

**FIU****Student Government  
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## SGA Budget Hearings 2024-2025

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 2, 2024

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 9:46

## II. Roll Call

a.

Name	Position	Attendance
Alexander Sutton	Student Body President	Present
Santana Way	Student Body Vice President	Present
Iara Raggio	Comptroller	Present
Natalie Martinez	Executive Administrator	Present
Grace McCullough	Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus	
Kaily Lachapelle	Senate President	Present
Tiara Campbell	Senate President Pro-Tempore	
Karina Hernandez	Senate Floor Leader	

b. Quorum is established

## III. New Business

- a. Student Affairs Technology Center
  - i. Presentation starts at 9:47
  - ii. Pedro Guerra presents.
  - iii. Provides quality IT support
  - iv. 4 members on the team
  - v. Information
    - 1. Services student affairs

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2. 42 departments
        3. 1000 machines
      - vi. Budget - \$17284
        1. BOMGAR License Renewal
        2. IT Tech position
        3. 5% shared services
      - vii. Presentation ends at 9:52
    - b. Multi Faith Council
      - i. Presentation starts at 9:56
      - ii. Samuel Huxford presents.
      - iii. Council of many faith organizations on campus
      - iv. Faith Fair
        1. Welcome students at FIU
        2. Explore and pursue spirituality
        3. During week of welcome
      - v. Peace feast
        1. Connect students with different faith backgrounds
        2. 100 students this year
      - vi. Resources for multifaith organizations
        1. Must come through multi-faith council
        2. Not under RSO
      - vii. Questions
        1. What would happen if you received the same amount of funding as last year?
          - a. Smaller events
          - b. Missing personal touch and welcoming
          - c. Little resources to host events
      - viii. Presentation ends at 10:11
    - c. Success Courses and Peer Mentoring Program
      - i. Presentation starts at 10:12
      - ii. Alexa Urra and Jennifer Gebelein presents
      - iii. Achievements
        1. Peer mentor trainings
        2. Fall festival

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3. Winter event
  - iv. Funding
    1. PMC
    2. Resources
  - v. Purpose and impact
    1. Peer mentor trainings
    2. Incentive to these student leaders
    3. Promote diversity
  - vi. Top priorities
    1. Funding for 2 PMC positions
  - vii. Attendance
    1. 70+ students
  - viii. Reductions
    1. Cut budget for promotional and marketing materials
  - ix. Request
    1. \$19692
  - x. Presentation ends at 10:23
- d. BMI – University Wide Retreat – Student Tailgate
  - i. Presentation starts at 10:36
  - ii. Jose Toscano presents
  - iii. BMI
    1. Allows the university to play music
    2. Covers whole university
    3. Looks at numbers for university
  - iv. University Wide retreat
    1. All councils
    2. 24 years
    3. Student life and development administrators
    4. Goal for leadership development
    5. University policies
    6. Room reservation and food
  - v. Student tailgate
    1. EMT
    2. Water buffalos

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3. Tents
4. Bathrooms
5. Police
- vi. Questions
  1. What is the breakdown of the \$25,000 for the retreat between room rentals, food, and guest speakers?
    - a. Looking for speakers – paying for travel
    - b. Food – Chartwell’s and snacks \$15000
    - c. Room rental - \$2800-\$4000
  2. How much was leftover?
    - a. Will be sent later
  3. Is there any way to lower the cost of the equipment for the student tailgates?
    - a. Look at games with more attendance
    - b. Getting outside sponsors as well
- vii. Presentation ends at 10:46
- e. Wellness and Recreation Center
  - i. Presentation starts at 11:00
  - ii. Linda Buonano presents
  - iii. Accomplishments
    1. Annual participation increased by 5.5%
    2. YTD trend is consistent
  - iv. A&S supported accomplishments
    1. Refurbishing
    2. Marketing enhancements
  - v. Sport club events
    1. Courts
    2. Multipurpose
    3. Turf
  - vi. Clubs
    1. 17 sports clubs
    2. Another 4 coming possibly
  - vii. Budget priorities - \$34551
    1. Transportation

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2. Lodging
    3. Tournament entry
  - viii. Reductions
    1. Reduction in allocation
    2. Additional fundraising
  - ix. Impact and help so many students
  - x. Presentation ends at 11:11
- f. Student Life & Development – First Night
  - i. Presentation starts at 11:14
  - ii. Jose Toscano presents
  - iii. Only 2 years old
  - iv. 2<sup>nd</sup> largest event besides uncaging
  - v. 71 student organizations
  - vi. Attendance – 7300
  - vii. What goes into it?
    1. Free food and giveaways
    2. Student engagement
    3. Student awareness of resources
  - viii. Budget allocated
    1. Security and police
    2. Parking
    3. Facilities
    4. Table setup
    5. One card
    6. Staging production and lighting
    7. Free food
  - ix. Budget - \$21416
  - x. Questions
    1. Is there any way that we can improve the production quality while also not increasing the price of first night?
      - a. Changing some of the other events
  - xi. Presentation ends at 11:24
- g. Student Media
  - i. Presentation starts at 11:36

