

TWENTY FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
Senate Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
November 5, 2012
6:35 p.m.
Agenda



Call to Order: Kathryn Porwoll, Student Body Vice President will preside over meeting until the Speaker was elected.

Pledge of Allegiance: Willingham

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Boler, Leslie, Mims, Tazaz

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE.

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE.

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: NONE.

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: NONE.

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: Okoye

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

- Claudia Lieberwirth
- Catherine Williams
- Christine Willingham
- Oliver Okoye

Petitions into the Assembly: John Kanter, Cherisse Luke, Laura Meehan, Kathryn Rolley, Felicia Youngblood.

Vice President Porwoll reordered the agenda to hear Resolution 1 under New Business.

Resolution 1: *COGS Internal Rules and Procedures*. Tazaz motion to adopt Resolution 1. Leslie Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion Passes.**

Elections: Kanter motion to move agenda to open floor for elections. Leslie Second. Objection: NONE

Nominations from the Congress for the 21st Congress of Graduate Students Speaker of the House:

- Representative Boler was nominated by Kanter. Willingham Second. Objection: NONE.
- Boler shares why he would be a good candidate.
- Leslie asks about graduation timeline. Tazaz asks about time commitments for the position.

First PRO: NONE. Leslie motions to move into elections. Kanter Second. Kanter motions to elect Boler by secret validation. Tazaz Second. Objection: Leslie. Representatives continue with secret voting.

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

- Representative Boler

Student Body Vice President Porwoll swore Representative Boler in as Speaker for the 21st Congress and turned meeting over to Speaker Boler to preside.

Speaker Boler swears in Representative Oliver Okoye.

Nominations from the Congress for the 21st Congress of Graduate Students Executive Board:

Leslie motion to open floor for nominations for Deputy Speaker of Finance. Kanter Second. Objection: NONE.

- Leslie nominates Representative Tazaz. Lieberwirth Second. Objection: NONE. Williams motion to close the floor for further nominations. Leslie Second. Objection: NONE.
- Tazaz shares why she would like to be re-elected.
- Leslie questions Tazaz about graduation time frame and upon leaving what does she plan to do to train others for position.

First PRO: Leslie stated that Tazaz has a wealth of knowledge and the Congress needs her considerable expertise especially for new people who will take over when she leaves. Representatives move in to secret voting.

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

- Amanda Tazaz

Tazaz motion to open floor for nominations for Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs Mims Second. Objection: NONE.

- Mims motion to nominate Kanter for Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs. No further nominations. Tazaz motion to close floor, Mims Second. Objection: NONE.
- Kanter shares why he would like position and experience.
- Leslie asks how you plan to manage responsibilities as a medical student and Deputy Speaker.

First PRO: Leslie states the fact that he is willing to push himself forward as a medical student is very admirable and from what she has seen in meetings he is very willing to learn and open. Representatives move into secret voting.

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

- John Kanter

Lieberwirth motion to open floor for nominations. Deputy Speaker for Communications. Mims Second. No further nominations. Tazaz motion to close the floor for further nominations. Youngblood Second. Objection: NONE.

- Leslie addresses the body explains why she is running for the position. Looking forward to great things.
- Williams asks what are your time constraints.

First PRO: NONE. Representatives move to secret voting.

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

- Neleen Leslie

Speaker Boler swears in newly elected officers for the 21st Congress of Graduate Students.

Under Rule 10 of the newly adopted Code, Speaker Boler reorders the agenda to hear Bill 2.

Funding Requests:

