



# Florida International University

*Student Government Council – Biscayne Bay Campus & FIU at I-75*

**MINUTES**  
**SGC-BBC General Meeting**  
**March 1, 2017**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Allhan W. Mejia, President  
Leonardo Cosio, Vice President  
Meredith Marseille, Comptroller  
Natalia Bertok, Chief of Staff  
Sudyen Navarrete, Chief Justice  
Rachael Rampersad, Director of Public Relations  
Dianne Morales, Director of Events  
Rosemary Hannah, Director of Campus Services  
Jamie Adelson, Director of Lectures  
Gabiella Mutti, Director of Marketing & Social Media  
Juan Martinez, Director of Governmental & Community Relations  
Tonie Jean – Speaker of the Senate/ Upper Division  
Maria Fauve – Speaker Pro Tempore / At-Large  
Jonathan Espino – Arts, Sciences and Education  
Hala Baaj – Arts, Sciences and Education  
Harry Castillo – Communication + Journalism  
Ronan Kelly – Lower Division  
Zhe Huang – At-Large  
Mitesh Addhate – Graduate  
Daniel Velasquez – Deputy Commissioner  
Yihui Zhang – Secretary  
Shenglei Wang – Events Coordinator

**EXCUSED**

Tamera Thompson – Hospitality Management  
Micaela Suarez – At-Large  
Anastasiya Sizova, Director of Elections

**ABSENT**

Junxia Wang, Director of International Student Services  
Shawn Robinson – Upper Division

### **GUEST**

Larissa Adames – Assistant Director of Campus Life/SGA Advisor  
Gerald Johnson – Graduate Assistant  
Kerrie Montgomery, Director of Campus Life-BBC

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Government Association (BBC) held a meeting on Date – Locale (**Room 221**) The meeting was called to order at **3:35**, approximately, by President **Allhan W. Mejia** who presided over the meeting in its entirety.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- President, Mejia, acknowledged the fact that all council members wore the appropriate attire for the meeting
- President, Mejia, said that SGA is currently in budget season. The last BBC Specific Deliberations will be held on Friday, March 3, 2017. The last U-WIDE Budget Deliberation will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2017.
- President, Mejia, said that any council members are welcome to come to the deliberation for it would be a great way to see how the money is allocated to different organizations funded by SGA.
- President, Mejia, said that Vice President, Cosio, is currently working on a way to apply a shuttle bus fee discount for students who take the shuttle for a certain amount of days throughout the week.
- President, Mejia, said that every E-BOARD Council Member is working on a specific project, which they will present in their reports.
- President, Mejia, said that the project he is overseeing is the Mangrove Wall, which should be incorporated after Day on the Bay. The wall will not be on campus however, they will be growing mangroves and they will be displayed. This project is waiting for approval.

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Vice President, Cosio, said that he is planning on meeting with Parking and Transportation to see if a bus shuttle fee discount can be provided for students who take the shuttle a certain amount of times per week. If any council members have any suggestions regarding that they are welcome to speak to the president or vice president.
- Vice President, Cosio, thanked all SGA Members for participating in the Snapchat Event held and stated that FIU social media is open to SGA taking over the FIU snapchat again; this will help bring awareness of SGA to students
- Vice President, Cosio, said that his E-Board project will be focusing on revamping the WUC second and third floor study rooms. He is planning on replacing the current furniture with new smart tables by this semester.
- Vice President, Cosio, along with the Speaker Pro-Tempore and the advisor Adames, is working on improving the FIU SGA website. This decision was made due to the issues they have encountered regarding students completing the wrong files and difficulties navigating the website as a whole. The website is set to be updated by this semester as well.

## **COMPTROLLER'S REPORT**

- Comptroller, Marseille, notified the council of the approval of the emoluments by the Senate.
- Comptroller, Marseille, said that the Vice President of Student Affairs has approved the changes that will be made to the website.
- Comptroller, Marseille, said that the finance committee chair, Micaela, and her have been working on improving the file for funds request forms for both Graduate students and the general form as well. Once done the forms will have to be approved by the finance committee within the Senate.
- Comptroller, Marseille, along with Chief of Staff, Bertok, she has been working on the Zen Garden. They plan on placing a chalkboard wall in that area so that students can leave positive messages and revamping that area.
- Comptroller, Marseille, reminded the council that the last meeting for the BBC Budget deliberation is this Friday, March 3, 2017, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All council members are welcomed to attend the meeting as well, if available.

