

# TWENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
HCB Classroom, Room 103  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
6:30 p.m.  
Agenda



Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Hernandez

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Burns, Chase, Collopy, Demirsoy, Eovito, Gerardi, Hernandez, Morgan, Oloye, O'Neill, Reyna, Scriven, Solano, Sorribes, Stewart, Swanson, Uttermark, Zhang

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Collopy, Engelbrecht

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Asturizaga, Khazem, Lange, Lozano Nordstrom

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: NONE

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: NONE

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Approved. Stewart 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Petitions into the Assembly: NONE

Special Introductions and Student Comments: NONE

Messages from Student Government: NONE

Funding Requests:

- **Bill 30: *Allocation to Art Therapy Association***  
The organization submitted the amended requested amount to \$5880 and explains that they will be attending an annual conference in Miami, FL. They are the only Art Therapy graduate student program in the state of Florida. Twenty-four students will be attending and have purchased the economy early bird ticket for the price of registration of \$245 in June. The organization notes the important of this networking opportunity for Art Therapists. Their group is working to define Art Therapy as a mental health profession. Representatives inquire what does the organization's dues cover, will any members be presenting at the conference and how were attendees selected. Representatives also ask if the organization applied for COGS travel grant funds or departmental funds, will there be any tabling at the conference and if there is a selection process in place for attendees. **FIRST PRO:** Blake-Hedges notes that this is a reasonable request and a worthwhile event for the organization to attend. Deputy Speaker O'Neil believes the event is a very valuable opportunity. Reyna notes that the registration amount is a reasonable price for a two-day conference. Deputy

Speaker Uttermark notes that the organization is known to be good financial stewards and it would be beneficial to fund this opportunity for predominantly master's students. **FIRST CON:** Sorribes notes that the quantity is high requested amount when students can apply for individual grants and also notes that some members will not be presenting and does not see the benefit in funding the full amount. Deputy Speaker Uttermark notes that the organization is past the 15 business day deadline to apply for COGS individual travel grants and also notes that in order to approve the funds, there will need to be a motion to waive the rules to fund for organization travel of more than \$2,000. Motion to recess. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Point of clarification: Deputy Speaker O'Neil explains that in order to approve any funds for this request there needs to be 3- 2/3 majority votes; if the group is funded outside of the 30-day deadline due to postponement of the meeting and the hurricane, to allow the funds to be over \$2000 and another vote to fund over 4 students. Further suggests different ways to fund the organization without the 2/3 vote, per chapter 202 of the COGS Code. Administrative Notes: Deputy Speaker Uttermark notes that recently the body has been rejecting funding for groups that have not followed funding deadlines and explains the travel process and the tedious nature of the submitting the request. Representatives discuss the possibilities of the hurricane and postponement of the COGS meeting and how this could have affected the deadlines. Motion to waive the 15-day rule for funding. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Objection. Solano would like to suspend the rule so the body can fund the organization something because the hurricane may have affected their funding deadline. **FIRST PRO:** Blake Hedges notes that the organization may not have been fully aware of the travel grants. Reyna notes if the organization would have been heard on the October 8<sup>th</sup> they would have had time to submit the attendance grant. Speaker Scriven notes that the request was submitted on 9/28 and the organization would have been heard at the October 15 meeting that was cancelled due to the hurricane. Speaker requests representatives to take into account the notes that were given to LSC on how to fund organizations due to recent university closures. Motion to call to question. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes. Vote now for 2/3 vote to waive the rules to allow funding for this date. Motion passes 15-0-1. Motion to amend bill to read \$1,960 for 8 students to attend the conference. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Objection. Eovito explains it is a reasonable amount to fund the organization. Deputy Speaker Uttermark notes that it will not be feasible for Student Government Accounting to process 24 travelers in the short amount of time before the conference. **FIRST CON:** Sorribes is hesitant about funding the organization more than what they would have received for the presentation or attendance grant. Deputy Speaker Stewart sympathizes with the prices of conferences and that the opportunity to network exceeds the costs. Speaker notes that the rules for group travel requests should be entered at least 30 days before the conference and individual presentation and attendance grants can be submitted at least 15 business days prior to the conference. Rules will have to be waived to allow the group to receive funding outside of the 30-day deadline. Motion to table the bill indefinitely. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Passes. Closing Statement: The sponsor notes that this conference is attended every year by their organization and that there aren't many Art Therapists and stress the importance of why they attend these conferences. **Bill 30 TABLED.**

- **Bill 31: *Allocation to Ecology Evolution and Research Team***

The organization explains the various work they are involved in including meeting groups where you can present research and get feedback from other students every Friday, mental health initiatives, as well as working in Middle Schools and after school programs. The organization plans to have an outreach group to bring biology and science to the Tallahassee community. They are trying to expand outreach through a few programs; a booth at Tallahassee science festival and working with local middle and high schools to do interactive activities promoting science literacy. The organization is requesting funding to create activities and for food at their meetings to promote participation. To be viewed as a group as a whole, they would also like to purchase t-shirts. Representatives inquire if the group works with other departments or organizations for their meetings, any fundraising

efforts, who will be attending these events, and will there be food at any events besides at the monthly meetings. **FIRST PRO:** Demirsoy is in favor of funding the organization and enjoys the fact that they are teaching students about science. Sorribes believes that this is a good request to fund with all the benefits to the community. Motion to call to question. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Closing Statement: The group thanks the congress for funding. Vote by hand raise **Bill 32 passes 14-0-0; Food: \$850, Clothing/Awards: \$400, General Expense: \$510.**

- Resolution 5 Sponsored by C-SAC: *Allocation to Materials Research Society FAMU-FSU* Deputy speaker Uttermark notes that the new organization requested funds for t-shirts to raise awareness of their group and funds for food. Committee was in favor of funding full amount. Sorribes notes the organization was well organized, had great ideas for their program and did a good job explaining their request. **FIRST PRO:** Blake Hedges trusts the opinion of the committee. Motion to vote by affirmation. 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Resolution 5 passes by acclamation, Food: \$228.97, Clothing/Awards: \$405.86.**

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business:

- Bill 32 Sponsored by Deputy Speaker Stewart and IA Chair Blake Hedges: *Edits of the CGS Code Edit to Chapter 104: COGS Officers and Duties* Deputy Speaker Stewart explains the intention of the bill is to update Executive Committee member roles where they would make more sense to align with their other responsibilities. Deputy Speaker Stewart then details each amendment in the bill. **FIRST PRO:** Deputy Speaker O'Neil believes that the proposed amendments are valuable. Recess to review edits to be submitted in writing. Motion to table. **Bill 32 Tabled.**

Motion to adjourn. Second. Motion passes.

Adjournment: 8:35 pm

Next Meeting: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018