



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting

April 1, 2024

6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Strickland

Roll Call:

Present: Balak, Balogun, Barber, Bethke, Burns, Delva, Ebuara, Galeano, Hussain, McCraney, Medarev, Nord, Pakdehi, Rogowski, Rowan, Schumm, Solmaz, Stickland, Vaughn, Velez, Wardlow, Wheeler

Absent Excused: Alleyne, Cyrille, Siegel, Wesner

Reading and approval of the Minutes: Burns, 2nd- Balogun

Petitions into the Assembly:

Diego Fermin - Social Sciences and Public Policy Seat 3

Good evening. I have been in higher education for 7 years and I love FSU so much that I stayed for my Masters. The reason I am here is that the success of COGS leads to my success as a person and professional. Those in my department like Ph.D. students don't have a voice and they don't have the time and I want to help them. They want to be involved, but they can't. They are constantly in the field and deserve a voice. I want to get involved and be a part in the University community. I also work full time and this is a great way to get connected again.

Q&A:

Wheeler - Do you know what committee you would like to serve on? Budget or internal affairs.

Bethke - Will you be available at this time every week and how long would you be able to stay? I am and I would like to stay until I graduate.

Burns - Are you taking classes over the summer to be a part of COGS? Yes.

Rowan - Are you financially certified? In progress.

Pros:

Pakdehi - I think he was very motivated.

Burns - We just wrapped up on budget week, but it's good to know for next year.

Strickland - He seems very enthusiastic.

Solmaz - It's nice to have more Masters students.

Hussain - He seems interested in numbers and budget, and maybe he might be interested in Josh's role.

Rowan - I am going to abstain because of bias.

Bethke - call to question; 2nd - Schumm

Vote: 21-0-1

Swearing into office.

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Dr. Leventhal - Graduate Student Resource Center

Rowan: Introduced Dr. Emily Leventhal, Director of the new Graduate Student Research Center.

Dr. Leventhal: Today will be an overview of the new Graduate Student Research Center. It stems from the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Dr. Leventhal: Focus on academic engagement, teaching preparation, and career readiness. Research and Creativity Grants will support conference travel, alongside the COGS grants. In collaboration with other campus partners (CAT, Career Center, etc.)

Dr. Leventhal: Current status of GSRC: Only the currency staff member but more will be hired. Office is in the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House (HSF) on the fourth floor.

Dr. Leventhal: The GSRC website has been launched, which includes information about COGS on it.

Dr. Leventhal: Research & Creative Activity Travel Grants are addressing the unequal funding that students get for conference travel. The grants are \$1,000 a piece.

Currently, 1,300 students are in candidacy and eligible. Have to take a workshop from University libraries. Proof of application. Utilized other sources of funding. Can be used for all expenses that FSU already approves. Can be used for regional, national, and international travel. One grant per student, per year. In the future, the eligibility and considerations for approval will be further developed. Will not hit financial aid.

Dr. Leventhal: Partner initiatives include University library workshops on three topics relevant to applicants. The Career Center will offer two workshops for career preparation. Quinnicia is a tool for interview skills. An important area for graduate students to consider. The career center has hired someone, a liaison, specifically for graduate students. Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT) has a teaching development program that goes beyond the basics and helps with teaching preparation, beyond just preparing to be a teaching assistant. These workshops will make you eligible for the grant.

Dr. Leventhal: Resource fair will be done in a way that is coordinated with existing partners and events so that there is higher engagement.

Dr. Leventhal: GSRC communication includes the email: gsrc@fsu.edu

Strickland: Ask clarifying questions on the use of Quinnicia and the way the tracking system is used.

Dr. Leventhal: Quinnicia has its own tracking system for feedback on interview performance.

Hussain: Looking on the website, there are connections to the CGE. The current career fairs are catered towards undergraduate students. Is there a way the office will work with the career center so that employers will be willing to talk with and hire graduate students, instead of just undergraduate students.

Dr. Leventhal: That is my hope. One of the reasons why the center hired a graduate student liaison is to address this issue, where many services are centered on undergraduate students. There is plenty of potential to make these events for graduate students as well.

