. This film is often praised for its two and half hour length and influence of the science fiction genre.

“I had no idea this movie had such a big following here at FIU,” said Gabby Portela, co-ordinator of the event and communications assistant at the Frost Museum.

“I keep hearing such good feedback. (This) could mean that this system of picking movies might be used again.” With music that will be provided by Radiate FM and food made by the famous Cheeseme truck cooks, there will be something to enjoy even before the scheduled 6:45 p.m. show time.

“I love the concept and I’m looking forward to watching great films with the FIU family on our beautiful campus,” said student voter Lori-Ann Cox.

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum asks that students bring blankets, chairs and most importantly friends to find out why “2001: A Space Odyssey” was voted to be seen by the University’s student body.

HAUTE TOPIC
Paltrow shines at award ceremony

When it comes to watching the Academy Awards, the statues come in second to the dresses. Here are the actresses that I noticed for their choice in dress, bad and good.

Natalie Portman:
Portman wore a vintage red Christian Dior pelka dotted gown. This look is completely overwhelming and I’m shocked that Vouge put her on their best dressed list.

Portman isn’t the type that can pull off a vintage gown like this one; the volume and cut overwhelmed her tiny figure. This style of dress should have been hemmed at her ankles so that we could see her shoes. Also, letting the dress touch the ground made her look short.

Top it off, her accessories made her look even older. With some more modern accessories and a pair of interesting and visible shoes, this dress could have wowed me.

Jennifer Lopez:
I’m pretty sure Lopez has worn a dress exactly like the Zuhair Murad couture wore, to every event she’s ever been invited to, leaving me yawning permanently.

Don’t get me wrong, the dress is an incredible piece of art. The sunburst design in shiny beading over a see-through gown is completely gorgeous. For Lopez to have looked more original, I would have taken the sleeves off completely.

I’m also tired of her wearing her hair in a high bun. Pairing some soft waves with this glamorous dress would have been fresh and youthful.

Gwyneth Paltrow:
When I saw this white Tom Ford on Gwyneth Paltrow, I actually got the chills. The sleek white floor length gown and matching cape—yes, you read that correctly—was the number one look of the night.

The one-shoulder gown had minimal draping, which let the cape look like an extension of the dress. Paltrow wore her hair straight and sleek in a low pony and kept the makeup minimal. She wore a diamond cuff and ring— that was it.

She didn’t even wear nail polish. The simplicity suited her perfectly and was the best example of not letting a dress overpower you. I am obsessed.

Emma Stone:
She’s been on my best dressed list every single time this awards season, but I feel like Stone let me down.
washes down in tears by how tender and brought his voice gets. There is a lot of alluring literal imagery describing how “water comes from something else,” or how he sometimes “find things on the street” to more poetic passages like “the wine tasted like sunshine in the basement.” Wagner crafts a mood and a setting in his songs. He tells about memories that seem simple on paper but take on sentiments of personal discovery and how everyday fixtures can contain rich beauty. The musical elements begin to vary with cues, such as a rattling snare, looping guitars and a bevy of strings ranging from cellos to violins that swell up and crash together like sea waves. “Mr. M” is a medley of overlapping sound paying a landscape with significant story-telling that’s comforting as it is timorous.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Michael Hernandez is DJ Mike Manchill.

**Bands outshine the delayed start at the Electric Pickle**

**Production gets creative with set**

The abstract set design has allowed Tony Galaska, assistant professor of lighting design and stage management, to use light to establish the spaces of the play. “Every production presents its own unique challenges in terms of the script. Lighting comes from what the playwright gives as instructions as well as the different people in the lighting team who present different design elements,” said Galaska.

“Since there are less items on stage, the lighting becomes more prominent in defining time and space. It’s a storytelling piece and it’s really fun for lighting to define the spaces in a visual sense.”

For more on Arubian Nights, check out the rest of this story under the Life tab at www.FIUSM.com.

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**Nashville-rooted album is lush and full of soul**

**AWARDS, PAGE 5**

**PICKLE, PAGE 8**

**RADAR REVIEWS**

**Hotecipe is a weekly fashion column. Email esaerige@fiusm.com.**

**THE BEACON – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

www.fiusm.com

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Kurt Wagner of Lambchop has all the makings of the stereotypical Nashville musician: he drives a manual pick-up truck, wears a dusty cap and knows a thing about Memphis-rubbed dry ribs. However, the image of Wagner isn’t necessarily reflected in his music and with “Mr. M,” it progresses with maturity, boldness, class and identity.

At its most basic, the album is produced with strings and layers that squall in every track, but it is filled with detailed imagery and emotional gravitas. They don’t make country like this anymore.

