6-15-2011

Community & Government Affairs Meeting Minutes 6/15/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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Called to Order by Chairman Abdool Aziz at 12:02PM.


Bijan- Present.

Aziz-Bianca is excused. Ali is here on time.

Aziz-Ashley.

Ashley-Present.

Aziz-Omar?

Rodriguez-Present.

Aziz-Sarah Chaundry. Unexcused. Tyler. Not present. And Lee is....

Farrel- Present.

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

Farrel motions to add to the agenda.

Aziz- Any objections? Motion accepted. Next item on the agenda is approval of the minutes. Motion for approval of the minutes.

Farrel motions to approve the minutes.

Aziz- Any objections? None. Minutes approved. Next item on the agenda is open forum.

Open Forum:

Aziz- Would anyone like to say anything? No one? Okay. Next item on the agenda is announcements. I need a motion for unmoderated caucus.
Farrel motions for unmoderated caucus.

Unmoderated caucus.

Rodriguez motions to end unmoderated caucus.

Aziz- Any objections? Motion approved. We have a visitor here for the executive branch, Lindsay Lewis.

Lewis-Hello everybody. I’m sure you recognize me from last night. I’m Lindsay Lewis. I told you all what I want to work on this next year if you all are still senators. If not, I have an associative director position opening up soon. Other than that...

Sarah Chaundry enters the room.

Aziz- Next item on the agenda is during tent day we took student suggestions. I’ll read some of them off and the ones we decide are best fit, we will accomplish. First suggestion is cheaper food places and healthier food. Next are reduced or limited parking fines or larger parking lots. That’s something we can pass onto transportation. Next suggestion we have is more free printing places.

Rachel Shields here enters the room.

Aziz- So, for the more free printing, what we could do is have an informational about the new policy. Unless we have any other suggestions. Next is...Lee?

Farrel- Do we know why SGCS bumped down their limit?

Rodriguez- For convenience...I don’t think it affects students. I personally don’t think it’s something that’s that big of a deal. Regardless, there’s always somebody that’s not happy. So, this could be something that we vote off of till later.

Aziz- Mainly to maintain the budget. Also, this is a general request and more and more often. And physical plant also has these plans. Also, cross walk directing and directing car and walkers during the day. Right now we have that for when you’re crossing Leroy Collins. If students really feel we need those, we can make a survey and do that during a tent day to see if that’s something they really like. Next one is just a repeat about printing. This one is about personal comfort about the air conditioning. The next one is better training for financial aid workers. The next one is a better tuition breakdown. That we can make a breakdown for student’s tuition. We could explain during tent days. This is also another parking. Also, another suggestion here is a question about buses running down Bruce B Downs. We do have plans for buses on the opposite side of Busch Gardens. We could make a survey about buses down Bruce B Downs if there is enough in the budget. It’s something we could work on. This is one, more public surveys during Blackboard. More surveys online. Also, another one is more bull runner routes. This one is by Busch Gardens. This one is make the Marshall Center feel more like home.

Antar- Aren’t we already doing that on the 4th floor?

Aziz- Yes, another issue we have here is for graduate students. For financial aid. So, that’s it for that.
Lewis- In regards to the parking things, if you pass that along to parking, they already know all of that. They kind of get angry with us. For the next day, we can give you the answers that we give to those people.

Aziz- Did anyone have any suggestions that they really liked?

Ashley- I think more of a crosswalk. Because as a driver it’s frustrating that you’ll be late to class. Nobody in a car will let you go most of the time so that it’s not always good. Maybe where the sun dome is or the library.

Rodriguez- For the financial aid advising is there a way we can draw up a report? A lot of students don’t feel like they are being helped. Is there a way to do that? Is that feasible? Like exactly what was it that wasn’t answered. Did they give the financial aid...The tuition on a paper during tent days. I’d be willing to work on that.

Aziz- Next thing on the agenda is wide space Wi-Fi use. Where the old analog signal...For a one mile wi-fi use. I spoke to IT and right now they don’t have it on their agenda and they said it was a good idea. If we do get it started, we would be one of the first universities on the South East to have it. We will persuade them and also, student services initiatives. We will be breaking off into little groups for you guys to think of student services that you think we should have or from other schools you’d like to model for us to have. So, you can get a list of different universities across the country.

Rodriguez- Georgia State University has a program where their students can get rental vans for a certain number of hours. A few of my friends use it. I think we should look into that.

Aziz- Okay, so that’s a first suggestion. So, after you guys can find and compile a list, we can implement them and suggest it to executive. Next item on the agenda is petitions that we did on tent day. The petitions that we did for the recent election law that was passed, we got one to four signatures and the outcome is that we currently have a lawsuit with them and I can’t do anything with that at the moment and for next time future petitions, we’ll have to work with banning students from parking after 9. We’ll have to create a more detailed sheet explaining it to people. We’ll have more lengthy discussions about that. That’s for next time. And reviewing local laws that passed. Have you reviewed any laws? We’ll postpone that for next week. So, my goal was to get a town hall meeting with Mayor Buckhorn. The whole list of engineering to health care, so I compiled a list of the five W’s and for the dates, we have for the ballroom in the hall either in December or October. The next step, I went for was contacting the president’s office and Mrs. Judy is seeing when the president’s available. So, right now we’re waiting for the dates the president is available, the next step so we’ll meet with her and I’ll be meeting with...so then we’ll set up with the mayor.

Lewis- Our office wants to work with you as well. I know Matt wants me to work with you as well. You can use anything; our resources, our people.

Aziz- I think it’d be good if we both went to the meeting with the president and the lobbyists said they wanted to do it in person like why he should be here to keep his campaign promises. And also for the
mayor, I have a list of all of the local elected officials. We’re going to form little local committees and we’re all going to work on your one on one. What laws their up to and so you’ll be trained on how to lobby and how to speak to them and the procedures for that and you’ll also learn about that and we’ll be having a tent day on June 20th at cooper hall by subway, be there from 9 to 3PM. You can stay a minimum of 30 minutes. I have a signup sheet here for people to sign up so sign up here. Last time we had 17 people and when they came up they gave surveys and petitions. We also have the library right there. We’ll be with Scott’s committee. We are doing a library issue committee and things we want from the mayor the most like jobs and transportation and I’ll be emailing you guys that survey. And I think that is it for now. Anyone have any announcements? Any questions? Motion for adjournment?

*Farrel motions for adjournment.*

Aziz- Any objections?

**Meeting adjourned by chairman Abdoool Aziz at 12:25PM.**

Transcribed by Theresa Rivera.