



**Student Government
Association**

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 23, 2023

I. Call to Order

A. Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance

1. "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

II. Roll Call

Attendance			
Senator Name	Senators Position	Attendance Status	Additional Note on Senator
Alexandra Barriga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	arrived at 4:07pm
Anastasia Legoute	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Chanita Jacques	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Daniel Del Riesgo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Daniel Salup-Cid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Gabriela Mendez-Ruiz	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Genesis Moreno	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Lerick Sequeira	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Manuela Trejos	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Olivia Gibson	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Anne Martinez	College of Business	Absent	
Brian Velez	College of Business	Present	arrived at 4:16pm
David Almansa	College of Business	Present	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Jose Mejia	College of Business	Present	
Vacant	College of Business	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Vacant	
Rafael Moya-Palacios	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Present	
Erika Noel	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Liana Adaza	College of Engineering and Computing	Absent	
Hua Hui (formerly Samuel)Vogel	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Javier La Rosa	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Absent	
Ciara Jeneske	College of Law	Absent	
Alejandro Arzola	College of Medicine	Present	arrived at 4:49pm
Alyssa Andreus	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Present	
Valeria Herrera	College of Public Health and Social Work	Absent	
Anish Sharma	Honors College	Present	
Jabari Baptiste	Housing- BBC	Present	arrived at 4:07pm
Alexander Stone	Housing- MMC	Present	
Ness Cruz	Housing-MMC	Present	
Rhea Watkins	Housing-MMC	Present	
Yamila Hernandez	Lower Division MMC	Present	
Dale Brochinsky	Lower Division BBC	Present	
Elizabet Ferreira	Online Student Senator	Absent	
Mikele Mancuso	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Zahir Mansuri	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Ahmed Soliman	University Graduate School	Absent	
Haley Dawson	University Graduate School	Present	
Hossam Hussien	University Graduate School	Present	
Kanayo Nomeh	University Graduate School	Present	

FIU**Student Government
Association**

Sarwar Minar	University Graduate School	Present	
Ashley Young	Upper Division BBC	Present	
Vacant	Upper Division BBC	Vacant	
Keren Keys	Upper Division MMC	Present	
Rocki (Raquel) Fleites	Upper Division MMC	Present	
Karina Hernandez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Tiara Campbell	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Kaily La Chapelle	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	

Quorum is Established	Present	33
	Absent	11
	Vacant	3

III. Correction and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

A. None

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

- A. 1. Sen. Watkins requested 10 min to discuss housing updates – approved.
2. Sen. Moya-Palacios requested 5 min to discuss attendance – approved.

V. Invited Speakers

A. Faculty Senate Chair (Noel Barengo)

1. Faculty convocation award ceremony took place. Consensus reached on most matters, some matters back to negotiation table. Course review is ongoing with faculty members involved, plan to finish by Nov 17, will, then open to public comments. ACFS meeting was held in relation to situation in Gaza, the situation is being monitored. One of the parliamentarians resigned, a new member joined. DEI regulation will be reviewed, and a draft will be open for public comments. Some faculty members feel pressured in communication, work on solution is ongoing.
2. Senate Campbell asks about deleting the alumni emails – issue has not been addressed, to be followed up with more information.
3. UC courses on BBC – question about adding more, to be addressed.



**Student Government
Association**

- VI. Public Forum
 - A.
- VII. Committee Reports
 - A. Appropriations Committee
 - 1. Did not meet this week, look for solutions to reach quorum.
 - B. Committee on Rules and Administration
 - 1. No meeting has taken place.
 - C. Graduate and Professional Student Committee
 - 1. Meeting will be this week, working on email legislation, more coffee hours planned.
 - D. University Sustainability and Innovation Committee
 - 1. Did not meet last week, hope to reach quorum this week.
 - E. Health and Well-Being Committee
 - 1. Will meet tomorrow.
 - F. Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee
 - 1. Met last week with some organizations, meeting upcoming.
 - G. International Student Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee
 - 1. Met last week to finalize resolution on housing, work on shuttle service ongoing from the airport to the campus, participation encouraged.
- VIII. Executive Board Reports
 - A. Student Body President Alexander P. Sutton
 - 1. Executive order signed for new equipment in the Wellness and Recreation center, later this week personal safety alarms will be signed off; Nov 1 merch swap is planned for 1-3 pm, volunteers needed. Constitutional convention forum will be held this week on MMC (Wed), Nov 2 on BBC.
 - B. Senate President Kaily Lachapelle
 - 1. Zoom participants to keep cameras on according to rules and procedures. Committees unable to meet quorum, participants should inform the chair 24 h in advance about absences. Nov 16 – meet the Dean, 6-8 pm. BBC meeting on Nov 6, 2 are required per semester. Office hours and open clock discussion will take place today (10 min). Senate meetings will be recorded, to be decided by simple majority.

FIU**Student Government
Association**

- C. Senate President Pro-Tempore Tiara Campbell
 - 1. Most Deans will be in attendance, exam preparation assistance works ongoing. Housing resolution sent to the international student committee.
 - D. Senate Floor Leader Karina Hernandez
 - 1. Attended a conference on climate change; sustainability fair is tomorrow. College of Engineering students are unable to meet funding requests, meetings will be held to follow-up. There are issues with attendance, committee chairs to send lists of members who do not attend, warning will be issued to those not attending meetings and office hours.
 - E. Student Body Vice President Santana Way
 - 1. Student Tailgate on Wednesday, volunteers can contact the Vice President. Wed-Fri: pre-eminence meeting to improve FIU standing and access to research funding.
 - 2. Meeting with athletics will take place.
 - 3. Meeting with medical school representatives took place, Fraternity and Sorority life meeting tonight.
 - F. Comptroller Iara Raggio
 - G. Executive Administrator Mariana Machado
 - H. Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus Grace King
 - I. Chief of Staff Anna Meredith
 - J. Chief Justice Mia Rodriguez
- IX. Vetoed Legislation
- A. None
- X. Unfinished Business
- A. Confirmation of Director of Public Relations and Social Media (Anita Kalombo)
 - 1. Arriving at 5:00pm
 - 2. Candidate presented herself, plans to reach out to students and encourage participation in SGA; has social media experience, would like to inform commuter students about SGA activities and events.
 - 3. Q&A: Sen. Campbell asked about ideas to revamp the Instagram page and engage on other social media; candidate presented her plans on the matter.



**Student Government
Association**

4. Sen. Brochinsky asked about dividing up responsibilities with Ex Administrator, discussion ongoing, collaboration is discussed.
5. Sen. Hernandez asked about balance between professional and fun content of the page, candidate gave her plan to post both professional and fun content.
6. Motion by Sen. Mancuso for placard vote passed. With 26 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions candidate confirmed.

XI. New Business

A. 5-minute presentation on Alumni Email Survey/Petition Results

1. Sen. Minar: online survey with 14 Qs was administered, 104 responses received. 93% said they will have difficulties with the new policy. 71% said they will be very negatively affected on a scale of 1 to 10. 98% are active users of FIU email. 97% said lifetime access policy is important. Diverse group of students and staff participated. Working to get more responses and to draft a resolution, talk to the administration.

B. 10-minute discussion, with a 2-minute speaking time on the Alumni Email Resolution

1. Sen. Campbell commented on the small number of responses to survey and posting the survey online to get more responses. Sen. Minar: tried to email alumni but could not get response, plans to reach out to more.
2. Sen. Nomeh: the policy would affect graduate students, suggests spreading to survey for more responses; job opportunities may be affected. House should support the advancement of the petition.
3. Sen. Dawson: 600 signatures on the petition obtained, alumni associations are interested, as well as faculty members.
4. Sen. Mansuri: recommended reaching out to more groups.

C. 10-minute discussion, with a 2-minute speaking time on Office Hours

1. Sen. Campbell: senators' time in the office, tabling, events, coffee hours are considered office hours, no other activities.
2. Sen. Lachapelle: open time clock platform feedback requested and opinions on a better platform.
3. Sen. Moya-Palacios suggests having sign-in sheets for office hours.

