TWENTY SIXTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
COGS Assembly Room
Dodd Auditorium
May 21, 2018
6:30 p.m.
Agenda

Call to Order:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call:

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Petitions into the Assembly:

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Messages from Student Government:

Report of Officers:
  • The Report of the Speaker
  • The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance
  • The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
  • The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications

Committee Report:
  • Internal Affairs:
  • Student Affairs:
  • Student Advocacy:

Funding Requests: NONE

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business:
  • Resolution 3 Sponsored by Representative Burns: Opposition to Legislation that Forces Unions to Recertify if Total Dues-Paying Membership Falls Below 50% of Eligible Workers
  • Authorization for OB/GYN to use funds for Travel Reimbursement

Round Table:

Adjournment:

Next Meeting: June 4th, 2018
## COGS Financial Report Fiscal Year 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOUNT</th>
<th>ALLOCATION AMOUNT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COGS ADMIN</td>
<td>$26,200</td>
<td>Includes Speakers Request, Food, Wages, Maintenance Fees, Overhead and Office phone services</td>
<td>$13,694.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNALLOCATED</td>
<td>$20,286.00</td>
<td>For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings</td>
<td>$100.01 + Sweepings allocation of $4000; end of 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATIONAL (C-SAC)</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>RSO funding for allocations less than $1000 for the fiscal year</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESENTATION GRANTS (MAR-JUN)</td>
<td>$49,200</td>
<td>Presentation Grant balance for the March-June funding period</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE GRANTS (MAR-JUN)</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>Attendance Grant balance for the March-June funding period</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recent Allocations:**

- 8/28-Allocation to Public Health Student Association: General Expense $543.92, Clothing/Awards $100, Food $337.15
- 8/28-Allocation to the Society for Musicology: Contractual Service $4,000
- 9/18-Allocation to College of Social Work Doctoral Student Organization-CSAC Food $240
- 9/18-Allocation to the School of Teacher Education Graduate Student Association-CSAC Food $500
- 10/2-Allocation to the Philosophy Graduate Student Association- Food $300
- 10/16-Allocation to National Art Educators Association-CSAC Food $250
- 10/16-Allocation to the Indian Students Association of Tallahassee-CSAC Food $980
- 10/16-Allocation to Sport Psychology Organization and Research Team-Contractual Services $500, Travel $900, Food $500
- 10/16-Allocation to Terra Incognita-Travel 1500, General Expense $200, Food $300
- 11/6-Allocation to Minorities & Philosophy: Food $400
- 11/6-Allocation to Music Theory Society: Contractual Services $1,500
- 11/6-Allocation to Political Science Graduate Student Association: Contractual Services $3,000, Food $1,000
• 11/20-Allocation to Applied Sport Psychology-FSU: Contractual Services $2,184, Food $150
• 12/4-Allocation to Art Therapy Association: Contractual Services: $1300, General Expense: $244, Food: $525
• 12/4-Allocation to Materials Research Society (MRS) FSU Chapter: Food: $179.18, Clothing/Awards: $222.74
• 1/29-Allocation to PeaceJam: Food: $3,000
• 2/5-Allocation to Music Teacher’s national Association-FSU Chapter: Contractual Services: $200, Food: $100
• 3/5-Allocation to Association for Computing Machinery: Clothing/Awards: $1,000
Call to Order: 6:32 pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Burns


REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Gerardi, Lozano, Polischuk, Reyna, Sanogo

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Oseguera

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Approved. Forsman 2nd.

Petitions into the Assembly: Tomas Solano (Special/Undecided Seat 1)

Special Introductions and Student Comments: NONE

Messages from Student Government: NONE

Funding Requests: NONE

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business:

- Bill 12 Sponsored by Forsman and Blake Hedges: Edits of the COGS Code, Substantial Edits of Chapter 302: The Medical School Council
  Representative Forsman explains that Internal Affairs Committee has been working with the Medical School Council (MSC) to establish a better relationship to work together more efficiently. The goal of the bill is to codify the relationship between the Medical School Council’s Constitution and the COGS Code as well as to update the election code to create more inclusive language for all of the programs the council has to offer. Forsman further breaks down the changes made in the bill. Representatives inquire the reason for the change in at large seats, an explanation of the appointment process for the MSC Board and is MSC in favor of the changes in the Code. FIRST PRO: Khazem is in favor of the clear language. Engelbrecht is in favor of the language which is clear and efficient. Motion to amend “to” to “from” in any instant in the Code. 2nd. Objection. Amendment passes. FIRST CON: Oloye believes the wording change does not make the edits as
clear as it could be. Motion to call to question. 2nd vote on amendment. Amendment passes 20-1-4. Motion to table. 2nd. Motion passes. Bill Tabled.