- *Bill 2: Allocation to the Political Science Graduate Student Association*
Organization requesting funding for 2 speakers. Speakers hold workshops in the summer in Michigan but they want to bring them to FSU. By doing so will benefit the organization and will provide great opportunity for one on one time with speakers. Questions from Tazaz regarding where workshops will be hosted. Meehan asks questions regarding undergraduate, graduate students, and if the workshop will be open to other universities. Kanter asks if \$1500 for speakers is for honorarium and travel expenses. Tazaz motion to extend by 5 minutes. Leslie Second. Tazaz asks if they are restricting the workshop to graduate students only. Leslie asks if speakers have agreed to come, or if they have been contacted and about department funding. Further questions from Leslie regarding funding requests and honorariums. Tazaz motion to extend by 3 minutes. Lieberwirth Second. Tazaz questions if they will receive credit. Further questions by representatives regarding workshops, and food. Willingham asks if they feel the workshops will be adequate and if they will be able to use it in some way when they are done in 2 days. Tazaz motion to fund organization \$175 in Food and \$1825 in Contractual services. Leslie Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion Passes.**
- *Bill 1: Allocation to Art Therapy Association of FSU*
President of organization shares who they are and what they do. Requesting funds for speaker for their annual workshop. Workshop will provide information and an inspiring experience for students. Lieberwirth asks why speaker wasn't eating with attendees and if the speaker does eat with attendees would the organization consider lowering the price. Leslie asks if they would consider offering a lump sum for honorarium. Further questions by representatives. Mims motion to extend by 5 minutes. Kanter Second. Objection: NONE. Mims questions if workshop is open to professionals in the community. Meehan asks if a fee would be charged for nonstudents. Leslie asks about food. Tazaz asks if requesting funds for this fiscal year. Leslie motion to fund \$1000 in contractual services, \$200 if food, and \$80 general expense. Lieberwirth Second. Objection: Mims. Leslie explained breakdown of funds for motion. Reminds Congress of what is left in the budget for the rest of the year. This organization has already received funds from Cogs and the amount suggested in reasonable. Mims asks about previous funding given for other organizations. **First PRO:** Mims reconsidered her previous comments and stated that based on what the organization has been given in the past, this amount is fair. **First CON:** NONE. **Second PRO:** Tazaz call to question. Williams Second. Objection: NONE. Leslie waives closing. **Motion Passes 12-0-0.**
- *Bill 3 : Allocation to the Society for Musicology*
Organization shares who they are and what they do. Requesting funds for \$8500 to bring 4 visiting scholars to FSU this includes \$2125 honorarium for each scholar, \$800 for food. Tazaz motion to extend by 3 minutes. Williams Second. Organization also requesting \$200 in OCO. Tazaz asks what the purpose is for the printer. Lieberwirth asks if they are aware of the 3000 free copies for organizations. Kanter ask for breakdown on food and expenses. Further questions by representatives. Williams asks about attendees. Kanter motions to extend by 2 minutes. Youngblood Second. Meehan asks about plans for generating more funds. Tazaz asks what is the difference between last year's and this year's budget. Kanter asks for breakdown on contractual services. Kanter motion to recess. Meehan Second. Objection: NONE. Kanter motion to fund organization at \$5600 in contractual services and \$400 in food, with proviso language that "the organization must show proof to have sought out additional Non-COGS funding before being able to request additional COGS funding in the spring of 2013." Lieberwirth Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion Passes.**

Speaker Boler waived Rule 20 to hear Resolution 4

New Business.

- Resolution 4: Sponsored by COGS: *Permission for Real Estate Law Society to host an off campus event.*
The president of the organization shares about organization and what will happen at the event. Asking for \$250 in food for about 40-50 students and there will be interactions with attorney as well. Students will pair up with mentors to ask questions. Questions from representatives. Rolley asks if this is money that has already been allotted. Further question from Okoye.

First PRO: Leslie in support of Resolution and says the organization's needs are a little different from other graduate students and even will benefit constituents in the organization. **First Con:** Rolley says, if the program is off campus, it will not be accessible to other students. **Second PRO:** NONE. **Second CON:** Lieberwirth motion to amend "off site of FSU to off campus" Second Tazaz. Objection: NONE. **Third PRO:** Leslie call to question. Kanter Second. Objection: NONE. Tazaz yields to president of organization. The president of the organization clarifies the event, anyone can come. It is a mentor event taking any students interested and then they are paired up. Contacts in real estate and law are important ways in getting jobs. **Resolution Passes 9-0-3 to fully fund the organization \$250.**

