TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
COGS Assembly Room
Room 250 Student Life Building
March 19, 2012
6:30 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Ard’is, Boler, Christine, Doyle, Gauthier, Hahn, Kushnir, Lieberwirth, Leslie, Lavengood, Manakov, McFarland, Mears, Pascua, Ramirez, Shelton.

QUORUM: Yes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Representative Boler

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: None.

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: None.

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Tazaz, Williams.

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Powell.

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: None.

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: Johnson.

MINUTES APPROVED: Lavengood motion to accept with Amendments, Gauthier 2nd.

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: McGinnis.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- Progress Coalition speaks about upcoming Student Government Association elections, circumstances and party platform.
- Ignite Party speaks about upcoming Student Government Association elections, circumstances, and party platform.
- Black Student Union speaks about upcoming Celebration of Integration activities including Hand in Hand Across Time, a Night with Maya Angelo, and scholarship opportunities.

STUDENT COMMENTS: None.

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT:
- Danielle Morgan COGS advisor informed the assembly about upcoming Special Student Government Elections which will be held on March 21, 2012. The same ballot will be used and the same candidates will be running from the first election.
SPEAKER’S REPORT:

- Update regarding Deputy Speaker Tazaz’s absence.
- Working with Representative Lavengood regarding a policy change in the College of Music, working together to advocate for financial contribution of dissertation hours.
- Serving on the Diversity and Inclusion council.
- Housing Project update: March 31st at 6pm holding a meeting at Alumni Village to gage student interest.
- Looking for three people from each committee to serve on Ad-Hoc Committee regarding intellectual property of graduate students.
- Congratulations to BALSA who was awarded Chapter of the Year and BGSA was awarded Affiliate Chapter of the Year.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR FINANCE’S REPORT:

- Please see attached page to minutes
- Encourage upcoming conference attendees to turn in paperwork

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR JUDICIAL AFFAIR’S REPORT:

- Still looking for Representatives to participate in team for the Greek Challenge with the Student Foundation this weekend.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR COMMUNICATION’S REPORT:

- If you are interested in participating in Hand in Hand Across campus, there is a COGS group created, please register.
- NAGPS: Still looking for volunteers to help with tours, registration, and the circus. Presentation proposals are being accepted until Wednesday, March 21st. Please register online and plan on attending the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- CSAC: No Report.
- Internal Affairs: Met March 13th to discuss Resolution 15, you will see that the motion to amend should be debatable and allow for questions, as should motion to table and move.
- Ways and Means: No report.
- Academic and Student Life: Tried to meet but did not have quorum, please meet tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Resolution 15: Amending Proper Motions Rule of the Internal Rules - Sponsored by Representative Doyle and Internal Affairs Committee. 1st Pro: Gauthier expressed gratitude, Mears believed that clarification should take priority, Pasqua commended the committee. 1st Con: Pasqua expressed concern about the confusion of amendments within amendments, Lavengood believes changes will complicate matters, but would like to hear reason for an amendment. Lieberwirth calls the question, Gauthier seconds. Ayes have it, Resolution 15 passes.

Deputy Speaker Ramirez takes over meeting at 8:02pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill 27: Sponsored by Speaker Ard’is - Parity for Recognized Student Organization. Bill to change the number of graduate students in a GRSO for funding purposes to a percentage of members. Questions regarding size of group, membership counts, and current goals. 1st Pro: Doyle supports, Leslie believes that COGS funded organizations should have a majority of graduate student, so supports. 1st Con: Gauthier believes it is good for undergraduates and graduates to work together, concerned that for large organizations this might not be a fair piece of legislation. Manakov feels like current language needs conditions. 2nd Pro: Leslie reminds the group there are other funding sources, Christian wants COGS to support GRSOs, Doyle responds saying that if the larger groups have more than ten graduate students but not 50%, they could form their own GRSO and receive funding. 2nd Con: Manakov motions to amend the language to “at least 50%,” Pasqua 2nds. Manakov call to question, 2nd by Christina. Nays have the motion. Doyle motions to
change language to “at least 5 people and 50%,” no second, motion dies. Manakov calls question, Lavengood 2nd. Vote, Ayes Have it, Bill 27 passes.

Speaker Ard’is invokes Rule 10. Boler objects. Ayes have it.

Bill 28: Sponsored by Speaker Ard’is – Sponsorship of Graduate Housing Studio Community Engagement Initiatives. Bill to sponsor food for town hall meeting. 1st Pro: Pasqua hopes the bill will pass with acclamation, Leslie feels international students are forced to live at Alumni Village and hopes COGS can make the experience better. 1st Con: none. 2nd Pro: Pasqua calls acclamation, Leslie 2nds. Bill 28 passes by acclamation.

Bill 29: Sponsored by Speaker Ard’is – Sponsorship of Linkages Symposium 2012. Bill to sponsor recruitment to graduate school program by BGSA for the Speaker honorarium. 1st Pro: Gauthier believes it is good to outreach, especially in light of 50th anniversary of integration, McGinnis discusses graduates giving opportunity to speak to undergraduates, Pasqua likes speaker. 1st Con: Doyle feels BGSA has received lots of funding over year and COGS doesn’t have much less, Manakov believes recruiting is not COGS job and shouldn’t support programs not for current students. 2nd Pro: Pasqua believes this is support a GRSO, Gauthier thinks that this event should be a priority and commends the good work of BGSA, Mears discusses some of the positive contributions BGSA has made this year. 2nd Con: Doyle is concerned that some funding has already been given and other organizations are small and might need more support. Vote, Ayes have it, Bill 29 passes.

Ardis returns to lead meeting at 9:12pm.

Resolution 20: Sponsored by Representatives Johnson, Leslie and Shelton – Commendation for G.C. Murray Jr., JD. JC Murray was involved in SGA and COGS and has recently graduated. 1st Pro: Pasqua says he was a strong asset to COGS and a good person, Mears supports the Resolution and commends Murray’s ambition. 1st Con: Pasqua wants him to come back. 2nd Pro: Gauthier moves to accept Resolution by acclamation, Mears 2nd. Resolution passes by acclamation.

FUNDING REQUESTS:

ROUND TABLE AND ROLL Call: Ard’is, Boler, Christine, Doyle, Gauthier, Hahn, Johnson, Kushnir, Lieberwirth, Leslie, Lavengood, Manakov, McFarland, Mears, Pascua, Ramirez, Shelton.

ADJOURMENT: 9:31 pm

NEXT MEETING: April 2, 2012