

TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
April 18th, 2016
6:31 p.m.



Deputy Speaker Uttermark presided over the meeting until a new Speaker was elected.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Aung-Din, Baker, Clark, Elwood, Garcia, Garson, Gupta, Luttrell, Miller, Sharifi-Raini, Solomon, Uttermark, Wang, Ward

QUORUM: YES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Luttrell

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Peruche, Sanogo, Scriven, Sulentic

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: James

ELECTIONS FOR COGS SPEAKER

- Representative Luttrell nominates Benjamin Elwood.
- Representative Elwood accepts the nomination.

Election results from the congress for the newly appointed Speaker of COGS:

- Benjamin Elwood

Speaker Elwood now presides over the rest of the meeting.

ELECTIONS FOR DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR COMMUNICATIONS:

- Representative Garson nominates Representative Solomon.
- Solomon accepts the nomination.
- Representative Garcia nominates Representative Asturizaga.
- Asturizaga accepts the nomination.

Election results from the congress for the newly appointed Deputy Speaker for Communications:

- Vivianne Asturizaga

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Jason Guilbeau (Education), Jorge Oseguera Gamba (Minority Student Advocate)

MINUTES APPROVED: Uttermark. Second Ward.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

STUDENT COMMENTS: NONE.

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT: NONE

Unfinished Business: NONE

Funding Requests:

- **Bill 24: Allocation to the University Libraries-Scholars Commons**
Abby Scheel from University Libraries is requesting funds for 2 presentation kits. Graduate students will be able to check the kits out from the library and use the equipment at conferences or other presentation venues. The idea was suggested by the Graduate Student Advisory Council. The presentation kit will include a projector, wireless clicker, cables dongles and a Pelican case with the COGS logo for travel. Representatives inquire if the kits will be available to graduate students only, what is the life span of the technology, and the cost of technology fees at conferences. **FIRST PRO:** Garson is in favor of bill. Solomon is in favor of using funds to support funding. Luttrell likes the idea of the promotion COGS will get if they support the bill. Baker explains her experience with unsuspected technology fees and thinks that the kits are a great addition to University Libraries. Motion to call to question. Vote by voce. **Bill 24 passes: \$2210 in General Expense.**
- **Bill 25: Allocation to the Physics Graduate Student Association**
The organization is requesting funds for the 2nd annual physics department barbecue. The picnic is an opportunity to say thank you to the faculty and staff of the physics department. This event will also bring the physics community together and allow them to network. Representatives inquire if the organization fundraises, what is their other source of funding if COGS does not fund the event, does the organization charge dues and the benefit to the student body. **FIRST PRO:** Deputy Speaker Ward reminds the congress that although the event is geared toward the graduate student community, COGS has funded similar events in the past. Akinfaderin applauds the organization for their hard work this year without the assistance of COGS and believes that the amount requested is reasonable. **FIRST CON:** Luttrell believes that the event is for members only and adds that the event has no academic benefit. Motion to fund at \$300 in food. Amendment passes. **SECOND PRO:** Deputy Speaker Asturizaga is in support of funding the organization and admires that they did not need the help of COGS to promote their organization. **SECOND CON:** Solomon does not believe that the event should be funded without any academic benefit or benefit to the student body. Miller agrees and believes that the organization should have come forward to request funds for past events. Motion to call to question. **Bill 25 failed: 7-9-1.**

New Business:

- **Resolution 4 Approval for History Graduate Student Association to Use Funds**
The organization explains that COGS approved funding for the HGSA's conference in March. Due to mistakes in paperwork and a miscommunication within the organization, they were unable to pay Dr. Weinberg for his services. The organization will host a Webinar with the same speaker in hopes of using money that is already in their account to pay for his services and will not need extra funding assistance. The organization also tells the congress that the event was very successful. Representatives inquired if the organization has learned from this experience. Motion to accept by acclamation. Approved. **Resolution 4 passed.**

ROUNDTABLE: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Aung-Din, Baker, Clark, Elwood, Garcia, Garson, Guilbeau, Gupta, Luttrell, Miller, Oseguera, Sharifi-Raini, Solomon, Uttermark, Wang, Ward

ADJOURNMENT: 7:16 p.m.