**Changes in dual enrollment waiver handicaps budgets**

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

In spring 2013, a dual enrollment waiver is being applied in a new way, creating a ripple wave effect in student fees.

Initial projections for the activity and service fund, the total amount of money generated through the A&S fee, was about $16.1 million.

After accounting for bad debt percentage and the dual enrollment waiver, the total amount of money fell to approximately $14.9 million, a $1.2 million difference and 7 percent less.

The amounts generated through the athletic and health fees and how much they are after accounting for bad debt and dual enrollment waivers were not available as of press time.

The bad debt percentage is a percent and half, which leaves the rest of the difference from the dual enrollment waiver.

The waiver is due to a Board of Governors regulation and Florida statutes which together make the cost of taking college courses free for high school students taking dual enrollment courses in any higher education institution in the Florida College or State University systems.

The statute says dual enrollment students are exempt from paying tuition and fees, and the BoG regulation says each university’s board of trustees are required to waive tuition and fees for dual enrollment students.

Dual enrollment students are charged tuition and fees but the waiver needs to be applied so the students are not held financially responsible.

This would be no different from going into a department store where you had a gift credit for $50 and making a purchase for $50. Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell wrote in an emailed response to Student Media. “The purchase would be recorded on the receipt so the store knows what product was sold, removing the product from inventory, and then inserting the $50 gift card as a credit or ‘waiver’ showing a balance due of $0.”

This method, Jessell wrote, is the appropriate way to handle accounting for the student’s registration.

In previous years the amount of money waived from the three fees was taken from the education and general trust fund, money generated through tuition and state funds.

The process now is to take the waiver amount, or the total of what would have come from dual enrollment students, from the associated fee.

Meaning the waiver of the activity and service fee will come from that fund instead of the E&G trust fund, and likewise for the

**FIU Online**

**FIU STAFF**

After just one season with FIU, basketball Head Coach Richard Pitino is expected to replace Tubby Smith as head coach at University of Minnesota. According to CBS Sports, Minnesota athletic director Norwood Teague met with Pitino on Wednesday and the two reached a verbal agreement.

Pitino could not be reached for comment.

According to senior guard Cameron Bell, no one on the team had any idea Pitino planned on leaving. FIU basketball staff, Athletic Director Pete Garcia, and media relations were not made available for comment.

Pitino just finished year one of a five-year, $1.25 million deal with the Panthers he signed in April 2012. Because he has decided to leave, in his contract it says that he must now pay one year’s salary to FIU, worth $250,000.

The specifics of the Minnesota contract were unknown at the time of press.

Pitino led the Panthers to an 18-14 record and their first winning season in 13 years before falling to Western Kentucky in the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

“It’s just a shocker that he left, especially with a great recruiting class coming in as well as some of the transfers that are going to be playing for us next year like Raymond Taylor and Rakeem Buckles,” senior guard Manny Nunez said. “We had one of the best seasons in FIU history and we were going in the right direction. I’m just shocked he would leave right now.”

News of Pitino’s departure comes almost a year to the day after FIU fired Isiah Thomas after a dismal three years as FIU’s head coach.

As of now, it is undetermined who is in charge of the team or if there is an ongoing search for a replacement.

**University College oversees multiple components**

**AARON PABON**  
**Staff Writer**

There is much confusion among the University as to who exactly is in charge of FIU Online.

Joshua Sanchez, sophomore engineering major, always thought that FIU ran the online component to his virtual classes.

When he was told that University College is in charge of FIU Online, he responded, “does FIU run University College?”

According to professor Brian Peterson, the interim chair of the Online Review Committee, “University College is the overseer of FIU Online.”

University College is the administrative body of continuing education and noncredit programs. It offers a multitude of off-campus and online credit courses and noncredit offerings.

Projects from University College, aside from FIU Online, include executive and professional education courses, the Legal Studies Institute, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the FIU Broward Pine Center. It is also responsible for training and specialty courses in continuing education units, customized training, scuba diving training and dual enrollment.

“FIU Online is also a part of University College. FIU Online is responsible for the design, development, delivery, and support of all online degree programs and all online non-credit programs,” Dean of University College Joyce Elam wrote in an email to Student Media. “The Dual Enrollment Program in high schools (a program whereby high school students take college classes) is also managed by University College.”

“What I think is there have been problems with FIU Online and having it separate from Academic Affairs,” Peterson said.

