

TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
August 1st, 2016
6:30 p.m.



CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Allen, Clark, Elwood, Guilbeau, Lehn, Mendez, Scriven, Shu, Ward, Williams

QUORUM: YES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Guilbeau

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Baker, Mazzie, Peruche, Uttermark

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Indrakanti, Sharifi-Raini

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: Clark

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: NONE

MINUTES APPROVED: Ward.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND STUDENT COMMENTS:

- Dr. Jhunu Chatterjee, Representative from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program discusses the need of graduate student participation in their program. Graduate Students are encouraged to provide research proposals and mentorships. Incentives include research awards, research grants and a hiring opportunity within the department. Representatives are advised to inform other students from their department.

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT: NONE

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: NONE

Unfinished Business: NONE

Funding Requests:

- *Bill 32: Allocation to the Society for Musicology*
The organization's Treasurer explains that they are requesting funds for two visiting scholars in October and April. Ellen Koskoff is a scholar in music and gender research and Willian Cheng researches video game music as well as disabilities studies and gender and sexuality in music. The organization would like to receive funds for honorariums and four receptions. Representatives inquire how the organization plans to advertise for the events, if there is any

departmental support and to explain the financial breakdown of the request. Representatives also inquire how many students can attend the receptions and the reception schedule and the justification for the scholars staying 3 nights in a hotel. **FIRST PRO:** Mendez is in favor of the bill. Clark believes that the amount requested for honorariums is a standard amount and that the request was well researched. Deputy Speaker Guilbeau appreciated the sponsor for sharing the story of how the events broadened their research interests in their career. **FIRST CON:** Deputy Speaker Ward is in favor of the bill but is hesitant about funding the speakers for three nights in a hotel for each speaker one talk. Motion to amend the bill to \$3500 in Contractual Services and \$200 in food. Second. Objection. Deputy Speaker Ward questions the merit of the three night hotel stay for the speakers and also believes that the amount that will be given to the speakers without the three night hotel stay is reasonable. **SECOND PRO:** Representative Scriven believes that since the scholars have the option to choose which hotel they would like to use for their stay, they have the opportunity to adjust to their expenses to the amended amount. Motion to call to question. Vote by voice. Amendment passes. Return to the bill which now reads \$3500 in contractual services and \$200 in Food. Motion to call to question. Vote by voice. Bill 33 passes as amended; \$3500 in Contractual Services and \$200 in Food.

- **Bill 33: Allocation to the Public Health Student Association**
The organization plans to host event a 5k fun run geared towards raising awareness in the big bend area. They plan to donate any food items brought to the fun run and donate any funds acquired at the event. The organization would also like to host a Kickball Tournament to raise awareness of childhood diabetes. The remaining funds will be used to purchase food for the organization's meetings, orientation breakfast and spring social in an effort to bring awareness to the public health field. Lastly the organization would like to send 4 members of their organization to the national conference for networking opportunities. Representatives inquire the importance of attending the annual meeting, if the organization is aware of the academic and professional conference grants, and the level of experience the organization has with budgeting the expenses for each event. Representatives also inquire if the organization will be tabling at the annual conference in Denver, the justification for why the food costs are not broken down, and if the organization is aware of restriction of dates and costs of facilities usage and regulations.

Representatives extend questions by inquiring if the organization is aware of the restriction on using COGS fees for fundraising, how the organization plans to reach out to the graduate student community, the purpose of purchasing polos as opposed to t-shirts, and a breakdown for the Clothing & Awards category. Motion to table bill to the August 29th meeting. Second. Objection. Deputy Speaker Guilbeau believes that there are many technical questions about the bill and thinks that it would be a good idea to table the bill until the Deputy Speaker for Finance returns to the next meeting to answer any questions and help with the consideration. Deputy Speaker Ward inquires if there is a possibility to not table the bill since some funding is time sensitive. Motion withdrawn. **FIRST PRO:** Deputy Speaker Guilbeau is excited for the organization and the events they plan to host throughout the year. **FIRST CON:** Shu is not in favor of funding for travel to the conference since the students are eligible to receive funding through COGS' travel grants. Clark is hesitant about purchasing t-shirts for the organization and is concerned about the missing estimates from the request. Scriven is hesitant about the complexity of the bill and is in favor of the organization hosting and organizing one event at a time to gain knowledge and experience. Motion to \$0 fund the organization in all categories. Second. Objection. Deputy Speaker Ward informs the congress that it is not the intention to \$0 fund the organization but would like to focus on the travel expenses for their conference. Deputy Speaker Ward continues by reviewing the provisions of the COGS Code for group conference travel and believes that the organization should apply for conference travel requests and return to the congress with a more detailed request for their events. **FIRST CON:** Shu would like to fund the organization for the orientation breakfast. Motion to call to question. Second. Vote to \$0 fund the organization. Amendment passes. Motion to amend the bill to read \$87.15 in Food. Second. **SECOND PRO:** Deputy Speaker Guilbeau is in favor of funding the organization for food but believes it is unfortunate that the organization was not additionally funded. Motion to call to question. Second. **Bill 33 passes \$87.15 in Food.**

New Business: NONE

ROUNDTABLE: Allen, Clark, Elwood, Guilbeau, Lehn, Mendez, Scriven, Shu, Ward, Williams

ADJOURNMENT: 8:15 p.m.