

TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Student Government Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
September 12th, 2016
6:34 p.m.



CALL TO ORDER: 6:34 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Asturizaga, Aung-Din, Baker, Elwood, Garcia, Garson, Guilbeau, Head, Indrakanti, Lehn, Mendez, Miller, Oseguera, Peruche, Rosenthal, Sanogo, Scriven, Sharifi-Raini, Shu, Solomon, Uttermark Ward, Williams

QUORUM: YES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Peruche

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Asturizaga, DeStefano, Garcia, Rosenthal, Shu

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Clark,

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Allen, Mazzie

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

PETITIONS INTO THE ASSEMBLY: Benjamin DeStefano (Law), Brandon Grubbs (Human Sciences), Latanja Peoples (Education)

MINUTES APPROVED: Solomon. Peruche Second.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS AND STUDENT COMMENTS: Amanda Sargent, Career Center

MESSAGES FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT: NONE

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: NONE

Unfinished Business:

- **Bill 35: Allocation to INSAT/BONGONOLE**
The organization is hosting a Fresher's event; open to all students but specifically targeting new graduate students from India and Bangladesh. The intent is to socialize with each other and share information and assistance in academia or otherwise. The event will take place at the FSU Reservation on October 16 and provide Indian food as well as refreshments. The expected attendance is 90 students. Representatives inquire how many events will the organization need assistance for this year, how do they plan to advertise the event, how many representatives are graduate students and if the organization is considering using any additional activities at the Reservation. Representatives also inquire if the organization has done any fundraising, the percentage of Indian students that are recognized by both organizations, and how the organization plans to handle more students' attending the event. Lastly, representatives question

if the quote considers additional students who attend, how many people outside the organizations are expected to attend the event and what changes have been made from the previous request. **FIRST PRO:** Peruche is in favor of the event and would like to fund the organization at least \$750. Miller believes that this event is very important for international students and thus would like to support them assimilating into the community. Mendez agrees and adds that it is very beneficial because the students get to exchange useful information and network. Lehn is in favor of funding the organization as COGS has done so in the past. **FIRST CON:** Deputy Speaker Ward shares that the only hesitation about funding the organization is that there was no evidence of fundraising in past occurrences although it has been mentioned. Aung-Din believes that the cost of food per person is expensive. Solomon believes that there is a lack of a contingency plan and a lack of fundraising for their event. Scriven is hesitant about funding the event due to the cost of food per person and the lack of advertisement to students outside of the organization. **SECOND PRO:** Miller would like to hold the organization accountable for their current request and informs the congress that Indian food has a more expensive price range. Sharifi- Raini explains that since it is a cultural food that is not common in this region, it is more expensive than other foods. Peruche would like to support the needs of this organization which would ease the students into graduate life and would like to fund them at some degree. Motion to amend the bill to read \$750 in food. Objection. Scriven believes the intent of the event is to immerse the attendants in the culture and would like to provide a sample of Indian cuisine. Scriven further adds that the outreach is centered only on members when others may be interested in the Indian culture. **FIRST PRO:** Aung-Din is in favor of funding the event at the amended amount. Mendez is not in favor of the amended amount and believes that this event will help the students from other cultures communicate with each other. Deputy Speaker Ward would like to fund the organization at \$900. Motion to call to question. Amendment fails. Return to the original bill. Motion to amend to \$900 in food. Motion passes. Motion to call to question. The organization explains that they have acknowledged the comments made about advertising and fundraising and thanks the congress for funding. **Bill 35 passes 20-3-1: \$900 in Food.**

Funding Requests:

- *Bill 36: Allocation to the Public Health Student Association*
 In attempts to increase the visibility of their program, the organization is asking for assistance with their seminars and socials. The organization will also host a 5K run and Canned Food Drive. Representatives inquire what the organization plans to do specifically to fundraise, to elaborate on the Clothing and Awards funding category, the purpose of an orientation in the spring, whether the organization will charge for participating in the event, and the purpose of purchasing so many shirts. Representatives also inquire how the organization plans to promote health and wellness on campus, whether it will explain the revisions from the last request, how the organization envisions the 5K working and how it would benefit the university, and whether the organization is aware of the commitment and policies for their events. **FIRST CON:** Solomon is in favor of funding the organization, but is not in favor of funding the orientation breakfast in the spring. Miller is hesitant about funding the 5k run. Scriven is not in favor of funding t-shirts. Ward agrees with Scriven and is not in favor of funding t-shirts. Deputy Speaker Ward thinks that the t-shirt expenses would not be a good use of COGS funds. Motion to amend the bill to read \$208 in General Expense and \$479.79 Food. Objection. Deputy Speaker Asturizaga is in favor of supporting the organization in funding for food and general expense, but against funding for the t-shirts. **FIRST PRO:** Lehn believes that the amendment is fair. **FIRST CON:** Shu is not in support of funding the orientation breakfast and does not recognize the impact on the university. Motion to call to question. Amendment passes 19-4. Back to the original bill. Motion to amend the bill to read 208 in general expense 426.83 in food. Objection. Solomon does not believe the orientation breakfast would benefit the university. **FIRST CON:** Rosenthal believes that food expense should not be amended since their event has motivation and intention to draw in students who are undergraduates into their program. Garson believes that their event will help get the word out about their seminars and is in favor of a \$2 per person food cost. Mendez explains that the organization put a lot of work in to amending their request from the summer and would like to support the organization's events. Rosenthal adds the congress just funded an event that was \$11 per person food cost and PHSa is only requesting \$2 per person with an event that has a