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- ii. Elise Gregg and Robert Jaross present
- iii. Events
  - 1. Hybrid boot camp
  - 2. In person and virtual events
- iv. Platforms
  - 1. PantherNow
  - 2. The Roar
  - 3. Newsletter
  - 4. Social media
- v. Student success
  - 1. Employ and provide internships
  - 2. Hands-on experience
  - 3. Managerial roles
  - 4. Career readiness
- vi. Students perform well GPA wise
- vii. Retention rates
  - 1. Close to 100% for many years
- viii. Above average graduation rates
- ix. SPJ
  - 1. Competition
  - 2. Best student publication
  - 3. Best broadcast outlet
  - 4. Best website
- x. Questions
  - 1. How many listeners tune in to the Roar and does it generate any revenue?
    - a. Cannot know the exact numbers
    - b. Range of audiences
  - 2. Has student media ever considered changing The Roar to an internet-based station for cost saving purposes?
    - a. Yes. Selling is difficult at this point in time
    - b. 3 different signals have to be sold
  - 3. How would you address a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in funding?
    - a. Running at bare minimum right now

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4. Have you ever thought to moving everything fully online?
  - a. More difficult for students to access
- xi. Presentation ends at 11:55
- h. Panther Convocation
  - i. Presentation starts at 11:56
  - ii. Jose Toscano presents
  - iii. Very successful and they were turning away students
  - iv. Funding for the outside program
  - v. Live music
  - vi. Photo opportunities
  - vii. Decorations
  - viii. 2 1/1 – 3 hours of engagement
  - ix. Covers food vouchers, parking, and police/security
  - x. Questions
    1. Is there any reasoning that the expected number of students are increasing, and the price of the request is decreasing?
      - a. Working with business services for deal to get vouchers
    2. How are we ensuring that students are not getting turned away?
      - a. Possibly in football stadium
      - b. Other locations are being sought out
    3. Is there a plan to provide a giveaway at the start of convocation again, such as the hats that we provided for this past convocation?
      - a. Strategize to not give out too much at convocation
      - b. Want to use it for First night rather than convocation
  - xi. Presentation ends at 12:07
- i. SGA Main Office
  - i. Presentation starts at 12:10
  - ii. Michelle Castro presents
  - iii. BBC office - \$70263
    1. Main office
    2. Student staff
    3. Phones
  - iv. MMC office - \$156351
    1. Main office

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2. Student assistants
  3. Phones
  4. Training and transition
  5. Repairs and maintenance
  6. Professional development
- v. Questions
1. Would you be able to elaborate on the following lines for the MMC office: main office, training and transition, and professional development?
    - a. Courses, the space, trainings
- vi. Presentation ends at 12:16

## IV. Call to order

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:02

## V. Roll Call

Name	Position	Attendance
Alexander Sutton	Student Body President	Present
Santana Way	Student Body Vice President	Present
Iara Raggio	Comptroller	Present
Natalie Martinez	Executive Administrator	Present
Grace McCullough	Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus	
Kaily Lachapelle	Senate President	
Tiara Campbell	Senate President Pro-Tempore	
Karina Hernandez	Senate Floor Leader	Present

- a. Quorum is established

## VI. New Business Continued

- a. Activity and Service Business Office

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- i. Presentation starts at 2:02
- ii. Silvana Rogelis presents
- iii. Organizations
  1. BSU
  2. RSOC
  3. HC
  4. GPSC
  5. MULTIFAITH
  6. RHA
  7. SPC
- iv. Request - \$41601
- v. Running the office and paying students
- vi. Presentation ends at 2:08
- b. SGA Room Rentals
  - i. Presentation starts at 2:08
  - ii. Michelle Castro and Silvana Rogelis presents
  - iii. Subsidize room rental reservation fees for spaces reserved at GC and WUC
  - iv. Student organizations – 10 rentals per campus
  - v. More student organizations having more events
  - vi. Reductions
    1. Less room covered by organizations
    2. Out of pocket costs for those groups
  - vii. Presentation ends at 2:13
- c. Bayview Housing Council
  - i. Presentation starts at 2:15
  - ii. Larissa Adames presents
  - iii. Mission
    1. Programming
    2. Advocacy
    3. Promote studios and fun living environment
  - iv. Request - \$5538.75
    1. Costs have gone up
    2. Fees
  - v. Additional cost of police at pool parties

