

TWENTY NINTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting
Zoom/HCB 103
September 13, 2021
6:30 p.m.
MINUTES



Call to Order: 6:45 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Dep. Speaker Collins

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Adhikari, Collins, Creigh, Delva, Gfatter, Hagemeyer, Harshe, Hirsch, Ilesanmi, Ryan, Sangokunle, Sizemore, Smith

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: N/A

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: N/A

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Sussman, Wiley

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: N/A

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: N/A

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: N/A

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

- Hirsch: motion to approve the minutes
- Collins: Second

Petition into Assembly: Shyaam Amaraneni (Arts & Sciences)

Speech:

- Completing a Master's in Camera Science
- From India, and was a part of many student organizations there
- Interested in issues of transportation in Tallahassee, however, this is not convenient for everyone
- Presented this issue to the university's board of members to make this transportation available on Saturdays and Sundays
- Applied for COGS to help international students feel more prepared
 - Wanting to improve transportation on campus
 - Has goals for improving overall quality of life for graduate students

Questions:

- Creigh: Are you available at 6:30pm on Monday nights for meetings?
- Amaraneni: Yes, I am.
- Collins: Which of the three committees do you see yourself a part of?
- Amaraneni: I see myself on the student advocacy side, however, I need to take a look at the committees and decide.
- Harshe: So you will be representing the College of Arts and Sciences. How do you plan to represent the interests of these students?
- Amaraneni: Yes, I was able to connect with these students when I got my petition signed. I hope this will lead to further discussions about improvements for our college.

Pros:

- Hirsch: Passionate about COGS and clear goals for what he wants to accomplish
- Harshe: He sought for an open seat independently during his first semester. And he's been in the U.S. for less than 4 weeks, and it is awesome how he wants to be more involved so soon.
- Adikhari: We don't see a lot of students who represent our college with such unique perspective, and he would be a great asset for the College of Arts and Sciences on the Congress.

Cons:

- N/A

Vote: 12-0-0.

Sworn in by Deputy Speaker Sizemore.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A

Messages from Student Government:

Senator Linsky, SGA:

- Here to talk about a constitutional amendment to increase funds allocated to COGS to pass a 2/3 vote to eventually move to a Fall election where it is presented to the student body.
- This amendment has passed the Senate at large this passed Wednesday.
- I'd like to stress the importance of funding graduate students and promoting equity on our campus.

Nolan Rudolph, undergraduate student and Secretary of Internal Affairs:

- Here to talk about a project that involves undergraduate students connecting with graduate students more successfully
- Attempting to create a graduate student survey to hear more from graduate students
- Would like input from COGS on trimming this survey down to be more feasible for completion

- COGS members advised to include information that is essential to drive change

Speaker Hagemeyer:

- Let's break into a short recess to look through the survey to find which items are important to include to drive meaningful change and hear from graduate students.
 - No objections noted to recess.
- Rep. Amaraneni: We need to include items relevant to travel for graduate students, since it is difficult to get around on campus on the weekends.
 - Speaker Hagemeyer: Travel is a very important to address. However, workers compensation, funding for travel, etc can be more effectively addressed through the Graduate Assistants United.
- Speaker Hagemeyer: We can also probably include an incentive for motivating graduate students to complete this survey.
- Hirsch: include different demographic information
- Collins: include fewer open-ended questions and more multiple choice options
- Adhikari: including demographic information, I agree, would be helpful

Hagemeyer:

- Please contact me if any other points arise that should be included in this survey
- We are going to stay in a brief recess to transition to Dep. Speaker Sizemore's Robert's Rules of Order Presentation.

Internal Presentations to the Congress: Deputy Speaker Sizemore, Robert's Rules of Order

- Reviewed the history of Robert's Rules of Order
- Reviewed the three essential types of motions and then the six steps in a motion
- Provided a video model following the presentation

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Elections: N/A

Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker**
 - Former Speaker Michael Morgan has resigned from the Congress of Graduate Students due to a conflict in his schedule with COGS assembly meetings.
 - Sweepings is happening right now, and we have just over a million dollars available. Please advise organizations and community partners to submit a request if needed. I will likely put in a request for promotional items
 - We'd like to host a graduate student social. We would like to put in a request for that, however, we need to pick a date. We'd need to figure out this date up for the next week.
 - Rep. Gfatter: This is something we are in active discussion within the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. I would be all for this.
 - Take some time to think about it and email Rep. Harshe with your ideas for dates. There are four days left until sweepings applications are closed.

- Planning a potential Market Wednesday for graduate students. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please let me know.
- Potential mentorship program between graduate and undergraduate students could be beneficial for bridging gap between undergraduate and graduate school, and may inspire undergraduate students to attend graduate school.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance**
 - We will no longer be using the Qualtrics travel form, and the application for funding will be available on the COGS website
 - I recently completed a workshop with Jacalyn on navigating Nole Central to approve requests through this outlet
 - I created presentation guidelines and tips for RSOs in presenting their budget proposals to the budget committee
 - If anyone wants to be a part of the Budget Committee, please contact Rory
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**
 - Been working on presentations for onboarding and Robert's Rules of Order
 - I have also been holding office hours regularly, but there is not much else to report.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**
 - This past week we had our first Instagram takeover, and I think it was a huge success.
 - I'd like to do more of this in the future where we can personalize our experiences on social media.
 - I am actively reaching out to the colleges about our open seats.
 - I will be creating more outreach media about COGS, potentially a video highlighting our "campaign".
 - I'd love for everyone to be involved. We only have about 15 active members on the congress right now, so we have a lot to expand.

Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:**
 - We have not met, and nothing to report.
- **Internal Affairs:**
 - Internal Affairs met this past Friday to delegate tasks for the upcoming newsletter. Aims to release this October 15th prior to the assembly meeting on the 18th. The plan is to highlight our outreach efforts and the upcoming election. If the congress has any suggestions for RSOs or events that can be highlighted in this newsletter, please reach out to me.
- **Student Advocacy:**
 - We have not met, and will reach out to members soon as a time to meet.
- **Student Affairs:**
 - We met a couple of weeks ago, and reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Student Affairs committee. We want to make sure we have lots of representation on our committee.

Funding Requests: N/A

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Round Table: 8:39 p.m.

Adjournment/Finale Roll Call: 8:57 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 27th, at 6:30 PM in HCB 103 & via Zoom