

TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
September 21st, 2015
6:33 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Carter, Edwards, Elwood, Hall, James, Luttrell, Peruche, Pfeifler, Saunders, Uttermark, Ward, Williams

QUORUM: YES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Luttrell

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Gupta, Kerry, Tamaskar

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Cavannaugh, Ferraro, Lee, Smillie

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Katharine P. Smith, Max Solomon, Fang Wang

MINUTES APPROVED: Akinfaderin. Uttermark Second.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

STUDENT COMMENTS: NONE.

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT: Jean Tabares, Study Body President, introduced himself to the assembly and offered his contact information.

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS:

- Speaker- Requests representatives to join the COGS admin account on Nole Central and include organization's events. COGS is in need of a representative to serve on the Library Graduate Representative.
- Deputy Speaker for Finance- Provided representatives with the financial breakdown of the OCGS accounts.
- Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs- Urged representatives to review the attendance policy and informed representatives about voting and abstentions.
- Deputy Speaker for Communications- Encourages representatives to send links of events that are taking place on campus so that it can be added to the social media pages for COGS.

Unfinished Business: NONE

Funding Requests:

- Bill 30: *Allocation to Applied Sport Psychology*

The organization explains the services and education that they provide to clients, graduate students and the community for performance enhancement. They are requesting funds for tools for professional development such as questionnaires and webinars, professional development tools, office supplies and funds for a guest speaker who can speak about private practices. Representatives ask the organization to clarify the professional development procedures, if the organization would be interested in making their own makeshift survey, and what expenses will the department assist with. Other questions include if the manuals will be used each year, what is the status of obtaining a speaker, and to explain what IMG is. Motion to fully fund. Objection. Representative James. **FIRST PRO:** Representative Pfeifler supports the bill and has experience working with IMG and thinks that the request is for a good cause. Representative Peruche believes that it is a great program and would like to honor their request. Representative Carter is in support of the bill and believes the organization is all about enriching their collegiate experiences. Representative Akinfaderin believes that the bill is well written and believes that the organization attempts to make a reasonable request each year. Deputy Speaker Ward would like to acknowledge the organization for being self-sustaining to fund their own projects in addition to request from COGS. **FIRST CON:** Representative Edwards believes it is a good request, but is hesitant about purchasing training manuals for professional development that will be used by the organization and not all students. For this reason, Edwards believes the funds should come from the organization's self-generated account. Representative Luttrell agrees with Edwards and believes that the guest speaker will only benefit a specialized group and it may not be applicable to all of the students. Deputy Speaker Williams is hesitant about funding office supplies. **SECOND PRO:** Representative Pfeifler believes that the congress receives requests for specialized speakers on a regular basis and would still like to support the organization. Deputy Speaker Ward believes that the speaker would be applicable to students in different fields who wish to start a private practice. Representative Carter thinks that much knowledge can be obtained from having a specialized speaker. Representative Peruche explains that it is best to use validated questionnaires and does not believe that the manuals are overpriced. **SECOND CON:** Luttrell is hesitant about funding the organization for the guest speaker since the event has not been planned in its entirety. Representative Edwards would like for the organization to handle the expenses of the manuals with the funds that they have raised since it will be used to support the organization's professional development and not the development of all graduate students. Representative Akinfaderin agrees with the sentiments of Edwards and thinks that it is a reasonable request. Motion to amend at \$1300.31 in General Expense \$516.60 in Travel Expense. Second Objection. Edwards would like to request the organization to purchase their own manuals. Motion withdrawn. Motion to amend the bill \$150.31 general expense, \$516 travel and \$1151 in contractual services. Amendment passes. Motion to call to question. **Bill 30 passes \$150.31 in General Expenses, \$516 in Travel and \$1151 in Contractual Services.**

- Bill 31 Sponsored by Representative James: *Allocation for Funds to Travel to NAGPS National Conference*

Representative James explains that there is a National Conference for NAGPS in California and would like to attend to network with graduate students and share knowledge about what the assembly does. It would be an opportunity to learn more about what NAGPS does for graduate students. Representative Carter is interested in being more involved with graduate student issues. The representatives will host a 5 minute presentation and a 30 minute session about the quality of life for students at FSU. The representatives are interested in sharing knowledge, obtaining knowledge and sharing the information with the university. Representatives inquire if the representatives will be willing to cover their own cost if not funded, how does attending the conference benefit the graduate student body, and if funded will they be willing to show the presentation prior to attending the conference. Motion to fund. Second. Objection. Representative Luttrell believes that the National conference should be funded by the presentation grant budget and that the organization should not treat itself differently and is not in favor of fully funding. **FIRST PRO:** Deputy Speaker Ward does not agree with the funding amount of the bill. **FIRST CON:** Representative Akinfaderin believes that it is a good request and that the representatives tried very hard to make the request reasonable. Deputy Speaker Ward believes that the bill should be partially funded and there may be a cheaper flight from another area. Motion to fund withdrawn. Motion to fund at \$680 in general expense. Second. Objection.

