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## Community & Government Affairs Meeting Minutes 11/02/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION  
November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

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**Meeting called to order by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 4:00PM.**

Aziz- First item on the agenda is roll call. I am here. Andrea? Bianca not present. Elviona not present. Lee?

Farrell- Present.

Aziz- Brandon Cook?

Cook-Present.

Aziz- Sara Greenberg?

Greenberg- Present.

Aziz- James Luis: unexcused. Corey Wilson?

Wilson-Present.

Aziz- Karen Keenan?

Keenan- Present.

Aziz- Okay. Next item on the agenda is additions/deletions to the agenda?

*Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Greenberg.*

Aziz- Any objections? Seeing no objections. Accepted. Next item is approval of the minutes.

Greenberg-There is one email I need to send concerning the minutes.

Aziz- Next item on the agenda is open forum.

## **Open Forum**

Aziz- Are there any announcements?

## **Announcements**

Andrea- Blacks in Latin America want to talk about Mexicans in Peru. We are going to be selling tickets for our annual softball tournament.

Aziz- We have guests Brian James and our director Gary Manka and Justin Donnelly who just walked away. Next item on the agenda is new business. Our next item will be our leadership workshop with Gary Manka. We need a motion for an unmoderated caucus.

*Motion for a five minute unmoderated caucus by Senator Farrell.*

Aziz- Any objections? Seeing none.

## **Unmoderated Caucus.**

Aziz- We have ended our unmoderated caucus. We are now into new business. Next item is current events on higher education in the news.

Greenburg- Did we start the...?

Aziz- Yes, ma'am.

Greenburg- We have the SG busses going to the EOG meeting.

Aziz- Anything else?

Brian- Lindsay Lohan went to jail.

Aziz- As Sara eluded to: the board of governors meeting is November 10<sup>th</sup> next week. SG is taking buses to protest in Boca Raton. The bus leaves at 2:30AM so you can be there early in the morning. The board of governors meeting is to protest to propose the possible split in the polytechnic university.

Arrechea- What would the polytechnic be called.

Wilson- It would be the derivation state college.

Aziz- It is protesting the split. I can see that's kind of hard to get people for 2AM. If anyone wants they can present it in senate and get a signup sheet for anyone interested. Sara. This is the link. I would be good to get a portion of Student Government.

Arrechea- Can you email us this link.

Wilson- How can classes be excused by this?

Aziz- I didn't write it. It is if they can give absences for their excuses. It is a good experience to go because you are getting free food and a free bus ride.

Wilson- How long do you think we'll be there?

Aziz- It's here. It explains everything. They will do a student rally in Boca. The purpose is that USF polytechnic has no money in their budget for a bus. It will be no major expense for us. We are meeting at the Marshall Center at 2AM. It is early because the drive time to Boca. There is no choice. It's the only time really they can leave. They are heading back at 1PM. The signup sheet is pretty basic in Google doc. The aim is to get 100 students but we'll try our best as a committee to get people to sign up. Because people are interested to attend. So, that's Sara's thing for now. Anyone have any questions about the polytechnic issue?

Wilson- There is nothing that specific that I read. Why is it that big of a deal? Some of the students are concerned with losing the credentials.

Aziz- They wanted to make it their own university and businesses have supported that. USF was concerned if it splits you lose that brand recognition and you end up with an unaccredited university. Stuff like that. And also the question was money. Funding because USF polytechnic got funding and USF campus didn't get funding as much as it normally gets. Most of it was politics because recently there was a builders association and an interest group that voted for it.

Wilson- The only thing I read is the other satellite campuses didn't get the public transport money and that's what I read in the Oracle. I'm just trying to figure out how are we going to sell it to other people to make them care? Why should we go and protest it.

Aziz- If you're going to chop out one part of it you're going to lose it. They came to USF polytechnic for a reason and also when you are creating the university system, the budget was cut for all of them. You are dividing that same pool of reduced money for 12 and that will be less money for each university. It creates more problems than solutions.

