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Community& Government Affairs Meeting Minutes 6/1/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

SUMMER SESSION
June 1st 2011

Called to Order by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 12PM.

Aziz- First item on the agenda is roll call. I will call your name out. Me, I'm here. Rachel Shields? Not here. Sara B, is here.

Bijan- Here.

Aziz- Bianca is excused. Ali is here. Ashlee is excused. Omar is here. Sarah is excused. Tyler is here.

Carpenter- Here.

Aziz- And Lee is not here. So, we have one, two, three, four, five people here. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the agenda. Anyone have any objections?

No objections.

Aziz- Agenda has been accepted. Rachel Shields is here.

Shields- Yes.

Aziz- Just in time. Now we're onto open forum. Does anybody have any announcements? Anything you want to say? Anything you're dying to say? Alright, moving onto new business.

New Business:

Aziz- First thing we're doing is ice breakers. We're going to go around the room and see what you guys did for the weekend. We'll start on this side. Sara first.

Bijan- Okay, well, my weekend, I spent it with my sister, and she goes to UF, so she was down here for the weekend, so we just went out.

Shields- I went to the beach. There was like manatees in Clearwater and they were swimming around people. It was weird and it was really cool.

Rodriguez- Chilled by the pool Saturday, went home Sunday, stayed at home with my dad and did work around the house and went home.

Carpenter- I went home. Memorial Day is my mom's birthday.

Aziz- Tyler right?

Carpenter- Right.

Aziz- Because we need to say each name for the secretary to type in.

Carpenter- Oh yeah.

Antar- Ali yeah. I went to my cousin's graduation and then the graduation party, so that's about it.

Aziz- I went to Hollywood Studios. Alright, now we're moving onto member reports. Your homework. Did you guys check out the websites?

Bijan- Well, I did figure out some names of our legislative...I seriously didn't know that Florida had its own senate. I thought it was like something where like the United States had their own senate and each state has like their own house and like senate. I didn't know that.

Aziz- Okay, that's good.

Senator- Well I didn't know that this was specific but this is all current articles like the Tampa Bay Times and something like that. It's a lot of current events and stuff like that.

Aziz- Did you find anything interesting or relevant to USF like student wise?

Senator- Nothing off the top of my head.

Rodriguez- I wasn't at the last meeting, I didn't hear about the homework.

Tyler- I looked at the student association page and I saw that Cesar was our representative. I didn't know that.

Aziz- Yeah, our student body president is our representative for USF and the other eleven schools, the student body presidents represent us. So, let's say their raising tuition 15% next year, our student body president would be one of the people there to be on our side to say no, we don't want 15%. And we would have data and petitions supporting as evidence.

Carpenter- That's pretty cool.

Antar- I missed the last meeting and I remember the email and I didn't check them.

Aziz- So, next thing up is tent day, which we are having up on Monday, June 6th with University Affairs and the tent day is from 9am to 2-3pm. You don't have to attend the whole stand, but if you have time between then the block from nine to three, you're going to attend for at least 30 minutes. We'll have a

sign in sheet and our location will be right in front of the bull fountain and for the other committee they'll be doing surveys on things like the green fee. On what students like to spend their money on the most and we're doing a petition for recent laws that passed on limiting the amount of early voting days and changes for addresses on the spot and how it affects students, because they're usually moving every semester to different places or...And early voting is sometimes militant; the more time we have the better, the less time is worse for us. And also the bill changing your last name makes it harder to vote. So, we're going to serve a petition and also gauge student opinion in the forming of that, so you know what's going on and hopefully get some signatures for that. And...

Carpenter- Is that all we do at a tent day?

Aziz- That's what we're doing now one tent day, yeah.

Senator- A week?

Aziz- No, we're hoping once a month and in different places about different things. Because during the summer we don't have events happening. So, we'll hold a tent day out front wherever we want. We'll use the iPads or have paper surveys or petitions for them like that and in general we'll be promoting student government as a whole. We'll have stuff out like from marketing, we've got pens and general SG stuff and also we'll be taking student concerns and grievances that they have. I have a form and the last time we did it was, we ask them, do you have any grievances. And if they write it down, they get a prize, because we have different things like a fan and different items that they can get.

Senator- Do we sign up these things before hand, or when they get there.

Aziz- Scott sent out a Doodle to everybody. So, you should check those.

Senator- Did he send that out recently?

Aziz- Yeah, I think like yesterday. So, check it anytime, because I'll be staying there most of the time from nine to one, because I have class at two and he'll be doing it in the afternoon, so he'll need a couple people. You'll be able to interact with students and meet people. And people will be like, oh I didn't know student government did this, when did this happen and like a lot of people have stuff that is inside and they don't have anywhere to go to or know any way to express it and like also the print lab too is something new. People don't know that you can use it everywhere. That's something we could do as well. And also, a lot of the initiatives on campus is a free water bottle you can use, it helps with recycling. So, you'll see when you go. It will be slow at first, then you'll see a lot of people come by and you'll like talk to them and they'll be like yeah... Also, if you have a USF shirt, wear it with your badge, so they know who you are. So they won't be like running away from you. Get away from me.

Senator- Question, if we don't have like USF shirts, how do we get that stuff?

Aziz- If you don't have it, just wear your badge.