Issues between the two have involved

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Taliban attack Afghan courthouse, leaving 53 dead

A provincial governor says at least 53 people, including nine attackers, have been killed in a daylong gunbattle in western Afghanistan. Officials say the fighting broke out Wednesday after suicide bombers disguised as Afghan soldiers stormed a courthouse in Farah province in a failed bid to free more than a dozen Taliban. Provincial Gov. Akram Akhawek says those killed included 34 civilians, 10 security forces and nine attackers.

Ex-ambassadors urge US, Russia to mend rift

The U.S. and Russia should overcome their cold spell by focusing on their common economic and security challenges, former diplomats to Moscow and Washington said Tuesday. The ex-ambassadors, who gathered in Moscow to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic ties, said the strains have been driven by emotions and misperceptions rather than fundamental differences.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

Communication an issue for University College and FIU Online

SGC-BBC president opposed to new waiver process

In Issue 80, Vol. 24, the article titled, “NKorea taps reformists premier amid nuclear tension,” the author was noted as Eric Watt Staff Writer. It should have said Foster King and Hyung-Jin Kim, AP Staff. The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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A year later, speech policies unchanged

ALEXANDER ROSALES
Contributing Writer

On January 12, 2012, seven students and non-students were arrested for assembling at the Deuxieme Maison pit located at the Modesto Maidique Campus. As it stands, everyone who was charged with the second-degree misdemeanor of “disrupting school functions” has been cleared of such charges—even before an official trial commenced. The days following the arrests, Occupy FIU and other supporters remained united and determined to press for the dismissal of charges and demanded an end to the university’s containment policies regarding free speech and demonstrations.

Initially, University President Mark Rosenberg and the student leaders who the administration would “revise” current free speech codifications. Over one year later, however, the policies have remained unchanged. In fact, according to the Board of Trustees Regulations website (regulation number 110), the policy regarding assembly and demonstrations has remained the same since January 7, 2013. On January 28, 2012, in what appeared to be a politically motivated, but cynical maneuver, Rosenberg and a few of the administrative staff met with a group of students to discuss the grievances related to FIU. Chief among them was the issue of political intimidation orchestrated by university police and administration in an attempt to politically disarm and streamline supporters towards feeling guilty about criticizing the university for its purposely vague and arbitrary regulations pertaining to “free speech zones.”

The GC lawn (north side) and the fountain are the recognized zones. This event is still important because in January of last year, the administration has been largely silent in its response to the concerns about its vague free speech policies. They cannot continue to pick and choose what type of student assemblies they allow, that would be equivalent to repressive favoritism. Students should be able to come into accordance with a sensible policy that not only preserves the integrity of the academic learning environment, but enhances it by fostering a landscape of idea-sharing.

If there is an issue between students and the functions of the school environment, a complaint should be approached by armed police either.

The test of democracy is the freedom of criticism.

Bobo Bracy, a first-year law student, sympathizes with the notion that FIU students are sensible, responsible adults capable of exercising their democratic freedoms without being relegated to “neat little spaces” under the watchful eye of armed campus police.

“A reasonable middle ground can be reached between student demonstrators and respect for the learning environment. There are plenty of spaces in this university,” he says.

Plenty of spaces indeed. If students want to decry animal vivisection in front of the Campus Support Complex, they should be able to. If students want to condemn the disproportionate funneling of funds towards administrative staff salaries versus those of teachers, they should be able to in front of the Board of Trustees building.

There is absolutely no excuse why a university should be exercising codified repression against any student group whatsoever.

The policies in place preemptively strike at marginalized groups, says Eric Rojo-Dotel, a junior majoring in Political Science and Internationale Relations.

“The university endorses free speech that is in line with the policy of the university contradicting the principles of democracy and freedom,” he said.

To suggest that providing a clear framework to allow for the facilitation of greater engagement amongst the student community in respect to the school they pay to attend is irresponsible would be extremely dishonest.

It is time high time to have a university-wide discussion about the expansion of student rights.

-OPINION@FIUSM.com

Cautious encounters with a crush

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

As you’re walking to class, carrying all your books, worrying about tests and grades, you look up and you are caught in an awkward glance with a cute stranger.

The next day, you’re walking to the cafe- teria to grab lunch. You look up, and again, your eyes are locked with this same stranger.

Do you make a move? Or do your eyes find this stranger’s eyes semester after semester, until one party makes a move? Why are people so extremely intimi- dated to approach whomver they’re inter- ested in? I’m terrified and I’ve never even tried it, but how do I know it’s so awful? It’s like there’s this stigma that if I do approach the guy, I’ll get rejected. My whole body will just cave in on itself. I’ll get a nose- bleed, and I’ll throw up, all simultaneously, you know, common phobias.

