

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting  
Agenda Item E-1  
October 10, 2017  
City Commission Chambers  
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli  
Vice Mayor Pat Keon  
Commissioner Vince Lago  
Commissioner Frank Quesada  
Commissioner Michael Mena**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark  
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen  
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman  
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Sarah Artecona, University of Miami  
Phillippe Prody  
Adrian Nunez**

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Agenda Item E-1 [10:29:30 a.m.]

Introduction of the University of Miami Student Government and Get Out the Vote organizations

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Personal appearances – Introduction of the University of Miami Student Government get out the vote organizations.

Ms. Artecona: Good morning Mayor and Commissioners, Sarah Artecona from the University of Miami, the recent winner over FSU, like to add that to the equation. Today, I'm delighted that the Mayor has offered and we have accepted a new tradition at the university it will start each fall. We'll be bringing down the head of our student government association, as well as a representative from our get out the vote. Just to give you a flavor of what they are working on for the coming year, so you can put a name with a face with the student population that's right at the university.

Mr. Phillippe Prody: Good morning Mayor, Vice Mayor and members of the Commission, thank you for having us today. My name is Phillippe Prody and I'm a native, currently in my junior year at the University of Miami. I'm here today on behalf of get out the vote, a student organization whose mission is to empower students by registering them to vote and educating them on the issues surrounding us. So recently, we've spearheaded a myriad of on campus initiatives to encourage and facilitate voting, such as the polling station at Watsco Center, which had an 82.6 percent turnout. Moreover, we seek to foster democratic engagement and increasing visibilities, such as the Mayoral meet and greet we had this past spring semester in which we had Mayor Valdes-Fauli and Jeannett Slesnick come to our campus to discuss and engage with our students. Overall, we registered approximate 2,500 Canes this past election cycle. Similarly, this meeting is one of our initiatives at work, putting a face to our campus and demonstrating that we the students do want to immerse ourselves in the Coral Gables community. We do want to get involved and make a difference, because we understand that our university does not exist in a bubble. We are incredibly indebted to the University of Miami and to the whole Coral Gables community. We understand that students need to be active citizens performing their civic duty every election, so with that we greatly appreciate your time today and we look forward to working together to foster local civic engagement. Together we can build a better campus and a better community. Go Canes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Adrian Nunez: Good morning Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the Commission, on behalf of University of Miami Student Government, I'd like to thank you for having us here today. My name is Adrian Nunez, I'm a senior from Miami, Florida, majoring in management and political science. Due to the impacts of Hurricane Irma, we've had an interesting semester thus far, but we can attribute our greatest accomplishments to our win against the Seminoles this weekend, was a great time, but we are working on a couple of other projects. Currently, we are working on a project to make transcripts more accessible to our students. This is important to us, because we have a good history of matriculating our students into the workforce, into research and internship opportunities throughout the year. In addition, we are committed to making the "U" a greener university and so our energy conservation agency in student government will be installing a permanent solar panel system on the roof of our new architecture design studio that will be completed by April of this coming year. So, this project will greatly reduce the reliance on non-renewable energy in this building. And finally, we value the importance of working within the community, and so we've reached out to our public high schools. Their activity director is on a project we are calling "Future U" and so we are facilitating leadership workshops with high school student governments to discuss things that would be pertinent to them moving into the college arena, so things like resume building, monitoring social media, and group

dynamics. So, this is a good opportunity for them to be a step ahead as they are in high school now. So, we are fortunate to go to a university that's part of such a beautiful City, we appreciate the continued relationship with our local officials and our incredible neighbors and the greater Canes community. So, thank you for your time and we look forward to fostering Canes and hard work for the rest of the year.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Let me ask you a question. As you say Commissioner Slesnick and myself, I went twice as a matter of fact, once in your effort and another one to the Republican Club, did you see any result in that, did people vote?

Mr. Nunez: Yes. Our efforts throughout the year we ended up registering a total of approximately 2,500 Canes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I understand they are voting the Presidential Election, but local election.

Mr. Nunez: Local election – yes. We do have an increased voter turnout in our local elections as well, because we've been able to bring candidates to campus and increase candidate visibility. It's been pretty fruitful.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much for coming.

Vice Mayor Keon: What percentage of your student population are from out of state and do most of them as residents of wherever they are coming from vote within that state there or...people that are residents here.

Mr. Nunez: This past election cycle we saw a good chunk of our students that are now residents on campus registering to vote in Florida, so that was a good opportunity for us to move polling stations to the Watsco Center to make it easier for our residential students to have access to polling stations.

Vice Mayor Keon: Good.

Mr. Nunez: Thank you. Thank you very much for showing up.

Commissioner Mena: I wanted to add real quick. We have people come in here all the time to speak to us about a variety of topics and you guys did a terrific job. You spoke more eloquently than a lot of people that come in here. I'm really impressed, obviously you've responded to some questions you just got, but I just want to say that makes me very optimistic to see people your

age, not only engaged, but coming into this atmosphere and speaking so eloquently and so comfortably. So, thank you for your work and keep it up, we appreciate it.

Commissioner Lago: I just want to add one thing also to what Commissioner Mena said. I've had the pleasure of meeting with your efforts and you guys do an exceptional job at the university, but I think that we as young professionals throughout the United States, I think we forget that politics is really local. Everybody is really worried about the federal agenda, but I think that you can make a real impact at the local level, so I just wanted to echo Commissioner Mena's statement that you guys do an exceptional job, no matter the party, it's all about really making this community what it is, and it's a great community. So thank you, thank you for your efforts.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you for coming. Thank you Sarah.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you Sarah, good work.

[End: 10:35:54 a.m.]