

TWENTY FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
February 18, 2013
6:41 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Boler, Greinke, Hall, Hansford, Hutson, Kanter, Kanuri, Leslie, Lieberwirth, Luttrell, Meehan, Mims, Okoye, Pratt, Salvador, Shah, Williams, Willingham, Youngblood

QUORUM: Yes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Luttrell

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Okoye

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Mookerherjee, Tazaz, Yu

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Manakov

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: Mims

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: Hansford, Hutson, Youngblood

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Sridivya Gajjarapu, Brett Leone, William Nilson

MINUTES APPROVED: with amendments Williams motion. Leslie Second.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Senator Batista introduces himself as one of the candidates for Student Body President and elections are next week.
- Visit beginyourstoday.com for any information or questions.

STUDENT COMMENTS: NONE

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Tomorrow at 2:00pm Michael Eric Bryson will be doing a free lecture in the Ballroom.
- He is an author, lecturer and professor at Georgetown.
- This Friday there will be 2 comedians and activities in the union. Saturday is the big event.
- Next Wednesday is elections, vote on- line through your blackboard site.

SPEAKER'S REPORT:

- He is serving as the Elections Commissioner for the Law School Council
- Peace Jam is an event that happens every year.
- Peace Jam would like for COGS to help sponsor their event and provide refreshments.
- They will show up at next meeting to give a formal proposal and hopes you will consider the sponsoring them for the next meeting.
- John, Catherine, Tristan and Boler went to the Globe on Friday to the International coffee hour and gave away a lot of free stuff.
- It will happen again April 5th and Neleen will get volunteers for the next time

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR FINANCE'S REPORT:

- Please be aware of the unallocated amount in the bill packet and that this money goes through the end of June.
- Continue to make people aware of presentation and attendance grants.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR JUDICIAL AFFIARS:

- We are down to 19 open seats from the previous 30.
- We have an attendance policy which means you have to be here.

- If you miss meetings and are unexcused, you get 3, if you are excused you get 6
- If you miss those meetings your seat is vacant and someone else will take it.
- If you do not have an excuse by an hour before hand, you will not be excused.
- If you leave early and have not submitted a reason why, you are unexcused.
- Will contact certain people who have missed too many meeting and will refer you to Internal Affairs.
- Leave of absence must be approved by Internal Affairs
- If you cannot fulfill your duties, please resign and we will find someone.
- Will be overseeing the Internal Affairs committee in an audit of MSC and LSC finance records over the next couple of months and will keep you posted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR COMMUNICATIONS:

- Thanks persons that did tabling at the Globe last week.
- Please take COGS posters to put up in colleges and schools
- Also have like COGS on Face book posters to get more people to like the page to push more information to them using that medium. Once we get our likes up then we will be sure that we are reaching graduate and professional students.
- Like Rep Kanter said we really need reps here in cogs. We have projects that we are going to get going on.
- Looking for awesome times with this 21st Congress.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- C-SAC:
 - Met on February 11 and discussed allocating funds to Synoptikos, which you will be hearing more about in the Resolution later.
- Internal Affairs Committee: Have NOT MET
- Academics & Student Life:
 - Will be meeting this coming Monday the 25th at 630 in Strozier Library
 - Will be discussing parking along with other issues and you are free to join us.
- Ways & Means:
 - Met today before COGS meeting.
 - Addressed two items, which were concerns from the original Bill 12 sponsored by Speaker Boler at the last COGS meeting. It was amended and passed for a full vote applied in the COGS assembly
 - Elected Representative Pratt as Chair and Representative Luttrell as Vice Chair.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

Bill 12: Sponsored by Speaker Boler: Clarification of COGS Quorum Requirements

Representative Kanter motion to reorder the agenda to move Bill 12 to after Resolution 7. Hansford Second. Objection: None.

Funding Request:

- Bill 13: *Allocation to Medical School Council (MSC)*
 Outgoing and incoming Medical School Council presidents are here to present an even called Cover the Uninsured Week and gives brief history of the event. The bill packet outlines the weekly events which will represent the student body both undergrad and graduate students. Had an event last week to show how much an impact not being insured has an impact on taxpayers. They want to raise awareness for a very important cause for the financial burden of not being able to have insurance. Questions from Representatives. Lieberwirth asks how it was sponsored last year. Leslie asks how much money MSC was allocated this past year. Hansford asks about the wristbands they are requesting funds for. Further questions from Leslie. Kanter motion to extend questions by 5 minutes. Williams Second. Objection: None. Hansford asks for examples of what the money already allocated to MSC was for. Luttrell asks if MSC has an unallocated account in their budget and how much money is left. Williams asks for explanation of the documentary they are requesting funds for. Lieberwirth asks if they think it would be more money efficient to do one run to Costco. Kanter motion to extend by 3 minutes. Salvador Second. Kanter asks if funding through MSC and not pulling from other RSO that you can streamline and make it more cost effective and if they think that the \$1300 they are asking for will go farther than in the past. Leslie asks if they have sought sponsorship from Publix and if it would be something they would consider. Leslie further asks the time the documentary. Nilson asks if MSC has a cost of membership. Lieberwirth asks if the time of the movie

