

TWENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
Senate Chambers Room, 316 Oglesby Union
August 27th, 2018
6:31 p.m.
Agenda



Call to Order: 6:35 pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Hernandez

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Asturizaga, Blake-Hedges, Burns, Demirsoy, Engelbrecht, Gerardi, Hernandez, Kim, Lange, Oloye, O'Neill, Reyna, Scriven, Solano, Sorribes, Stewart, Swanson, Uttermark, Zhang

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Engelbrecht

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Collopy, Khazem, Lozano-Torres

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Oseguera

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Approved. 2nd Engelbrecht

Petitions into the Assembly: Christopher Nordstrom (Social Sciences Seat 1)

Special Introductions and Student Comments: NONE

Messages from Student Government: NONE

Funding Requests:

- **Bill 16: Allocation to ChemiNoles**
The organization explains that the funds requested will be used for several events including a fall meet and greet luncheon. The goal is to welcome back current members and also recruit new members. Funds will also be used for outreach and a variety of community events which include science exhibitions and projects. Representatives inquire detailed amounts of each expense for the events, if the requested event has ever been done before by the organization and if the department will assist with any of the expenses. Representatives continue by inquiring if the organization would be opposed to COGS being present at the event to show a presence, the need for a personal mini printer, if they completed the recognition process, why is the requested amount different from the information listed in the packet and lastly, what are the most important events that you would your organization to be funded for. **FIRST PRO:** O'Neill is in favor of the bill and would be proud to fund the organization. Stewart believes the event is beneficial to the community and that the organization can serve as a proxy to COGS. Sorribes notes the importance of supporting students and the community. **FIRST CON:** Asturizaga is concerned about the lack of financial support from the department. Sorribes believes that each event should

be clearly organized and thought out prior to allocating funds. Oloye is not in favor of the costs of the additional materials since some items can be rented. Motion to amend bill to read \$483.48 in General expense. 2nd. Objection. Oloye justifies the amendment by noting that the amendment cancels the additional materials. **FIRST PRO:** Stewart recognized the needs of funds for their events and would like to fund the additional events. Motion to amend the amendment to read \$520.48 to General expense. 2nd. Amendment passes. Return to the original amendment. Motion to call to question to change 828. To 520.48. Motion passes. Motion for a hand raise vote. **Bill passes 17-1-0; General Expense: \$520.48, Food: \$100.**

- Bill 17: *Allocation to Art History Association-Tabled to Next Meeting*
- Bill 18: *Allocation to Philosophy Graduate Student Association*

The organization is requesting funding for their 7th Annual Free Will Conference. This event is one of the largest graduate student hosted conferences in the southeastern region. The conference hosts students and faculties from across the country to the university to present research based on philosophy. The request is \$500 less than last year. Representatives inquire how was the conference funded last year, the type of items that will be purchased, what is the duration of the conference, how will the event be advertised and how will the conference benefit FSU. **FIRST PRO:** Engelbrecht notes that this is a great opportunity that should be funded immediately. Sorribes notes the low food costs and how responsible spending benefits the university. **FIRST CON:** Stewart believes that it lessens the burden of the organization if COGS continues to fund the entire conference and that the department should share some responsibility. Asturizaga would like to see the organization become more proactive by fundraising to get the funds needed for their conference. Motion to amend bill to read \$1600, striking the food line item. 2nd. Objection. Stewart justifies the amendment by noting that 35 of the organization's members could raise \$10 each and use the acquired funds for food. **FIRST CON:** Engelbrecht notes that COGS should not punish organizations for doing well, and they should be awarded for their hard work. Swanson agrees with the sentiments of Engelbrecht and adds that COGS should help them similar like they have done in the past. Sorribes does not believe it is fair to cut funds when their request is reasonable. Motion to call to question on amendment. 2nd. Amendment passes 10-8-0. Motion to amend food to read \$350. 2nd. Objection. Deputy Speaker Uttermark justifies the amendment by noting that the organization displays some of the best financial stewardship practices, the request is \$500 less than usual and with the increase in COGS unallocated account, does not want to make them feel bad when they have utilized COGS funds correctly. **FIRST PRO:** Engelbrecht agrees. **FIRST CON:** Stewart notes that if COGS wants to help as many organizations as possible, COGS should not fund the entire organization because it increases their dependency. **POINT OF ORDER by Speaker Scriven:** Assembly voted to strike \$350 from the bill and therefore should not be amended to the same amount which contradicts the efficiency of the Robert's Rules. Any appeal of the Chair is welcome. Engelbrecht would like to hear the opinion of the Finance Chair. 2nd. Vote on appeal to the new amendment 12-5-1. Motion to add \$350 back to the bill after being voted down is out of order. **New Motion** to amend Food to read \$340. 2nd. Objection Uttermark reiterates that PGSA has spent money judiciously for the past years, more funds have been allocated to the COGS account and all the rules should be followed evenly. **FIRST CON:** Stewart notes that the organization should put forth the effort to raise funds for their event and does not want to penalize them, but wants them to hold more accountability for their event. **FIRST CON:** Burns agrees with Stewart and thinks that organization should hold some accountability for their event. Motion to call to question on new amendment. Amendment passes 10-9-0. Motion to call to question on bill. 2nd. Objection. Representatives question the process from changing the bill from \$350 to \$340 after striking the food line. Robert's Rules are clarified by the Speaker. Vote to vote on the bill. 15-2-2. The organization notes that the organization has grown tremendously and appreciates the financial allocation. Vote on the bill. **Bill passes 13-6-0; Food: \$1,500, General Expense: \$100, Food: \$340.**
- Bill 19: *Allocation to Physics Graduate Student Association*

