

TWENTY FOURTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
Senate Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
November 16th, 2015
6:35 p.m.
Agenda



Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Peruche

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Asturizaga, Cavannaugh, Elwood, Gupta, Hall, Kerry, Luttrell, Peruche, Pfeifler, Scriven, Smith, Sulentic, Uttermark, Wang, Ward, Williams

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Akinfaderin, Carter, James, Solomon

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Lee

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

Swearing in of Members not at Inauguration: The following representatives were sworn into the 24th Congress of Graduate Students:

- E. Corey Cavannaugh

Petitions into the Assembly: Bruce Ferraro

Reading and Approval of Minutes: With amendments. Ward Second.

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Rivelo introduced himself to the Congress as the Senate Pro Tempore.

Messages from Student Government: NONE

Unfinished Business: NONE

Funding Requests:

- *Bill 2: Allocation to Sport Psychology and Research Team*
The organization is returning to request funds for travel and honorariums for the speakers at the Spear Conference. The theme is physical activity well-being and behavior change. The event is catered to any student on campus who wants to have a healthier lifestyle. The organization would like the funds to cover the travel and lodging expenses for the speakers. The event will be held on February 9th. The organization was able to fund raise and receive funding from other sources. Representatives request the organization to break down the expenses, how the organization intends to pay for the honorariums, the difference of amounts from the previous request. **FIRST**

PRO: Deputy Speaker Ward is in favor of funding the organization after they have followed directions that were given by COGS in order to receive additional funding as needed. Pfielfer agrees with Ward and believes that the events gets bigger each year. **FIRST CON:** Deputy Speaker Williams would have preferred a better budget breakdown from the organization. Motion to call to question. **Bill 2 passes: \$2620 in Contractual Service and \$420 in General Expense.**

- **Bill 3: Allocation to Ecology and Evolution Reading and Research Group (EERDG)**
The organization will be hosting a student run coastal conference for the 2nd time here at FSU, called the Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference. The organization explains that it is a great way to showcase FSU graduate student programs. The conference is scheduled for March 2016. The event will include lectures, presentation for poster schedules and the organization will also include Scientists. The organization has raised money from Visit Tallahassee, the department and other grants. Representatives inquire the definition of ecology and the usefulness of scientific computing, how many students from FSU are presenting, how vendors are selected and is the event open to all students. **FIRST PRO:** Smith applauds the organization for their hard work and believes that it would be a wise investment to allocate funds to the organization. Pfielfer believes that this event will showcase the graduate school programs and that it is a fortunate experience to have the conference hosted at FSU. Wang commends the organization and is impressed by the presentation and would like to see similar presentations from other organizations, Gupta applauds the organization and supports the event. Williams is excited for the organization and believes that they are worthy of support. **FIRST CON:** Asturizaga is concerned about funding individuals who participate in the conference but do not attend the university. Luttrell believes that this is a great event however, the cost of food should be adjusted. Gupta shares concern about the residual amount in the unallocated account. **SECOND PRO:** Pfielfer is in favor of raising the awareness of FSU and the graduate student programs. Ferraro adds that for this event, it would be considerable to invest more funds into the food account. Motion to amend \$1590 in food expense. Objection. Luttrell computed the cost of a least expensive pizza company and standardized the cost of dinners per person. Scriven inquires about the price per person dinner. **FIRST CON:** Pfielfer understands the logic behind the price adjustments but does not want the organization to be at fault for their preferences. Ward thinks that the amount is too low but would like to work with the numbers provides to reach a reasonable amount. Wang would like to fund the organization, but not at the amended amount. Motion to amend the food expense to \$2250. Second. Motion to call to question. Motion passes by voice vote. Return to bill which reads: Contractual Services; \$350, General Expense: \$874.26 and Food: \$2250. Motion to call to question. **Bill 3 passes 16-0-0: Contractual Services: \$350, General Expense: \$874.26 and Food: 2250.**

New Business:

- **Bill 4 Sponsored by Deputy Speaker Uttermark: *Transferring Money to Support Graduate Student Conference Travel***
Deputy Speaker Uttermark explains that the funds used for the November through February funding period for presentation and attendance grants are almost depleted. He would like to move unused funds from the July-October funding periods in order to fund more students who would like to attend and present at conferences around the world. Representatives inquire if the funds that are being requested to move are encumbered by any students, and the purpose of only moving some funds to the November through February funding period and not all the funds that have been left from the previous funding period. Motion for a voice vote. **Bill 4 is approved.**

Round Table: Asturizaga, Cavannaugh, Elwood, Ferraro, Gupta, Hall, Kerry, Luttrell, Peruche, Pfielfer, Scriven, Smith, Sulentic, Uttermark, Wang, Ward, Williams

Adjournment: 8:24 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 30, 2015