## **CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT**

- Chief of Staff, Bertok, confirmed that she is working alongside Comptroller, Marseille, to create the Zen Garden. Which is meant to be a relaxing meditation space on campus open to all students. A reason why students don't utilize that area is due to the lack of shade; in order to compensate for that there will be new creative furniture added to provide shade and make the space more comfortable for students.
- Chief of Staff, Bertok, said that Director of Governmental & Community Relations, Martinez, held a great event last week; during which mayors and representatives of different cities discussed the projects they have planned for their respective cities and answered questions from the audience. Some Council members were able to make an appearance to that event as well.
- Chief of Staff, Bertok, said that Director of Lectures, Adelson, has been planning the next Lecture Series which will be held on March 7, 2017. Michelle Bernstein is the speaker. All council members are encouraged to demonstrate their support by attending the lecture if they are available.

## **SENATE SPEAKER REPORT.**

- Speaker, Jean, along with Vice President, Cosio, and Speaker Pro-Tempore, Fauve, said the senate has been working on Advising Week.
- Speaker, Jean, said that as of now they plan on having a day where students can meet with the advisor of the respective department. Each day will be dedicated to Departments represented at the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, the last will be dedicated to students who are part of departments that are not represented on the Biscayne Bay Campus but that either live here or take at least some of their classes here.

President, Mejia, explained that it is the first time SGA has done this event, Advising Week. It is meant to replace the former event, Meet Your Dean, in which students would be able to meet the Dean of their respective Departments. However, since there is only one Dean on this Campus it would not be effective to still hold that event. Advising Week will allow SGA to help students go through the process of obtaining their classes for the Summer and Fall semester more smoothly.

President, Mejia, urged the Council to attend and help this event if they are present on that day.

## **SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE REPORT**

- Speaker Pro-Tempore, Fauve, said that the project she will be working on is a reflexology path; which she hopes to have completed by this month. She explained that this path is made of rocks which target different pressure points and will ultimately help students and/or visitors distress. This project idea came from a trip the E-board took to Nova which is where they experienced the reflexology path themselves firsthand.
- Speaker Pro-Tempore, Fauve, said that she has spoken to the women who create the reflexology path at NOVA in order to get more information and build one here at the Biscayne Bay Campus.
- Speaker Pro-Tempore, Fauve, stated that as of now she is working on this project on her own with the support of the E-board, but if any council members would like to work on this project along with her they are welcome to reach out to her.

President Mejia said that the Reflexology path is one of the top two projects SGA, more specifically the E-board, is trying to accomplish. President Mejia also explained that FIU would be the first public school to have a Reflexology Path, if SGA were to build one on this campus. This is a great opportunity for FIU and a great resource for both FIU students and visitors as well, as a way to relieve stress and any pressure they might be going through. More information on this project will be given to the council through email next week. The benefits of a reflexology path will be included in that email.

## **CHIEF JUSTICE REPORT**

- Chief Justice, Navarette, said that as of now she is the only person in the Judicial Branch and encourages all council members to notify her of anyone who would be interested in joining the Judicial branch.

## **ADVISOR REPORT**

- Ms.Adames said that the BBC Specific budget will be on March 3, 2017 at 10:00 am in WUC 221. All Council members are welcome to see how SGA is funding the different councils and organizations on our campus
- Ms.Adames said that there will be a reception after the Michelle Bernstein Lecture on March 7, 2017. Marcy sent out invitations for that event as well.
- Ms.Adames encouraged the council members to also attend the Women Who Lead Conference. The keynote speaker will be Angela Davis who is an important figure in Social Justice and Civil Rights.
- Ms.Adames said that the Leadership Banquet is scheduled to be on April 18, 2017. Council members should receive an invitation some time next week.
- Ms.Adames said that Wolfe Day is on March 30th. This day is meant to honor President Wolfe's Legacy for he, in a sense, created this campus. The theme will be Game of Wolfe and there will be two costume contests. The prizes will be a \$50 meal vouchers and a free pizza party.
- Ms.Adames confirmed that SGA will be entering the contest as well and should notify Adam Bernstein of any ideas he or she may have; and that a flyer will be sent out tomorrow concerning the event.

- Director of Campus Life, Montgomery, said that SPC is currently having an exhibit of Urban Art today and tomorrow at Panther Square. In addition, someone is painting something as of now and there will be body art for tomorrow as well.  
Director of Campus Life, Montgomery, said that tickets still remain for the Annie Broadway show. The office is only accepting cash as a form of payment. They are giving out only one ticket per person.  
Director of Campus Life, Montgomery, notified the council that there will be a bus available tomorrow for those who are going to the Museum in Miami Beach, all are welcome to sign up for that.

President Mejia said that the biggest project E-board voted on will be a cut out of the “FIU” letters, with the letter “I” made hollow. The idea is for graduating students to be able to take a picture standing in the middle of the letter “I”. The FIU letters are meant to glow in the dark as well. This project will stand as a new FIU BBC tradition and will be displayed by the gazebo located by the library. This project will stand as the first priority amongst all others.

President Mejia, shared the picture of what the project will look like and stated that any comments or concerns should be addressed to the E-board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Tonie’s Presentation to the SGA Council**

Speaker Jean, presented herself to the Council and explained why her position should be moved to Upper Division.

Senator Mitesh moved to appoint Speaker Jean as Upper Division Senator.

Senator Castillo seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Senator Jean – Yay  
 Senator Fauve – Yay  
 Senator Espino – Yay  
 Senator Baaj – Yay  
 Senator Castillo – Yay  
 Senator Kelly – Yay  
 Senator Huang – Yay  
 Senator Addhate – Yay

By a unanimous vote of 8/0/0 Tonie Jean was appointed Upper Division Senator.

### **b. Hours Issues**

President Mejia said that he did not appreciate the Office Horus report he received from Senator Espino.

President Mejia explained that as the Internal Affairs Chair, Senator Espino sees and reports the hours for the Senate, Cabinet and Judicial Branch. The report demonstrated that some council members had not done the office hours required of them.

President Mejia stated that if any council member is not doing what they are required to do in regards to attending meetings and completing office hours they will go through the process of impeachment.

President Mejia reminded the council members of how many office hours they are required to take. No excuses will be taken and it is expected for all members to do what they are asked to. Any questions regarding anything mentioned should be asked to the president personally.

### **c. Open**

The council was reminded that the Michelle Bernstein Lecture will be held on March 7, 2017 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The reception will be held at 7:40 and all of SGA is welcome to attend the lecture and will have the opportunity to take a picture with Bernstein as well.

President Mejia said that SGA is planning on going to FIU @ I-75 on Tuesday March 6, 2017 instead of Wednesday March 7, 2017; this is to prevent conflicts with the Michelle Bernstein Lecture. They will be meeting at 4:30pm, the latest 5-5:30. This will be a great way to show our support for that campus since SGA BBC does represent them and FIU @ I-75 is holding their Spirit Week as well.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- President Mejia said that Chief of Staff, Bertok, Vice President, Cosio, Comptroller, Meredith, and SGA Advisor, Ms. Adames will be attending FIU Day on March 21st. FIU Day will be held in Tallahassee; there they will be lobbying for FIU's legislative state priorities.
- President Mejia said that the council should be volunteering to hold a social media campaign while they are gone. The rest of the student body should be aware of FIU Day and should also participate by posting on Social Media.
- Vice-President, Cosio, said that Advising week will be held on the same week as FIU Day, However, he's sure the event should go smoothly regardless.
- Ms. Adames said that they will be doing Rally in Tally on Wednesday March 22, 2017. She explained that the group of students that go to Tallahassee will rally and promote FIU on a larger scale. Details on transportation will be given to the Council via email.
- Professional dining and etiquette workshop next Thursday needs four more people. They will go through three course meals. The attire will be Business/Professional
  - President Mejia said that if any council members would like to attend will need to notify Comptroller Marseille.
- Vice President, Cosio, said that he and another senator were the only ones to attend the previous Senate workshop Gerald had. There will be another workshop before the next senate meeting in WUC 221 and hopes the Senate will attend.
- President Mejia said that the Senate Legislation Workshop on Monday 6, 2017, will be mandatory from now on. All senators are expected to be there unless they are in class.

- Speaker, Jean, said that if a senator will not be able to attend the workshop he or she will need to email their schedule to her.
- Speaker pro-Tempore, Fauve, said that the Legislation workshop will also include Robert's Rules and Chains of Command and would be a great resource for not only the Senate but all Council members.
- Director of Events, Morales, said that she will need five council members to take photos for FIU Day on the Bay flyers. Anyone who is interested in participating will need to notify her via email.
- Ms. Adames said that after this meeting she will need to take a group picture of the council in order to add it to the yearbook.
- President, Mejia, said that the composite pictures will be held on April 12, 2017, a Wednesday. Pictures will be taken individually. If council members do not attend they will not be able to take a picture. It does not take too long, and each member will be able to choose whichever picture they prefer the most.

The meeting was adjourned by President Mejia at 4:33 pm.