



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
Monday, April 18, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Agenda

Call to Order: 6:36pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Rep. Smith

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Adhikari, Amaraneni, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Basualdo, Boatright, Collins, Creigh, Delva, Galleano, Harshe, Ilesanmi, Linsky, Mekala, Meyer, Neale, Rogowski, Smith, Vaughn, Vouzas, Young

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Amaraneni, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Galeano, Smith

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Noor Mustafa, Wilson

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Ryan

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:

Roll Call:

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes: Vouzas; Second: Rogowski

Petitions into the Assembly:

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Jake DeChick, previous Student Senate member:

- I wanted to learn more about COGS by being here tonight, or I would like to hear from you all about what Senate can do for you. I will provide my information so you can contact me.

Messages from Student Government: N/A

Messages from Student Government:

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:

Report of Officers:

- The Report of the Speaker
 - This is my final meeting, and I've really enjoyed my time as Speaker.
 - There's been a lot of good conversation about partnering with other organizations and continue this work beyond my absence. Thank you everyone for being kind!
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance

- This is also my last meeting with COGS. My first COGS meeting with 9/16/2019. I am officially the longest running COGS member, and this is my 8th semester doing COGS. It's been amazing seeing the growth of COGS over the past 2 years, especially in the numbers of people here. I remember the first meeting being not nearly as many as I see today.
- The effort has definitely grown over the year, especially in financial and student support.
- I'm not leaving indefinitely, I will still be in contact with the next Deputy Speaker for Finance. It is bittersweet having this last COGS meeting.
- Looking at the bill packet, Unallocated is high now, but there are still the bills we passed last assembly meeting to consider, so this will decrease.
- Presentation grants are still coming in – it's so nice to see grad students accepted to conferences around the world.
- For the next fiscal year, the presentation and attendance grants have gone up. \$150 is now the amount for attendance grants, \$250 for presentation grants. I hope this will change every year. But for now, we will need to adjust some code in the COGS Code to reflect this change.
- It has been a pleasure serving COGS.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
 - I want to thank Gaurav and Rory for their efforts this semester. We did increase the presentation and attendance grants, and that is great.
 - I intend to stay in this role, and see your efforts through. In the next academic year, we hope to increase the amounts for new organization and pay attention to how organizations spend their money.
 - I am still working on getting the COGS handbook finished.
 - For those of you who made the retreat, I hope someone will volunteer to share their experiences about the retreat.
 - Amaraneni: It was really great, and we learned lots along about 5 other COGS members.
 - Neale: We learned how we act under stress and how we disseminate information – that's where the website came into play. There was an option for journaling and connecting with other members. Now we have been broken up into different teams to go through the resource to get some results. We also talked about mindfulness and self-regulation. It was very helpful.
 - Amaraneni: This event is usually 6 months, but it was still worthwhile for 2 days.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications
 - I want to thank Rory and Gaurav for being such supportive executive members. We will surely miss them on the board. With that being said, I will be remaining in my role.
 - For new entering members, I am here to support your transition. Know you can always contact me to help you feel supported.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC:
 - Creigh: We have not met so nothing to report.
- Internal Affairs:
 - Linsky: We have not met so nothing to report.
- Student Advocacy:
 - Noor Mustafa or Rogoski: We have not met, we plan to meet this upcoming Monday.
- Student Affairs:
 - Smith: We have not met. However, stoles have been approved! We are in the process of getting them ordered. We ordered 5, they should be in this week. Most of you have gotten their name tags.

- Thank you to everyone who came out to the social! It went really well.
- Keturah: We are working to get t-shirts for you all here. They print within 3-5 business days.

Funding Requests:

