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Community & Government Affairs Meeting Minutes 10/12/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION
October 12th 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 4:02PM.

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

Arrechea- Present.

Aziz-Bianca?

Arguilla- Present.

Aziz- Elviona?

Buxheli- Present.

Aziz- Lee?

Farrell- Present.

Aziz- We're all here. Today is the first day that we have full attendance. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the agenda. Any motions?

Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Arrechea.

Aziz- Any objections? Agenda's been approved. Last week we didn't have committee, so we didn't have any minutes. Next item is open forum

Arrechea- They are hosting something at the MSC 2708 at 8pm if you want to go. They are talking about have we established gender equality and the workforce.

Aziz- That sounds cool. Now we're onto new business. First thing is the ice breaker and we need a motion for unmoderated caucus.

Motion for an unmoderated caucus by Senator Farrell.

Aziz- Any objections? Seeing none. We are now in unmoderated caucus. 4:07. Second item on the agenda is tent day reflection. Last Sunday, Elviona planned it.

Farrell- It went really well. People don't like coming up to the tent. I use it as a base of operation and I wander around.

Buxheli - I agree.

Aziz- What did you learn with it being the first time doing it. Was it easy to do?

Buxheli - It wasn't bad. You were a great help. I'm serious.

Aziz- Anything else anybody want to say about tent day reflections? Next item on the agenda is Tampa Tomorrow reflection. We had it on Monday. 125 people. Considering the size of our committee, it was kind of like half snap. But, knowing that now, we can do better for next time. So, we can better use our club organizations. So, hopefully for next time we'll have a better turn out and be more organized. For us to be growing, we have to work together. Everyone has a different aspect of different stuff, so that's your next event. Next item is meet your senator which Vice Chair Lee is in charge of.

Farrell- Basically I'm working on a Google doc and I'll send it to Rachel to send to the whole senate. We want you to have sort of a mini-tent day kind of thing where you go out to your college and basically hang out information and all that kind of good stuff. We're looking to get you out there into the wild.

Aziz- We're letting you decide the time, place, length and location. We're aiming towards talking to students. People have questions so it will help and you'll be doing that. It will be getting other senators involved since we're having midterm elections right now. It will help them get involved and partner up. It will be good. Next thing is Higher Education Forum. So, what we've been planning since turnout increases and budget cuts, we decided a good way would be to bring the people in charge of appropriations for higher educations for college and veterans instate tuition bring them and we'll ask them questions and grill them to the best we can to get our voice. Because they do all the funding and we're here to show what they fund. So, next time they'll say USF is not just a number and they're concerned and engaged. SO, the goal is to have two state representatives and senators and there's a moderator and it goes around and the day we have is November 10th the day before Veterans Day. We're in the works of partnering veterans services and all those things. Also, co-sponsors. And political science honor society. And right now we're just waiting on confirmation for people. Next thing is upcoming community events and your ideas. Anything in the community your organizations are doing right now?

Arrechea - You're saying what our...

Aziz- Outside of USF like philanthropy stuff or whatever.

Arrechea - Outside of student government or the school? Tomorrow DASA is starting a film series on blacks and Latin America which the first part is the struggle of Haiti and the next part is blacks and Latin America like Mexico and Peru that's tomorrow in MSC 3709 at 7:30.

Aziz- And ideas of where you want the committee to go or to do. Any ideas you guys have?

Arrechea - Like the tent day idea?

Aziz- Any governmental community affairs that you would like us to do.

Arrechea - Today I had an interesting experience where this woman said senators can do whatever they want with their funds and it's sad because we're elected by students and we need to figure out a way for people to get that knowledge and they don't want to go out there and learn and to let people know that we are student elected officials and they can actually come to our senate meetings. I have been telling people you can look at our agenda and minutes and who's on senate.

Aziz- That's a good idea. Lee, was your hand up?

Farrell- I'm not sure if it's something this committee could go after...like high school students because a lot of them are going to go to USF because we're local. So, to get them while they're young.

Aziz- We can figure something out for that because I know other student governments go to high school and do a tour with their student government and give them an insight to college life. One thing I missed was Andrea's tent day is October 20th in front of the library. I didn't email you because I wanted the counsel of technology and research and some of the issues like ours we did that in the summer with surveys but while I was there, the committee and presentation from the library was they want to purchase new computer for the library but they can't because they can't purchase PC's and they don't have any money for improvements and stuff. I was thinking to create a survey for that.

Arrechea - So, basically how would you recommend I put that in question form? It would be...

Aziz- Use the student tech =fee and purchase computers to expand the common area. The main page would be for new technologies and then it would have to be that...let me think...changing the language of the statute from PC's to allow the purchase and stuff like that.

Arrechea - So, you're talking about proposing a statement to the tech fee as it was written.

Aziz- The library wanted that to see if there was student support. The way it's written now is they can't buy PC's with student tech fees. Do you know class room capture? They're doing a pilot program for that. They want student input from that. The software they have is Panopto. The professor can record the voice and use the webcam. The question was what if the student doesn't want their presentation recorded. What do you guys think about that student software?

Farrell- Is it like illuminate?

Aziz- It's like illuminate. It's also for review. They're trying to figure it out without decreasing attendance in classes. They wanted student input on it like student government.

Hughes- So, they want to be able to implement this program but still have high attendance as well.

Aziz- Not the discussion based classes, but they want to do it in a way that the whole class is just listening to it online. You know what I mean. Use it when you're sick but not your main thing.

Buxheli- If it's online, why would you want to go to class? In class my stats teacher plays a video of himself.

Aziz- That's the feedback they're looking for.

Hughes- The point systems of the teachers vary. As far as my classes that I take, teachers take your points away. If you don't come to class, you get points taken away. I feel that I should be able to work my points up. So, depending on what type of point system the teacher uses for attendance, if 500 points equals an A and 250 is from lectures. It would force students to have to go to the lectures; they don't have to go to all of them but they have to get at least that 250 points.

Aziz- With the big lectures, teachers can't take attendance.

Buxheli- I think that teachers shouldn't have to take attendance. If you're sitting in class and you don't want to listen to them anyways, there's ways to distract yourself.

Hughes- How do they want us as students to come up with ideas without overstepping boundaries? We can say to do this and this and that. It may be rules. Essentially, that's a teacher's decision. We don't know what lies under the teachers that we can't do anything about.

Aziz- The idea is that you can gear it towards the classes that have a demand. You're going to do a program on online classes where professors with the slides record, but for the live classes, the professors have the controls of when to put it on and when to take it down but they don't know the disability of how it would work;. That's what they really want us to think it out because if it doesn't they're going to have student feedback and now it's up to the point of how to figure it out and where to go from there. So, I guess it's something to think about.

Farrell- Is student affairs going to create a survey about this?

Aziz- We can create our own because it is kind of ;like a double issue.

Farrell- That's the way to do it to put out a survey or a tent day or something.

Aziz- That is something to think about for today. Anyone have any announcements? Lee?

Farrell- iCloud set up free today. Yay.

Aziz- Any motions?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Arrechea .

Adjournment called by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 4:26PM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.