



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting

May 22, 2023

6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:37pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Rep. Ebuara

Roll call:

Present: Beavon, Delva, Ebuara, Vaughn, Wesner

Absent, Excused: Basualdo, Galeano, Rogowski

Reading and approval of the Minutes:

Motion to approve - Vaughn; 2nd - Ebuara

Petitions into the Assembly:

Ridwan Balogun, College of Arts and Science Seat 2

Speech - Doctoral student in the department of religion. First year here and after coming, has met members of COGS. When had questions about things, could not find answers in his department. Look at background, want to join a group that could serve fellow students. Way to have a headway on some student issues. Good organization to be a part of that looks into student matters. Is interested in advocacy for graduate students. Wants to be a good student representative for his college and the university as a whole. Looking at how many are in the college of Arts and Sciences and how many representative spots there are, there is a huge imbalance. Willing to take on responsibilities.

Q&A -

Vaughn - Will you be free on Monday nights in the Fall to join our meetings in person?

Yes, my classes are in the mornings and afternoons.

It sounds like you are interested in the advocacy committee, is that correct? Yes.

Ebuara - motion to extinguish time; 2nd - Beavon

Pros -

Delva - He reached out about his interest and had strong interest in advocacy in the congress and for the College of Arts and Science. He will be a great addition.

Ebuara - I think he will be a good addition and we need the seats filled.

Vaughn - He seemed excited, so it's good to have someone with excitement and energy.

Motion to extinguish time - Ebuara; 2nd - Wesner

Voting - 5-0-0

Swearing in by Deputy Speaker Delva

Gizem Solmaz, College of Education Seat 4

Speech - PhD candidate in the College of Education. Got Masters from FSU. Always wanted to fix things at FSU for international students. Had several meetings with leaders and with this year, many students thought she was already a student leader to bring those together and discuss issues. Wanted to join with COGS in order to reach out to others. Needed more support for her voice in advocating for students. Met a former COGS member who encouraged her to join.

Q&A -

Ebuara - How long are you here as a student? I have one and a half years left starting from this summer.

Vaughn - Will you be on campus for Mondays in the fall? Yes.

Ebuara - motion to extinguish time; 2nd - Wesner

Pros -

Wesner - Seems very motivated and has experience in decision making

Ebuara - Gizem is the right person for COGS and can see myself in her shoes with advocating on her own. It's easier to join a group.

Beavon - More focus on international students is needed with the College of Education.

Voting - 6-0-0

Swearing in by Deputy Speaker Delva

Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A

Messages from Student Government: N/A

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker: N/A
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: N/A
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Hello to our new members. I handle anything that has to do with the Code and protocol. In the Spring, we had voted on Group Conference travel changes. I want to bring your attention to a few things. This time can be used for training. Please let me know if you have questions about the meeting structure or anything else. We want to use this summer to bring up ideas on how to better serve our graduate student populations.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Swag items have been ordered for Fall events to hand out to graduate students. We want to talk more about how to plan for fall to make COGS event better. We had very successful events at the end of the semester and we want to keep that up. We want to increase our visibility on campus.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC: N/A
- Internal Affairs: Has not met since last COGS meeting. We want to be more attentive to the Code and making sure it reflects graduate student needs.
- Student Advocacy: We talked about the international student admission changes. Met with the graduate school office and spoke about the concerns that were happening. They said that another meeting needs to be scheduled through email after finals week and there has not been any reply. There is a plan to email them again and will copy COGS officers. Rep. Delva offered to join them for their meeting.
- Student Affairs: Bowling went very well with over 130 people and thanks to Rep. Beavon for all of her hard work. Our food truck events also had amazing turn outs.

Funding Requests: N/A

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business:

Fall planning and discussion

Vaughn - COGS will sponsor International Coffee Hour on September 15th
Will plan to share COGS info at International Graduate Student Orientation and Graduate Student Orientation

Delva - Hosted by COGS - have a Friendsgiving event in conjunction with the Globe Retreat type of event for Graduate Students where we provide food - encourage unison with graduate students - maybe at the Rez?

We want more people as representatives!

Ebuara - During international graduate student orientation - try to talk to the students while they are sitting down and having refreshments - or can we present at the session vs. just having a table

Can we have representatives going to the departmental orientations?

Solmaz - worked on a Friendsgiving last year and didn't have good turnout. However, had an event with the Rez and the turnout was amazing. Used buses to get students there. Increase social media presence - focus on our representatives at the start of the semester.

Delva - Never ended up sending the newsletter last semester. I need help with putting that out.

Solmaz - There's not really an area for graduate students to talk to each other about problems they are having. Women's group has a weekend where they can talk to each other and wants to know if we can do that for COGS. Like an open mic day.

Delva - I like this, but I have concerns about this. There is a lot of shame with that type of event and I'm not sure students would be willing to do that. Perhaps something with a private drop box. People talk with those they trust.

Solmaz - I want to help others with my experiences and I have seen students having issues and troubles. Students will open up about their problems over time.

Vaughn - I think this is a good idea, but I'm not sure about the implementation where students can have a supportive space and not just dragging each other down. There is a line between public talks and needs that the counseling center can better meet.

Delva - I do think that orientation fails at sharing information about daily life. Lack of resources addressing graduate student needs. The resources are not all in one spot. There are two needs: one is that initial transition to FSU and the other is that mental health support. Need more mentorship.

Balogun - Each department has different ways they handle things. There needs to be links between COGS and the different departments through the representatives. Need to work on bridging the gaps there. The Graduate School and Globe might not have concerns about daily life and are more focused on the legal issues. There many concerns about inflation and the pay rates. Need more awareness of COGS across campus.

Solmaz - I think having a conversation space for would be a good idea for people such as those who have had issues with conference funding or other issues.

Delva - Thinking about how to implement something for this. Representatives can also reach out to those in their departments to talk about their needs.

Beavon - Was also confused about counseling vs. bringing up issues from graduate students. Can provide some suggestions of resources.

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:22pm

Next Meeting: **June 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**