



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting

April 3, 2023

6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:37pm

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll call:

Present: Basualdo, Burns, Delva, Elmi, Galeano, Gui, Ilesanmi, Mostbauer, Risler, Rogowski, Salimi, Vaughn, Wesner

Absent, Excused: Beavon, Casseus

Absent, Unexcused: Amaraneni, Lenchitz

Reading and approval of the Minutes: Rogowski, 2nd - Ilesanmi

Petitions into the Assembly:

Francis Ebuara, Arts and Sciences Seat 1

PhD student in biological science. I'm from Nigeria and I am here with my wife. When I learned about COGS, as someone who likes to participate and advocate for others who are minorities, I was interested. I filed a petition and everyone I talked to in my department were excited for me to join. I want to advocate to those in Arts and Sciences and that is why I am here.

Q&A:

Gui: How long do you want to serve? I want to join a group who can voice the needs of the students and I will be here a long time. I am only a first year in a five year program.

Delva: Have you thought about which committee you want to join? I like student advocacy.

Rogowski: Any time conflicts? No.

Pros:

Vaughn: He seems very passionate about being an advocate.

Burns: 1st year phd student so he might be here for many more years

Gui: He seems very thoughtful and would be a great contribution.

Basualdo: His research is very interesting.

Ilesanmi: Met Francis at the COGS setup at the CGE last year and he seems like an engaging person who wants to advocate.

Delva: I met him when he was applying and have kept in touch. He knows what he wants and how to create connections.

Vote: 13-0-0

Swearing in of Francis Ebuara.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A

Messages from Student Government:

A mental health day has been passed and will start next year where FSU students will have a day off.

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker: One more meeting for the spring semester after today. Have some important things to pass during our last meeting for the spring. Tiktok was banned on campus today.

- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Luis is graduating in August and will not be able to be the speaker. The line of succession is that when the current speaker steps down, the Deputy Speaker of Finance steps up until a new election occurs. It would be better to try to vote on a new speaker before everyone leaves in May. We don't want people to not have a voice if they aren't here for summer break. I am interested in the speaker role, but I don't want to be doing both roles at the same time. If anyone is interested in Speaker or Deputy Speaker for Finance, please let us know this week. They are both a 10 hour a week paid position. We have gotten a lot of requests, so we are working on using our money. We have \$14,000 in travel grants to transfer next meeting, so we will likely transfer them to other sections so the money can be used. Happy to see the funding moving quickly for this period of funding. Keep advertising that we have money and only 1 more meeting.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Working with Dr. Williams to make the code more inclusive.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Start thinking about will you be here for summer. Planning to host food trucks during finals week. Help spread funding info + join COGS info. Will be getting water bottles soon for COGS - more swag over summer likely. Remember COGS attendance policy. Will start publicizing Spring Social on April 21st very soon, so please help spread the word.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC:
- Internal Affairs: Will be bringing up a bill to change the code when it comes to group travel next meeting. The newsletter didn't get made due to code changes. Working with MSC on provisions. Will be funding group travel moving forward if the bill is passed after a pause on them for a while. Next meeting is this week.
- Student Advocacy: Met this past Friday and Rep. Salimi to push for parking policy change to give warnings for first time offenders. Rep. Burns will be working on how to improve participation of graduate students. Have COGS issue resolutions similar to SGA about the LGBTQIA+ community. Rep. Elmi working on project to connect international students to lawyers who can help with immigration policies. Rep. Ilesanmi is continuing conversations with the Globe to improve participations such as operating hours. Next meeting is April 28th at 5pm.
- Student Affairs: COGS Spring Social - April 21st at 7pm. No new updates. Met on March 20th and will be meeting again on April 17 at 5:30 to finalize social planning.