Representative Luttrell would like to cover the cost of registration fees. **FIRST PRO:** Representative Edwards believes that the request is reasonable and fair and does not want to prioritize this organization over others. **FIRST CON:** Pfeifler believes that congress should either fund the representatives to attend the conference or not fund them entirely since the amount amended will not help cover the cost for the representatives to attend. **FIRST CON:** Representative Carter explains that they will be doing a session and representing COGS. **SECOND PRO:** Representative Luttrell explains that essentially the request is eligible for a presentation grant and the representatives can cover the remaining amount not funded. Motion to amend the bill to read \$1200 in general expense. Objection. Deputy Speaker Ward would like to cover the airfare and registration fees for two representatives and would like the representatives to cover the rest of the costs to attend the conference. Representative Luttrell asks if Ward is ok with the cost of the airfare from Tallahassee. **FIRST PRO:** Deputy Speaker Uttermark agrees with the amendment and would like to fund them. Representative Saunders agrees with the amendment and believes that it would be a great opportunity for the organization. Representative Peruche thinks that the amendment is reasonable. **FIRST CON:** Representative Luttrell does not believe this is middle ground and believes that the congress is giving preferential treatment to its members. Representative Edwards agrees with Luttrell and believes that COGS is abusing its power. Motion to call to question. Second. Amendment passes 13-3-0 \$1200 in general expense. Motion to amend \$1340 in general expense. Second. Objection. Representative James explains that the amendment of \$1200 will cover hotel accommodations and airfare and would need additional assistance to help with registration fees. Motion withdrawn. Motion to amend from \$1200 to \$1400. Second. Objection. Representative James would like to cover the night of one night for hotel stay and cover the rest of the cost of the trip. **FIRST CON:** Representative Luttrell believes that the request is outrageous. Representative Edwards is not in favor of the amendment since other organizations cannot amend their own bills. Representative Solomon does not think that this request will give COGS a good image. Motion to call to question. Amendment failed 2-14-0. Motion to call to question **Bill 31 10-6-0 passes \$1200 in General Expense.**

- **Bill 32: Allocation to Sport Psychology Organization and Research Team**
The organization explains their funding request for a speaker series. It will cover the topics of well-being, physical fitness and stress reducers. Their organization has undergraduate and graduate members. The organization will fundraise this year. One conference will be held in November and the other will be set for February and will be held in the Student Resource Center. Representatives inquire the dates of the two conferences which will include guest speakers, if the organization has fundraised, is the event open to all students and to explain their advertisement procedures. Representatives also inquire the breakdown of the speaker series event and the method that will be used to obtain speakers for the events. Motion for two minute recess. Motion to amend the bill to read \$1382 in Contractual Services, \$337.13 in General Expense and \$783.11 in Food. Second. Objection. Akinfaderin would like to fund the organization for one speaker in hopes of the organization returning once they secure an additional speaker for the next conference. **FIRST PRO:** Representative Luttrell believes that the amendment is reasonable. Deputy Speaker Williams would like to see a resubmission of the request once the organization secures the speaker information for the conference in February. **FIRST CON:** Pfeifler believes that the organization should be funded based on merit and believes that the organization will do a good job securing a speaker. Asturizaga would like for the organization should try to plan for the future events and also attempt to fundraise. **SECOND PRO:** Akinfaderin is in favor of the amendment and hopes that the organization will return when they secure the guest speaker for the event during the spring semester. Representative Saunders agrees with the amendment. **SECOND CON:** Deputy Speaker Ward thinks that giving the organization a set amount will limit what they could do and would like to fund the organization in full so they can set a budget based off of the funds that were allocated. Representative Peruche does not believe that the organization will have an issue obtaining a speaker and therefore is not in favor of the amendment. **THIRD PRO:** Luttrell thinks that if the congress fully funds organizations then the organization will have no incentive to fund raise in the future. Motion to have a roll call vote. Second. **Bill 32 passes 15-0-1 \$1382 Contractual Service, \$337.13 in General Expense and \$783.11 in Food.**
- **New Business:**

- *Resolution 5: Request for Phi Alpha Delta to Host an Off-Campus Event at Harry's Seafood Bar & Grill*

The organization will host an off campus social at Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille. Using COGS funds, the organization was able to purchase appetizers for the event on October 7. The event is open to all students, preferably from the law school. This event will be purposeful for networking and the organization will invite alumni as well. Representatives inquire how many members are in the organization, and why the organization would like to host the event off campus. Motion to approve. Second. **Resolution 5 is approved.**

ROUNDTABLE: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Carter, Edwards, Elwood, Hall, James, Luttrell, Peruche, Pfeifler, Saunders, Smith, Solomon, Uttermark, Wang, Ward, Williams

ADJOURNMENT: 9:06 p.m.