SGA budget fails to meet expectations

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The Student Government Association had almost $3 million more to work into the budget this year than they did the previous year – some organizations benefited, while others still faced cuts in spite of the added funding.

The SGA budget added up to $18,668,921 for the 2016-2017 school year. Last year’s budget was $15,852,689.

“The amount of money that FIU provides for the budget depends on the University’s enrollment,” said Gabriela Millan, Student Government Council Comptroller for the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

“The money allocated for the SGA budget comes from the per-credit charge that every student pays for their activities and services fees,” Millan said.

Because of the larger budget, several organizations received more funds this year than they received last year.

Career Services received over $500,000 more than last year for a total of $621,207. The increase was because “the governor has a new performance metric,” according to Millan.

“A performance metric is basically an average of the jobs students get after they graduate,” Millan said.

“Based off of that measurement is how universities get funding because of the new performance metric, they received more funding to accommodate for those changes.”

The number of graduates who find work after graduation is one of 10 metrics the state uses to determine a university’s funding, according to the Florida Board of Governors’ Performance Funding Model available through SGC-MMC, page 2.

SGC-MMM discusses voter literacy

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With a goal to register at least 5,000 students, the Student Government Association at FIU hosted its first “Roo to the Polls” event on Wednesday, Aug. 31 to discuss voter literacy.

SGC-MMC began this initiative, with hopes of attracting Panthers to get registered and vote on Election Day; the first day of the three-day event took place in GC 243 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“It’s an initiative that we started particularly this year just because our main goal as Student Government and the main goal of our president, Alan Collazo and vice president, Michelle Jesus is to increase civic engagement,” said Carolina de Almargo, SGC-MMC press secretary.

During the event, various topics were discussed including the importance of voting, creating a voting plan, as well as the voting resources available to help people become more informed on choosing a candidate.

Miami Dade, Broward, and Monroe County Election Representatives were also available to help students register to vote.

“We found it particularly interesting how this election year is extremely important because we are choosing our president for the next 4 years and it’s been a really important election battling it out,” said Almargo.

Almargo emphasizes the importance of not only being registered to vote, but also being informed on the candidates, their political positions in government and what is it that they do.

Almargo said, “The first day focused on voter literacy and it’s knowing how your vote does count and not the misconception of ‘oh, your vote doesn’t really count’ and what it is that you’re actually voting for.”

Engage Miami, a non-partisan organization, was in charge of leading the discussion throughout the event.

According to Rob Biskupic-Knight, executive director of Engage Miami, the organization’s main priority is to encourage today’s generation to get more involved in government and participate by voting in politics.

“Engage Miami really is focused on getting young people like ourselves understand and how to organize around their issues of choice and also understand the importance of local elections on what may be our issue or issues of choice,” said Biskupic-Knight.

Biskupic-Knight encouraged those who attended the event to take a few minutes to write down topics that angered them or got them “pissed off.” Many of the students mentioned topics such as abortion, Donald Trump, slut shaming and police brutality.

“Here in the city of Miami, there was going to be an ordinance that made it illegal to have tents out on public streets, have sleeping bags and basically it was outlawing against a lot of homeless people’s existence, their humanity and so this really pissed people off and so they began to think, ‘ok, how can we organize young people to change the status quo?’” said Biskupic-Knight.

“It kind of just got started with “how do we get elected officials accountable to solving these problems and how can we get involved and find solutions ourselves?”

Biskupic-Knight stressed that although the general election is extremely important and necessary that we all go out to vote, especially since it occurs once in four years, we should also take into account all the “smaller” elections that occur in between since they tend to impact our daily lives.

During the first part of the event, known as “Voter 101,” Biskupic-Knight mentioned basic information in regards to voting and the many ways people can vote. One way to do so is by printing out a form.
US presidential election comes down to issues

The U.S. presidential election is set to be held Tuesday, Nov. 8, and is being characterized by the national press, which notes that Donald Trump is exhibiting the worst Republican showing among voters in 35 years.

A survey by USA TODAY/Rock, released on Aug. 14, shows Hillary Clinton beating Trump by a 56 percent to 40 percent margin among young voters.