Round Table: Batchelder, Bhowmik, Blake-Hedges, Burns, Collopy, Demirsoy, Forsman, Hernandez, Hirsch, Khazem, Kim, Lange, Lozano, McLaughlin, Oloye, O'Neill, Oseguera, Reyna, Sanogo, Solano, Sorribes, Scriven, Sorribes, Stewart, Swanson, Uttermark, Zhang

Adjournment: 7:33 pm

Next Meeting: May 21, 2018
The 26th Congress of Graduate Students

Resolution 3

Sponsored by the Representative Burns

Opposition to Legislation that Forces Unions to Recertify if Total Dues-Paying Membership Falls Below 50% of Eligible Workers

WHEREAS: The Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) is the official representative body of graduate students at Florida State University. As the body representing graduate students, COGS represents over 8,500 (as of spring 2018) graduate, law, and medical students’ interests to the university and community and is empowered to issue resolutions expressing the views of graduate students and calling attention to important issues.

WHEREAS: The Florida constitution states: “The right of employees by and through a labor organization, to bargain collectively shall not be denied or abridged.”

WHEREAS: The National Labor Relations Board ruled in August 2016 that graduate students working as teaching or research assistants are employees with the right to collective bargaining.

WHEREAS: Universities have shifted over to funding graduate students through fellowships to circumvent the union process because fellows are not employed and therefore do not receive the benefits of the National Labor Relations Board’s ruling. For example, at Florida State University, only a handful of fellowships can receive the graduate assistants’ subsidy to purchase health insurance. All students are required to have insurance and the university’s plan which can cost approximately $207 a month. This is a great financial cost for a graduate student who may receive a stipend total of $1,000 a month.

WHEREAS: Graduate research and teaching assistants are in a precarious position because they work closely with academics but do not share the same power status, which means graduate students sometimes feel compelled to maintain higher workloads or allow uncomfortable work conditions to continue in an effort to maintain their positions. Graduate students have reported concerns of harassment by advisors, dissatisfaction in graduate salary, and inappropriately rigorous work demands. Additionally, graduate research and teaching assistants are generally not entitled to sick leave, maternity leave, or vacation time.
WHEREAS: The purpose of a graduate student union on university campuses is to ensure graduate assistants have the ability to collectively bargain for changes in their work conditions, such as access to health insurance, a guaranteed minimum stipend, and a guaranteed maximum work expectation. Some universities without graduate unions do not allow graduate students to engage in outside employment and expect students to work at least 20 hours a week.

WHEREAS: Graduate students at private universities across the United States filed petitions for union representation. University of Chicago students filed a petition for a graduate student union in May 2017; approximately two-thirds of the graduate student employees voted in favor of a union. Columbia University students filed a petition for a graduate student union. Yale University students filed a petition for a graduate student union in August 2016; eight out of nine graduate departments voted in favor of the union.

WHEREAS: FL HB25 was introduced in October 2017 and passed by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2018. The bill was introduced to the Senate in January 2018 and withdrawn from consideration on March 10, 2018. The bill would have forced unions to recertify if the total dues-paying membership falls below 50% of those employees who are eligible to participate in the union.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Congress of Graduate Students does not support any measure taken to prevent graduate research and teaching assistants from participating in a union. We believe it is necessary to provide graduate students with an organization that can address working condition concerns. This organization serves to protect the rights of graduate assistants on campus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Copies of this resolution be sent to:
U.S. Senators for Florida:
U.S. Representatives for Florida:

__________________ ___________________
Joshua Scriven Matthew Uttermark
Speaker Deputy Speaker for Finance

May 21st, 2018