Funding Requests:

Bill #15: Association for Women in Mathematics

This is a small amount, but I've been a part of this association for a long time and it's been a goal of mine to connect them with COGS. We have a special speaker coming. This colloquium speaker occurs at the end of the year every year. Planning a luncheon for her. Will be using the Union and Legacy Catering. Lunch for around 15, but will be open to everyone with a RSVP to make sure that we are aware of numbers if we need to adjust.

Q&A

Galeano: Is this something the department normally organizes? Yes, the department is paying for her to come in, but there is nothing outside of that such as lunch covered.

Basualdo: When is it? April 21st

Delva: Do they have a budget? No. They have requested before, but were not given funds in the past. The reason was that there were more UG than Grads, but now it is more Graduate students.

Pros:

Vaughn: This is not an organization we normally fund and it's a good way to make that connection.

Delva: Seems like a good event and a modest bill.

Galeano: Sounds like a great speaker event and food is always good to reach students.

Point of Information - Gui: Shared what she studies from the speaker's facebook page.

Motion to extinguish time - Salimi, 2nd - Ilesanmi

Cons:

Motion to extinguish time - Ilesanmi; 2nd - Delva

Motion to call to question: Vaughn, 2nd - Delva

Closing words: Thank you for your support and it's great to have successful women for students to talk to.

Vote: 12-0-1

Bill #16: Anthropology Graduate Student Association

For a small university wide conference. Opportunity for them to share their research in a low stress environment. Will be getting catering from Publix. It's good to have these smaller events around campus to discuss research.

Q&A:

Basualdo: I am seeing talk about prizes. I am assuming that is funded by the department? This bill is only food, so prizes shouldn't be a part of it.

Gui: I was looking at the quote and it doesn't add up? They send updated information and it will be \$250.

Basualdo: When and where is it? It will be in their department. Will be April 24th.

Pros:

Burns: It's straight and to the point. They just want to add food to their event.

Galeano: It's a great event and they aren't asking for much.

Vaughn: motion to extinguish the time; 2nd - Burns

Cons:

Motion to call to question: Galeano; Delva - 2nd

Closing Comments: It seems like a cool event and I like that a lot of students are involved. I think it'll be a nice event. They don't have any money in their NOLE Central account.

Vote: 13-0-0

Bill #17: Graduate Women in STEM

Organization is requesting money for food at end of the year social and the end of the art in STEM exhibit. One of the most important events this RSO has.

Q&A:

Basualdo: Where and when? April 21st at the Chemical Science Laboratory. Food is from Moe's? Yes.

Vaughn: Is Moe's an approved vendor? Yes.

Basualdo: Estimated attendance? 70.

Delva: They are getting stainless steel water bottles as swag? Yes.

Pros:

Rogowski - Been talking with this group and their events have been very successful. They had a galentines swing dance event. They are asking for extra money because they ran out. The food is

higher than requested because they have a little bit of money in their account. This exhibit is great every year. The award has been fundraised that they are giving out.

Vaughn - Swag is a great way to use funds and I wish more organizations would request it.

Motion to extinguish time - Salimi; 2nd - Gui

Cons:

Motion to extinguish time - Salimi; 2nd - Rogowski

Motion to call to question - Salimi; 2nd - Delva

Closing statement - Great event and connecting art with STEM.

Vote: 12-0-0

Bill #18: African Graduate Students Association

This is for an event to St. George's beach. This is to help the members unwind and celebrate their spring graduates. Requesting funds for contractual services to charter a bus through an approved vendor to get them to the beach and back. Will hold 56 people and it will be free for all students.

Q&A:

Rogowski: You will have food at this event as well, right? That's the plan, but it's hard to figure out a food vendor because everything is closed.

Delva: You might consider looking at Publix. Okay, that's good to know. I might put in a bill and resolution next meeting if this passes.

Motion to Extinguish time: Rogowski; 2nd - Salimi.

Pros:

Risler: I appreciate how ambitious this is and asking for transportation and maybe food for this trip.