The opening words to “If Not I’ll Just Die” doesn’t feel as out of place when you juxtapose it to the albums purpose: a dedication to Wagner’s close friend and fellow musician, Vic Chestnut. The music comes off as cathartic in “Mr. M” regardless of Wagner’s intention. In an interview, Wagner said, “I’ve never bought the idea that music is some sort of therapy.” You wouldn’t get those sentiments upon listening to “Never My Love,” but sonically and thematically, it’s very captivating.

There’s lots of room for the music to spread as the soft, provincial feel of the 1970s country is meshed with modern idiosyncrasies, like ambient strings and extended instruments, that find a perfect equilibrium between the sonic shifts of the nostalgic and the current.

The subtleties in Wagner’s voice blend effortlessly with the intricate production work of a piano and the soft strums of acoustics. It may all sound like a minimalist effort, but producer Mark Nevers mixes all these layers that culminate into grandeur effectiveness. Instrumental track “Gar” sounds like something you would play on a reflective Sunday: pleasant country symphony. It is an up-tempo bluegrass number with Wagner singing in his natural shifty vibrato that feels like he is always close to breaking something too safe. The Atelier Versace dress was beautiful, but boring. I wish she would have at least chosen a pair of colored heels.

Michelle Williams: Williams wore a bright gown with peplum detail by Louis Vuitton. The fun coral color popped on the carpet and looked stunning with her pale skin. This gown fit her so inexplicably well and had such amazing detail on the bodice and the skirt with delicate details of chiffon.

The brooch pinned on her waist was also a very cute touch. The only thing I didn’t like about her look was her lipstick, which was too much for the color of her dress. A darker pink or mauve would have looked amazing.

Glenn Close: I can’t go on without mentioning Close’s amazing take on Zac Posen. The 64-year-old paired a gown with a jacket from a different outfit from the Fall 2012 collection. The metallic looking dark green gown hit her in all the right places and the color complemented her skin and hair. Not many women can pull off a structured gown that calls attention to the waist and hips like this one does, but Close pulled it off. That’s just not fair.

Roozey Mara: Mara’s edgy looks are always a favorite of mine and her Givenchy gown was no exception. But what really made the lacy white dress stand out was Mara’s hair and makeup. I feel like a lot of times the hair and makeup are a separate project and it comes to awards night looks, but they shouldn’t be.

Mara was channeling a Betty Page look with short bangs and a tight bun, along with a bright red lip. It really made her dress suit her, which would have looked mediocre with natural hair and makeup.

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**LIFE!**

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**The State Of put on a solid performance that had the crowd eating out of the palms of their hands.**

As Can’t Stop stopped playing, a mild shower blew in and set pieces, which only contributed to the final exodus of all spectators, minus those who were somehow affiliated to the overall production – except for one guy, whose dancing style at the outset of the performance was...
In Florida, 2 million students do not complete their college education for a variety of reasons. Some argue that a lack of financial aid is the reason why many college students forego their education in favor of entering the workforce, but other circumstances, such as bad health or a family crisis, also have to come into play. Naturally, the solution to this problem is to find ways to keep students in the classroom, but this is easier said than done.

With further reductions in financial aid, students will find it difficult to attend college full time. Furthermore, it has been proven that part-time students in two or four-year programs are even more likely to drop out, especially in Florida. According to a report in the Sun Sentinel, only 43 percent of part-time students in a four-year college receive their bachelor’s degree, while less than 10 percent of students at a community college receive their associate’s degree.

In Florida, however, a program to assist college dropouts in completing their education is in the works. According to an FIU Student Media news report, written by Melissa Caceres, several state universities are implementing the Complete Florida College Pilot. The pilot is a fully online program geared toward college dropouts with 60-90 credits under their belt that offers coursework in the career-centric concentrations of entrepreneurship, business, and communications. With this program, Florida’s universities can begin reclaiming some of the funding lost by way of college dropouts while these students can take care of their unfinished business in the comfort of their own home, which will likely enable them to maintain steady employment.

In the case of the University of Florida’s status as a commuter school, it will also allow those enrolled in the program to cut down on the expenses of traveling to the campus. According to FIU Student Media, the program will expand its offerings based on its initial success.

If marketed properly, I am confident that the program will become a major part of the University. As great an opportunity this program may prove, though, Florida and the rest of the nation must work on the greater issue of keeping students on track in their college education.

It isn’t enough to merely attract a large student body; the trick is keeping it intact so students can receive their education as colleges won’t be at such a financial loss. College retention rates must go on the upswing if the nation wants to alleviate the financial strain placed on higher education.