Arrechea- Where is the Facebook page for this?

Aziz- The student Government page. And what else do I have? Also I have been looking for the legislative session for the trip to Tallahassee. There are only a few bills that show interest for us. Which most of the bills I see are related to veterans' affairs? As we get closer to the session, I will keep you guys updated because I have an email here and it tells you all the bills. Also another thing in the news is that Texas has a new education reform and they cut liberal arts and low enrollment programs and the governor is thinking about cutting the low enrollment programs and just doing that so if the governor takes that issue up more we'll work on that and get student feedback on that. This isn't updated. While this updates, we'll go onto the next one. Student loan reform. Has anyone heard about the executive order for student loan reform?

Farrell- Just that I know president Obama has taken up the issue of outrageous student loans.

Wilson- The last I heard is for federal loans and if you make your payment at 10% of your income for 20 years and you haven't paid it off, your debt will be forgiven and 10% is the max for your flexible income. You can't take out of that. So its 10% and if you pay it for 20 years you are considered forgiven. A social worker may pay 10% a year and never pay off their master's degree, but the argument is with the non-federal loans.

Aziz- Here's a quote I have from the article here "reads quote". So, do you guys have any opinions on that?

Wilson- The problem is not with the deferral loans. Most people run out after two years and then they have to run on non-federal loans which have interest rates.

Aziz- Would this be a lobbying issue?

Arrechea- It is going to after only 1.6. I like the idea but like Corey said, a lot of the students rely on private loans. I don't know if we would be like to lobby the federal loans. We can't do anything about the private loans.

Aziz- Your student voice does count. The student body president did go to Washington for an issue that is really important, the students can do a survey and he can present that evidence and he will have that to talk about.

Farrell- Quick point, it is 1.6 million.

Arrechea- They would be affected positively or negatively? I didn't catch that, they wouldn't have to pay and they would be forgiven in 20 years and not 25 years. What would that do tot hat 1.6. million?

Wilson- They also get 5% less to spend because it is 10% instead of 15%. I don't know how much it depends on what you make. Social worker depends on what they spend.

Aziz- Move onto our next item is the meet your senator program from lee.

Farrell- Rachel will send out a message to senate and she will hopefully do that later today once exchange stops not working for here. I encourage you to sign up and its basically you go out and take the SG table and tent. Bring some info and go meet your senator.

Aziz- When you run for senate you say you are going to do a good job and now you answer the questions and direct them to the right party. Lee is working for that and he will be presenting a power point in the next senate. Also, I want the new senators to work on it and you get Karen or Brandon.

Cook- I'll do it.

Aziz- You guys are meet your senator buddies now. And it is pretty much a one hour set up thing. You are mainly talking with any concerns from students. Any questions about it? Moving onto the next item. Tent day at Juniper Poplar with Bianca. We have approval for Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 2. We will have a DJ. What we need from you...

Arguilla- A doodle form?

Aziz- Yeah we have 15 street team members helping us too and we will be doing the bright future survey too. So, Bianca and Karen you guys can work and sign up people during senate because some people don't go online so pass it around and that's about it. Anyone have any announcements?

Wilson- The student veterans association is hosting their annual veterans weekend events. One is the chili cook-off. If you are interested in having a partner. We advertised for a month and got 90% the day before. That is going to be happening.

Arrechea- To volunteer or to make chili?

Wilson- its one of the only events to cook food and bring it in.

Aziz- Have you completed your survey about the crosswalk bridge with Scott?

Wilson- I haven't actually done it. I didn't know. I had a suggestion for Scott about proposing to senate. On having individuals do environmental science. One of the doors has a one inch gap with no strip at all. That a huge loss of energy.

Aziz- Basically like a night walk for energy stability.

Wilson- You could just have a day where you walk around and fix things throughout the building.

Aziz- You can email me beforehand. Any other announcements? Any motions?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Greenberg.

Aziz- Are there any objections? Seeing none.

**Adjournment called by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 4:50PM.**

*Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.*