Yes, there are the days I fear my future is the life of a lonely spinster, but it will be the modern day spinster. The spinster that owns a company, looks like Tina Fey, enjoys night cheese, has 15 cats, by choice.

Some of us are extremely shy. And to the guy I keep making eye contact with, you’re beautiful, but this staring “thing” has been going on too long. I’m definitely not going to be approaching you, but again, the common phobias come up. Please refer to the list of common phobias.

Every worst-case scenario comes to mind when I think about approaching a cute stranger. I don’t just think of one scenario happening at one time, I think of every single horrible thing that ever happened in history repeating itself in that one moment as soon as I approach him; Pearl Harbor, genocide, gulags, World War III!

Some people are just gifted aren’t they? They approach someone with ease and all of a sudden Barry White comes out of the woodwork singing “Can’t Get Enough of Your Love, Babe,” and birds suddenly appear, indoors.

Then you try to approach someone and you all of a sudden develop this combina- tion of a lisp and a stutter that you didn’t previously have.

How does a person prepare himself or herself to approach a cute guy or girl? What do they say?

Well, after talking to students in the Wolfe University Center at Biscayne Bay Campus and making them feel extremely uncomfortable with my personal questions, they seem to have different approaches, or no approach whatsoever.

“I approached my current boyfriend when I met him. I thought he was beautiful!” said Gianni Barcos, freshman art major.

“I was a friend of his sister and I would just randomly call her. She handed him a can of Coke. I say ‘But’,” and birds suddenly appear, indoors.

Other students encounter strange eye contact.

“I would see him everywhere, even see him at the south campus,” said freshman biomedical engineer Celine Wassaf. “But I just didn’t have the courage to go up to him. I could tell how nervous he was around me too and I didn’t want to deal with an awkward situation.”

The best recommendation I have is to just do it. If you’re interested in someone, just go up to her or him like you own FIU and say “Hey.” Chances are you won’t simultane- ously get a nosebleed and throw up. You’ll live through it.

-OPINION@FIUSM.com

Can we learn unity from our politicians?

REBECCA STERLING
Contributing Writer

In a time when political grandstanding, harsh rhetoric and partisan aggression all characterize our political process, it is easy to lose faith in the possi- bility of bipartisanship and compromise even our country’s future political challenges.

However, there appears to be at least one issue over which even the most bitterly opposed U.S. politicians do unite. It’s so apparent that the whole world can see it. For what issue have President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner both pledged full support, cutting past their heavy political differences? What is it that our often-at- odds political representatives have worked so hard together to strengthen?

Members of the student organizations, College Democrats and College Republicans, know that the answer to these questions is the U.S.-Israel relationship.

They recognize that Americans, Israelis and the rest of the free world need to work together to stop the threats that rogue nations, fundamentalist terrorist groups and those who violently oppose free and open societies. They understand that the U.S. position on this issue is united, with the clear example of the House of Representative’s impres- sive bipartisan action to sanction Iran with H.R. 805, and the Senate’s unanimous vote for the bill, which Obama signed into law.

That is why the students of the College Demo-crats and College Republicans have come together in a statement of support. This unity demonstrates that it is possible to reach across the aisle in a bipar- tisan effort to accomplish what is good for our country, our friends around the world, and for those who seek free democratic governments.

FIU Student Government recognizes Israel as a country that shares our values of democ- racy, women’s rights and freedom of religion. They rose to the occasion by passing resolution 1343 affirming their recognition. Well Done!

At FIU, we have a community of student leaders who care enough about these shared values to stand with Israel. They are constantly seeking to enhance their knowledge about our ally and the region in order to make a positive difference when the opportunity arises. I can say with confidence that there is a diverse nationwide community of student leaders, representing every campus in the country, which embraces this positive and proac- tive outlook.

With events on campus like Israel Peace Week and with Obama’s momentous trip to Israel, there are plenty of opportunities to learn more. All my friends across the political spectrum have come together to understand the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Despite vast possible differences, there is hope that our political leaders can find the middle ground that even the most bitterly opposed U.S. politicians do unite.

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter per month from any individual.

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University mascot is also an endangered species

FIU Magazine wins annual district award

GLOWS workshop discusses climate change and adaptation

We’re lucky to live in an advanced country and we need to do our part to help the rest of the world.
Clothing is more than it seems: students dress to express

“I dress how I feel, and I feel deeply and often.” This is a quote that I’ve held very close to my heart ever since discovering it on Tumblr by an unknown author.

