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Community & Government Affairs Meeting Minutes 10/26/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION
October 26th 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- Check. Bianca?

Arguilla- Present.

Aziz- Elviona?

Buxheli-Present.

Aziz-Lee?

Farrell- Present.

Aziz- Brandon Cook? Unexcused. Sara Greenberg?

Greenberg- Present.

Aziz- Karen Keenan? Unexcused. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the agenda. Andrea?

Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Arrechea.

Aziz- The agenda has been approved. Next item on the agenda is approval of the minutes.

Wilson- Motion to approve the minutes.

Aziz- You are not officially on this committee, you cannot make that motion.

Motion to approve the minutes by Senator Greenberg.

Aziz- Any objections? Minutes approved. Next item is open forum.

Open Forum

Aziz- Any announcements?

Andrea- Tonight, DASA is having a president talk about paid internships. So if you're looking for an internship tonight there will be a representative.

Wilson- is Carl going to be there?

Andrea- Carl? The president of DASA. That was a while ago.

Aziz- Anybody else?

Lee- The Steve Jobs biography is out, purchase a copy at all of your major bookstores.

Aziz- Okay I have awards for people that weren't at Senate last night. One for Lee and two for Andrea. Here you go. Next item on the agenda is new business and first item is ice breaker and welcoming of new committee members. So, we're going to need a motion for an unmoderated caucus.

Motion for an unmoderated caucus by Senator Greenberg.

Aziz- We are now in a unmoderated caucus.

Aziz- We have returned to regular business at 4:09PM. Next item on the agenda is current events. Have you guys heard anything on the news about current events.

Wilson- All I do is watch the news so what do you want to hear? They shot tear gas and rubber bullets at the demonstrators because they were throwing paint and bottles at the police officers. Rick Perry started doing his full first political plugs in Iowa. Talking about lots of non-green stuff. And I don't know there's more protest in Greece to come to a consensus on how to balance their budget and they probably won't do it because we cant. That's just my opinion. I don't know, there's a hurricane headed for...

Aziz- Okay. Anyone else?

Arrechea- I thought it was interesting because they are trying to implement the HPV virus vaccine so boys 13-21 have to get the shot. All three doses cost pediatricians \$300. I thought it was kind of interesting the Marco Rubio's parents came in 1959 and I'm half Cuban so I'm kind of upset. Castro took power in 1959, just FYI.

Aziz- Anybody else? Moving onto your next item on the agenda is the results of the tent day at the library, last week Thursday with Andrea. And we did library surveys and we did student concerns and handed out student government information. Andrea, what did you learn from that tent day and the location?

Arrechea- There are a lot of students eager to put in their input. Some you have to coerce with beads. I didn't think there were going to be that many negatives, but I'm happy they actually said them and they weren't afraid to voice them out.

Aziz- Brian was there also, what did you learn from that?

Brian- I learned volunteering can be fun.

Aziz- Okay, anyone else have anything they want to say. Moving on is another current event, on January third USF will be hosting the GOP Primary event. What are your thoughts on that?

Farrell- I'm glad we're getting a big debate to come to USF. It will show the whole country spot on this.

Arrechea- That is November 23rd?

Aziz- No that's January 23rd.

Wilson- it is a good opportunity to open doors on how things work behind the scenes.

Aziz- Next question: what fashion do you see us in the debate?

Farrell- Use every opportunity to get the word out about it. And also use it as a huge opportunity to bring information into the committee.

Arrechea- I would like to see people's expectations and after what they learn and what they think we did right and just basically the overall opinion on having the GOP here.

Aziz- I was working at the last CNN debate and they had a spin room after, do you think students would be interested in meeting and having a couple minutes to talk to students after if they wanted.

Arrechea- I think there would be a lot of students that would like to interact with the candidates.

Farrell- Like a town hall kind of thing with them?

Aziz- No like a meet your candidate kind of thing.

Wilson- You might want to screen who you have go and met them afterwards.

Aziz- Anyone else have anything?

Greenberg- You could always do, ULS has certain people get invited so you're not having people freak out.

Wilson- You could make it an RSVP kind of thing.

Hassounah- Not to spend too much time on the topic because of the time constraint. The event is scheduled for 10PM and they want a live feed from USF so the probability is kind of slim. It is not necessary for the public. I wouldn't dwell on it too much.

