

TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
April 20th, 2015
6:33 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Carter, Cavannaugh, Churey, Daramola, Edwards, C. Hall, T. Hall, Leslie, Nilson, Petrantoni, Pratt, Smillie, Tamaskar Uttermark, Ward

QUORUM: YES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Nilson

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Clay

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Ferraro, Luttrell

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: Gupta

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

MINUTES APPROVED: Ward. Uttermark 2nd.

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: NONE

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

STUDENT COMMENTS: NONE.

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT: NONE

Unfinished Business:

Funding Requests:

- Bill 18 Sponsored by Speaker Hall: Allocation for Co-Sponsorship with the Health Promotion Department (University Health Services)
Speaker Hall explains that HPD is looking for assistance with condom dispensers and rapid testing kits to promote sexual health. They have contacted different organizations for financial assistance. Condoms will be provided by Big Bend Cares. Condoms dispenser were approved to be located in SLC, two areas in the Student Union and one in each of the 3 libraries. They have proposed having dispenser in the College of Law and College of Medicine, pending approval. Representatives inquire about the budget breakdown and if the organization is interested in receiving more HIV tests. FIRST PRO: Representative Leslie is in support of the bill and would like to add more locations for dispenser so graduates students will have access to them. FIRST CON: Representative Pratt does not feel comfortable providing condoms to students but believes

that the HIV testing would be very beneficial and still achieve the goal of the Health Promotion Department. SECOND PRO: Representative Edwards believes that this will benefit the graduate students. Motion to amend the resolution \$1680 in General expense to reflect and add proviso language, submitted in writing. Objection. Representative Leslie would like to fund roughly 40 dispensers and 100 HIV tests with hopes that graduate students will be more accessible to these areas. FIRST PRO: Rep. Edwards is in favor of the bill and believes that the funds will go to a good cause. Churey is also in favor of both the dispensers and condom. Motion to call to question. Representative Leslie is happy that COGS is supporting this cause outside of funding organizations and believes that it will have a lasting effect on the university. Amendment passes 13-1-0. Motion to amend the proviso language, submitted in writing. Objection. T. Hall believes that the proviso language will insure that the funds will be used where COGS will like them to be used. FIRST CON: Representative Pratt would like to assist with the cost of the HIV test kits not the condom dispensers but he understands that the body is in favor of them both. Motion to call to question. Amendment passes with added proviso language 14-1-0. Motion to call to question on the Bill 18 passes 14-1-0 \$1680 in general expense.

- **Bill 19 Allocation to the Philosophy Graduate Student Association**
The organization is requesting financial assistance for their annual Free Will, Moral Responsibility and Agency conference this fall. The organization will host two distinguished keynote speakers who will cover the topics of free will and moral responsibility. Graduate students from outside programs will also have presentations. The organization further explains how this conference is a great opportunity for undergraduates and graduates to network with scholars and students from other programs. They are expecting a large turnout. He further breaks down the requests listed on the bill. Representatives inquire if the organization is aware of the annual budget process, the exact number amount of attendees at the last conference and if the organization plans to fundraise. Motion to fund the organization at \$3400 in contractual services. Objection. Deputy Speaker Nilson explains that he amended the amount to reflect the requests of the organization. FIRST CON: Representative Leslie is concerned that the organization is not attempting to fundraise for their event and does not agree with funding the organization ten percent of the unallocated budget. Representative Edwards believes that funding the organization at \$3400 is not reasonable. Representative Churey is not in favor of funding the organization at \$3400 for contractual services since the flights are fairly cheaper than what is listed in on the bill. Churey believes that the organization can find more cost efficient flights and hotels for the keynote speakers. SECOND PRO: Representative Pratt thinks that this is a good event and that the organization usually has a good turnout. Hopefully in the future the organization will be more aware of the annual budget and financial process. He would like to assist the organization. Motion to add proviso language submitted in writing. Motion passes. SECOND CON: Rep Leslie is not against funding the organization, but more so concerned with the amount that they are requesting. Rep Ward mentions that the congress can assist the organization at a minimum and after they attempt to raise more funds, they can return to COGS for further financial assistance. Deputy Speaker Hall mentions that he offered ways to fundraise to the organization on a separate occasion which they have not considered. It is his hope that in the future, they will take the advice into consideration when requesting funds from COGS. Motion to call to question. Objection. Vote-to-vote on bill 19. Vote passes. Bill 19 failed 3-10-2.

New Business: NONE

ROUNDTABLE: Carter, Cavannaugh, Churey, Daramola, Edwards, Ferraro, Gupta, C. Hall, T. Hall, Leslie, Petrantoni, Pratt, Smillie, Tamaskar Uttermark, Ward

ADJOURNMENT: 7:58 p.m.