"Class Dismissed" is a weekly column critiquing education in America.

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The only one who should be concerned about their sexuality is the person themselves.

The Student Government Association is responsible for allocating Activity and Service Fee monies for student organizations and facilities. All organizations are required to submit a budget request that indicates the reason for the requested budgets.

In an attempt to understand and better explain to our readers the current deliberations, we made an effort to attain the budget binders, containing all of the line item requests by the 60 plus student organizations and facilities that are funded by A&S fees.

A lack of transparency in the budgeting process is only symptomatic of the overall lack of transparency within Student Government as a whole. While we don’t expect each budget to be checked every week or every month, we do expect Student Government to post them online accordingly. As of press time, SGC-MMC last posted Senate meeting minutes on Feb. 13 and the most recent meeting minutes posted for SGC-BBC were from the Senate meeting on Nov. 16, 2011.

The unavailability of this information prompted us to make an official request on Dec. 19 to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, for all minutes from SGC-BBC’s Executive Cabinet; Student Advocacy Committee; Internal Affairs Committee; Finance Committee; Organizational Review Committee; and Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Committee.

No response was received from either SGC-BBC Executive Chief of Staff Stacy Fernandez, or from the five senate committee chairs, all of whom are responsible for documenting their activities.

We understand that SGA, just like those it funds with A&S fees monies, is student run and that other responsibilities often hinder the effectiveness of their positions; however, it just takes a bit of effort to see what should be public information is unattainable.

The lack of transparency was best highlighted during the impeachment allegations against SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin when charges against Halpin where dropped before the proper public procedure of impeachment was followed, as reported in the Oct. 26 editorial.

Even during the nomination and appointment process of the SGC-BBC senate’s Internal Affairs Committee chair, Oluwatamilore S. Ojuyogu, who sits as the SGC-BBC Finance Committee Chair asked applicants what plan they have for keeping SGA matters private—an aspect of governing they should strive to avoid.

Ongoing governmental developments, such as budget deliberations, should be easily accessible for everyone, not just those who ask.

The matters of the government are public and no matter how small FIU student participation might be, we believe that SGA has the responsibility to ensure that they remain public.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorialists and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and members of the University community.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 word maximum) to media-phonomena@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either G 210 or WOC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified 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 responding in an op-ed to its editorials, send them to media-phonomena@fiusm.com.
Pros and cons of a ‘morning after’ vending machine

A vending machine such as the one placed in Shippensburg University offering easier access to contraception could prove problematic if placed on Biscayne Bay Campus, due to the proximity of underage students in the local community.

“Lust for Life” in the Panther Square

The vending machine has caused a controversy at Shippensburg University of whether Plan B, the “morning after” pill should be easily accessible to students. According to an article published by Catholic Online, some of Shippensburg’s 8,000 students are enthusiastic about the services provided by the vending machine. University Health Services at FIU distributes free contraceptives such as condoms to promote safe sex but having a vending machine hasn’t been considered yet. Plan B is an emergency contraceptive that consists of one tablet that must be taken orally within 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse. The sooner the over-the-counter drug is taken, the higher the percentage of effectiveness. “I believe it might only prove to be effective if students need to get a hold of any of these items after our closing hours,” said Ludovica Vigile, Program Assistant at the Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center.

Kevin Soler, a junior and journalism major, feels that the machine would prove to be beneficial. “It’s convenient for people with lack of transportation and avoids embarrassment,” Soler said. Frederick Blevens, a professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications agreed. “Sure, it should be allowed the same as Pepsi machines,” Blevens said. Soler and Blevens believe that if students can go to a pharmacy and buy it legally and over-the-counter, then it should be accessible to students here on campus. However, not everyone thinks the machine is a good idea. Junior and public relations major Diana Pons feels that having vending machines dispensing these products is like giving students a “free pass to have sex with anyone.”

CVS pharmacists Brenda Herrera Soto and Jose Molina believe it’s not correct for Plan B to be sold without proper guidance from a healthcare professional. “People would get the idea that Plan B is a high level form of progestin and brings along unwanted side effects. Condoms, on the other hand, are not a drug but a form of protection that can not only protect from pregnancy but can prevent sexually transmitted diseases. Students are sometimes so concerned with getting pregnant they rely on Plan B and forget to protect themselves from STDs. However, BBC’s unique geography places it near the David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center and the Alonzo & Tracy Mourning Senior High School, which may make such a machine’s presence a problem. “We have underage [students] in proximity to us,” Vigile said. “I wouldn’t recommend it at all.”

Additional Reporting by Nadra Mabrouk