- **Bill 19: LEARN EdD Educational Leadership and Policy Engagement Week**
 - Presented by Reps. Vaughn and Young
 - Overview:
 - This proposal is for the Educational Leadership and Policy Engagement week for EdD. This is an event when everyone involved in the major is invited, and about 90% come out. So estimated attendance is 150 students. They come to campus to see what it's like to be a PhD student on campus – distant learning students. It will cover meals and breakfast and lunch each day. It will be at an eatery on FSU's campus. It is a good opportunity to facilitate community on campus.
 - Questions:
 - Creigh: June 20-23rd is the date – it says it's going to the Fiscal 2022-2023.
 - Rogowski: The "to account" name should be LEARN student organization. I have heard from Laurel though that we need to spend money before the end of May.
 - Creigh: It needs to be spent before May, but it can be used at the end of June.
 - Rogowski: Amber would be the point of contact for this, if approved.
 - Neale: How many speakers are you expecting?
 - Vaughn: One – Dr. Perez
 - Pros:
 - Young: These EdD students aren't just in Florida, they are across the country. It provides a good opportunity to build good community that isn't the typical graduate student (Age 18-25).
 - Vouzas: I think this is an incredible opportunity with online students to interact with one another. Face to face interaction can be vital to our development as professionals, and this should be encouraged.
 - Neale: I agree. I wanted to also mention how important this is for networking and learning about opportunities, especially ones that aren't always available.
 - Linsky: When it comes to online PhD students, they still pay their A&S fees, but we rarely do events for them. So, this is a good way they can get their money's worth.
 - Cons:
 - Seeing none
 - Pros:
 - Vouzas: I move to call to question; Second: Neale
 - Closing comments:
 - Vaughn: I agree that because these are students who are distant learning, this is a good opportunity.
 - Vote: 19-0-1
- **Bill 20: Bangladeshi Student Association - Eid-UI-Fitr**
 - Presented by Dep. Speaker Collins
 - Overview: This organization is requesting funds for a celebration for the Muslim community. They plan to host musical performances, games, raffles, and food presented to guests who attend. The organization traditionally has 60 people, but anticipated 150 people to attend as it is open to the public. It will be advertised through social media.
 - Questions:
 - Creigh: Just a point of importance – Walmart is not an approved vendor.
 - Avizit (representative from BSA): I did not realize – we can only use Amazon. I also want to point out that we moved our event one day later – May 3rd.
 - Pros:
 - Vaughn: This is a great organization and event and very important to acknowledge this celebration.
 - Cons:
 - Amaraneni: I do not believe this event will be able to host 150 people.
 - Avizit (in response): This is the first time we have hosted this event, and considering the population of students who observe this holiday. We are also widely advertising this event.
 - Pros:

- Vouzas: There are many students who do not abide by the semester break, so I wouldn't be too concerned about attendance.
 - Vaughn: I agree with this.
 - Rogowski: I wouldn't be surprised if they can't meet these numbers either due to students not leaving.
 - Cons
 - Linsky: I think when students are moving, it is difficult for them to attend.
 - Point of information: Rogowski: The Ramadan event was attended by over 200 students.
 - Galeano: I move to call to question; Second: Collins
 - Objection: Vouzas. Move to third round of pro
 - Pros:
 - Vouzas: I believe students are available and finishing exams and that will only enhance attendance.
 - Adhikari: I want to take a moment to clarify. There will be free food and festivities and I believe students will respond well to that.
 - Cons:
 - Linsky: We should be considering that if students do not show up, we are essentially writing a blank check.
 - Ilesanmi: What is the average of food per person?
 - Creigh: About \$15.
 - Ilesanmi: I believe we should fund the numbers of members for the organization.
 - Closing comments:
 - Collins: Thank you. I hope you will consider how well advertised this will be, and how we cannot really how this will go until we move forward.
 - Motion to call to question: Vouzas; Second: Delva
 - Questions:
 - Vouzas: Are we voting on an amendment for just members or the full amount?
 - Harshe: Full amount. \$2,000.
 - Ilesanmi: Are non-FSU students not allowed to have access to food funding?
 - Creigh: They cannot have access to a vendor
 - Vote: 16-0-3
- **Bill 21: Women in Sports**
 - Presented by Rep. Vaughn
 - Overview:
 - The estimated attendance is 200 people, including the 8 programs in both the doctorate and master's levels. There will be a panel discussion for 4 or 5 alumni. The 50th anniversary of Title 9 is very large. FSU has had a long standing history in women's sports, so this is very important. They will be using Traditions catering. You can see that the buffet styles are around 19-20\$ per person. There will also be awards to hand out in the Grand ballroom.
 - Questions:
 - Creigh: It looks like we are using funds from the next fiscal year to pay for this fiscal year. We should be using Unallocated for this year.
 - Harshe: Correct, we will fix that.
 - Rogowski: The \$400 for printing – registered student organizations have access to free printing on campus. Is the \$400 the amount for the paper?
 - Courtney Beck (representative from organization) – motioned to be provided the floor to talk (Rep. Rogowski).
 - Beck: Since it is a larger, celebratory dinner, we don't have name tags or anything. When it comes to programs, flyers, etc., we will need to identify who we are.
 - Rogowski: How many people do you have in your roster?
 - Beck: 58-59
 - Rogowski: How many people attend your events typically?
 - Beck: 30-40
 - Delva: This is the first time that you are doing this event?
 - Beck: Yes
 - Delva: Since you are just getting your feet off the ground, and you don't have any other means of funding, are you planning to do any fundraising? Or other sources of funding?
 - Beck: No we do not have any other sources of funding.

- Harshe: Since it's the 50th anniversary, it can only happen once, too.
- Ilesanmi: We gave the department of sports management \$6,000. We said that this money should be spent toward this event. Is that happening?
- Vaughn: That is correct, however, the money goes toward sports management.
- Ilesanmi: How did you decide how many people were projected to attend?
- Vaughn: We will have all the graduate programs. We have an additional graduate program who partner with our program, who will likely attend as well.
- Ilesanmi: What is your membership population right now?
- Beck: 58-59 as of January 2022.
- Rogowski: I think it's awesome to want to celebrate Title 9. It affects more than women in sports. Have you looked into other organizations on campus you could partner with?
- Beck: We are in the works of meeting with other organizations, but as of right now, we have not officially partnered with other organizations.
- Rogowski: I would recommend you reach out to other women-focused RSOs who would be interested in this event.
- Ilesanmi: Did we find out how to pass unallocated funds to the next fiscal year?
- Creigh: Yes, we can. However, we should not be doing this often.
- Pros:
 - Young: I want to express my thanks to Rep. Vaughn and Courtney Beck. This is the 50th anniversary and it's never going to happen again. They have shown they are fiscally responsible. This is important, as women are often less represented compared to men. We can move funds to next year, but we do not want to make a habit out of it. Courtney sat down and cut down some things to do what was best for the organization to get some kind of funding.
 - Adhikari: I agree with Rep. Young. This sounds like a wonderful event, and I support this.
 - Galeano: This is a once in a lifetime event, so I understand this should be memorable. I want to add a point of information – FSU student publications does quality printing for student RSOs.
- Cons:
 - Creigh: It is money going to an RSO that has technically not been funded before. It is the largest amount we have given an organization without prior funding. If it doesn't go well, it is going to lose COGS a lot of money. This organization is fiscally inexperienced, so building experience is important.
 - Linsky: The same concerns come up. We've deliberated on this. This isn't anything new. This sort of financial behavior is unsustainable for us. We should not give others a reason to take this fiscal responsibility away from us. This is an organization that has less members than the organization before this. We are spending 50\$ for everyone's individual experience. We thought there would be an attempt to find other funding, so I will be voting no
 - Motion to extend 3 minutes: Rogowski; Second: Ilesanmi
 - Delva: I am a little concerned about allocating this amount. We've already allocated \$6,000 to this event. This is just for one event, and surpassing the requests from RSOs they usually make for the year. We want to be fair to RSOs we've already established trust with. We have not built trust with this organization.
 - Rogowski: We want to make sure they are requesting money correctly. And it does not seem they have even spent the 6000 to show us they can spend the money.
 - Ilesanmi: I feel as though we are being mocked. We gave a new RSO \$6000. And they are coming back for more money. It pains me.
- Pros:
 - Adhikari: I am uncomfortable with everyone's comments. It shows how we behave as an organization. I feel sorry for the people presenting this bill.
 - Ilesanmi: You did not attend the budget hearings. I am free to speak about this issue. I was not being disrespectful to the organization. So, you can shut your mouth.
- Harshe: Let's move to a 10-minute recess.
- Return 8:36pm.
 - Cons:
 - Linsky: I want to address what just happened. I agree with Rep. Ilesanmi. I can see why Rep. Adhikari would have this perspective, since he did not attend the hearings. He was not even there for the vote. We were given reasonable assurance that the money would be used toward the

event. We now get this on our last day of our session. It does feel like a slap in the face. It feels like a lot of trust has been lost.

- Ilesanmi: I want to reiterate that this is a mockery of my intelligence and my integrity. Even if this passes, I will do everything to make sure the funds are withdrawn. You said the department wouldn't be given the funds. If we pass this in good faith, COGS needs to get their money back.
- Pros: Seeing none
- Cons: Motion to call to question: Rogowski; Second: Vouzas
- Motion to vote by secret ballot: Collins; Second: Rogowski
- Objection: Ilesanmi
- Vote for secret ballot: 1-13-2. Does not pass. Vouzas changes vote to "abstain".
- Vote for the bill: 0-13-4
- Last comments from the representative:
 - Beck: This whole process has been disappointing. I have been here since January attending every meeting I was invited to. This has been insulting, because how can you deem us fiscally irresponsible if we do not have any experience with your organization. Yet, we are trying. There is a lot of dysfunction in your organization. Meetings have been changed to vote on the budget. This funding would have touched over 600 graduate students. This proves a point that you can't move forward, just like Title 9. On top of this, the sports management department has a background of being highly successful. The doctoral program and master's programs have been rated number 1. There is a lot of evidence that we can be fiscally responsible with our department's success. This could have touched so many individuals. So, this just shows what your perspective is of women in sports. That is all I have to say, thank you.
 - Harshe: Thank you, Courtney. I just want to echo everyone's comments and opinions. I am willing to support and help make future requests more streamlined. We are responsible for learning how the process works so we can make sustainable change.

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Round Table:

Adjournment: 9:57pm

Next Meeting: Summer 2022 TBD