



## THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting  
COGS Regular Session  
April 4, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
Agenda

**Call to Order:** 6:44 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Vaughn

**REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Adhikari, Amaraneni, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Basualdo, Boatright, Creigh, Delva, Galeano Cabral, Ilesanmi, Neale, Rogowski, Smith, Vouzas

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:** Adhikari, Smith, Ilesanmi

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED:** Collins, Hagemeyer, Mekala, Mustafa, Myhre, Wilson, Young

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:** Ryan

**REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:**

**Roll Call:**

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** N/A

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

**Special Introductions and Student Comments:**

**Messages from Student Government:**

**Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:**

**Report of Officers:**

- The Report of the Speaker
  - Make sure to go to the Spring Inauguration, the banquet, the celebration. SGA has a retreat; make sure to sign up for that since there are not a lot of COGS reps going right now. I'm heading over to Lake Placid, so I won't make it, but look out for my emails about all these.
  - Vouzas: Question about Inauguration. In the Fall there was headshots. Have they gone out yet? Because I have not received them.
  - Neale: Someone has been sending them out, so I will get the email to you so that he may send you the photos.
  - Harshe: His name is Ben Young, and he is great, so I'm sure he will get that out. Also, Bill 7 was signed and completed, so everyone has been updated. All of it looks great.

- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance
  - Wrapping up the year. We have a little over \$80k in Unallocated since the Presentation Grants from Nov-Feb were transferred.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
  - I've had a rough day, starting with my computer crashing. I hope that I can recover my data. I wanted to encourage all the reps that can be present since I've noticed a trend. Graduate students have a lot of responsibilities, but we do have a lot of meetings and they are important, and especially important to keep present to have a great Thirtieth and Thirty-first Congress. There is more than just to be present. Reps have two unexcused absences. I want you to be involved; I want you to be a team. For those continuing during the summer, than I would encourage you to be a part of this. There's less responsibilities but greater chances to connect with each other. Depending on the Chair, the meetings will be a lot less, which is dependent on the Speaker. I want us to be more involved, especially since the situation with COVID is getting better. The other thing is that I did work with Ben [Young] and a women, and she is finalizing the COGS Guidebook. This book is great for learning the rules and so on.
  - Harshe: Things will be going on in the summer. Attendance during committees also count toward attendance, so make sure to reach out to the Chair about any absences.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications
  - [Absent-Excused]

#### **Committee Report:**

- C-SAC:
  - There were two requests that were sent in, but they did not get the approval for all the requirements being met, so I will talk with the Exec Board about the requests and especially with Laurel to get it ok'd.
  - Harshe: We need approval from SGA to get things approved, so we are waiting for that.
- Internal Affairs:
  - Linsky: We have not met due to last week's Bill.
- Student Advocacy:
  - Ragowsky: We also did not meet, but Resolution 4 for the Childcare passed, and rep. Galiano and Harshe have been getting in touch with the CGE to see how grads are benefiting from the CGE since they were a big part of the budget bill, so we are investigating that. We do need to talk with the GAU the young women [Iris Cheng] since I know that the GAU does bargaining in the Fall, so talking with them by August will get good. Christian [Gfatter] was investigating some scholarships, so we are all working away.
- Student Affairs:
  - Smith: Firstly, your nametags are here, so come get them from me. I am proud, they all look good. I am in William Johnson, and I will put my number in the chat, so keep in touch. We are also working on stoles, so you can get them by graduation. April 13 is when the social will occur, we will have swag bags, t-shirts as a committee so we will have the shirts in the swag bags. Shout out to Gaurav for the event tomorrow on the Green. I am proud of my committee.
  - Harshe: It is Grad Appreciation Week, so get involved with the events!

#### **Funding Requests:**

- *Bill 12: CARE Bridge to Graduate School Program*
  - Delva: I was wondering who is going to the retreat? I am, so I am encouraging everyone to go since we are all leaders in the Congress. We do think that these are geared toward SGA, but it is for us as well and can benefit us for what we all want to accomplish before the end of the year. We should be getting details tomorrow for the event; it is for us to connect and learn about leadership opportunities.