- Resolution 2: Sponsored by COGS: *Surgery and Anesthesiology Interest Group*
Tazaz explains why Resolution 2 is blank. The organization is asking for money that was not given because they failed to turn in forms prior to travel and are petitioning COGS to reconsider. Student shared why they went on the trip and was important for Florida State to attend trip as a new medical school and it gives them recognition. The student assumed that submitting the paper works to MSC was same as submitting it to COGS. At time didn't understand the difference in authority in the 2 organizations but that is different now. Not asking for new money. The money has already been allocated. The hang up is they did not get pre-approval from COGS. So that this never happens again, 3 of their members have been financially certified and they are now very well versed in this process to prevent future errors like this happening, Lieberwirth asks is this possible with them not turning in paperwork.
Further questions by Okoye and Mims. **First PRO: NONE. First CON: NONE.**
Kanter motion to enter a committee of the whole. Explains that this is basically outside of Robert's Rules of Order off the record so they don't have to follow procedure for 5 minutes if approved. Mims Second. Objection: NONE. **Second PRO:** Tazaz motion to amend blank Resolution to say Kanter Second. Objection: NONE. **Resolution Passes.**
Tazaz motion to amend blank Resolution 2 to partially say "WHEREAS, Surgery and Anesthesiology Interest Group failed to provide the congress with pre-travel details for authorization of travel, "WHEREAS, Surgery and Anesthesiology Interest Group was allocated \$2,200 for travel to attend a conference in the Fall semester by MSC. Kanter Second. Objection: NONE. Resolution partially amended. Rolley thinks if we fund this organization then we would be required to do the same for other organizations and unfortunately, they will have to jump through more hoops than other organizations but that's the structure of their funding situation. Motion to amend Resolution 2 after "Therefore be it resolved" to say "that these travel expenses not be reimbursed by the Congress of Graduate Students." Lieberwirth Seconds. Willingham Objects. Rolley as the amendment stands, to not support the students' reimbursements, it has nothing to do with the students but with the process of how we approve travel funding. Suggests not passing the Resolution would instead change the way we do things and we have to reconsider other instances where cases came before us where we had to reconsider retroactive reimbursement. **First PRO:** Lieberwirth is in support of amendment agrees with Rolley. In addition students under MSC have the advantage that we are giving them money by being a line item beforehand whereas other RSOs have to come to COGS. **First CON:** Willingham states, First of all, 4 or 5 students who are at risk of personal funds being expended where they had a trusted servant that they trusted to do the job correctly and the trusted servant failed them. It's not about the organization as it is about these other students who thought the process was going the way it should. Secondly, the reason for an appeal case is to take it by a case by case analysis when exceptions might arise. So allowing them to receive their retroactive reimbursement does not commit us to always do this for other organizations that choose to appeal a decision. Leslie agrees with Willingham and states as president of an organization she knows the position that students traveling with an RSO can be put into. If it was the E-Board of the RSO trying to get money back then the amendment would be fine but there are other students who have no idea what the process is and the E-Board of the RSO is liable and COGS can find other avenues to reprimand this organization without reprimanding the other students. Kanter is abstaining from this vote because he is a student in the medical school but agrees with Willingham and Leslie because steps were made to try to correct their mistake and went beyond that to make amends for next time, and would like that to be taken into consideration when voting begins. Kanter motion to allow John Hahn from the medical school to speak. Mims Second. Objection: NONE. John Hahn says it is not the fault of the RSO officers they followed correct procedure, this occurred because of the students' misunderstanding of the proper procedure, and letting first year students who have not gone through this process was probably not the best way to approach a conference especially one that costs this much. Not one particular person to blame and even he is held responsible. He understands now that

