

TWENTY FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
March 4, 2013
6:40 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Boler, Gajjarapu, Greinke, Hall, Hansford, Hutson, Kanter, Kanuri, Leone, Lieberwirth, Luttrell, Manakov, Meehan, Mims, Mookerherjee, Nilson, Okoye, Pratt, Salvador, Tazaz, Williams, Youngblood, Yu

QUORUM: Yes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Greinke

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Leslie, Shah, Willingham

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: Lieberwirth, Mims

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: Hansford

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: NONE

MINUTES APPROVED: with amendments Youngblood motion. Leone Second.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

STUDENT COMMENTS: NONE

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT: NONE

SPEAKER'S REPORT:

- The Law School Council had elections. We have a new Law School Council that will start May 1, 2013.
- They are currently in training with the out-going law school officers and have elected their internal officers.
- There are a couple of organizations coming us to in a non-traditional way for sponsorship tonight: PeaceJam and KidZone.
- Student government had elections. COGS is not on the ballot but will be in the fall. You will be seeing new senators, and a new student body president.
- The Republican Law School Association will be coming to us tonight asking us to approve their use of \$2500 in contractual services. According to statutes and the financial manual, there are various ways it is supposed to be approved. It is coming through a resolution which we are under the understanding that it is the best ways for it to be approved.
- You will be seeing a bill to fund computers for the COGS professional staff.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR FINANCE'S REPORT:

- Pay attention to COGS unallocated and the COGS organizational lines. We have 2 resolutions that will be coming from that.
- Also be aware of the amounts for presentation and travel grants for your constituents.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR JUDICIAL AFFIARS:

- Those of you who are new and don't have a binder please see Kanter after tonight's meeting. It has the code in it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- C-SAC:
 - C-SAC has not met, but we do have 2 funding requests. Williams motion to go into a committee of a whole. Hansford Second. Objection: NONE. After the committee of a whole, Pratt motion to accept C-SAC's decision as a body on Resolutions 8 and 9. Kanter Second.

Williams motion to re-order the agenda to hear Resolution 8: Sponsored by C-SAC. Kanter Second. Objection: NONE.

- Resolution 8: Sponsored by C-SAC: *Allocation to Indian Student Organization*
Williams states that as C-SAC, we chose to fund \$148.00 in expense and \$840 in food with proviso language that: "any funds not encumbered or used by April 1, 2013 will automatically be returned to COGS Organizational Support Line." Nilson asks if we know how many meals are served. **First PRO:** Hanford states that a larger and more welcoming international student population at FSU is something that COGS should work towards. None of these requests are outlandish or excessive to fund the organization. Kanuri states that the requests are not outlandish and were well planned and thinks they should be fully funded. Meehan states that we have already agreed to approve the funding. **First CON:** Greinke opposes funding because he thinks it is a party. It's not an outreach event, it's not for education, it's a day for festivities and having a dinner at the end. He has no objection to having a party but an objection to having students fund the party. Further comments by Manakov. **Second PRO:** Youngblood states that this is less of a party as it is a cultural celebration; they are asking to be allowed to celebrate a piece of their culture. Tazaz agrees and it is no different than funding a speaker to talk about an issue. They are presenting to the university a piece of their culture, it's not a 100% equivalent but it does have some merit to it. Further comments by Yu and Gajjarapu. Okoye states that it is a way for them to gather and promote brotherhood. Kanter states that we should be funding more things like this to bring cultural awareness to our campus. Our job as COGS is not to assassinate fun but thinks we should encourage and support this. **Second CON:** Williams's motion to call to question with a hand raised vote. Kanter Second. Objection: NONE.
Resolution 8 Passes: 19-1-1.

Hansford motion to re-order agenda to hear Resolution 9. Youngblood Second. Objection: NONE.

- Resolution 9: Sponsored by C-SAC: *Allocation to Lebanese Social Organization*
Resolution 9 passes without objection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.:

- Internal Affairs: HAVE NOT MET.
- Academic & Student Life:
 - Met this evening and voted to move forward on student parking, student assistantships, and student fees.
- Way & Means
 - Has not met since the last meeting but will be meeting before the next COGS meeting. An email will be sent out to those on the committee.

Kanter motion to re-order the agenda to hear Resolution 10: Sponsored by the Congress. Okoye Second. Objection: NONE.