- Amareneni: Is it paid for by the university?
- Delva: Much of it is, but the email will go out to everyone, so make sure to bring money regardless. For the Bill for CARE, the request is for \$10,550. The purpose of this funding is for mentoring students with minority backgrounds. It is called the Bridge to Graduate School Program. It is for networking, info for education, financial matters. The \$10k will be for ten students for the year, so they will get \$500 a year and the \$550 is for Expenses like books and other things that will help with the mentoring of the students. The idea of this proposal is to incentivize undergraduates.
- Linsky: Are we in opening statement? Is anyone timing this?
- Delva: I yield my time.
- Linsky: How much has SGA given CARE for the upcoming year?
- Delva: I don't know the exact number, but they have supported them.
- Linsky: If I did say that we have already given them \$66k, would that sound accurate?
- Delva: Yes.
- Rogowski: I don't know if this question is for Delva or Creigh, but I know that this bill would be used for the next year? Or is this a summer program? Would they be able to use these funds for the next fiscal year?
- Delva: This is for the fiscal year of 2022-2023.
- Rogowski: This is going out of the Unallocated from this year for the next fiscal year. Is this something we are allowed to do?
- Harshe: As long as it is allocated by May 30 of this year, we are allowed to allocate funds for the next fiscal year.
- Rogowski: So is this a summer program?
- Delva: No, this would be for the Fall and Spring Semester:
- **Pros:**
  - Rogowski: It sounds like a great program, and it is important that we spend this money, so I'm for it.
  - Adhikari: It is a good investment, knowing where this money is going.
- **Cons:**
  - Linsky: This is an entity that receives a lot of funds from SGA already. I hear that the description is vague, like books. What are they being used for? I don't know what specific places this money is going. This is for hiring graduate students to benefit undergraduate students. So we are subsidizing funds for people that are not our constituents. I would like a more detailed report of what their funds are used for. They should know better by now that they should have more details.
  - Vaughn: I will echo Linsky's statements. It is a good program, but it seems that it is benefiting undergraduates more than graduate students.
  - Harshe: Point of Information. The books on PDF page 10 are listing the specific books.
- **Pros:**
  - Rogowski: This is for minority students and it is benefiting both graduate students and undergrads. This might bring minorities into graduate school. It also gives grads money.
  - Adhikari: I think we should look at the brighter side of this, which is how it benefits the graduate students.
  - Rogowski: I would rather see this money go to the program here than Sweepings.
  - Vaughn: Point of Clarification. This is for the next fiscal year, right?
  - Creigh: This also gives grads leadership, speaking, and other skills when they connect with undergrads.
  - Harshe: Where may I find information about the allocation of funds for CARE from Senate?
  - Linsky: You can follow the link in the chat. They got money from Sweepings for technology. We could find things for them and it was \$66k.
- **Cons:**
  - Linsky: I do recognize that COGS wants to use our funds rather than have it gone to Sweepings, but I think that \$10k is too much, since I want to know more information about the book that is used; it is the same book each year. I like them, but it is a lot of money that is ostensibly for graduate students, I'm just not going to vote for it.
- **Pros:**
  - Boatright (motion to call to question) and Vaughn (second)
- **Closing Statement:**



- Harshe: I don't know, but it is probably the maximum capacity for the room that it will be in. So 50 grads and undergrads, their plus ones, staff and so on.
    - **Pros:**
      - Rogowski: I remember hearing about this event when we had the resolution about the "Don't Say Gay" bill, so part of us in supporting that resolution against that bill is related to us supporting this RISE event. I think this is an important thing for us to support right now.
      - Rogowski: motion to relinquish pros time. Vouzas (second)
    - **Cons:**
      - Galeano: There is nothing stopping the event from having all undergraduate students and therefore no graduate students.
      - Rogowski: Motion to extinguish con time. Galeano (second).
    - **Pros:**
      - Vouzas: motion to call to question. Galeano (second).
    - **Closing Statement:**
      - Harshe: This is us putting our money where our mouths are with the Resolution against the "Don't Say Gay" Bill.
    - **Vote:** 11-1-3 (pass)
  - **Bill 15: OGFA Graduate Student Banquet**
    - **Opening Statement:**
      - Harshe: What this would do is send COGS Unallocated into the April 13 at the Alumni Center. This would be for \$7,500 for Food, \$300 for Contractual Services, and \$200 in Expense.
    - **Non-Debatable Questions:**
      - Rogowski: What is the contractual services for?
      - Harshe: Those are for professional headshots to use them elsewhere.
      - Boatright: motion to extinguish time. Vaughn (second)
    - **Pros:**
      - Rogowski: quick question. Who is eligible for this an receiving awards. Is this for just graduate students?
      - Harshe: The awards are all for professional and grad students. This event is for the awards that are already given out.
      - Linsky: This is the kind of the thing, for if we were better funded, then we would be supporting events like these. This is celebrating graduate students. We are so underfunded that this seems like a luxury, but it is standard and I would support this times two.
      - Rogowski: This office does great work. I've gone to an event of their recently and they do great work, so I am pro funding this.
      - Amaraneni: Coming to COGS by COGS for COGS, it is celebrating graduate students, so we should support this.
    - **Cons:**
      - Rogowski: Motion to extinguish cons. Vouzas (second)
    - **Pros:**
      - Vaughn: motion to call to question. Vouzas (second)
    - **Closing Statement:**
      - We are already underfunding the Graduate School, so it is a Catch 22 situation. Our next allocation for 2022-23 is fixed, but we can support them right now.
    - **Vote:** 14-0-1
  - **Bill 16: OGFA Summer Writing Workshop**
    - **Opening Statement:**
      - Harshe: This bill is for a summer writing workshop for this year. 15 students would be getting \$150 for an award application submission incentives, swag for \$1,500.
    - **Non-Debatable Questions:**
      - Amaraneni: Are these all graduate students?
      - Harshe: This is open for anyone who applies.
      - Rogowski: Is this only for the 15 students?
      - Harshe: I know that this would pay for 15 students to attend this, but others might attend.
      - Delva: It is a long process that helps the 15 students. It is for those students to be productive and incentivize the students for the process.
      - Galeano: The bill packet says \$12,500, so I am confused with the numbers.

