



Student Government Association

The 42nd Session of the Student Body Senate

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025

- I. Call to Order at 4:15pm
- II. FIU Alma Mater
- III. Roll Call

Attendance

Senator Name	Senators Position	Attendance Status	Additional Note on Senator
Carisa Lynch	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Elizabeth Ekechi	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Brianna Romeo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Ariana Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Jerilyn Davis	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Sean Remedios	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	
Janine Villalonga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Samantha Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Kleio "Kae" Jung	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	
Sophia Gonzalez	College of Business	Absent	
Fernando Menendez	College of Business	Present	

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Alejandro Madrigal	College of Business	Present	
Andrew Martinez	College of Business	Absent	
Vacant	FIU at I-75 Senator	Vacant	
Kirsten Maxwell	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	
Bayan Abedulazis	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Present	
Amelia Luque	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	
Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Jaedon Charles	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Ashley Prado	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Vacant	College of Engineering and Computing	Vacant	
Kamila Gonzalez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	
Vacant	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Vacant	
Natalie Jusino	College of Law	Present	
Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Present	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	
Alexis Lofton	College of Public Health and Social Work	Present	
Brianna Diaz	Honors College	Absent	

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Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present	
Trey Saunders	Housing-MMC	Present	arrived at 4:30pm
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	
Vacant	Housing- MMC	Vacant	
Alison Stangl	Lower Division	Present	
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Present	
Sohpia Dias Peixoto	Online Student Senator	Present	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	
Selma Sena	School of International and Public Affairs	Absent	
David Riera	University Graduate School	Present	
Lina Peralta	University Graduate School	Present	
Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Present	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	
Clover Cruz	Upper Division	Present	
Emma Selkowitz	Upper Division	Present	
Shameka Jean- Baptiste	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	
Marville Marcelin	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	
Tiffany Lindsay	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	

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Vacant	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Vacant	
Vacant	Vacant (Floor Leader spot)	Vacant	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	
Faith St. Rose	College of Business	Present	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	

Quorum is Established	Present	35
	Absent	11
	Vacant	10

IV. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

A. October 13, 2025, were approved unanimously approved.

V. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Speaker Pro Tempore St. Rose moved to amend the agenda to move Dr. Borrego as the first speaker by unanimous consent. Motion passed by unanimous vote

VI. Invited Speakers

- A. Nairobi Abrams – FIU Give Day Competition scholarship initiative is under her umbrella she's seeking participation for raising money for scholarships focused on capital projects raised 831 million competition for student orgs for opportunity to win catering support 1000 dollars have a year to use it starts February 2 march 25 2nd place 500 dollars student orgs Greek orgs and academic orgs have 3 different challenges training session to help out encourage people to participate training in October dollars get raised in spring and are available in fall and summer
- B. Noel Barengo – Faculty Senate Chair Report 2 more faculty meetings discuss 45 days provide feedback panel discussions panel for academic freedom follow closely textbook 45 days before semester starts. Commission for higher ed FIU 2026-27 cannot continue



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with the same accreditor.

- C. Dr. John Cozza – FIU Arboretum botanical garden with permanent landscape aligns fully with FIU vision 2030 trees used for education the events fit services around campus going to use all unused space in buildings to enhance learning have student engagement as well as adding interns access stories by barcode on potential trees start with small trees to be planted by students and community volunteers big ask is to plant in premier big space in medical building

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee- Senator Tafur
 - A. Finance Committee approval for Pre-law fair event, Toasty Tuesday and the Cookies and Milk events, all 3 were approved.
- B. Internal Affairs/Floor Leader- Senator Zelkowitz
 - i. went over consequences for hours.
- C. Graduate and Professional Student Committee- Senator Esquivel
 - i. No update
- D. Rules Committee- Senator Gonzalez
 - i. did not meet quorum last week. The next meeting is this Friday at 4pm
- E. Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee- Senator Saunders
 - i. Saunders Paws workshop went over article on forest on campus how to maintain forest food pantry and lack of food SGA can do food drive use and fees for some food for pantry.
- F. Biscayne Bay Campus Legislative Council- Senator Croddy
 - i. establish quorum.
 - ii. day on the bay senators is this Saturday.
 - iii. needed to come to Toasty Tuesday meet n greets events at BBC.
 - iv. launching FIU cares survey
- G. International Student Ad Hoc – Senator Abedulazis:
 - i. November 4th event for a lot of international students will be tabling at the event.
 - ii. online discussion panel last week for Hispanic Heritage Month was successful.
- H. Pre-Professional Ad Hoc – Senator Mata
 - i. did not meet today.