- Resolution 10: Sponsored by The Congress: *Permission for Republican Law Student Association to pay \$2500 in contractual services for a single event.*
The treasurer of the Republican Law Association is requesting the approval of the \$2500 honorarium for their Speaker Bay Buchannan who served under Ronald Reagan. She has agreed to come and all students are welcome. It is the largest event that the organization has sponsored. She will be speaking on the 2nd Amendment. The event will be structured in a way that students will be able to interact with Ms. Buchanan. Tazaz asks if the organization invited her to come prior to receiving money from LSC. Further questions from representatives. Okoye motion to extend by 2 minutes. Youngblood Second. Okoye asks would you consider bringing it to the main campus. Nilson asks the time of day the event is to be held. Leone asks if they would be opposed to having it later. **First**

PRO: Pratt states that he has been to many events at the law school and not sure if we should move the event to campus. Further comments from representatives Salvador, Nilson, and Meehan. **First CON:** Meehan thinks the event should be advertised to all of campus. **Second PRO:** Leone states if the law school has already approved the event and all we are asked to pay is \$500 over, according to code, it's not like we have to pay the \$500. According to procedure you have to ask our permission and he doesn't see why it's an issue. Tazaz agrees that if the location was changed to central campus it might be more appropriate to have a bigger room but it's up to the organization to determine that. Tazaz call to question. Second Salvador. **Resolution Passes 18-0-3.**

Funding Request:

- Bill 14: Sponsored by Representative Okoye: *Allocation for partnership with PeaceJam*
Okoye speaks briefly on behalf of PeaceJam and turns it over to the coordinator. She shares briefly about the event and that they are having a public talk that is open to all students as well community members. Speaker is Oscar Sanchez, the former president of Costa Rica who won the Nobel Peace prize in 1987. They are requesting COGS to provide refreshments as they have done in the past. Hansford motion to extend by 5 minutes. Kanter Second. Questions from representatives. Hansford asks if they have receipts or estimates that show \$1000 worth of beverages. Salvador asks if we have done this in the past and how long has COGS been a part. Further questions by Meehan and Hansford. **First PRO:** Tazaz states that it is a good venture. Youngblood states that the math is simple and it comes out to \$2.00 per person. Meehan thinks it a great opportunity for high school students coming the event. Manakov thinks it is a great idea, this is what we are here for, and is in favor of event. **First CON: NONE.** Hansford motion to adopt by acclimation. Objection: NONE. **Bill 14 accepted by acclimation.**

Williams motion to re-order the agenda to hear Bill 16. Youngblood Second.

- Bill 16: Sponsored by Speaker Boler: *Allocations for KidZone Partnership in the Spring Fling*
The graduate assistant for major events at the student activity center shares briefly about Spring Fling. COGS has partnered with them for the last 3 or 4 years. They would like to spread the word about KidZone to other graduate students and the event will last from 7-9 in the amphitheater for children ages 4-12. The event will be open to FSU students. Nilson motion to extend by 1 minute. Williams Second. Boler stated that in the past we were able to fund \$1500 in general expense. Hansford asks her to expand on the breakdown of costs. Nilson asks if the inflatables will be insured. Further questions from representatives. Williams move to strike food and contractual services from the bill and add \$1500 in general expense. Lieberwirth Second. Objection: NONE. By a hand raised vote the **Bill Passes 20-1-1.**
- Bill 15: Sponsored by Deputy Speaker Williams: *Allocation for purchase of Computer Hardware for the COGS Professional Staff*
Williams states that the computers are for COGS professional staff to be able to do their jobs more effectively. Okoye asks how old the computers are. Manakov asks if they are going to auction. Further questions by Okoye, Hansford and Greinke. **First PRO: NONE. First CON:** Tazaz motion to accept by acclimation. Objection: NONE. **Bill 15 accepted by acclimation.**

ROUNDTABLE: Mookerherjee, Greinke, Pratt, Lieberwirth, Manakov, Luttrell, Youngblood, Yu, Meehan, Nilson, Gajjarapu, Kanuri, Leone, Mims, Okoye, Hall, Hansford, Hutson, Tazaz, Salvador, Kanter, Williams, Boler

ADJOURNMENT: 8:29 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2013