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Community & Government Affairs Meeting Minutes 8/31/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

SUMMER SESSION
August 31st 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 4:08PM.

Aziz- First item on the agenda is roll call. I am here. Andrea?

Arrechea- Present.

Aziz- Ashley is unexcused. Bianca Arguilla is unexcused. Elviona Buxheli?

Buxheli- Here.

Aziz- Lee Farrell?

Farrell- Present.

Aziz- Sarah Chaudry is unexcused. Simone Sanders is unexcused...Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the agenda.

Motion to accept the agenda by Senator Farrell.

Aziz- Are there any objections? Agenda accepted. Next item on the agenda is approval of the minutes. Did everybody get the minutes? There were no minutes at all because we didn't have a meeting. Next part is open forum.

Open Forum

Aziz- Anyone have anything they wanna say?

Farrell- I'm looking forward to a great fall semester.

Aziz- Anyone else? Next item on the agenda is new business.

New Business

Aziz- We have a welcome back ice breaker. Is there a motion for unmoderated caucus so Theresa doesn't have to type the minutes?

Motion for unmoderated caucus by Senator Buxheli.

Unmoderated caucus ended.

Aziz- Next item on the agenda is overview of the committee purpose. I'll give you a short PowerPoint about our purpose. We're the committee on community of government affairs. Does anyone want to guess what we do?

Arrechea- We deal with community and government affairs?

Aziz- Close enough. We'll be the person to translate the legal laws to the students to make sure they're informed. And all the state and local and federal laws and government. We also work with University Affairs for student concerns and issues and anything we're doing together. We're really focusing on student awareness and participation. We do tent days. It is our opportunity to take a chance to directly talk to students, know they're concerns, what we do and how we can help them. If we don't have direct answers we can direct them on where to go to have it solved. What we did over the summer is student concerns and issues. We asked students on how they feel if something on campus is wrong. Mostly like parking and issues like that. That's one way we do it. This is the upgraded version. You scan it with your smart phone and it comes into one system and we can also leave voicemails. It's a way for student organizations to solve any problems. Also, we may be brainstorming new ideas on what would you like students at USF to have; some ideas. And also be in contact with FSA. Which are basically all 11 universities in Florida lobbying for student interests. We will be practicing lobbying and preparing ourselves. The event is Rally in Tally. It's for students to be prepared. When we got o Tallahassee, we're on the money and we know what to say and we can bypass the fluff they tell us and get directly to the questions we want answered. We do a lot of collaboration with Government Affairs in Exec. And the student government outreach events are tent days and basically they keep students informed. This is a little thing about community membership and that's it for the PowerPoint. Next item on the agenda is review and analysis of summer committee. What we did was tent days where were set up a teat with marketing materials every two weeks so with that we would like to set it up in levels. We had about 25 people, so that will be our joint tent day. Our first one is September 14th at bulls market. The minimum amount you stay is 30 minutes. You'll be handing out questions. We do surveys that we distribute out. As a committee ourselves, other events are really popular but they're night events; we need 3 or 4 of you to distribute things. That way we'll have a maximum exposure. The whole Senate can do it; meet your senator day. You basically talk to your constituents. Have like these things with you. Talk to people and get to know them and meet people. And that's it for the summer. Basically improve on some things in the summer. So, every two weeks to have a tent day and assign committee members to donate their own tent day. So, you have the responsibility. So, we were planning on bringing Mayor Buckhorn, but he cancelled. Now, we're up to rescheduling. One thing we did over the summer was to write to government officials. We decided that writing to Governor Scott about bills' So, based on that here's a template, we'll probably do this next committee. Introducing yourself, being polite, we'll have our...and

hopefully get a good response. And next item on the agenda is visions and goals for the fall. Basically our vision and goal was to basically be the pulse for the student body, so when this law passes, it raises tuition 1000 dollars, and we'll take steps and we'll know what's going on. Next thing is current events. That's things we need to do is going on websites like Tampabay.com. What I really do is go on Tampabay.com and click on the politics section, but when it comes down to certain things, you just browse, but when it comes to separating campuses, those type of issues you should keep up on. There's also TBO just to browse and see what catches your eye. Next thing is Government Websites. We'll do reading like whose speaker of the state and the state house. So, we'll practice for you guys when you get home to just browse the website. Like the Florida state senate. Like for you guys to go and browse the website to know who the local leaders are and also to create a contact list for yourself. If you have issues we know who you are. Also to build relationships over the year with them. But slowly get to know them and also propose our agenda/concern and hopefully convince them in our favor. Like Mike Haridopolos. Find our district maps and stuff. Next idea is Student Services Idea Generator. You guys have been at USF for over a year, right? Do you have some experiences?

You know how we have safe team? I like how you guys have carts that fit more than two people.

Aziz- Like carts? That's a valid suggestion.

Arrechea- What they do is a combination of Safe Team and the Bull runner. They pick you up at all times all over campus.

Aziz- We'll generate a survey to get student feedback and work with student affairs and exec branch. Do a lot of student survey and feedback. It takes them time to do it but if you really feel passionate about it we'll see how far we can go with the ideas. Next thing on the agenda is vice chair elections. If you guys want to know the duties; it's my right hand man. Sending out agendas, if I can't attend a committee meeting, vice chair will do it for me. That's it for the meeting. Any questions? Any motions?

Motion for adjournment by Senator Farrell.

Adjournment called by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 4:27PM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.