If this trend continues, USA TODAY notes, the Democratic Party could have its third consecutive U.S. presidential double-digit victory since 1952. This could result in a preference for Democratic candidates for years to come.

Strong differences in terms of background and opinions on crucial issues could explain this disparity.

Clinton, who has been a fixture on the political scene since the 1990s, held office as senator for New York for eight years and was then secretary of state in the Obama administration, while Trump has not held public office.

Clinton’s level of experience seems to resonate among young voters.

“I will vote for the first time, for Hillary Clinton,” said senior Emily Mola. “I believe she is the most qualified candidate for this presidency. Understanding law and politics, I believe [Clinton] will be able to lead the nation with a more focused vision.”

Other young voters, however, find the fact that Trumps hails from outside the Beltway appealing. This view is reflected by the hashtag adopted by young Trump supporters, #NeverHillary.

Emphasis on varying issues also accounts for different preferences for president.

According to website InsideGov, Clinton can be identified as a moderate liberal, while Trump calls himself a moderate conservative. In terms of ideology, the same site points out the candidates disagree on most crucial issues.

Clinton believes abortion is a woman’s unrestricted right, the principles that guide affirmative action, and is comfortable with same-sex marriage. Trump disagrees with Clinton on these topics.

In the end, students were able to offer solutions and/or suggestions of organizations to participate in on campus that tackled that particular issue.

For criminal justice reform, for instance, #BlackLivesMatter tied with police brutality was a subtopic referred to and it seems that police authorities contributed more to the violence than act as mediators. On campus, the Black Student Union supported this cause.

“We want it for people to understand that you don’t have to know every detail of politics but definitely do know who you would like to represent you,” Almargo said.

“At such a young age, you don’t really think that issues can start to affect you. Also, if you’re not involved in politics, don’t know who you would like to represent you,” Almargo said.

TODAY notes, the Democratic Party can go now,” Roberts said, “and once a week during Summer B. One copy is available in the New Media Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus buildings, WUC, ARC and Biscayne Bay Campus. Copies are 10 cents for single copies and $1.50 for multiple copies. The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during Summer’s One copy is available in the New Media Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus buildings, WUC, ARC and Biscayne Bay Campus. Copies are 10 cents for single copies and $1.50 for multiple copies. The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during Summer’s One copy is available in the New Media Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus buildings, WUC, ARC and Biscayne Bay Campus. Copies are 10 cents for single copies and $1.50 for multiple copies. The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during Summer’s One copy is available in the New Media Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus buildings, WUC, ARC and Biscayne Bay Campus. Copies are 10 cents for single copies and $1.50 for multiple copies. The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during Summer’s One copy is available in the New Media Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus buildings, WUC, ARC and Biscayne Bay Campus. Copies are 10 cents for single copies and $1.50 for multiple copies. The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during Summer’s One copy is available in the New Media Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus buildings, WUC, ARC and Biscayne Bay Campus. Copies are 10 cents for single copies and $1.50 for multiple copies. The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during Summer’s
Monday, September 12, 2016

HONESTY IS THE WORST POLICY

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The University community. Editors and editorial board members have personal perspectives and reflect individual viewpoints of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

Honesty is the worst policy. 

“I dunno why they call it honesty. I mean, what good could they possibly get out of it. If they were honest, they'd have to admit every sin they've ever done. Truly, it's the worst policy they could have. What do they think the punishment is? A second chance? Rebirth? A brand new day? No, it’s simply the opposite. It’s the exact opposite; it’s just a cruel cruel world...”

— F. Scott Fitzgerald

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When I tell people I’m majoring in theatre, their first response is often a question about my financial future. Everybody wants to know how an actor or designer expects to survive in a society that is trying its utmost to sweep arts and arts education under the rug. Which begs the question: Why theatre? Why do we do it? Why do we dedicate ourselves to an art form that has stigma against it of financial insecurity? Well, first things first, it isn’t an accurate stigma.

According to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, theater majors gain skills such as time management, adaptability and flexibility, ability to work under pressure, a sense of personal discipline, among many others. In fact, a degree in theater is becoming the most transferable arts degree offered in postsecondary educational institutions.

But, of course, the reason why we do this transcends simple monetary issues.

“Ther’s where it all comes together,” said Michael Yawney, a professor in the Theatre Department. “I’ve had to learn how a cathode tube works, the politics of mid-century Chile, female film directors in the silent era, evangelicals, and frog extinction. I’m mentally restless and there aren’t many professions where ongoing learning and ongoing thinking are as essential as in theater.” The idea that theater is a place accepting of the many rings true for many theater artists. Oftentimes, theater artists are displayed as a merry band of misfits, pulling together for a common goal, and while this portrayal tends to be exaggerated, the core idea is still accurate.

“People stumble onto theater because it’s a very tolerant community,” said Wayne Robinson, the head of the Theater Performance program. According to Robinson, for many, the idea of theater is to examine ourselves. It’s a opening for self expression and exploration. But what about the students? It’s easy to speak about an art
When it comes to pledges for a sorority or fraternity there is often negative stigma and prejudice that comes with the idea.

Fraternities began as a way for students to bond together outside of the classroom to have friendly debates about topics they were learning about in class while allowing them to express their thoughts freely. After a while they began to talk about topics other than the ones they were learning in class and formed tight-knit friendships.

But only women wanted to join in on the action and thus sororities were born. Before joining a sorority or fraternity one must go through the process of recruitment which is simply a way to best determine which organization suits everyone’s preferences.

Sylvia-Nicole Cecchi of Phi Mu said recruitment wasn’t to like the had pictured prior to joining. “I went in blind which is the best thing for someone. It gives them a real genuine experience. I didn’t expect to become so attached to different organizations and I didn’t expect to find a group I liked,” said Cecchi.

Nelson Barahona of Beta Theta Pi said he decided to join a fraternity after graduating from high school and looking for a place to fit in. Joining was more than the parties and wildness that was the expectation of many. “Knowing that I will be spending the best times in life as well as the worst times in life I have these 77 guys that I can turn to and call my brothers is truly an inspiring thing,” said Barahona.

Edwin Jiron, a member of Pi Kappa Phi, said most people aren’t aware of the philanthropic work Greek organizations are involved with which he finds to be one of the main benefits of joining.

Jiron’s fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, works directly with The Ability Experience which raises awareness and money for people with disabilities. “It helps you grow as a person, it lets you get involved both on and off campus, and it opens you up to much more people with a lot more resources than you would have by yourself,” said Jiron. Joining a Greek organization has long-term benefits, according to Cecchi.

“A long term benefit is being able to transform into a woman you’re proud of. Becoming a leader not only in your sorority, but also in your community,” said Cecchi.
FIU discusses presidential election

USA, PAGE 2

“I agree with Hillary Clinton’s platform on education because as college costs continue to rise, the need to take out loans in the future is also increasing.”

“It is imperative for me to know that I will not end up in debt at the end of my education. [Clinton’s] plans on making college more affordable for low-income students and ensuring that interest rates stay low on loans are some of the reasons why I support her stand on education.”

Mola also cites Clinton’s commitment to reducing the gender wage gap as a reason for her support for the Democratic nominee.

Young Trump supporters, on the other hand, seem more concerned about the economy, national security, and immigration.

At a Trump rally in Youngstown, Ohio, notes the website BuzzFeed, young voters held up placards stating “[the] need [for fewer] illegal aliens,” “makes, North Korea and Iran,” “ISS and the expansion of radical Islam,” national security, illegal immigration, trade, and jobs.

Some young political observers, including those who are not U.S. citizens and will not vote this upcoming election, do not agree with Trump’s approach. Junior Tornas Calderon, who cites foreign policy, taxation, the economy, and immigration as the most important issues this upcoming election, said he agrees with nearly all of Clinton’s policy positions.

“[Clinton] is extremely well qualified,” Calderon said.

However, some Panthers do not find either candidate politically compelling.

“Neither candidate has the potential to lay the foundation for the strongest economy in the world,” said senior Antoine Parratt.

Disappointment with both candidates is voiced by both young Democrats and Republicans.

Despite Clinton’s double-digit lead over Trump among voters under 35, USA TODAY notes she still lags behind former potential Democratic nominee Bernie Sanders among these same voters.