Aziz- Next item on the agenda is updates from government affairs. We have rally in tally on January 26th 2012. And based on the last conversation with Lindsay, like we plan on 1 or 2 buses of people. So, people that went last time, going back for a second time, what do you want a little bit, what would be your expectations this time around? Lee, who was there? Last year rally and tally.

Wilson- I didn't go but I heard it wasn't one on one interactive and they went into little focus groups and it was kind of directed and it wasn't major issues on people's concerns.

Arrechea- I got feedback from a senator saying she met the senators from rally and tally and it boosted her confidence on her outlook of SG as a whole.

Aziz- Before we go we are going to be doing lobbying training. Would you guys be interested so when you go, you will be more trained on what to say. Andrea was saying to be more informed.

Brian- Last year I went but I got involved very late and I didn't know what I was going to say to these senators and I wasn't prepared, so that's a good idea.

Aziz- Any other ideas? Suggestions?

Hassouneh- No I'm here to observe and listen to you guys.

Aziz- University affairs has run a survey on changes in bright futures and their proposals and here's their results. So far we have 50 responses and it's only a couple questions., We have 90 percent of people that are recipients of bright futures. These are possible choices of changes and if you had a choice which places would you put in place? What do you guys think about that?

Hassouneh-How many students was the total?

Aziz- 50.I would have to talk to Scott.

Wilson- 2.75 is fair. I mean that's like a high C or a B right? I mean most departments require that like you have to have a 2.7 I think.

Hassouneh- Was this committee privied to the discussion? Did they help make the questions? Scott's committee made the question s. I gave this to Scott based on a resolution and they covered these points. That's why these questions were tailored this way. There are reasons behind this to gauge this. In the long run I would like the senate to form a position in January.

Aziz- Based on what you see, do you have any other proposals that you think would be an additions to that? Other than raising the GPA?

Arrechea- This was a question for Vice President Johnson. Are you guys still, because I know President Diaz went to capital bill and talked about raising the Pell grants to 2.2., I was wondering because we could add that to the actual...

Aziz- Point of clarification... This is for...

Wilson- What is the current limit for Bright Futures? How many semesters? Or is there one? I know that there is a limit.

Aziz- Last year they are allotted 440 million, now it is 350 million. That's what we are trying to gauge from here. These are mostly from the University of Florida. So, right now there's not much response but... I read a newspaper a couple weeks ago that there is a surplus in the states for medicaid. I don't know if the money can be used for other things.

Wilson- You don't want to because you don't want to take money unless you have an absorbent amount. Almost all higher education funding is going to this kind of thing like the GI bill. If you get financial aid it is deducted from the GI bill and it still counts towards your total allotted. Then they take it off along with the Pell grants so there is a cap to what you receive. There were people taking advantage of the system and making a lot of money from Pell grants.

Aziz- Anyone else have anything? Moving onto the next. Trick or Treat at Greek Village. We were going to do it: me and Scott. But he cancelled. Next item is planning tent day with Bianca.

Arguilla- I wanted to do it Wednesday November 9th.

Aziz- Times?

Arguilla- Isn't it like normally 10 to 2?

Aziz- Pretty much we're not going to lean towards bull market because we've done it too much. Then you would have to reserve your stuff in the business office and do your doodle. We'll be doing three things: student concerns, the survey and international festival and bulls blitz handing out sg stuff. It will be good to talk to dorming students and also we'll have street team. If you have questions about street team you can open it up to other branches. So, we'll have a more diverse group of people to answer questions. Did you want to say anything Lee?

Farrell- *Inaudible*.

Aziz- And next item on the agenda is meet your senator program which lee Farrell is in charge of.

Farrell- I put together the Google doc s thing and I'll shoot it out to Rachel to send out to the other senators to see when it is best for senators to meet.

Aziz- This is our kickoff and the new thing we made.

Arrechea- How would the meet your senator go?

Farrell- It's sort of like a less formal tent day sort of thing. You go to wherever your college is. Then you bring some info about SG and answer questions that any student might have for you.

Aziz- Any other questions? Next item on the agenda is announcements. I've got one announcement. We have pre-fright night before we go to Busch Gardens. Bring stuff it will be in the SG Senate work room.

We have the iFest sign up. We have 24 volunteers and we need 50. We have site leaders signed up and if you have not I have sign-up sheets for you guys. And do we have a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Farrell.

Aziz- Any objections?

Adjournment called by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 4:31PM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.