Solmaz: One of the biggest frustrations is that there are funding opportunities for graduate students, but only for domestic graduate students and not for international students. Are there future plans to include eligible funding opportunities for international students?

Dr. Leventhal: Work to include a filtering system that will address this issue.

Solmaz: Are there plans to include resources about certification programs for PhD students, some that are important for career?

Dr. Leventhal: Yes, we can work with the library on that.

Ebuara: Question on the eligibility for the grant. Do you need to get departmental and COGS funding to get the grant?

Dr. Leventhal: You must show that you have applied for both, but not necessarily have received them. The outcome of the two is not dependent on the application. Still have to talk with business administrators on tracking what students have received from COGS and departments.

Rogowski: Issues with accessing career resources on the career website.

Leventhal: Will work on that.

Delva: Issue of collaboration between different disciplines and departments for funding?

Leventhal: Ongoing conversations about this issue. The GSRC can serve as a connection and liaison for students to get connected with the appropriate partners for these opportunities. Plans on resources and opportunities for training on teams between disciplines.

Rowan: Comments on suggestions for communication.

Burns: Instagram page specifically for the resource center:

Strickland: LinkedIn and LinkedIn Learning as a resource

Balogun: Question related to progression through program and graduate school.

Related to timing.

Leventhal: One of the QEP initiatives is the Grad File. It checks off things you have done across your graduate journey (candidacy, exams, etc.). Allows your department to customize milestones you accomplish throughout your journey. Monitor how you are doing

Galeano: Biology department has the tracking system currently. This tracking system would be replicated. Easy way to track these milestones.

Ebuara: Clarification on the topic at hand.

Galeano: Current processes can be vague. Forms are not sufficient in figuring out what still needs to be completed.

Ebuara: Even if you knew the next steps, what happens if you don't complete the steps in time?

Leventhal: Offers a check and balance on tracking milestones. This new system provides more agency. Only four and five departments use this new system. Rollout across five years.

Pakdehi: Is it helpful to connect with the executive boards and officers of RSOs to do outreach on these opportunities?

Leventhal: Yes!

Solmaz: Excitement from graduate students they know.

Leventhal: Wants to continue building workshops and initiatives that are things that graduate students want and need.

Messages from Student Government: N/A

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker: Please make sure to attend committee meetings and student advocacy has had issues with hitting quorum. Budget night is April 15, it's also our last meeting of Spring. Please be there, we'll have a few other pieces of business. Budget does have some amendments. COGS Exec will be presenting to Senate on April 10th at 7:30pm about the great work of COGS. Please come out!
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Updated report is in the agenda. Grants are in a good state. Finished budget week and a lot of work went into that. Thanks to the committee for their hard work and time. The budget will be posted on the website tomorrow morning. Please look at this before the meeting on April 15th and come ready. We will also have elections on that day for the Deputy Speaker of Finance role. If you are interested in the role, please let me know. I encourage you to think of it if you are taking summer classes.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Bowling April 12th 5pm-9pm; Will be opening the form for summer leave of absence/fall returning or not; T-shirts being in process; Once we have our food truck plans, please promote those.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Nothing
- Advisor Announcements: Congrats on the budget committee.

Committee Introductions and Reports:

- Internal Affairs: We did not meet last week due to everyone being busy. Thank you to those who came to our retreat the weekend before last.
- Student Advocacy: Did not have quorum on the 25th. We hope to meet next Monday
- Student Affairs: Discussed trying to get some events going, but we are going to drop one event that Frank had been working on. Otherwise, we have a t-shirt design and the upcoming events coming up.

Funding Requests:

Bill #31: Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Association

MEGSA wants to promote interactions with graduate students in their department. They are having a poster event. Previously they had 65 participants and 13 presenters. They want to repeat this again this year. The funds are going toward awards and food. It helps to build skills and connections.

Q&A:

Bethke - How many awards are being ordered? 3 awards are being given out.

Pros:

Pakdehi - It's a great idea to have those types of presentation events so that people can practice for bigger conferences. It can also motivate people to make presentations.