- ii. mock trial awards from our individual FIU people for this past weekend's tournament
 - I. Meet Your Dean Ad-Hoc – Senator Davis
 - i. Will vote in group chat for date in spring.
- VIII. University-Wide Council Reports
 - A. Student Body President Casanova
 - B. Speaker of the Senate Romeo
 - i. BBC Senate Meeting Reminder Nov 10 and 17,
 - ii. Senate Vacancies Interviews this week.
 - C. Speaker Pro-Tempore St. Rose
 - i. Legislation makes sure to follow legislation and email procedure.
 - ii. events for spring planning
 - iii. Henna club 10 dollars all money went to food pantry.
 - iv. Zoom etiquette gives notice for not coming in person.
 - v. to senate Be respectful in senate raise plaque to leave room
 - D. Vice President Caseres
 - E. Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus Menendez
 - F. Lieutenant Governor of the Biscayne Bay Campus
 - G. Comptroller Phillips
- IX. Advisors Report- Larissa James
 - A. Blanca started as Senior Program Coordinator
 - B. On Wednesday SGA at Ikea at 2pm 4pm, the cookies and milk forum is from 4pm-6pm and the Pre-Law Fair will be from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the GC Ballrooms
 - C. Day on the Bay is Saturday. The shuttle leaves at 8am for BBC
- X. New Business
 - A. Clerk of Senate Appointment – Amir Nasr Alfaro, Desiree Labadie Fernandez, Brendan Rodrigues
 - i. Speaker Romeo updated that Amir Nasr Alfaro has removed themselves from the appointment.
 - ii. Desiree Labadee Fernandez presents as a part of the economics program, working as receptionist with her mother, keeping track with administrative

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support. Having attention to detail is strength, has leadership skills working as part of her SGA in high school. I am currently working on a law degree. I am interested in the importance of the position, to keep the senate working for impactful decisions.

- iii. Brendan Rodriguez – first-year students at FIU studying political science. Participated in SGA at FIU has served leadership positions in other community service positions. Focused on organization with minutes for senate meetings. Something that draws him to working with the senate is to provide an organized senate.
- iv. Q&A: Speaker Pro Tempore St. Rose asked What area could they improve upon:
 - 1. Desiree: Can work on coping with stress, tries to build a list to keep organized.
 - 2. Brennan: Struggles with professionalism, very detail orientated which can be a struggle with compromising.
- v. Senator Croddy asked How familiar are they with Microsoft teams?
 - 1. Brennan: Pretty familiar, used it in high school and for his clubs. Currently in a class where half the class is working with excel.
 - 2. Desiree: A little familiar, could be more familiar with it. I have taken a class teaching about everything at Microsoft.
- vi. Senator Ponthieux asked What they think will be the most challenging part of the job and how to navigate it?
 - 1. Desiree: How fast pace everything will be with senate meetings.
 - 2. Brennan: Facilitation with communication between parties.
- vii. Senator Riera asked, “What do they think the senate can improve upon?”
 - 1. B: One thing senate can improve upon is attendance
 - 2. D: Had the same remarks as Brennan on attendance, found people on zoom a bit unexpected.
 - 3. Motion was added to extend Q&A for five minutes failed. Motion to extend Q & A for 3 additional minutes was passed unanimously.
- viii. Senator See asked What skills do they think they bring to the table that the other candidate does not have.
 - 1. D: Remarks that she does not believe anyone is better than someone

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else. Highly organized, minutes will be accurate, very adaptive people.
Does have experience in SGA and National Honors society.