According to an article published by the Associated Press on July 12, headlined “Poll Shows Hillary Clinton is Struggling to Convince Young Voters,” 18 to 30-year-old African- and Asian-Americans tend to have a favorable view of Clinton, while whites and Hispanics are weary of the former secretary of state. According to the AP article, only 26 percent of young whites and 49 percent of Hispanics have a favorable opinion of Clinton.

According to Decode DC, these same supporters understand that they contradict most Millennials’ endorsement of the Democratic nominee, but question whether young voters will impact the election.

Some young Republican voters express similar disappointment for Trump. An Aug. 15 article on website Decode DC stated, “supporting Trump simply comes down to picking the lesser of what they consider to be two evils.”

[“Both] young voters turn out in droves for Trump or not, [millenials] still think Trump has a solid chance,” the website explained.

Students attend Career Expo at BBC

EXPO, PAGE 1

there was one last Career Smart Talk.

“This is my first time; I’ve been to a few tables and they’ve been very informative and nice,” said Saraiyah Black, a senior studying digital media. “Only thing is, it’s kinda heartbreaking

Another student, Noemi Reyes, a junior marketing major said, “It’s nerve racking because as a student who doesn’t know about all these different companies and jobs, you really have to put yourself out [there]. It’s like a blessing because not a lot of school have these career fairs.”

In addition the the students, the employers also responded positively to the career expo.

From the Village of Pinecrest Police Department, Jorge Perez, police officer and background investigator said, “It’s great. This is our second time we’ve attended. We were here during spring time. I believe we got a big response from people.”

There were over 70 employers and professionals in attendance, including United Airlines, Fontainebleau, Peace Corps and Geico.

“Our relationship with employers is huge. We have companies coming back cause we have quality students willing to work,” said Gabriel.

The career expo is only one of the various opportunities offered to students to get a real-world experience.

“All students get something out of this,” the University helping us out in so many ways.” Said Jose Galindo, a junior accounting major.

Before the career expo, the University hosted several events to help students prepare for the expo, with workshops on resume building, networking, and job searching. The Career and Talent Development Department also teamed up with other departments to create games and activities.

For future career expos, students are required to bring their resumes, panther ID and professional attire.

For students who do not own or can not afford professional attire, contact the Career and Talent Development Department office. They are located in the Wolfe University Center, room 255.

Health made easy

SDA HEALTH

Getting into a healthy routine after having a summer full of adventures and eating out can be very difficult.

Most people have trouble starting a healthy routine, let alone keeping it up. It takes determination and self-control.

Being college students, it is important that we create a healthy routine to keep balance in our busy lives. There are three very simple, important things we can do to create a healthy routine in college.

The first is to set aside each time we do-stress and clear your mind from all your responsibilities. It is scientifically proven that people who take time for themselves are actually more successful in the long run. It is like hitting a refresh button once a week.

It’s meant to give you that extra burst of energy to be able to attack the week with a more positive attitude. There are many different things you can do to achieve this, such as going for a long walk, getting a massage, going out to a local coffee shop, trying out a new Panther Fit class at the rec center, or going out to lunch off campus with some friends. Anything that gets your mind off of anything you may be stressing about will definitely help you to have a more successful semester.

The second thing is to create an exercise plan. Whether you enjoy lifting weights or running, it is extremely important to stay active. There are many wonderful opportunities to be active at FIU. The gym and Panther Fit classes are free to all FIU students. There are running paths, intramural sports, and even different trips you can attend for skiing, snowboarding, or white water rafting. The most important thing is to create a plan and set a schedule so that you know when and how long each week you will be getting in some exercise. It is proven that people who exercise regularly are happier, more positive people because of the endorphins that are released during physical activity.

The third, most important aspect of a healthy routine, is what you eat. The typical diet of a college student consists of pizza, macaroni and cheese, and crack cookies. While most college students are on a very tight budget, there are many ways to incorporate healthier options without breaking the bank.

