

TWENTY SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
February 17, 2014
6:35p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Assidon, Boler, Clay, Greinke, Hall, Halperin, Leslie, Misrahi, Nilson, Raleigh, Syme, Vakil, Ward, Williams

QUORUM: Yes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Raleigh

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Huard, Luttrell, Proia

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Adolphson, Akinfaderin, Behuniak

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: Assidon

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Sarah Strazzo, Tamara Marryshow

MINUTES APPROVED: Hall moves to accept. Nilson Second.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

STUDENT COMMENTS: NONE

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT: NONE

Funding Requests:

- *Bill 9: Amending the Leave of Absence Standards*
The Sponsor expands upon the language within Section B: If a representative leaves their seat for a leave of absence and their seat is filled temporarily, once that representative returns from their leave, the other representative will immediately shift to the other qualified vacant seat, if available. The shift will not require investigation from the Internal Affairs Committee. Section 119.3C is for if there is any other reason that the representatives feel is a good enough reason to go before the committee. **FIRST PRO:** Nilson believes that the amendments are good for clarifying what petitioning a seat means. **SECOND PRO:** Assidon believes it clears up the confusion from the last meeting's proposed amendments. Nilson moves to accept the Internal Affairs Committee amendments. Leslie Second. Amendments accepted. **Bill 9 Passes 14-0-0.**
- *Bill 11: Allocation to Graduate Women in Science*
The organization is requesting funds for the copyrights of a movie that they would like to show this semester. They will use \$250 for refreshments during the movie, a book club meeting and webinar later this semester. The organization further explains the expected

attendance, their intended use of the requested funds and their breakdown of the food expenses for the three events. Misrahi moves to fully fund the organization. Hall Second. Objection. Misrahi believes that the last event they held went well and sees fit to fund them. **SECOND PRO:** Williams moves to strike \$450 from Contractual Services and put \$450 into General Expense. Syme Second. Motion carries. **SECOND PRO:** Deputy Speaker Leslie moves to change food amount from \$250 to \$150. Greinke Second. Objection. Leslie intends to fund the movie event and book club meeting. Representative Hall moves to accept Deputy Speaker Leslie's motion to amend \$250 to \$150 in food by acclamation. Motion carries. **SECOND PRO:** Greinke would like for the organization to consider fundraising for future events. **Bill 11 passes. \$450 in General Expense and \$150 in Food.**

- Bill 12 Sponsored by Deputy Speaker Nilson: *Transfer to Scholars Commons*
Nilson explains the media set was requested in the Budget Committee meeting for \$6000.00. The Mondopad is a mobile screen good for presentations and Skype calls. It can be used in multiple rooms and students have the ability to check it out from Scholars Commons. Representatives inquire how many students use the Mondopad and will undergraduate and graduate students be able to use it. **FIRST PRO:** C. Williams states that since it is technology it will reside in Scholars Commons and reserved for graduate students only. Nilson explains the reason behind the designation of the Mondopad to graduate students only. **FIRST CON:** Ward doesn't necessarily believe that new equipment should be purchased until COGS conducts its research and can show how the current equipment is being used. Assidon adds that it may not be a bad idea to consider partnering with Senate for the purchase of the Mondopad in order to help the learning environment for all students. **SECOND PRO:** Williams explains that it is an integrated system and describes all the materials that come with the system. The four existing Mondopads are not in use at this time and not specifically designated to graduate students. **SECOND CON:** Assidon believes that COGS should take a further look into purchasing a Mondopad for \$6000 because students currently pay a technology fee. **THIRD CON:** Syme is trying to understand why this is necessary when there are other reasonable equipment options that are as effective as the Mondopad. Prior to purchasing the system, he would like to see the amount of usage the other equipment gets to know if another one would be necessary. Leslie calls to question. Hall Second. **Bill 12 Passes 7-5-3**

New Business

- Resolution 4 Sponsored by Deputy Speaker Leslie: *Sponsoring the GradsHaveDebt2 Campaign*
Aims to educate others about graduate students having debt and should be considered in the discussion. The campaign informs them about debt and tuition increases and advocacy for reducing interest rates for graduate students and reinstating subsidized Stafford Loans. **FIRST PRO:** Assidon believes that this is an important issue presented. Misrahi believes that is important to have graduate students' interest rates the same as undergraduate students' rates. **FIRST CON:** Deputy Speaker Nilson isn't in favor of choosing a position in this political debate. **SECOND PRO:** Deputy Speaker Leslie explains the goals of the campaign. **Resolution 4 carries.**

ROUNDTABLE: Assidon, Boler, Clay, Greinke, Hall, Halperin, Leslie, Marryshow, Misrahi, Nilson, Raleigh, Strazzo, Syme, Vakil, Ward, Williams

ADJOURNMENT: 8:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 3, 2014