For me, clothing has never been something that I just had to put on to meet society’s standards, but something that was an outlet of artistic expression. Through clothing, I was suddenly able to find empowerment, fantasy, escapism and realism all at the same time. My passion for clothing goes deeper than frivolous and trivial materialism, it is a way for me to discover and express myself; it is a way for me to give a tangible representation to intangible things.

As I have been continuing this street style project at FIU, I have become fascinated with the students that really seem to be using clothing not as a way to look “fashionable” or “cool,” but to genuinely express their unique identity.

When I asked liberal studies student Nicholas Hoffman how his outfit made him feel, he paused for a moment before responding, “I feel confident in my own convictions. I finally got this shirt after eyeing it for two years because it reflects my social values.”

Another student who used their clothing to express their political and social beliefs is senior Remmy Rivera who was spotted wearing a camo printed snapback with an American flag patch on the front of it exclaiming “SCREW IT!” When I questioned him on why he was wearing such an unapologetic clothing piece, he quickly rebutted saying it was his way to express his issues with politics and create his own political warfare.

Although clothing can be used as a way to express the unique and individual “you,” it can also be used to do the complete opposite. Last week, I ran into fine arts student Stephanie Farokhnia after her final photography critique for the year. She was dressed in a delightful floor length vintage polka dot dress with a vibrant green cardigan layered on top of it. As I sat down to join her outside, I inquired as to why she chose to wear that particular outfit that day.

“I wanted to wear something new that would go with my new hair. I’ve been wearing more dresses to go with my short hair; I guess it’s sort of like compensation for my femininity. I don’t remember how I felt earlier today but now I feel [bad] after my critique,” said Farokhnia.

Upon first glance I would have never predicted her response to be anything like that. It really surprised me that what I was seeing didn’t match up to how she was feeling, thus making the power of clothing all the more complex of a subject. We dress how we feel, and sometimes, we dress to make ourselves feel a certain way.

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**PIEKE and SigEp rivalry put on display**

**JOLSON DIAZ AND JONATHAN JACOBSKIND  FISUM Staff**

They’re the Yankees versus the Red Sox, Miami Heat against the Boston Celtics or the Miami Dolphins versus the New York Jets. The intramural sports rivalry that Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Phi Epsilon share is similar to the greatest rivalries in pro sports.

“Every single game is just pandemonium,” SigEp soccer captain Jeffrey Hernandez said. “It’s always going to be a close, back and forth game, and the fans are going to be in each other’s faces. There have even been some fights in the past.”

Last semester, PIEKE defeated SigEp in the championship football game during the last seconds of play. SigEp, a week later, defeated them in the softball championship game to get their revenge.

SigEp and PIEKE are also considered rivals when it comes to recruitment. They live by similar philosophies when it comes to finding the right guy to recruit. PIEKE uses the motto of finding scholars, leaders, athletes and gentlemen, also known as SLAG.

“They’re competitive just like us,” said PIEKE’s vice president of recruitment Javi Morales. “Even when it comes to the guys that we recruit, we both want to make sure we get the best guys and they have to fit the standards of our motto.”

PIEKE’s on campus house proves to be more attractive for recruitment, as well. With that, they are able to throw parties and localize their recruitment. SigEp, on the other hand, does not have a house which makes them more of a social outlier since they have to go out looking for guys to recruit.

While both fraternities have enjoyed much success in sports, PIEKE was able to bring home the 2012-2013 Sports Cup after their win in the soccer championships over Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The winner of Sports Cup is based on a points system where fraternities receive more points the further they advance in each sport. PIEKE was able to edge past SigEp as they were tied with 55 points apiece before PIEKE won the Soccer Championship. It’s been a long time coming for PIEKE as they were suspended for an entire year, which eliminated them from Sports Cup for two years. “Before I got to FIU, PIEKE wasn’t even allowed to compete in the Greek League for a couple of years since we were in probation which then led to suspension for an entire year,” Morales said.

“That’s why it feels gratifying to win Sports Cup in our first year back on campus. The Sports Cup is a stepping-stone to what our full potential could be,” according to Hernandez, while PIEKE was sidelined with sanctions. SigEp felt like it had lost its toughest competition.

Even though PIEKE and SigEp have had their share of Sports Cup victories, Morales believes this most recent Sports Cup win gives the edge to PIEKE as to who has fared better in the rivalry.