Senator- How do we get that as well?

Aziz- Front desk. If you don't have one go to the front desk.

Senator- Is it the information desk or...?

Aziz- Yeah, right here. And hopefully with the petitions, we'll have enough of it, so we can form a resolution to present to...Like here's an example, last year they had a study abroad fee, which was everyone pays a fee, but only a few students get to use the fee...Study abroad. So, it's like a scholarship thing. So, we had discussions and the senate resolution was against the fee. So, with our petition we have enough signatures, we have enough data to know what the student body feels and that they're really against this. Like restricting early voting and stuff like that. So, we'll do a resolution and we'll send it and write it up. And it will be our opposition to that particular topic, so our goal is to do one of these, for every topic, for every issue. This is another one for...This is a more recent one for smoking. If you guys like smoking, not smoking. We've been doing a survey on that and based on the data, this is what the resolution shows. What we support, and then the other sides. And this is actually the election law thing which is in full form and is really long but this is the article version. Which the legislation was shown in early voting days from 14 days to 8 and early voting days went up three days and when also moving county to county, you cannot change your names, stuff like that. This is a physical bill. So, tent day on Monday. We'll have a sign in sheet; be there. If anyone wants to come early to help set up stuff, that would be good. From 9-10AM it's little set up stuff. I'm going to take a few minutes...

Senator- Is there a dress code?

Aziz- Not really a dress code. You'll be interacting with students, talking to them. I'll also be working on getting the mayor here, so right now we are doing logistic things; time and dating. Just to make sure his schedule and our schedule work. We'll be doing kind of like a tent day but we'll have our table there and also participating throughout the event. So, we'll be active with that.

Senator- Have the mayor here for what though? Just to speak?

Aziz- He'll be addressing certain issues, like stuff we have, like concerns and also something we can work on is transportation rides around Tampa Bay. Because our university is at the point where there is a lot of traffic and there's original plans for more buses so what we can do is something like a survey/ gauge the opinion of would you like more buses? Stuff like that. Or we could do like the bull runner to go further off campus. Stuff like that. Get stuff that we can send to them to execute. We'll say like 1,000 students say they would like for the bull runner to go further down Fletcher on that end or further across where Busch Gardens is or further Bruce B Downs. So when money time, it is appropriate to get more buses, they'll be like, you have the evidence, yes, let's do it. Things like that. And also, do you guys have anything you like, like things you notice on campus that you want fixed? Like issues you want fixed, or other stuff that other schools have that you want here?

Rodriguez- There was one thing that I had been actually talking to Matt and Zach about. I don't know if you know at a lot of other schools they have like a stone or a rock that they have and other organizations will go up there and make announcements and it's like a tradition for the schools and I always get a lot of questions since I became a senator and I've gotten a lot of questions and I've thought

about it myself. So, maybe we could start doing research into what would it take and how much it would cost and where the funding would come from and where that would go to.

Aziz- Maybe like starting a new tradition?

Rodriguez- Yeah, I don't know maybe having a statue of a bull up there and people write on it, or a wall or a rock or something like that. I think if we had people visiting from other schools, or people visiting that would be potential students here, I think they would think that would be pretty cool. It would kinda sorta make them want to attend the university. That could be an argument that we could have to the administration when they ask us what is this going to do for the university?

Aziz- Okay. Well, you could most likely talk to Zach and Matt.

Rodriguez- I was just talking about it, because it was something we were going to work on, and I just wanted to bring it up here as well.

Aziz- Yeah, it's a good idea.

Carpenter- I was thinking about building off of his, like the bricks or something like that. You know, that people could pay for...

Aziz- Anything you guys have noticed off campus, like right off campus? Crime or writing on sidewalks or...

Senator- I've seen muggings everywhere.

Aziz- Anything you would want around Tampa Bay.

Senator- One issue that I keep getting, I don't know if this is our jurisdiction or not, but there is a lack of water fountains where there are courts. Basketball courts, tennis courts, any sports facilities; there's always a lack of water fountains. I don't know why.

Aziz- That's something we can do, yeah.

Senator- You've got to get like across campus to fill your water bottle. You'll bring a jug and you'll lose it because you've sweat it all out on the way back.

Aziz- That's something tangible to do.

Senator- Do you know anything about the reservations on the fields?

Senator- I know that they are fixing the Magnolia fields, because they are only being used for intramural sports.

Aziz- We also have something else to work on with veteran affairs, with students in ROTC about a new law that passed, so they can get more scholarships. If you're in the army, but for the most recent, you

get more scholarships for you and your spouse, so I don't know if everyone knows that, so, you can talk to them for that and inform them. And all that stuff. Anything else guys? What do you guys think about the tuition increases?

Senators- It's not fair. It's something that they're going to try and do every year and it's not something they're going to back down from. I mean, Cesar shot it down, you know they're going to try and throw it back down on Matt. It's just something that we have to keep trying to fight I think. It's something that is inevitable.

Aziz- So, could we do a petition for all students against it?

Rodriguez- I think it's something that we're going to have to do every year just to keep fighting for the students.

Aziz- So hopefully on Monday, everybody can come on time, because we're not having committee on Wednesday. That will count as your attendance; attending the tent day. So, anyone have any last questions or announcements?

Adjournment called by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 12:18PM.