- Harshe: That is on page 24 of the bill packet. \$3k for Workshop stipends, \$2.25k for AASI, \$1,5k for swag, and \$750 for honorarium, and then another \$5k which is the general swag requests.
    - Vouzas: motion to extend. Adhikari (second)
    - Harshe: The total amount is correct on the bill packet.
    - Creigh: Can you confirm the dates?
    - Harshe: Yes, it is in July 2022, which is in the next fiscal year.
    - Adhikari: Is it online?
    - Harshe: I don't know, but I can find that out.
    - Vouzas: motion to extinguish time. Galeano (second)
  - **Pro:**
    - Linsky: This is a significant amount of money and for a higher purpose, which is for the appreciation of graduate students. I am in favor of spending the money in this way.
    - Galeano: Students getting scholarships is something big and is a hard process for graduate students. At the end of the day it is an investment which leads to future funding from other programs.
  - **Cons:**
    - Vouzas: motion to extinguish time. Amaraneni (second)
  - **Pros:**
    - Galeano: motion to call to question. Vouzas (second)
  - **Closing Statement:**
    - Harshe: A lot of people sign up for these but do not attend them, so the motivation can be lacking. With this workshop, it may incentivize graduate students for the next year. The swag item for \$5k is something that is quite usable, which are all useful for post-bac and grad students. There was a lot of thought and intention on this.
  - **Vote:** 13-0-1 (pass)
  - [Adhikari left the meeting]
- *Bill 17: Department for Student Support and Transitions – Food for Thought Pantry*
  - **Opening Statement:**
    - Harshe: I was waiting to see what funds we had to fund something like this. This is for the Food Pantry, which is in the Department of Student Support and Transitions. They would go to LSC and MSC and give them food from local farmers. This is for students who may have issues with food, and for students during the summer at the end-of-year times of the academic year.
  - **Non-Debatable Questions:**
    - Vouzas: The bill packet says that it is incorporated for LSC and MSC. How will this organization connect with other RSOs across the university?
    - Harshe: They don't have enough staff to support volunteers to collaborate with other RSOs. Any other organizations that want this help will do it, but LSC and MSC are a start.
    - Vouzas: I understand that they don't have enough workers for all organizations in the university, but what can we do as a government to represent all the other organizations?
    - Harshe: When I reached out to the Pantry last year, they didn't have much support, so COGS representatives can help organize the facilitation of this.
    - Vaughn: motion to extend time. Vouzas (second)
    - Vouzas: Is there a way to advertise this for all the other colleges?
    - Harshe: Technically we can promote this on the COGS Instagram and Twitter. Advertising these things is manpower, which means that someone would have to do that.
    - Vaughn: So the food would for this be located in the LSC and MSC locations. Would other colleges close to these locations benefit from this?
    - Harshe: These were strategically located because of the two locations. And yes, we can send them out to all the other colleges, so that would need some people to do that, which can be worked on.
    - Boatright: The \$1,500 is going where?
    - Harshe: The Food Pantry. They would get the funds and then work with the local farmers to provide the food for the pantry. The Pantry would then be paying the local farmers.
  - **Pros:**
    - Linsky: It is hard for me to not support anything the Food Pantry does. Institutionally, no university wants to admit that they have a food problem. If you have a food problem, then that can be used by rival universities. Everyone is afraid that they don't eat enough because they don't have the



- Vouzas: This is non-controversial. I think that everyone here should be supporting this. I motion to extinguish pros. Amaraneni (second)
  - **Cons:**
    - Baffour-Awuah: motion to extinguish cons. Amaraneni (second)
  - **Pros:**
    - Linsky: motion to pass with unanimous consent. [no objections]
  - **Vote:** passes through unanimous consent i.e., 12-0-0 (pass)
- Delva: I hand the title of Speaker back to Harshe.
- Harshe: This means a lot to the graduate students to say that we support graduate students, and especially if this is just one week out of the year.
- Delva: I just wanted to say thank you to all the representatives for a smooth meeting. I just want to encourage all the reps to be leaders within their colleges to relay the information about the Food Pantry to see what you can do for your college. These meetings help give us opportunities to see how we can benefit our own colleges, so I would encourage initiatives for that. There is also Case Management which is helpful for graduate students, including housing in a case of an emergency, and so on. The information is online. It is important as leader of our colleges to look into this type of information to contact these departments and fulfill those gaps.
- Baffour-Awuah: Do we know how much we have in Unallocated?
- Creigh: I can come back to you on that. . . \$33,041.

Round Table:

Adjournment: 9:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.