Rogowski - Great way to use money for a good off campus event. Providing transportation makes it very accessible for people. Happy to support it.

Delva - I really like this event. Would like to see more of these because it gives graduate students a setting to interact off campus.

Vaughn - I like the accessibility piece to allow international students to get out of Tallahassee.

Point of Information: 95% of our members do not have a car and many have not been outside of Tallahassee.

Cons:

Rogowski - motion to extinguish time; Delva - 2nd.

Motion to call to question: Galeano; 2nd - Salimi

Closing statement: There are many positives for this bill and there has been strong communication with this association.

Vote: 13-0-0

Bill #19: Bangladeshi Student Association

Seeking funds for their yearly Eid celebration at the Rez. There are 80 activity members and an estimated attendance of 150. It will be published around campus. There will be lunch and events. It is free and open to students. There was language on the past sheet about raffle giveaway, but that funding will now be on games and the water bottles will be replaced with other drinks.

Q&A:

Gui: There is a section for tax on one of the screenshots, can that be removed? The cost of food without the tax will still be the same amount.

Basualdo: I see that you have raffle prizes listed, but with the change to games, will that amount be the same? Yes, we will order 10 games and it should be around the same.

Rogowski: What is the cost of the food? It will be \$2050. Is it an approved vendor? Yes, we are using the same vendor as a past event.

Rogowski: motion to extend time; Delva - 2nd

Vaughn: You can't offer prizes, but you can offer swag to give away.

Rogowski: Code says that you must have items given away to everyone first come first serve.

Rogowski: What kind of games would you get? Board games.

Basualdo: We will need to amend the bill.

Pros:

Rogowski: Seems like a fun event. We've done it before. It's a great way to end this religious holiday.

Basualdo: Sounds like a great event.

Delva - I like cultural events like this.

Vaughn - I also love cultural events and it'll be great once we get stuff amended.

Motion to extinguish time - Ilesamni; 2nd - Delva

Cons:

Motion to extinguish - Salimi, 2nd - Ilesamni

Motion to amend - Risler; Remove clothing and awards increase expenses to \$450. Also increasing food to \$2,050. 2nd - Salimi.

Vote to amend: 12-0-0

Pros for amended bill:

Motion to extinguish time - Salimi; 2nd - Gui

Cons:

Motion to call to question: Galeano, 2nd - Ilesamni

Closing: This event is worth the investment and is a good use of funds.

Vote: 12-0-0

Bill #20: African Graduate Students Association

Opening Statement: Last meeting of the semester it's an important meeting, they'll be having their elections. It will be held at CGE which is great because we help to fund that building. We will have to slightly amend this bill because they have some money left over in their account, so they don't need as much as they thought they did.

Questions: Salimi Motions to Extinguish, Ilesamni Seconds

Debate in Favor: Gui: great event, this is their first year of the organization so a great time to continue the legacy that they created.

Mostbauer: How many members? Ilesamni: Whatsapp group has 93 people, we normally have 60 - 75 people show up to events, 250 people came to coffee hour event (before spring break!).

Rogowski: Happy to support an RSO that has been doing great work and activities this year.

Delva: I like the fact that the org is so new, but still so big. It states how much they can still continue to grow. It shows how much support the African students can get through this organization.

Debate in Opposition: Salimi motion to extinguish, Delva seconds

Second Debate in Favor: Vaughn motions to amend the amount requested in Food from \$337 to \$201 (because of leftover money remaining), Gui seconds

Vote for Amendment: 12-0-0, Amendment passes

First Debate in Favor for Amended Bill: Risler: Great that we can fund this for a little less and get the same quality

Salimi motions to extinguish time, Delva seconds

First Debate in Opposition: Risler calls to question, Salimi seconds

Closing Statement: I think it will be great to provide food for the event, it motivates those students to go to the event

Vote for Bill: 12-0-0

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:50pm

Next Meeting: April 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Senate Chambers (3rd floor New Student Union)