

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
COGS Assembly Room
Room 250 Student Life Building
May 14, 2012
6:30 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Ard'is, Boler, Cabrera, Doyle, Horner, Lieberwirth, Leslie, Manakov, Mears, Tazaz, Williams.

QUORUM: Yes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Boler.

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: None.

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Howard.

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:

MINUTES APPROVED: Tazaz moved, Cabrera seconds.

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Hutson

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

STUDENT COMMENTS:

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

SPEAKER'S REPORT:

Last summer with COGs, terms coming to end in October. Tazaz wants to introduce some legislation. After that, see what people want to see out of COGS over the summer, open and truthful. Planning for the tour and luau. Working with the graduate school for that. COGs 20th anniversary banquet. Talking throughout the summer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR FINANCE'S REPORT:

No financial report, all accounts have money in them. Numbers at the next meeting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR JUDICIAL AFFIARS:

A vacant seat in every college. Want a full congress. Start working on it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR COMMUNICATIONS:

Rosario resigned, working on dissertation. Elections not tonight. Line of succession. Boler steps up to Communications. Election for Communications in June after Memorial Day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- C-SAC: Not met. Will be returning unused funds to general cogs account.
- Internal Affairs: has not met.

- Academics & Student Life: has not met.
- Ways & Means: has not met.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tazaz petition the body to hear Bill XX: Removal of meals as qualified expense.

- Bill to provide funding opportunities to additional students for COGS sponsored travel events. Remove meals, strike Chapter 202.4 of the COGS Code: to reimburse meals on conferences.
- Questions: would begin for this travel season, June 1st. Are you requiring 2/3 vote? No, that part is stricken. Is there a Student Government rule against this? Not a written rule, but typically SGA doesn't fund meals. This would be everyone? Yes. What is the purpose? We seem to have mixed feelings on meals. It's inconsistent. NAGPS wasn't funded meals, but sometimes RSO's sometimes do get funding. The way that we reimbursement meals is per diem. The rules currently say they have to bring a receipt and the travel department does not want those submitted. Is that more of a process issue? COGS requires receipts when no one else does. COGS grant, per diem amounts. Doesn't the state mandate a certain minimum per diem? Not necessarily. Did you take into account individuals who represent the university? Yes.
- First Round of Pro: Mears -Good bill, individuals representing university also getting something in return. The expense of food is the smallest thing. Travel is a benefit in itself. Commend Tazaz. Doyle-When representing another department, they should pay for your food. COGS is already helping you gain something, so not paying for food. Leslie-Thanks Tazaz. Persons representing RSO's, etc. requesting funding, the congress is very generous already. There has to be some self sacrifice. Not out of the way to have it codified. Lieberworth-agree and want to serve the biggest number of graduate students, can reach out to more students who are travelling.
- First round of Con: Manokov-People cook for themselves, it's cheaper than going out of town. Forced to eat junk food and costs more and is less beneficial. Per diem isn't that much to cover anyway. It basically covers the difference of cooking for yourself at home. Forced to go out to eat with colleagues/leaders. It's extra money. Reasonable to have food covered if approved. He speaks against this bill. Doyle-Speak in both. At NAGPS, they went to expensive restaurants and other students had theirs paid for. I know it's saving money, but could we increase the amount for people for travel grants. Williams-There have been issues when talking about food and funding meals, something needs to change, but this is not the solution. At home, amount spent on food is a lot lower than having to eat out. More funding elsewhere, not the way to solve the problem.
- 2nd Round of Pro: Leslie-Point out to the assembly, COGS is willing to fund so much for travel, at some point, the graduate student needs to take responsibility for some of the funds. Mears-Remind the body, we would rather fund 7 students to go somewhere and cover hotel than less students and covering food. Speakers point of pro-amount of money doesn't really allow for extravagant restaurants. Lieberworth-has traveling down to a science. Other ways to save money while traveling. COGS is supposed to be a last resort for funding. Doyle-funding bodies. This would be a blanket policy in all funding boards.
- 2nd round of Con: Boler-leave this at the digression of COGS and the funding board. If there is a case to have it funded, let that decision be made. Manokov-not fund everything, but consider on a case-by-case basis. We are limiting ourselves by doing this.
- 3rd round of pro: Leslie – call to question
- Closing: Tazaz-clear up some questions. For every three students who meals are granted, that's one more student that a conference grant can be granted. By eliminating food altogether, we can see how many more students can travel. Give and takes with everything. Conference travel costs money for everyone.
- **Vote: 5-3-2. Bill passes.**

Motion by Jimmy Doyle to reorder the agenda to allow the petition into the assembly: Michael Hutson.
Seconded Lieberwroth.

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Hutson

- Michael Hutson: from Chicago. Wants to get involved on campus. Be useful and have a purpose while getting a master's at FSU in communications.

Boler: Point of order. According to the COGS Code, the code requires 2/3 votes and it did not. He would like the speaker to recognize that the vote did not pass.

Bill XX fails. Motion on to reconsider by Cabrera. Seconded Mears. Bill XX is withdrawn.

A new Bill XX is requested to be heard by the body by Tazaz. A different bill. Hopefully it encompasses what people's concerns were. It allows meals to be funded by 2/3 vote. Why 2/3 and not majority? Original code code said meals were funded above the state rate. Meals are not reimbursable without the bodies' approval.

- Pro: Horner-streamline the process. 2/3 is standard and reasonable. Also reasonable to have students pay for their own meals. Leslie-Some level of solidarity on voting. Funding boards can't abuse the \$. Leslie – This clearly state that COGs does not pay for food. Does not believe people will be coming before COGs for food. The floodgates aren't going to be opened.
- Con: Ardis refers bill to ways and means committee. Point of information
- **Tazaz-withdraws the bill.**

Bill XX, once received, will be noted as Bill 31 with changes.

ROUND TABLE AND ROLL CALL: Ard'is, Boler, Cabrera, Doyle, Horner, Hutson, Lieberwirth, Leslie, Manakov, Mears, Tazaz, Williams.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: June 4, 2012