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- vi. Questions
  - 1. Are these events open to all students, or just residents?
    - a. All students
  - 2. How many e-board members do you have and how much are they paid? Are you able to explain in more detail the increase in emoluments from last year to this one?
    - a. 5 members
    - b. \$200 a semester
  - 3. If all the e-board seats aren't filled, then what happens to the amount of money left over for the positions that are vacant?
    - a. Used for programming
- vii. Presentation ends at 2:25
- d. Disabled Student Union
  - i. Presentation starts at
  - ii. Amanda Niguilda, Hua Hui Vogel, and Adam Wolson presents
  - iii. Mission
    - 1. Advocacy
    - 2. Increase awareness
    - 3. Bring awareness
  - iv. 46 members on PantherConnect
  - v. Events
    - 1. First night
    - 2. Fall welcome
    - 3. Movie Talk
  - vi. Questions
    - 1. Since there are many collaborations listed, does the budget take this into account?
      - a. Yes
  - vii. Presentation ends at 2:50
- e. Student Life & Development – Alumni Relations
  - i. Presentation starts at 2:55
  - ii. Elias Bardawil presents
  - iii. Goals
    - 1. Increase engagement

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- iv. Request
  - 1. Programming
  - 2. Event planning
  - 3. Student personnel
  - 4. Promotional material
- v. Presentation ends at 3:01
- f. International Student & Scholar Services
  - i. Presentation starts at 3:15
  - ii. Andre Dawson presents
  - iii. Who is ISSS?
    - 1. Promote campus internationalization
    - 2. Immigration compliance
    - 3. Support success of international students
  - iv. Over 4500 international students at FIU
  - v. Funding
    - 1. Events programs, and workshops
    - 2. Impacts student engagement
    - 3. Campus internationalization
    - 4. 2000-5000 participants
  - vi. Many events
    - 1. Welcome fest
    - 2. Education week
    - 3. International peer mentor program
    - 4. Florida International Leadership council
    - 5. Conference
  - vii. Request
    - 1. Two graduate assistants
  - viii. Questions
    - 1. How will the ISSS adjust or be affected by the Florida law identifying China as a “country of concern”?
      - a. Steps are being taken to follow guidelines while making students comfortable

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2. SGA allocated ISSS \$20,000 for the current fiscal year. Is there a reason why this was left off ISSS's budget request for this year or was your intention more just to start fresh?
  - a. Seems to be a mistake but will provide at later time
3. Can we get a breakdown with more details of the funds you're requesting?
  - a. Will be sending a more detailed breakdown of budget
- ix. Presentation ends at 3:30
- g. International Student Union
  - i. Presentation starts at 3:34
  - ii. Marc Gedeon presents
  - iii. Advocating for international students from diverse backgrounds
  - iv. Priorities
    1. International events
      - a. Education week
      - b. World fair
    2. Cultural education
      - a. Workshops
      - b. Panelist discussions
    3. Fundraising & scholarship
      - a. Talent show
      - b. Fashion show
  - v. A community for international students
  - vi. Panels and workshops
  - vii. Overview
    1. 20% international education week
    2. 15% workshop & panel
    3. 30% scholarship
    4. 15% operation
    5. 20% fundraising
  - viii. Questions
    1. Why were funds requested to be allocated to ISU and ISSS, given that both organizations share similar objectives?
      - a. ISSS is not the first place students want to go

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- b. Allows for leadership and support
      - c. Refer them to these other programs and offices
      - d. You don't have to be international
    - 2. Is any part of your budget going towards stipends for your e-board or strictly programming and education?
      - a. Operation will be going to e-board
  - ix. Presentation ends at 3:48
- h. Student Government Council
  - i. Presentation starts at 3:50
  - ii. Michelle Castro presents
  - iii. Overall request - \$1,250,175
  - iv. Reductions
    - 1. Reassess the lines and events
  - v. Priorities
    - 1. Emoluments as per Constitution
  - vi. Presentation ends at 3:56
- i. Medical Student Council
  - i. Presentation starts 4:16
  - ii. Alexandra Goldman presents
  - iii. 4 subcommittees
  - iv. Roles
    - 1. Represent medical students or those interested
  - v. Research
    - 1. Travelling makes a up a huge part of budget
    - 2. Promotes growth and development
    - 3. Important for post-medical school
  - vi. Majority of students would not be able to travel to conferences without funding.
  - vii. 261 events
  - viii. Over 4800 attendees
  - ix. 30% that go to medical school come from undergraduate programs
  - x. Goal to serve local and global community
  - xi. Health fair
  - xii. Questions

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1. How much does the College of Medicine contribute to the cost of travel and programs or do you solely rely on SGA for funding for everything that you are trying to accomplish?
  - a. Apply for funding through MSC
  - b. All interest groups funded through them
2. And how many travel events are usually done per semester?
  - a. 188 people are applying usually

xiii. Presentation 4:34

VII. Meeting Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34