was locked in place and if snacks were provided rather than a full lunch would it be an option to cut down on costs. Kanter motion to fully fund \$1165.85 in food and \$194.50 in clothing and awards. Second Pratt. Objection: Williams.

Kanter is in the med school and deals with health stuff every day. Think insurance is important and the event is well organized and understands how the budget can be cost effective. In the past, given that it was run through individual RSOs, there was no way to control costs. MSC is more streamlined and will probably be adding proviso language that "any funds not used will be returned to COGS". Hansford asks if Kanter would expand on the proviso language he is proposing. **First PRO:** Salvador mentions that the medical school is very streamlined, everything organized and detailed. The event targets the entire FSU community and agrees with the proviso language. This amount of money will go a long way and will represent FSU on the map because it is held nationwide. Leone asks how it will be advertised. **First CON:** Congratulates the students at the med school for the foresight and planning an event of this nature and is concerned that the food bill is excessive. We fully support your event but are open to revising the amount of food. Hansford has an issue with the fact that an organization was allocated over \$50,000 and \$10,000 was for food and allocated none for such a worthy cause. Luttrell agrees that money should have been taken out before the money was allocated in the first place. **Second PRO:** Kanter understand it is shocking to hear that \$10,000 is a lot of money to spend money for food. A lot of food coincides with the speaker and a lot of times for the speaker. Doesn't know how the books are kept at law school and they are given more funds, It may seem outlandish but is not. MSC runs a pretty tight ship and not a lot of fringe that is left over to spend. Salvador gives numbers and clarification of how the medical school spends its funds and that the money is allocated over 26 organizations. She further explains in detail how funds are allocated in the med school and what they do at the med school. If you look at it in comparison with the budget over all it not a large of an amount and with the proviso language it will be beneficial and the money will come right back to COGS if all the funds are not used. **Second CON:** Williams is trying to figure out a way to make it work. Wanted to know if the vendors listed in the bill packet could be changed to Publix or Costco and would be more cost effective. Youngblood understands that any funds left over will be given back to us but we should remember that we can't just grant somebody money expecting to have our funds returned. Greinke fails to see how funding such a large amount for a week of food for a week of university education comports with the mission of the week. Representative Hall stated that the money requested in 3.5% of our current budget. Leslie we support the mission but the food maybe a little excessive and if we can come up with a number we are all happy with we can move forward. Further comments by Hansford. **Third PRO:** Willingham estimates that with the amount of students they are expecting by her estimation it is only \$3 per person for food and it doesn't seem like a lot. Pratt stated that he doesn't have a problem with COGS allocating for food expenses. Meehan agrees with Pratt and that food is how you get the word out about things. Kanter stated we are only seeing a small fracture and at the rate that we spend money we are not going to blow through \$30,000 by June. **Third CON:** Leslie motion to amend the bill to fund \$506 in food and \$194.50 in clothing and awards. Williams Second. Objection: Salvador. Leslie has come up with a rough expense and is looking at costs for getting the food from Publix or Costco who are the most cost effective vendors that COGS uses and encourages other organizations to use to keep their costs down and explains examples of breakdown of costs per day. Salvador asks about the Jeopardy game and how it was mentioned about seeing more food from Publix and Costco and wondered why the number for food was decreased. Lieberwirth asked if money was allocated for plates, cups, and napkins. Hall asks about the allocation of funds for food during the week. Salvador asks why the budget for food for the documentary was eliminated and if finger food and drinks would be a consideration. **First PRO:** Hansford agree with the fact that lower level funding would be appropriate and still personally opposed to fully funding an amount that was not taken out of the original budget and aggress with the proviso language. **FIRST CON:** Luttrell agrees with Kanter regarding scheduling and if you don't provide food at lunch or dinnertime, no one is going to come. Salvador thanks everyone for considering the budget and there are other ways to make it more cost efficient. Agrees with previous comments, it was very though out and well planned and did think about being cost effective. Nilson thinks there may be a compromise for the Thursday issue to offer some money so there would not be a complete lack of food. **Second PRO:** Hansford it is up to them whether they spend money for food or not. Think it's a little demeaning to the professional student body of the medical school to argue that they would attend an event without food and it is not the primary motivation. Further comments by Meehan and Lieberwirth. **Second CON:** Kanter stated that last meeting we approved over \$2400 in food and we are squabbling over pennies. Further comments by Salvador and Luttrell. **Third PRO:** Kanter motion to waive the rules and let John Hahn speak. Meehan Second. Williams call to question. Lieberwirth Second. Objection: None. Leslie