2. B: What might set them apart is his experience in working in student government as well as other leadership positions in the clubs he
- ix. Senator Gonzalez asked, since part of the job is reaching out to people, how would they approach the scenario of someone not reaching back out to them?
 1. B: First email the recipient then follow up. If there is still struggle, speak with the speaker for assistance.
 2. D: Would try to be persistent with the recipient through email and reaching out for assistance by other members.
- x. Senator Mata begins the discussion period Not expecting to take experience into consideration, more so involvement, which both exhibits.
- xi. Senator See Trevor Is not sure about someone who is supposed to be nonpartisan.
- xii. Senator See Is not sure about someone who is supposed to be nonpartisan.
- xiii. Senator Croddy Tanner Finds the decision difficult.
- xiv. Senator Gonzalez Motions to lapse the discussion period.

Vote on Senate Clerk

Senator Name	Senator Position	Attendance	Vote	Reason for Abstention	
Carisa Lynch	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes		Yes
Elizabeth Ekechi	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes		
Alyssa Allen	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent		
Brianna Romeo	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	No		
Ariana Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent		yes
Jerilyn Davis	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent		no

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Sean Remedios	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Absent	Absent	
Janine Villalonga	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Samantha Lopez	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Kleio "Kae" Jung	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Arianna Bencid	College of Arts Sciences and Education	Present	Yes	
Sophia Gonzalez	College of Business	Absent	Absent	
Fernando Menendez	College of Business	Present	No	
Alejandro Madrigal	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Andrew Martinez	College of Business	Absent	Absent	
Vacant	FIU at I-75 Senator	Vacant	Vacant	
Kirsten Maxwell	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	Absent	
Bayan Abedulazis	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Present	No	
Amelia Luque	College of Communication Architecture and the Arts	Absent	Absent	
Julio Bonjoch	College of Engineering and Computing	Present		not present for vote
Jaedon Charles	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Ashley Prado	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Engineering and Computing	Vacant	Vacant	
Kamila Gonzalez	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Trevor See	College of Engineering and Computing	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	College of Law	Present	Yes	

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Angel Herrero	College of Medicine	Present	Yes	
Vacant	College of Nursing and Health Sciences	Vacant	Vacant	
Alexis Lofton	College of Public Health and Social Work	Present		not present for vote
Brianna Diaz	Honors College	Absent	Absent	
Tanner Croddy	Housing- BBC	Present	Yes	
Trey Saunders	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	
Vacant	Housing-MMC	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	Housing- MMC	Vacant	Vacant	
Alison Stangl	Lower Division	Present	Yes	
Sofia Araoz	Lower Division	Present	No	
Sohpia Dias Peixoto	Online Student Senator	Present	Yes	
German Mata	School of International and Public Affairs	Present	Yes	
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David Riera	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Lina Peralta	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Julian Esquivel	University Graduate School	Present	Yes	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	University Graduate School	Vacant	Vacant	
Clover Cruz	Upper Division	Present		not present for vote
Emma Selkowitz	Upper Division	Present	Abstention	not present for presentation
Shameka Jean-Baptiste	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Absent	Absent	
Marville Marcelin	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Ronyde Pontheiux	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	No	

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Tiffany Lindsay	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Present	Yes	
Vacant	Biscayne Bay Campus At-Large Senator	Vacant	Vacant	
Vacant	Vacant (Floor Leader spot)	Vacant	Vacant	
Connor Tafur	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Faith St. Rose	College of Business	Present	Yes	
Isabella Romeo	Housing-MMC	Present	Yes	

Vote Count			
Yes-Desiree	No- Brenden	Abstention	Vacant
26	5	1	10

	Vote	Vote Count	Archive
Motion Passed	Simple Majority	18.5	Passed
	Two-Thirds	23	Passed
	Three-Fifths	21	Passed

With a 26-5-1 vote, Desiree was confirmed as the Clerk of the Senate. She is sworn in as Clerk of SGA

B. Homecoming Court- Marville Marcelin

i. Is running for Homecoming Queen

XI. Senator Forum

A. Senator Gonzalez is organizing blood drive through one blood on Wednesday from 12 – 3pm. Will remind other members of flyers.

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- B. Senator Zelwotiz Reminds other members of completing the 3 hours of office hours that are required weekly. Can reach out to Emma if any issues are presented.
- XII. Public Forum
- A. Shilat Jayo-Acuna: President of panther speech today, this past Sunday had its most recent tournament. Got fourth Novice Speaker at MDC Kendall tournament. Weekly meeting in GC in 273B, GC west Ballroom next Wednesday for information on involvement.
- XIII. Adjournment
- A. Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm