

TWENTY EIGHTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting
Regular Session
via Zoom
Monday, April 20th, 2020
6:30 p.m.
MINUTES



Call to Order: 6:33

Pledge of Allegiance: Creigh

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Creigh, Fomberg, Hagemeyer, Hirsch, Mathesie, Mendez, Morgan, Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Cheuwa, Fisher

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: None

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to Approve Minutes, Mathesie; Brinkman 2nd; No Objections; APPROVED.

Petitions into the Congress:

Special Introductions and Student Comments: Lauren Booker, LSC Chair

Messages from Student Government: None

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:

Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker-** SBA/LSC meeting update- meeting debate did get heated but were able to come to an understanding that it will be voted on this meeting. Summer Intent- if you are not taking classes then you can not hold your role and will have to temporarily vacate your seat.

- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance-** Financial report and reviewing of account numbers and travel refunding.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs-** None.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications-** Added photos to Gmail account with passwords and information.

Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:** None.
- **Internal Affairs:** Meeting cancelled due to chair being sent to active duty.
- **Student Advocacy:** Chair Fomberg: talked about making committee more prominent and visible to students. Talked about Childcare Daycare and improving the transparency with working with them.
- **Student Affairs:** Chair Hagemeyer: talked about ways to improve contact between graduate student body and the Congress. Wants to send out surveys about parking and get more data to help with that issue on campus.

Funding Requests: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Resolution #4: *Student Bar Association Softball Tournament*. Q&A: Hagemeyer: where is the itemized list of expenses? Speaker: this is an expense going towards airfare and lodging. Hagemeyer: Are we going to address their GoFundMe account? Brinkman: if they already fundraised 1200 dollars, why are they still asking for that much money from cogs? Speaker Morgan: we should not be taking fundraising into consideration. Brinkman- but the code contradicts this. Morgan – this is not the case; the code being referred to is in regard to a different situation. Morgan time for Q&A has ran out. Brinkman motion to extend Q&A until all questions are answered; Hagemeyer seconds. Brinkman: Fomberg: if they had a GoFundMe and raised the funds, what are we reimbursing them for then? Caitlyn: point of information- receipt for states the money 685 for registration, gas receipts, 256.06 per room for two nights, with a total of 1,580.07. - Brinkman – does the softball team still hold try outs?

- o Nelson – not this past year, and before that, only men could try out
- Hagemeyer – the group went on their trip not sure that they would get funded?
- o Morgan – they did
- Brinkman – did they submit all purchase orders?
- o Blake-Hedges – only for the registration which was \$685. The others were supposedly not turned in because of uncertainty about whether they would be approved.
- Nelson – did LSC fund the softball team?
- o Brooker- no LSC voted not to fund the softball team.
- Brinkman – was the softball team voted so that it won't be an RSO next year?
- o Nelson – yes

Hagemeyer – so we should not take RSO fund raising into account when funding

- Morgan – We cannot. If this organization did receive funding here and it was found that they defrauded the congress in some way through this process, then that would be a separate legal matter
- Brinkman – we have asked RSOs in the past about fundraising, is that appropriate?
- Morgan – it is appropriate, we can make an estimation of how much they care, their responsibility etc. but since this is after the fact, it is a different situation.
- Mathesie – if we fund this, are we taking away from anyone else potentially in this year for LSC? And what is our budget looking like.
- Lauren Brooker - believes that the LSC budget is around \$1,000.
- Madison Johnson – it is difficult to know, without looking into it.
- Point of clarification – Nelson: when money is unused and goes into sweeping, we can get it back and it can be used, correct?
- Blake hedges – you have to go before sweepings and make a request, but nothing is guaranteed.

PRO: Mathesie: we should get this over with and get them reimbursed. CON: Brinkman: trying to be unbiased but as a law student I do not see how it makes sense in my mind. This money is supposed to be used for the well-being of the student body as a whole. Especially, if only males can participate, and they have already made a GoFundMe that raised all of the funds. Hagemeyer: I think we can all agree that any other organization came to COGS asking this we would not approve it and LSC did not approve it this year. Nelson: The Supreme Court only stated that Adam could not make decisions in that way so we can vote in down, they continued to raise funds. It is not opened to all law students and the entire graduate population. Fomberg: I think they are a lot of blind spots in this particular case. We have to make ethical decision on behalf of our constituents. Morgan: I am not sure, but I believe SBA has mandatory dues. 2nd PRO: Mathesie: I think the other teams can be comparable to the softball team with SBA. LSC does not fund moot or mock trial. Nelson – we ran out of lockers this year, so there is not typically left-over lockers. Blake-Hedges motion to call the question by secret ballot. 7 -0- 2 motion to vote by secret ballot **PASSED**. Secret Ballot Vote: 2-5-2; Resolution 4 **FAILED**.

- Resolution #5: This resolution is about the university canceling on travel by students. Since COGS funds conference presentation and support grants to students going to conferences, we are not allowed to give out those grants anymore. Because the university has not given a date on when the travel ban will be lifted. We want to put a hold on grants until the university lifts the ban. Our first window for travel grants opens on June 1st, so we want to make sure we have provisions to stop us from giving out grants to events that will not happen. PRO: Mendez: seems like it would make things easier. Morgan: this would protect the health of students as a whole in regard to travel and show us in align with the university. Hirsch: good to have as a COGS statement and help with as we move towards the fall. CON: None. 2nd PRO: Hagemeyer motions to call the question. Creigh seconds. **VOTE**: 9-0-0 PASSED.

Round Table: Creigh: went to the FSU Childcare Center with Blake-Hedges to read books to kids. Everyone quarantining and trying to stay healthy.

Adjournment: 8:06 PM