

Good afternoon everyone,

My name is Fabio Cabrera & I am speaking to you all today serving as the President of the LatinX Student Union. I am also speaking as a voice on behalf of my fellow multicultural student organizations: Black Student Union, Business Professional Women's Scholarship House, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Progressive Black Men, Inc., FAU National Organization for Women, Black Writers Collective. I am to speak to you all about Ms. Vallejo as a candidate for Director of Multicultural Programming to be reviewed by you all, the Boca House of Representatives;

The concern I bring before you on behalf of myself, as a president of a multicultural RSO and on behalf of my other multicultural RSO, is that the programmatic schedule this past year did not hold enough programs with a focus on other cultural groups and holidays that we feel should be represented in the calendar such as but not limited to Chinese New Year, Native American Heritage Month, or Arab (Air-ab) Heritage Month programming which did not occur. It is our belief that we would like to see more inclusive events and to also upscale the programming hosted for Black History Month. We want all students to feel that FAU is an environment where they can see their heritage being celebrated proudly.

It is our hope that in bringing this concern before you all, that you will ask the questions needed to determine perhaps why these events were not possible previously and if our candidate going before you today, Ms. Vallejo, is willing to incorporate more of what we are asking for beginning in Fall programming of 2022 with her Multicultural team if appointed.

Therefore, esteemed members of the House, honored guests and advisors on behalf of my organization and my fellow multicultural organizations, We ask you to please consider this request when appointing our new Multicultural Programming Director and any Directors moving forward. We would like you to keep this in mind and help us in setting this expectation for future Multicultural Programming, as we work together to grow this branch of SG. We want you all to be our voices in this space as our leaders, to advocate for us. We know you all are passionate about serving our fellow students as much - or if not more - than us. We also ask that if throughout the semester you do not see Multicultural Programming doing all it can to be a space for inclusive and representative programming, that you use your voices to advocate for us again. Student Government is a space that needs active leaders who are providing those checks and balances to one another - so we can continue making FAU a place where we all feel that we belong.

And lastly...

I would like to bring this last point to the attention of ALL the members of Student Government. Have you questioned if the MP candidate was hired because they were the best candidate or because of the friendships they have with other members of SG?

This has always been a point of contention for the student body and the best candidates for any and all future positions do not want to apply since there have been great candidates in the past and haven't gotten the role.

And as a university that prides itself on diversity we should start to hold ourselves more accountable for inclusive practices