“I think PIEKE winning the Sports Cup puts us as one step ahead of SigEp in the sense that one of the external criterias in being the best fraternity on campus is winning Sports Cup,” Morales said. “Although, I don’t think Sports Cup determines the best fraternity on campus, usually the best fraternity on campus wins the Sports Cup.”

Fresh start for special teams coming this fall

**RHYS WILLIAMS Staff Writer**

Placekicker Jack Griffin, punter Josh Brisk and long-snapper Mitch MacClugage are all gone from the football roster due to graduation, which means that the gate is open wide for young players to step in and take hold of their positions this fall.

Freshman punter Chris Ayers, the only scholar-ship player at his position, is the clear front-runner to be punting in the fall. The work that he is putting in this spring has only been giving this new coaching staff promise to keep that job come this fall.

The punting for last season under former head coach Mario Cristobal was something of a group effort with Brisk, Griffin, and even quarterback Jake Medlock each booting it off on fourth down for at least one attempt a piece, with Brisk having the most at 47 attempts for 1883 yards.

“Going out on a Friday night under the lights felt like a game,” said Ayers of the March 29 scrimmage. “It basically was a game for me having it as the first live-action I have faced since coming here after redshirting under Josh (Brisk) last year.”

Sergio Sroka, who backed up Griffin last year, is also excited about his role in this new football system. “I’m looking to fill in as Griffin went 9 for 16 in field goals and had a kickoff length average of 62.5 yards per kick.”

“Last season, I would really only get one or two reps a day, mostly when Jack (Griffin) was tired,” Sroka said. “Now I am taking every rep with the first team on kickoff, field goals, and extra points which is a big change from last year, where all I did was stand on the sideline most of the time. I hope to be a main factor for this team and help us win if I can.”

Two of the walk-ons from this spring’s tryouts are kicker/punters and as of the scrimmage on March 29, they are both back-ups on the team. One is a sophomore transfer from Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla. The other, as of the date of publication, has quit the squad.

Ryan Halter, a sophomore transfer from Ave Maria University, is looking to fill in as Griffin as well.

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**Jeffrey Hernandez**

Soccer Captain

Sigma Phi Epsilon

**SPORTS**

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**JEFFREY HERNANDEZ**

Soccer Captain

Sigma Phi Epsilon

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**Contact Us**
Pitching key to Panthers’ recent success

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

Before winning five in a row through April 2, the baseball team ranked near the bottom of every pitching statistic category in the Sun Belt Conference.

However, over the last five games, the Panthers’ starting pitching has only allowed six earned runs topped by Tyler Alexander’s complete game shutout that earned him SBC pitcher of the week.

“I just think our starters are coming totally focused, and that’s something that they haven’t done the last couple of weeks,” said catcher Aramis Garcia. “It’s taken them awhile for them to get going but once they do, they are on.”

From March 24 to April 2, starting pitching racked up 30 strikeouts with most of the lift coming from pitchers Mike Franco and Alexander. Their combined numbers come out to a record of six wins and four losses while collecting 65 strikeouts and generating an earned run average of 3.16.

“We’re always here about an hour or two hours earlier before a game, but yes, my last two starts they said that I didn’t have that focus,” Alexander said. “I felt I did have it and I wanted to prove them wrong, so I came out with as much intensity as I could.”

This increased need in focusing and preparing hours before the first pitch is something that even caught Head Coach Henry Thomas off guard.

“Honestly, I didn’t know that [Alexander] was here two hours early,” Thomas said. “That just shows how much of a competitor he is and just how much he wants to win.”

It seems that this rebirth of the starting rotation has also given spark to the Panthers’ offense that scored 30 runs through April 2. Players such as shortstop Edwin Rios have taken notice of this and now look to take advantage of this new spark.

“This game is a game of concentration and focus. I just try and tell my teammates to take a deep breath and everything is going to be OK,” Rios said. “I try to tell them not to overthink things and just go out there and do what you do best.”

Veteran players such as second baseman T.J. Shantz can also start to feel the change in the air.

“We have just been working really hard on our off days and practice,” Shantz said. “We’ve been focused on offensive, defense and fundamentals and now that we have some confidence, people are just gaining off one another.”

Shantz also understands just how important it is for the team to get consistent starting pitching day in and day out.

“If we pound the zone and we get ahead of hitters, that’s when we start to pitch with confidence,” Shantz said. “These last couple of weekends, all our guys really attacked hitters and gotten ahead in counts with that big thing getting the first out in the inning.”

