

TWENTY FOURTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
Senate Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
February 1st, 2016
6:35 p.m.
Agenda



Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Elwood

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Cavannaugh, Elwood, Gupta, Hall, Luttrell, Peruche, Pfiefler, Scriven, Sulentic, Uttermark, Ward, Williams

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Sulentic

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Lee, Wang

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Ferraro, James, Solomon

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

Petitions into the Assembly: Catie Clark, Perla Garcia, Dean Rosenthal

Reading and Approval of Minutes: with amendments. Luttrell second.

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Messages from Student Government: NONE

Report of the Speaker

- Speaker Hall reviews NAGPS updates, local fess meeting overview, and the Executive Editor position vacancy.

Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance

- Deputy Speaker Uttermark updates the congress about the insurance committee meeting and what it means for graduate students, budget hearing proceedings and deliberations dates and allocations request account breakdown.

Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs

- Deputy Speaker Ward reviews the attendance policy and Robert's Rules of Order.

Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communication

- Deputy Speaker Williams displays the COGS flyers and encourages representatives to promote COGS within their departments.

Unfinished Business:

Funding Requests:

- Bill 7: *Allocation to the MBA Association*

The organization is hosting their 4th annual ethics seminar here at FSU. The event will have a speaker from the philosophy department who will discuss the definition of philosophy from a philosophical and scientific point of view. The organization is requesting funds to provide food for the event. Representatives inquire the expected attendance at the event, how are raised funds used, if there was any departmental diversity in the attendance and how the organization plans to advertise the event. **FIRST PRO:** Gupta believes the event benefits the campus and would like to fund the organization. Uttermark is in agreeance with Gupta. **FIRST CON:** Luttrell is in favor of the event but would like to amend the food costs. Ward echoes Luttrell's sentiments. Motion to amend food budget to \$300. Second. Motion Passes. Motion to call to question. **Bill 7 passes: 16-0-0 \$300 in food.**

- **Bill 8: Allocation to the History Graduate Student Association**
The organization is hosting a conference on March 19 and would like to receive funding to host keynote speaker, Gerhard Weinberg, a military historian. The organization has amended their funding request to reflect the amount of funds recently raised by the organization. Representatives inquire where the speaker is flying from, the expected attendance, explain the request from the annual budget and how it differs from this event. **FIRST CON:** Gupta is in favor of the bill. **FIRST CON:** Luttrell believes that COGS has allocated these funds previously from the annual budget. Motion to amend \$1000 in Contractual Service and \$150 in General Expense. Objection. Deputy Speaker Uttermark explains that he only made the amendments because the organization mentioned that they wanted to amend the requested amount. **FIRST CON:** Akinfaderin is not in favor of funding the organization \$1000 in Contractual Services. Luttrell agrees with Akinfaderin and is not in favor of funding additional technician fees. **SECOND PRO:** Deputy Speaker Williams breaks down the total allocation and informs the congress that if the organization does not use funds for said reason, funds will return to COGS. Motion to amend the budget to read \$600 in Contractual Service. Objection. **FIRST PRO:** Akinfaderin believes this is a reasonable amount in addition to the funding they received from prior meetings. **FIRST CON:** Scriven does not agree with the amendment and believes the organization will need funding assistance with registration fees. Pfiefler agrees with Scriven. Motion to call to question. Amendment of \$600 in contractual services, fails 4-11-0. Return to original amendment \$1000 in Contractual Services. Motion to call to question. Amendment passes. Return to the bill. Motion to call to question. **Bill 8 passes 14-1-0; \$1000 in Contractual Services \$150 in General Expense.**

Speaker Hall requests Deputy Speaker Williams to preside over the bill proceedings as the Speaker Sponsors Bill 9.

- **Bill 9 Sponsored by Speaker Hall: Allocation for Partnership to PeaceJam**
The sponsor explains that in recent years, COGS has sponsored the reception that is held for PeaceJam. PeaceJam is an international educational organization that connects students with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. This year Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Rigoberta Menchu from Guatemala will be in attendance. The event will be held on April 8 and is open to all FSU students. Representatives inquire the expected attendance for the event, the reason for the increase in the funding request, if funding decreased will the event still flourish and was the full allocation used for the reception last year. **FIRST PRO:** Akinfaderin admits that PeaceJam is a wonderful event and has participated in the past. Asturizaga is in favor of the bill and states that she attended seven PeaceJam events and was able to meet with community members. Gupta supports the bill and would like to get the publicity for COGS by sponsoring the reception. Deputy Speaker Uttermark attended the event and infers that this event best advertises COGS' presence. **FIRST CON:** Akinfaderin is in favor of funding the event, but not in favor of the allocation increase from year to year. Luttrell would like to fund the organization at a lower amount. **SECOND PRO:** Peruche would like to fund the bill as it is stated since they are requesting a reasonable amount for the luncheon for a large attendance. Pfiefler is in favor of the bill and would like to serve organizations who request funding on a first come first serve basis. Motion to amend the bill to read \$1000 in Food. Motion fails. Motion to amend the bill to read \$2000 in Food. Objection. Akinfaderin believes that this is a reasonable allocation since the event is not only for graduate students but for all attendees of PeaceJam. **FIRST PRO:** Luttrell believes that this is a reasonable amount to fund. **FIRST CON:** Peruche states that graduates students obtain knowledge from being around likeminded graduate students and still believes that \$5 per