stated that the event can be a success with the amount allocated if you take into consideration the lower half vendors to ensure that there is food available for every event. Also bear in mind that the organization has not gone outside to ask for sponsorship from Publix or Costco and they will be receptive to FSU student organizations especially since the bulk of the money will be spent at those vendors. If you need assistance feel free to call me. Leslie **Amendment Passes 18-1-1.**

Third CON: Hansford call to question. Lieberwirth Second. Objection: None. **Bill Passes 20-0-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 6: *Sponsored by C-SAC*
Representative Williams shares that Synoptikos is RSOs for the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. They are planning a social event to promote networking between students, local professional, alumni, and faculty. There will also be a speaker from the Department of Economic Opportunity discussing community resiliency at no charge and they are requesting \$498.00 in food. C-SAC recommends that we fully fund for this event. Hansford asks if any estimates were provided. Leone asks if the \$498.00 is fully funded. **First PRO:** Leslie commends the organization, they were very organized and there was no excess. They had a very protracted interview period where they went over every aspect. This is a networking event for students in their department and thinks it will be extremely beneficial for them to have this event. Leone stated as a student in the department, Synoptikos does run like a really well oil machine. The social event is a great networking tool and they should make great connections after it and believes that it should be supported. **First CON: NONE. Second PRO:** Hansford call to question. Lieberwirth Second. Objection: NONE. **Resolution Passes 20-0-0 to fully fund.**
- Resolution 7: *Sponsored by The Congress: Permission for Synoptikos to host an off campus event*
The Treasurer and president explained the reason they are holding it off campus is that they've had event in the past and the key is the capacity to attract professionals. Urban Planning is a multidisciplinary field and will benefit everyone. They are hosting in a more central location to where professionals can get to. They have tracked a bus routes for transportation. Have searched other venues and the venue they chose is more cost effective. Hansford asks if the event is free to students and if funds are going to the church itself. **First PRO:** Leone stated that having the event off campus is really key. Parking is a huge issue. When they host events as students, they suggest the events be off campus because professionals have a hard time getting to events. Having it off campus is beneficial to the department, students, and professionals. Leslie also supports with having the event off campus it is not taxing to COGS. Having the event in a central location and using the bus route is a reasonable. **First CON: NONE. Second PRO:** Hansford call to question. Leone Second. Objection: NONE. **Resolution passes 20-0-0.**

Kanter to chair to hear tabled Bill 12 Sponsored by Speaker Boler.

- Bill 12: *Sponsored by Speaker Boler: Clarification of Quorum*
First PRO: Pratt withdraws prior motion to amend from last meeting. **First CON: NONE. Second PRO:** Pratt motion to amend in accordance to the Ways and Means document. Leslie Second. Objection: Hansford. Pratt stated the Ways and Means committee met and looked at a new amendment to Bill 12 that Speaker Boler brought before us and made slight modifications. All agreed that it will make any issues before will be put to the wayside and would like to present it as amended. **First PRO:** Boler likes the language a lot. It does not match the Senate statutes and will take it to and ask them to put it in their statutes. Hall is in favor of the amendment and it laid out well. Leslie agrees with amendment. It is a good amendment. Hansford withdraws objection. **FIRST CON: NONE. Second PRO:** Leslie call to question. Second Youngblood. Objection: NONE. **Amendment Passes 20-0-0.** Leslie call to question. Hall Second. Boler likes the bill. Please vote for it. **Bill 12 Passes 20-0-0.**

ROUNDTABLE: Youngblood, Greinke, Pratt, Lieberwirth, Meehan, Luttrell, Nilson, Shah, Willingham, Kanuri, Hall, Gajjarapu, Hutson, Leone, Mims, Hansford, Salvador, Kanter, Leslie, Williams, Boler

ADJOURNMENT: 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2013