FIU looks to extend its great pitching performances tonight at 7:30 p.m. against South Alabama (22-8).
The University could be setting sail with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. The University and RCCL are currently in the negotiation process of whether a facility for the company will be built at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

After the University sent out a competitive solicitation for partnership with a performing arts company, RCCL was the only company to respond. According to Chief Financial Officer, Kenneth Jessell, first and foremost RCCL was the only company to respond, but to have the opportunity to respond. Jessell stated that the facility would be approximately 80,000 square feet and the project would cost approximately $25 million total.

"If the plan goes through with Royal Caribbean, however, demolishing Bay Vista will be unnecessary as RCCL will not only cover costs to their facility being built but also of the renovations for the housing as well, according to Jessell.

During possible renovations, housing would not be available for students at BBC; however, once finished, there would still be adequate housing available. Jessell stated that current housing at BBC hasn’t had the critical mass of students needed to be cost-effective so with the entertainers from RCCL living there, the efficiency of the building would be improved.

Emerald Nesbitt, junior in psychology, is currently a resident at the Bay Vista housing and said she likes living there due to the convenience and closer community. Nesbitt said she feels renovations to the housing are necessary as the building has enough problems as it is.

"Most people don’t stay on this campus anyways; we usually have a lot of rooms open so it’s not like we’d lose space necessarily," Nesbitt said. "But I just think that they’d have to take that into consideration if they do decide to do that, because some students, if it fills up too quickly on [Modesto Maidique Campus], they have to move here. So as long as they take the space into consideration and remember that this is a dorm and things kind of do get rowdy, it’s fine.”

Another student considering moving to Bay Vista housing, sopho- more business major David Gagne, said he enjoys the convenience of living there as well and does feel that renovations are necessary.

As far as the RCCL facility being built, Gagne said, "They’re not really going to have a lot that means I’m bringing money to the campus and it really needs it so there’s nothing to feel bad. It’s a good thing I guess.”

Moll stated that the facility would provide many opportunities for students, particularly those in the College of Architecture and the Arts, such as scholarships, internships and possibly even classes for students in the College of Architecture and the Arts at BBC.

"There could be partners with the professional entertainment people and students who want to be singers, dancers, actors,” said Moll.

"Having that real world, experiential type of learning is invaluable for our students, so that was the real driver [of the plan]; it wasn’t a real deci- sion, it wasn’t a financial decision,” said Jessell.

**JENNIFER SANS**

Students at Biscayne Bay Campus came to the student government elections forum to enjoy food and listen to their fellow students voice their questions to the candidates running for Student Government Council at BBC.

The student government candidates that were present were Fuzhou Wu, running for SGC-BBC president, Ishmail Hassan running for Arts and Sciences senator, and Emerald Nesbitt, running for Housing senator.

The candidates all have different plans on how to make the atmosphere at BBC more vibrant and tried to offer different solutions for the problems that were expressed by the students at the forum.

Nesbitt is advocating for better programs at Bay Vista Housing.

"I want to find a way to have more programs for the students at BVH because it’s a small campus and there isn’t much to do here right now. I want to make the programs available to the students who don’t live on campus, as well," said Nesbitt.

Students who live in BVH who don’t have access to a car rely on either public transportation, the housing shuttle that runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays, or rides from friends.

Wu wants to find a way to have longer hours of operation for food options on campus for students and said, "BBC could be the next MMC.

There are students who disagree because "there is a benefit to having two different campuses with two different atmospheres," said junior psychology major, Kathlene Torres.

Several students expressed their concern about the food options at BBC during this forum because there are no food options on campus during weekends besides food from the vending machines.

According to Wu, the hours of operation could be improved for the bookstore and on campus restaurants, and there should be food options in the library other than the vending machines already located in various places on campus.

"Students should be able to eat or have a coffee while they are studying, the way the students at MMC can. There should be food options on weekends, too," said Wu.

The candidates ended the forum by discussing their main reasons for running.

"I am really passionate about helping students. This is such a large school and we all need to be heard," said Wu. "There needs to be a person who’s going to speak for the students.”

Nesbitt has lived in BVH for the past three years and feels attached to the students residing there and their issues.

"I honestly didn’t even know about this position until a friend told me about it. I know what the students in BVH want because I’ve been there for the past three years,” said Nesbitt. “I know that a lot of students don’t live on campus here at BBC, but if I’m elected, I’ll make programs at BVH available to not just the students who live on campus, but the students who commute here and have to stay late.”

"I’ll do my best to make sure I am the best in my position,” said Hassan.