Rogowski - I think it's a great event and the fact that it is student led makes it a safe space. The awards is great because it's something students can put on their resume.

Galeano - I participated in the previous one and it was an amazing event. They even got faculty involved which was great. MEGSA has put together many amazing events and they get funding from various sources. Happy to see them here.

Rowan - The price of the award is large, but we do have the money to give them.

Con:

Burns - call to question; 2nd - Solmaz

Closing: I think this is a great initiative and inspired me to introduce it to my department as well. We should support these efforts.

Rogowski - Point of information, this might be more than the allowed award amount and might need to be approved by the Senate Finance Committee.

Bethke - Motion to reconsider the motion to call the question; 2nd - Solmaz.

Burns - withdraws the motion to call to question.

Bethke - Motion to amend the award line to \$225. 2nd - Solmaz.

Bethke - This is so that we are in line with the maximum amount per award.

Amendment is adopted.

Rogowski - Call to question; Schumm - 2nd

Vote: 21-0-2

Bill #32: Bangladeshi Student Association

Bangladeshi is requesting money for a soccer tournament in June. It is a way to bond with soccer players. It is commonly done in Bangladesh. Encourages networking and health and wellness. Org has 91 members and the tournament will be held off campus. Expected around 100 people attending. Tournament will have 4 teams and the winners will get prizes and there will be food after.

Q&A:

Pakdehi - doesn't FSU have a place for this event? For the participants, some are spouses and can't play on the FSU fields. If you make a list, they can join on campus.

Balogun - How would you show COGS's sponsorship? The cogs logo will be on the awards.

Rogowski - Who are you using for the awards? Awards4U.

Pros:

Pakdehi - I am into this event because it is a sports event and it's fun to take part in.

Nord - It's a wellness event that lets students go out and get exercise.

Cons:

Call to question - Schumm; Pakdehi - 2nd

Closing: Pass

Vote: 20-0-2

Bill #33: MAAPPA

Bill to give this organization money for a banner. This will be good for them to have for events and promotion.

Q&A:

Pros:

Rowan - They talked about this in their budget request and this is to help celebrate graduating students. They are also requesting a more general use banner for next year's budget.

Cons:

Call to question - Schumm; 2nd - Hussain

Vote: 21-0-1

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Resolution #2: Bangladeshi Student Association

Off campus events must be approved by COGS. Seeking a waiver so that they can hold their soccer event off campus.

Q&A: none

Pro: none

Con:

Call to question - Wheeler; 2nd - Rogowski

Vote: 21-0-1

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:07pm

Next Meeting: **April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Senate Chambers (3rd floor Student Union)**



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Enhancing Doctoral Education at FSU

Initiatives and Implementation



Graduate Student Resource Center

Purpose: Information Center to support graduate student success co-located with the Graduate School

- Website
- Research and Creative Activity Grants
- Advertising partners' initiatives
- Resource fair
- Workshop series





GSRC: Current Status

➤ Actions taken

- ✓ Hired Director
- ✓ Posting staff positions
- ✓ Meeting critical partners

➤ Role: a virtual hub of resources to support doctoral student success



GSRC Website

➤ Actions taken

- ✓ Launched early version of GSRC [Website](#)

➤ Next steps

- Meet trainers and service providers campus-wide
- Add components such as: professional development, wellness, basic needs, grad life, and events



Research & Creative Activity Travel Grants

- Eligibility
- Approved uses
- Limits
- Next steps



Partner Initiatives

- University Libraries
 - Citation Management
 - Literature reviews (by broad area of study)
 - Data workshops and consultations
- Career Center
 - Quinncia
 - Beyond Graduate School/Beyond the Professoriate
- Center for the Advancement of Teaching
 - Teaching Development Program – beyond the basics



Resource Fair, Workshop Series

- **Fair: coordinate with partners and leverage an existing event in the fall**
- **Center's workshops series: plan and layout an initial series this summer**



Wrap-up

Ongoing communication and updates

Contact us at: gsrc@fsu.edu