Simply by consciously adding fruits and vegetables into your diet can make you feel better and slowly transition you into a healthier diet. Allowing yourself to have a sweet treat once or twice a week instead of everyday can also make a difference. Little things like this begin to train your body to realize that it will only get treats once in a while, so that when you do have them, you will enjoy them so much more because they are a delicacy to you now.

By incorporating these 3 things into your busy schedules, you will see a big difference in how you feel and your success in the upcoming semester.

SDA health is a column written by members of the Student Dietetic Association focused on healthy living for students. To contact SDA, email life@fiusm.com
Soccer player and team aim for a memorable season

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Luís Betancur, forward for the FIU men’s soccer team, is looking to making his final season, a historic one. Following a strong season his junior year with 19 points – 9 goals, 1 assist – Betancur wants to leave with his name forever remembered in the books.

Nandi, as his teammates and close friends call him, strives to be the best, often working on drills after practice to improve his game and ensure a great season with the team.

The Panthers currently ranked No. 23 in the nation, ending the season with 12 wins, 7 losses and 1 tie. For this upcoming 2016 season, Betancur and his teammates want to go even further as they defend their Conference USA title.

“After last year, having a great year, it was a good turn around for my college career. I realized it’s my last year, who knows if we could do it again? We only had two of our seniors leaving, ... We have a big returning group, so I felt like if we use what we did last year and do more, we can get further in the NCAA tournament and try to win conference again,” Betancur said.

With a widely diverse group of players, Betancur believes having players with different backgrounds and cultures only make their bond more special.

“Were are from everywhere, we are from Colombia, Jamaica, France, Germany, etc. My recruiting class were like 14 guys, and then we have been a family ever since, this [is] like a brotherhood. We are together as a team and off the field,” said Betancur.

The Panthers will play against the University of Kentucky on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.
Head coach ‘committed,’ serves as mentor and ‘makes it easier for team to balance school and soccer’

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Entering his third season as the head coach of the men’s soccer team, Scott Calabrese has brought success to this program in little time, but has also been a mentor off the field for his players.

In only two seasons, Calabrese transformed the Panthers from a middle-of-the-pack conference team to Conference USA champions and a team now ranked No. 22 in the nation.

Calabrese’s ability to bring the best out of his players on the field isn’t the only thing that stands out to the team. “One of the most important things that he does is that a lot of coaches don’t pay attention to, it’s more of the off-the-field stuff,” says redshirt freshman midfielder Andrew Booth.

Calabrese, according to Booth, makes it easier for the team to balance training, matches and school - a quality that is “really unique.”

“I’ve never had a coach who is this committed,” Booth said. “Always making sure we sleep the right amount, eat the right foods, and keep us hydrated before games, our training regimen is great, so we’re not worried about injury.”

From his days as assistant coach for Clemson and North Carolina, to his days as the head coach at East Tennessee State and FIU, winning seems to follow Calabrese. The Bryant College graduate has had success at every level of the game, and his players take notice of his commitment to the game.

“He’s different than any coach I’ve had. Tactically and as a person,” said defender Juan Benedetty.

The 5-foot-5 senior leftback owes a lot of his success at the collegiate level to Calabrese. Considered undersized by many, Benedetty significantly improved his game over the course of his four years with FIU, and Calabrese was a big part of that, even helping him reach, what he called, his “new prime.”

“I think it’s been great for everyone with Scott being here,” Benedetty said. “On a personal level, last year up until I got injured, he had me playing the best I had ever played. It was like a new prime and obviously Scott has a lot to do with that. He gives me confidence and allows me to play with aggressively.”

A goalkeeper in his playing days, Calabrese remembers what it was like being a student-athlete and how difficult it can be balancing sports, school and a job.

“I don’t think it changes, it gets even harder when you get older and have kids and a job,” Calabrese said. “It’s why he focuses so much on being a mentor in all areas of his players’ college life.”

Calabrese has watched players, namely Daniel Gonzalez, graduate from FIU and continue their career at the next level.

A goalkeeping in his playing days, Calabrese remembers what it was like being a student-athlete and how difficult it can be balancing sports, school and a job.

FIU’s next home game will be played Sept. 17, as the Panthers take on Kentucky in a C-USA battle. Kick-off against the Wildcats will be at 7 p.m.