recruitment and outreach motivation. Deputy Speaker Uttermark does not believe that reducing the food cost by \$52 is substantial. **FIRST PRO:** Solomon believes that the department should support the organization in their attempts to promote their program. Motion to call to question. Vote on the amendment. Amendment fails 7-17-0. Return to the original bill \$208 in General Expense \$479.79 in food. Motion to call to question. **Bill passes 22-2-0; \$208 in General Expense and \$479.79 in Food.**

- **Bill 37: Allocation to the Physics Graduate Student Association**
The organization is requesting funding for food their scheduled events for the school year. The organization will host a graduate student seminar in September. The seminar will allow students to present research and promote future growth. The event is open to the public and the expected attendance is 50. PGSA will also host a general meeting and elections in November with a question and answer segment. In February there is a scheduled Advisor Question and Answer Session with the department chair. They will have a conference in March, an Alumni Talk in April, a professional development seminar in May and PGSA social in June. They are also requesting funding for an honorarium for Dr. Isler who will give a talk on campus. She is the first African American Woman to earn a PhD from Yale, she is also a TED fellow and scholar. She will be meeting with Physics graduate students, faculty and undergraduate students. She will have a separate open dialogue open to the university. Representatives inquire as to what support the organization is receiving from other departments and organizations, the importance of having food at their events, what is the time frame of their meetings, and how are other groups assisting in funding the honorarium for Dr. Isler. Representatives also inquire a further explanation of the donation of funds to the honorarium, the total amount for the honorarium, and whether it is possible for the speaker to a visit without the help of COGS, and whether without the assistance from the organization they still will be able to speak with Dr. Isler. **FIRST PRO:** Garson is a big fan of the event and believes that it is an advantage for FSU to have a speaker of this caliber to visit. Mendez adds that he has attended many of the organizations meetings that are very informative and would like to assist the organization. Aung-Din is in full support of the organization and thinks that funding should not be based on the fact that it is tailored to Physics, but focus on the fact that many students are interested in Physics. Deputy Speaker Ward believes that organization is meeting the needs of the students in their department and their organization and supports funding assistance. **FIRST CON:** Scriven generally supports the bill but is not supportive of funding food for an advising or election event. Peruche agrees with Scriven and is not supportive of funding food for the election and advising event but is in favor of funding the organization. **SECOND PRO:** Mendez would like to support funding the honorarium for Dr. Isler and believes it is one of the best speakers to attend the university. Motion to separate PGSA's request into two bills; one for contractual services request and the other for the food request. Motion passes. Bill 37 now reads \$1000.00 on Contractual Services. Motion to table the bill until further information is gathered. Motion withdrawn. Motion to call to question. Vote by roll call: Aung-Din: Ay, Baker: Nay, DeStefano: Ay, Garson: Ay, Guilbeau: Nay, Head: Ay, Indrakanti: Ay, Lehn: Ay, Mendez: Ay, Miller: Nay, Oseguera: Ay, Peoples: Ay, Peruche: Ay, Scriven: Nay, Sharifi-Raini: Ay, Solomon: Ay, Uttermark: Nay, Ward: Nay, Williams: Nay **Bill 37 passes 12-7; \$1000 in Contractual Services.**
- **Bill 38: Allocation to the Physics Graduate Student Association**
Bill 38 now reads \$880 in Food. Bill 37 was used as the opening since the bills were transferred into two. Motion to amend the bill to read \$630 in food. Objection. Scriven explains that the reduction is from 3 meetings that does promote the organization and is opposed to funding for an election. Motion to call to question. Amendment fails. Back to the original bill. Motion to call to question. **Bill 38 passes 18-1-0; \$880 in Food.**

New Business: NONE

Motion to call to order to end the meeting. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:26 p.m.