

TWENTY FOURTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
Senate Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
February 15th, 2016
6:32 p.m.
Agenda



Call to Order: 6:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Elwood

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Cavannaugh, Clark, Elwood, Ferraro, Garcia, Hall, Luttrell, Peruche, Pfeifler, Rosenthal, Scriven, Solomon, Sulentic, Uttermark, Wang, Ward

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Gupta, James, Williams

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Lee

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

Petitions into the Assembly: Shaleen Miller (Arts & Sciences), Sina Sharifi Raini (Engineering), Manfa Sanogo (Arts & Sciences)

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Approved. Uttermark second.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: NONE

Messages from Student Government: NONE

Speaker Hall reorders the agenda to hear funding request before unfinished business.

Funding Requests:

- **Bill 18: Allocation to the Political Science Graduate Student Association**
The organization is requesting funding for their annual workshop from May 3rd -6th. They will host two speakers who are from the social sciences field and experts in two methods. Last year, several departments attended the event. Representatives inquire what is included in the honorarium budget, how much will the department fund for the workshop, how are the raised funds used, and whether professors from our university have been considered. **FIRST PRO:** Scriven is in favor of funding the organization and finds the information very useful. Peruche agrees with Scriven's sentiments and also adds that the request is fair. Asturizaga is in favor of funding the organization. **FIRST CON:** Luttrell believes that the organization could request funding from another source if not fully funded by COGS. Akinfaderin agrees with Luttrell and would like to reduce the funding amount. Pfeifler is hesitant about funding the full cost of honorariums. **SECOND PRO:** Uttermark states that the conference is a weeklong workshop, hence the need for additional funding for honorariums. Motion to amend to \$2,440 in Contractual Services. Objection. Luttrell states that the amendment is in line with the allocation from last year. **FIRST PRO:** Solomon agrees with the amendment. **FIRST CON:** Ward wants to be careful

about reducing funds and expecting departments to make up for additional costs. Scriven does not want to be optimistic about departmental financial assistance. Peruche would like to fund the organization at the original amount. **SECOND PRO:** Luttrell would like for the organization to seek funding assistance from different RSOs who participate in the event. Motion to call to question. Amendment passes 10-9-1. Return to the bill. Motion to add proviso language to the bill, submitted in writing. Motion carries. Motion to call to question. **Bill 18 passes 18-0-2: \$2,440 in Contractual Services.**

Unfinished Business:

- Bill 6: *Allocation to the Graduate Students in Interdisciplinary Sciences*
The organization is requesting funds for food for their event, called Ignite on March 31. The event will be geared towards promoting the organization and providing networking opportunities for students. The organization would like to order pizza to provide at the social event. Representatives inquire the expected attendance, how the organization will advertise, and where will the event take place. **FIRST PRO:** Pfiefler believes that is a modest request and would like to fund the organization. Akinfaderin believes that this is a very good event for interdisciplinary studies. Peruche states that it is a fair request for the expected attendance. Motion to call to question. **Bill 6 passes by majority voice vote: \$300 in Food.**
- Bill 12 Sponsored by the Ways & Means Committee: *Substantive Edits to the COGS Code, Amending Chapters 118 and 119*
Luttrell, Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, briefly explains that the committee clarified the leave of absence standards and attempted to create a clear and concise language throughout the code. Motion to call to question. **Bill passes with majority voice vote with one abstention.**
- Bill 13 Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee: *Substantive edits of the COGS Code, Amending Chapter 200: Provisions for Recognized Student Organizations*
Luttrell explains that the committee tried to remove superfluous language within the chapter and create a more clear and concise language. The committee would also like to add another section outlining the advice given by the Director of Student Affairs. Representatives inquire the explanation of the revisions made in 200.7. Motion to amend 200.9, submitted in writing. Motion carries. Motion to call to question. **Bill 13 passes by majority voice vote.**
- Bill 14 Sponsored by the Ways & means Committee: *Amending Chapter 201: General Restrictions on Spending*
Luttrell and the committee wanted to minimize confusion within the Code about COGS Funds and wanted to highlight important information within the chapter. Motion to amend section 201.8. Motion carries. Motion to accept by acclamation. **Bill 14 passes by acclamation.**
- Bill 15 Sponsored by the Ways & Means Committee: *Substantive Edits of the COGS Code, Amending Chapter 202 and 203*
The committee removed the employee and guest speaker travel accommodations from the Code and made sure that the information stated was clear throughout the Code. Motion to add proviso language, submitted in writing. Motion carries. Motion to accept by acclamation. **Bill 15 passes.**

New Business:

- Bill 19 Sponsored by Deputy Speaker Uttermark: *Transfer of Travel Grant Funds*
Deputy Speaker Uttermark would like to move unused funds from the presentation grant account for the July –October funding period and transfer the funds to the unallocated account to fund RSOs. Funds not used in the unallocated account will be transferred back to the presentation grant account in the current funding period. Motion to call to question. **Bill 19 passes 19-0-1.**

Introduction of Bill 20: The Annual Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year

Deputy Speaker Uttermark briefly explains the budget process and introduces the Budget Committees' recommendations.

Round Table: Akinfaderin, Asturizaga, Cavannaugh, Clark, Elwood, Ferraro, Garcia Hall, Gupta, Luttrell, Miller, Peruche, Pfielfer, Rosenthal, Sanogo, Scriven, Sharifi-Raini, Solomon, Sulentic, Wang, Ward,

Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 29th, 2016