the money had to be allocated but according to their books the money was given to the group in hope of using it for the conference. This was a mistake of their leadership and travelers. Although the other 5 travelers were not aware and should have been but they were not %100 sure. **Second PRO: NONE. Second CON: NONE. Third PRO:** Mims call to question, Okoye Second. Objection: NONE. Rolley understands that the students shouldn't take the brunt of this however it is problematic if we can't figure out a way to navigate this in a different way. She is puzzled and would like to open it up to amend her Resolution. She doesn't want the students to take the brunt but recognizes that something does need to happen. Rolley withdraws her amendment on the third line of the Resolution. **Second PRO:** Willingham motion to amend after the "Therefore" clause in the third line of the Resolution to say "that the Surgery and Anesthesiology Interest Group be allowed to submit retroactive paperwork for the travel expense of \$2,200 for travel dates of 9/29/2012 to 10/1/2012 by the Congress of Graduate" Mims Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion Passes.** Lieberwirth motion to further amend line 4 of the Resolution to say "FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the conduct of SAIG is an instance of misfeasance of their responsibility under the COGS Code Chapter 211.1.a.2. as such the Congress desires that SAIG funds be frozen for 10 business days" Williams Second. Mims Second. OBJECTION: NONE. **Motion passes.** Kanter motion to have a 5 minute recess to add further wording to the Resolution 2. Williams Second. Objection: NONE. Kanter motion to add to the Resolution "FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the executive board of SAIG provide written acknowledgment of their failure to properly oversee travelers from their organization and detail their corrections to avoid this situation in the future." Willingham Second. Objection: NONE Rolley motion to amend by including a deadline to Kanter's motion after" in the future" and adding " no later than Noon on Friday November 9, 2012." Leslie Second. Objection Tazaz. **First PRO: NONE. First CON:** Tazaz has issue with giving the organization an extended deadline. **Second PRO:** Rolley motion to amend to say" BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the executive board of SAIG has until Noon on Tuesday November 6, 2012 to submit all paperwork regarding this travel, including travel request forms, reimbursement forms and receipts." Lieberwirth Second. Objection: NONE. **Amendment Passes.** Leslie call to question. Okoye Second. Objection: NONE. **Motion Passes 10-0-2.** Leslie call to question on entire Resolution. Mims second. **OBJECTION NONE: Resolution 2 Passes 7-1-4.**

- Resolution 3: Sponsored by Representative Tazaz: *Honoring our Veterans and Active Military Personnel*
Tazaz explains Resolution. No questions. **First PRO: NONE. First CON: NONE. Second PRO:** Mims motion to amend last paragraph to add "an electronic copy will be sent to the Collegiate Veterans Association." Kanter Second. Objection: NONE. **Amendment passes.** Leslie motion to strike "military" from the 4th "Whereas before veterans on the first line". Mims Second. Objection: NONE. **Amendment passes.** Lieberwirth motion to amend striking "living Florida veterans" and add "veterans living in Florida." Williams Second. Objection: NONE. **Amendment passes.** Leslie motion to amend striking "Therefore and the (,)" in the last paragraph to say "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" Mims Second. Objection: NONE. **Amendment Passes.** Leslie motion to call to question. Lieberwirth Second. Objection: NONE. Leslie motion to accept by acclimation. Williams Second. OBJECTION: NONE. **Resolution accepted by acclimation.**

Boler reorders the agenda in accordance to Rule 10.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: approved with amendments. Leslie motion. Mims Second.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: NONE

Messages from Student Government:

- Vice President Porwoll thanks everyone for their dedication and wishes COGS a successful term.
- Wednesday November 7, at 7 pm, Wesley Clark is coming to speak at FSU in Ruby Diamond on A Golden Tribe Lecture Series. Free to all FSU students.
- Wednesday November 7 from 11:30 am to 1 pm, the Women's Student Union is hosting a coffee talk from 11:30-1 in the Women's Center for all women leaders on the campus.

SPEAKER'S REPORT:

- Prepared a short training to get the new member acclimated to the way COGS works. The training will be after the November 19 meeting.
- Representatives are required to be financially certified by their 2nd COGS meeting. Go to sga.fsu.edu/COGS/Financial Manual/Certification Quiz and turn it in to Barbara Speck in Room 209 Oglesby Union.
- Hopes everyone bears with him as he gets acclimated and looks forward to working with everyone

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR FINANCE'S REPORT:

- After tonight's meeting we have \$35,735.02 left for future funding requests
- Elections of Budget Committee:
 - Need to form a committee of 4 COGS representatives that will sit down and hear budget requests for the 2013-14 school year and the committee will come up with a suggested budget during a COGS meeting. Volunteers are Lieberwirth, Williams, Youngblood, and Boler.
 - The body voted on the appointments. The appointments were confirmed.
 - Everyone is welcomed to sit in on committees.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR JUDICIAL AFFIARS: NONE

DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There are no committees. Send email for first and second preference for committees. If you are not new let him know which committees you have served on.

Round Table: Lieberwirth, Willingham, Williams, Youngblood, Meehan, Luke, Rolley, Okoye, Mims, Kanter, Leslie, Tazaz, Boler, Morgan, Turner-Davis

Adjournment: 10:38 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2012