

TWENTY FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
February 4, 2013
6:34 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Boler, Hutson, Kanter, Leslie, Manakov, Mims, Okoye, Shah, Tazaz, Williams, Willingham

QUORUM: Yes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Tazaz

Swearing in of New Members and Members not at Inauguration: The following representatives were sworn into the 21st Congress of Graduate Students:

- Michael Hutson

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: Kanuri, Hutson, Manakov, Mookherjee, Okoye, Shah,

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Lieberwirth, Youngblood, Yu

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Luke, Meehan, Okoye

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: Mims

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: None

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Caleb Greinke, Tristan Hall, Christopher Hansford, Sree Kanuri, Corey Luttrell, Soumak Mookherjee, Joshua Pratt

Representative Tazaz motion to re-order agenda for Elections for Deputy Speaker of Finance to be last. Okoye Second. Objection: NONE.

MINUTES APPROVED: with amendments Tazaz motion. Okoye Second

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Ginger Stewart, Health Insurance Compliance Officer, Health Services on behalf of Lesley Sacher, Director of Health Services

STUDENT COMMENTS:

- Boler has information on relay for life event if anyone would like to take a look at it for ways to get involved.

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Please welcome Tonya who is interning with Student Government from the University of the West Indies
- Black History month events are on-line
- Elections are coming up for spring semester

SPEAKER'S REPORT:

- Welcome to new representatives. COGS meetings are every 1st and 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- If you know anyone that wants to be involved, share with them how to get involved.
- Have been meeting with the various committees on campus and nothing interesting that affects COGS as of now but will notify when there is something.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR FINANCE'S REPORT:

- Please see attached page to minutes regarding COGS grants, COGS Unallocated and COGS Organizational support accounts

- Remember to inform other graduate students about the COGS grants

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR JUDICIAL AFFIARS:

- Congrats to petitioners.
- Will let everyone know how many seats open at the next meeting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR COMMUNICATIONS:

- The E-Board has been working on outreach on campus. Have reached out to the Center for Global Engagement to improve international graduate students.
- Will be having international coffee hours for local graduate and international students February 15, April 5, and April 12 at 5:30 p.m. and is looking for volunteers to help out with tabling.
- Currently updating and working on outreach posters with student publications to post things on campus related to COGS.
- Remember to like COGS on Facebook if you have not done so and get other to do so as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- C-SAC: HAVE NOT MET
- Internal Affairs Committee:
 - Met briefly at last meeting.
 - Willingham spoke with one of the Deans of the College of Education about putting out a distribution but hasn't written it up yet.
- Academics & Student Life: HAVE NOT MET
- Ways & Means: Will meet after tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE.

Funding Request:

- *Bill 9: Allocation to Religion and Law Group*
 President of Organization shares brief history about its beginnings and all of the prominent figures in their area that are coming to their conference. They are requesting funding for very prominent speaker, Dr. Winnifred Sullivan. This is a truly international conference and is going to benefit everyone, not just one department and is a phenomenal opportunity for the entire university. Kanter questions about funding and registration fees. Hansford asks if they are charging admission for non-students. Tazaz asks if they are joining any other graduate RSOs. Greinke asks if there are any panels graduate students will be presenting on. Leslie asks how many people will be catered for. Hansford ask where they are hosting the event. Further questions by representatives. Tazaz asks about department funding and fundraising activities. Tazaz motion to extend by 4 minutes. Williams Second. Tazaz asks if they have gone to other vendors for donations for food items. Further questions by representatives Williams, Hansford, Shah, Mookerjee, and Leslie. Tazaz motion to fully fund organization \$1000 in contractual services and \$2400 for food. Manakov Second. Objection Leslie. Tazaz met with organization a little less than a year ago when they started the idea for the conference. They took all the advice that was given to them, and she is very impressed with what they have done. They gave a great breakdown of expenses and for the amount of people they are expecting to have, there is not a lot of unnecessary excess. Questions from Pratt and Hansford. **First Pro:** Kanter agrees that bill is put together well, agrees with funding and suggests charging admission fees in the future. Greinke is in favor the bill. Pratt stated they did a good job on presenting. Williams was impressed with the amount their department is giving. **First CON:** Leslie is in full support of funding but has reservations with the food category thinks it is too much. **Second PRO:** Pratt stated when looking at food costs they have put work into it and they have thought through the amount. Kanter stated that the numbers were pretty reasonable for the amount of people. Tazaz motion to add proviso language that "Any funds encumbered by April 1st, 2013 will automatically be returned to COGS Unallocated Account." Williams Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion Passes. Second CON:** Leslie wants everyone to think about this and believes they are overextending themselves and especially since they aren't charging registration and thinks that there are paying for too many meals. Should be thinking about the amount of money they are spending. **Third PRO:** Kanter calls to question. Willingham Second. Objection: NONE. Tazaz thanks everyone for listening to the debate. **Bill Passes 13-2-0.**

Bill 10: Allocation to Thalassic Society

President of organization shares briefly about organization. They are a graduate student organization that tries to spread out reach throughout the community and to the department itself. Want to inform fellow constituents about ongoing sciences. Shares their fundraising efforts and are requesting funding in the amount of \$1182.60 to cover travel expenses for their speaker to come to their lecture series. Hansford motion to extend by one minute. Kanter Second. Organization continues to share about the speaker for their lecture series. Williams questions about the 5K fundraiser and other fundraiser events. Greinke asks about funding from any related departments on campus. Kanter asks if they have asked their department for full funding and asks if all funding is locked into the \$1182.60 requested. Williams motion to extend by 4 minutes. Shah Second. Objection: NONE. Hansford asks about comment made that was related to department funding. Shah asks if there are any other speakers. Manakov questions about attendance. Kanter motion to fully fund. Hall Second. Objection Tazaz. **First PRO:** Hall stated that the department is in the process of selecting a chair. Difficult to ask for money as they don't know who to ask for funds. **First CON: NONE. Second PRO:** Tazaz motion to add proviso language that "Thalassic Society must submit all forms required to secure Speaker no later than February 6, 2013 or funds will automatically be returned to COGS Unallocated Account. All funds allocated for this event not encumbered by March 1, 2013 shall be returned automatically to COGS Unallocated Account." Williams Second. Objection: NONE. Motion to add proviso language passes. Leslie call to question, Kanter Second. Objection: NONE. **Bill Passes 14-0-1.**

Bill 11: Sponsored by Deputy Speaker Leslie: NAGPS Southeast Regional Conference Travel

Leslie briefly shares information about the regional conference and discusses the breakdown of travel expenses for 2 people. Hansford questions about gender preferences and expenses. Tazaz asks who is going on the trip. Hansford further asks about the estimated costs and their own expenses. Tazaz asks what is the purpose of going on the trip. Manakov asks would you be opposed to staying in one room with the opposite gender. Tazaz asks about the current state of NAGPS as far as leadership, financials. Motion to extend by one question. Kanter asks for clarification of what NAGPS is and their current stance on political issues today. **First PRO: NONE. First CON:** Tazaz is all for going to conferences but has an issue with the NAGPS conference because COGS has not been reimbursed for expenses from the event they hosted last year. She has raised this same concern every time NAGPS is discussed and doesn't understand why they haven't paid their debt. Kanter motion to have a five minute recess. Williams Second. **Second PRO: NONE. Second CON:** Kanter stated that looking at the budget that was passed for the 2013-13 fiscal year, NAGPS dues were approved with proviso language as to whether or not it is beneficial to COGS to me a member. While their missions is noble some of their views might not fall in line with Florida State and given a whole set of issues of how we interact with graduate issues and we are not a graduate student union, it may not be beneficial to continue to be a part of this group. Hansford agrees with Tazaz and has an issue with funding for separate rooms for the opposite genders. In his experience with traveling before has never seen two people of opposite gender not sharing same room because of gender. He suggested a larger room with 2 beds. **Third PRO:** Pratt feels room preference should not be an issue with COGS. Tazaz still feels the same way but if there is a group consensus that COGS should give them one last chance to pay their debt, then she would be in support if proviso language is provided. **Third CON:** Luttrell stated that considering that the cost of the hotel rooms is more than half of the cost of the trip in general, so for 2 people to have 2 rooms is a lot. Williams motion to amend with the proviso language: "That the funds are not approved if the outstanding debt is not received in hand by Friday, 8 February 2013." Hall Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion passes.** Kanter call to question. Greinke Second. Leslie stated that she has been involved in NAGPS for about a year. Has been more intimately involved with NAGPS since. Is not aware that NAGPS has any other situations of this nature and believes it is an isolated incident that needs be remedied and is doing her best to make that happens. Wants to clarify that COGS will not be paying registration because they voted last year that expenses incurred are to transport reps and not be paid to NAGPS, so they will not benefit from them attending this conference. **Bill Passes 6-1-4.**

Representative Kanter to Chair to hear Bill 12 Sponsored by Speaker Boler.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Boler explains justification for change. States that COGS has a code that is reasonably similar to statutes. In the code there are provisions for Quorum which have been unclear. This bill will amend the code to change Quorum requirements for section 109 of the Code. Have had issues with the word sworn and other issues about members who may or may not be members. It also requires at least 10 seats are to be filled to conduct business and wanting clarification of that. Also an issue of elected members who have not been sworn in. Hansford asks where it would be passed. Mims asks about the number we would be required to have. Tazaz asks for clarification of the number of representatives needed regarding amending Quorum. Williams motion to extend by 2 minutes. Pratt Second. Further questions by representatives, Tazaz questions about semester and semester meetings. Williams motion to extend by 2 minutes. Second Pratt. Further questions by Tazaz. Greinke motion to extend by 2 minutes. Willingham Second. **First PRO: NONE: FIRST CON:** Tazaz not against the bill but has an issue with the wording. **Second PRO: NONE.** Boler stated that the wording is not mimicking Senate statutes. It is the current requirements put on by Senate statutes. Pratt motion to amend saying "109.2, To constitute Quorum during any regular meeting, at least 50% of the voting representatives must be present. The Speaker or designate and one other elected member of the COGS executive committee must be present to constitute Quorum." Tazaz Second. Objection: Hansford. Pratt stated that he broke the amendment up in 2 sections and it also helps to clarify the issue of whether or not the Speaker is considered a representative to meet Quorum. Tazaz asks for the last part of Quorum regarding the 50% to be repeated. Willingham asks what happens when people leave meetings early and if Quorum is affected. Further questions by representatives. Tazaz motion to table to Ways & Means Committee. Hansford Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion passes to table Bill.**

Elections for Deputy Speaker for Finance.

- Willingham nominates Williams to be Deputy Speaker for Finance. Second Tazaz.
- No further nominations
- Williams introduces herself.

First PRO: Mims states she looks like she wants to do it.

Election Results from the Congress for the newly elected Deputy Speaker of Finance for the 21st Congress:

- **Catherine Williams**

ROUNDTABLE: Willingham, Mims, Tazaz, Greinke, Hansford, Pratt, Luttrell, Hall, Kanter, Leslie, Williams, Boler

ADJOURNMENT: 9:52 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 18, 2013