

Florida Gulf Coast University ICMA Student Chapter

2016-2017 Report

This was a groundbreaking year for the Florida Gulf Coast University ICMA Student Chapter. The chapter was first conceptualized during Fall Semester 2016, and was recognized by FGCU as an official Registered Student Organization during Spring Semester 2017. During Spring Semester, the chapter had three full-fledged meetings, and two additional officers' meetings. In addition to these meetings, the President and Vice President of the chapter had the opportunity to attend the Florida City & County Management Association (FCCMA) annual conference in Orlando, Florida during the first week in June. Finally, our chapter co-sponsored an FCCMA / Center for Florida Local Government Excellence onsite training session on the campus of FGCU on March 31.

Fall Semester

The ICMA Student Chapter was still in its infancy during the Fall Semester. Two meetings were held during this semester to gauge student interest in creating an ICMA Student Chapter. The Chapter's Faculty Advisor, Dr. Robert E. Lee, took the initiative in personally recruiting talented graduate and undergraduate students to serve as the Chapter Officers for this new organization. Finally, Dr. Lee worked with the University to get the Student Chapter officially recognized as a Registered Student Organization (effective Spring 2017) and to draft a Constitution for the Student Chapter. The Chapter thanks Dr. Lee for his commitment realizing its inception and inauguration.

Spring Semester

The Spring Semester was the inaugural semester for the FGCU ICMA Student Chapter. At the beginning of this semester, the Chapter's Constitution was adopted and its officers were sworn in. Inaugural officers for the Chapter include: Jaime Tirado, President; Matthew Ellenwood, Vice President; Jeannie Sutton, Second Vice President; and Brandon Kaiser, Treasurer. The Chapter's local government mentor is Charles T. Chapman IV, the County Administrator for Hendry County, FL.

During the Spring Semester, the Chapter held three full meetings as well as two additional officers' meetings. During the full meetings, the officers worked to recruit and onboard new

members and ignite passion for local government among potential members. Each meeting saw a larger turnout than the previous meeting, and there is considerable buzz about our chapter on campus. Further, the chapter co-sponsored a training session on the FGCU campus on March 31 entitled "Local Incidents Creating International Attention: Police Shooting of a Police Citizen Academy Attendee" highlighting public relations in local governments during times of increased media exposure and crisis. Finally, during the first week of June, the President and Vice President of the Chapter attended the FCCMA Annual Conference in Orlando and had the opportunity to engage in meaningful professional development during this event.