person with an expected attendance of 500 is a reasonable request. **SECOND PRO:** Asturizaga would like to fund the organization but would like more information or a breakdown of the exact amount of food COGS will be purchasing. Sulentic echoes the sentiments of Asturizaga and would like to request additional information from the hosts of PeaceJam. Motion to table the bill. Objection. Luttrell would like a quote from Aramark from the organizer of the event to justify the cost influx. **FIRST PRO:** Sulentic likes the event and like to have the pertinent information in order to agree with the allocation. **FIRST CON:** Peruche Is not in favor of tabling the bill and believes that with the inflation of costs, and increase in attendance for the event that the amount is a reasonable request and should be voted on following comments. Deputy Speaker Ward is concerned about tabling the bill and not having the funds needed in the account if it is tabled to another meeting. **FIRST PRO:** Luttrell believes it may be a good idea if the organizers would seek out additional sponsors for food costs if COGS is using these funds for advertisement purposes only. Motion to call to question. Vote on tabling the amendment to 02.15.2016. Amendment fails 6-8-1. Motion to call to question. Vote on amendment of \$2000 in Food. Amendment passes 11-3-1. Motion to call to question on bill face 12-2-1. **Bill 9 passes: 12-2-1 \$2000 in Food.**

- *Bill 10: Allocation to the Black Graduate Student Association*
The organization is requesting travel funds to be used for the National Black Graduate Student Association conference in Houston, TX March 2016. BGSA has been given an affiliate membership package rate if they have 10 members attend the conference. The package takes care of registration fees for 10 students, 5 hotel rooms, and a half page ad within the annual conference booklet. They explain that last year, 10 members attended the national conference in which two won awards and 3 members now sit on the national board. Representatives inquire the allocation to BGSA from the annual budget, how many members are in the organization, how were the membership dues used. **FIRST CON:** Akinfaderin mentions that the members who would like to present and attend at the conference should apply for presentation grants from COGS. Luttrell agrees with Akinfaderin and would not be opposed to providing assistance to two members of the organization which has been done in the past. Asturizaga would like to fund the organization if the organization would have attempted to cut the costs. Motion to amend the bill to \$1688 in Travel and \$175 in General expense. Objection. Luttrell amended the budget for two people to attend the conference and included the price of the half page in the conference booklet. Representatives inquire what expenses are included in the amendment. Amendment withdrawn. Motion to amend the bill to read \$1982 in travel and \$175 in general expense. Motion passes. **SECOND PRO:** Akinfaderin believes that this is a middle ground. Motion to read \$0 in travel expense and \$175 in general expense. Objection. **FIRST CON:** Deputy Speaker Williams explains that the organization has many of its members have positions on the national board and does not agree with the reduced amount being 0. Motion to call to question. Vote on the amendment. Amendment passes 9-5-0. Motion to call to question. Vote on bill. **Bill 10 passes 12-1-1: Travel Expense 0 General Expense \$175.**
- *Bill 11: Allocation to the Graduate Women In Science*
The organization is requesting funds for two events; an Art in STEM Exhibition (March 14) and a Career Workshop (April). The organization has raised funds from the Graduate school and other sources and just needs assistance for food. The event is open to everyone. Representatives inquire the purpose of a career workshop. **FIRST PRO:** Akinfaderin is in favor of the event but is questioning if the requested amount is enough for food. Luttrell advocates increasing the food budget for 100 people. Rosenthal thinks it is a fantastic idea and is in favor of funding the bill. Motion to amend \$450 in Food. Second. Motion passes. Motion to call to question. **Bill 11 passes: \$450 in Food.**

Speaker Hall moves to table Bills 12, 13, 14 and 15 to the next meeting on 02.15.2016. Motion passes. Speaker Hall requests Deputy Speaker Uttermark to preside over the bill proceedings as he sponsors two bills.

New Business:

- Bill 16 Sponsored by Speaker Hall: *Outlining Speaker Duties for the Office of Governmental Affairs*
Speaker Hall explains that he would like to increase campus awareness of COGS and wanted to add more attention to the role of the COGS Speaker in hopes of remaining active within the Office

of Governmental Affairs. Although this information is listed in the Student Body Statutes, it is not listed in the COGS Code. This information will include the choice of the Speaker attending the OGA meetings for COGS or in his absence, having another representative with similar interests to fill the seat. Motion to refer to Ways & Means Committee. SECOND. **Bill referred to Ways & Means Committee.**

- Bill 17 Sponsored by Speaker Hall : *Adding a Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs on the Agenda*

In a continued effort to increase communication between OGA and COGS, this bill will outline a message from the Office of Governmental Affairs within the meeting agenda. Either the speaker or the designated representative will have the opportunity to report any information from OGA.

With this on the agenda, COGS will be able to pass this information from congress to congress.

Motion to call to question. Second. Vote by voice. **Bill 17 passes unanimously.**

Deputy Speaker Uttermark relinquishes the chair back to Speaker Hall.

Round Table: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Cavannaugh, Clark, Elwood, Hall, Gupta, Luttrell, Peruche, Pfielfer, Rosenthal Scriven, Ward, Williams

Adjournment: 9:42 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 15th, 2016