The organization details their accomplishments including the Buddy Program, monthly meetings and welcome socials. They also provide a breakdown of the monthly events that they would like

to be funded for. Representatives inquire what the organization does for graduate students specifically, how do they plan to utilize the allocated funds, how many events are open to non-physicist students and to explain fundraising efforts. **FIRST PRO:** Engelbrecht believes it is a good request that should be funded. Sorribes is in favor of funding the organization. Asturizaga enjoyed the resources provided by the department to further explain their request. Motion to call to question. 2nd. Bill passes 16-3-0; \$1,650 in Food.

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business:

- *Bill 20: Authorization for Intellectual Property Law Society to Use Funds for Travel Reimbursement*

The president explains did not follow the correct protocol to receive a reimbursement for two students that were sent to a conference in Washington. Funds were allocated \$3500 included conference fees, airfare and hotel. Past president did not fill out travel forms on Nole Central and when she tried to get the reimbursement was notified that a document was missing. The President further explains the importance of the conference for intellectual law. emails showing the allocation, receipts for travel was also provided. Representatives inquire when was the trip what account would the funds be allocated from and if it is acceptable to approve funds for travel that has passed. Motion to end Q& A. 2nd. **FIRST PRO:** Asturizaga appreciates the organization for coming to the meeting and bringing awareness to their problems with funding. Reyna believes they should be funded since it was the president's mistake and not the travelers. Sorribes notes the discussion about accountability over the summer with another group who had similar issues. **FIRST CON:** Blake-Hedges does not think that it is fair for funds to come from COGS if LSC allocated the funds and if the funds could come from LSC s account she would be in favor of funding. Stewart would like to keep the precedence that was set over the summer. Burns notes that the organization is at fault and not COGS. Demirsoy is against funding the organization. Oloye feels bad for the students but notes the importance of following through with the rules to receive the reimbursement. Motion to call to question. 2nd. Objection, Vote to vote on the bill. 16-2-0. Final Vote on the Bill 2-16-0. Authorization Denied

- *Bill 21 Sponsored by the Budget Committee: The Annual Budget for the 2018-2019*
Deputy Speaker for Finance, explains the sub line amount that was omitted from the official archived budget. No additional funds were added to the budget. The \$1200 from the overall allocation is for insurance. Motion to call to question. 2nd. **Bill 21 passes 17-0-0**

Round Table: Asturizaga, Blake-Hedges, Burns, Demirsoy, Gerardi, Hernandez, Kim, Lange, Oloye, Nordstrom, O'Neill, Reyna, Scriven, Solano, Sorribes, Stewart, Swanson, Uttermark, Zhang

Adjournment: 9:20pm

Next Meeting: September 17, 2018