FIU**Student Government
Association**

4. Sen. Legoute: forgets to sign in on open time clock and suggests people on zoom to use it, those coming in person can use sign-in sheet. If attending an event cannot sign in, also if being out talking to the student body.
5. Sen. Brochinsky: at BBC open time clock works on a tablet, suggests the same way at MMC.
6. Sen. Dawson: asked Sen. Karina Hernandez about viable solutions, difficult to track attendance for multiple events, suggests using an Excel sheet with names and attendance, will be investigated, along with the tablet solution.
7. Larissa Adames: can investigate a tablet solution or a computer.

D. A 10 min discussion on housing

1. Sen. Watkins: international students will be in the priority group for next semester, upper classmen will not have housing space.
2. Sen. Mancuso: asked about rationale behind upper classmen decision, Sen. Watkins: the reason is to accommodate first-year students since they are more active on campus.
3. Sen. Stone: class size has been increasing, the administration would like to give first-year opportunity to live on campus.
4. Sen. Campbell: the likelihood of first-year students dropping out is statistically less when they live on campus. Would like to start a petition to prevent upper classmen to be made to live off campus.
5. Sen. Cruz: mentioned housing costs in Miami
6. Sen. Barriga: some students live 2+ h away from campus, some are considering transferring out due to not being able to afford housing.
7. Sen. Sutton: board of trustees is aware of the issue, the issue under discussion and the administration may have no other options. More housing construction planned on campus but is a long-term plan.
8. Sen. Sharma motioned to extend by 5 min, passed.
9. Sen. Sharma: FIU bought some apartments at Identity and 109 Tower for on campus-operated housing.
10. Sen. Way: Housing plans to assist in finding alternative housing, the board of directors of the CoM proposed a new building but there is no land; solution to use UA not optimal.

FIU**Student Government
Association**

11. Sen. Watkins: surveys and conferences being held with developers for new housing plans, need must be stated.
12. Sen. Mancuso: mentioned lack of affordable housing
13. Sen. Cruz: housing insecurity will lead to poor academic performance and activity, suggests engaging with officials for action plan.
14. Sen. Salup-Cid motioned to extend discussion by 7 min, passed.
15. Sen. Way: financial aid differentiates between on- and off-campus housing. Decision communication by the administration is not optimal.
16. Sen. Lachapelle: off-campus housing not affordable for students, action for affordable housing proposed, resolution should be started, and awareness created among students.
17. Sen. Legoute: the issue is not living off campus but the cost of housing, in the resolution price of housing should be highlighted.
18. Sen. Watkins: would like to ensure a long-term solution since forcing upper classmen out of on-campus housing does not reflect well on the university.
19. Sen. Stone motioned to extend by 5 min, motion passed.
20. Sen. Stone: mentioned the issue of junior students needing to navigate housing when they become upper classmen.
21. Sen. Karina Hernandez: students can speak out in addition to resolution.
22. Sen. Barriga: housing should be a fair issue since it can affect graduation rates.
23. Sen. Way: the administration considers the current strategy appropriate, the effects on students need to be communicated.
24. Sen. Nomeh: the issue affects graduate and international students, awareness needs to be raised for the authorities, short-term solution needed as off-campus housing is unaffordable.
25. Sen. Campbell: motioned to add the issue to new business for the next session passed. Motion to move to announcements passed.

XII. Senate Forum

A.

XIII. Announcements

A. Sustainability Fair- 10.24.2023- GC Lawns 10am-2pm

B. Join to Lead Event- 10.25.2023 10am-12noon.

FIU**Student Government
Association**

- C. Day on the Bay- 10.28.2023- 9am-12noon
 - D. Elections Info Session 11.02.2023- 3pm- Via zoom
 - E. Senate Meeting at BBC- 11.06.2023
 - F. FIU Football Watch party-11.11.2023- Tamiami & Bayview
 - G. SGA Party Applications Open-11.13.2023
 - H. Meet Your Dean- 11.16.2023- 6pm-8pm
- XIV. Advisor Reports
- A. Larissa Adames: Nov 20 composite day
- XV. Meeting Adjournment
- A. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.