



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

**THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting  
Monday, August 29th, 2022  
6:30 p.m.  
Agenda

**Call to Order:** 6:40 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Rep. Collins

**REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Basualdo, Boatright, Collins, Delva, Illesanmi, Mekala, Meyre, Neale, Vaughn, Vouzas

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED:** Baffour, Galleano, Rogowski

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:** Amaraneni

**REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:**

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve the minutes: Vaughn

Second: Vouzas

Petitions into the Assembly: Cameron Gerhold, College of Medicine, Seat 1

- Second year medical student in the COM
- Completed undergraduate degree here at FSU, so I would love to be a part of COGS
- I'd like to fill in for former Rep. Wilson
- I have some executive experience: I was on the executive board on my sorority, which involved managing executive order amongst a large body of individuals.

**Questions**

- Collins: Are you available Monday nights at 6:30?
- Gerhold: Yes
- Boatright: Do you know which committee you'd like to be a part of?
- Gerhold: Yes, Student Advocacy Committee
- Vouzas: Are you aware that you will also be able to dedicate time outside of meetings to understand producing bills and voting?
- Gerhold: Yes, I will have availability to understand more about these aspects.
- Vaughn: Do you have a specific passion within Student Advocacy?
- Gerhold: I am passionate about supporting childcare.
- Vouzas: motion to extinguish the remaining time for questions.

- Collins: Second

#### Pros:

- Vouzas: This is a wise choice. We need members, she's aware of what she's getting into, and she's prepared.
- Illesanmi: She will be ready to get on the job on day 1. We need day 1 members.
- Vaughn: She has a lot of enthusiasm and I think she'll do a good job.
- Mehre: We don't have any reason to doubt her position in COGS. She is a respected member in the COM by peers.
- Vouzas: Motion to extinguish the rest of the time.
- Delva: Second

#### Vote: 8-1-0

Rep. Gerhold is sworn in by Dep. Speaker Delva.

#### **Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A**

#### **Messages from Student Government: N/A**

#### **Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A**

#### **Report of Officers:**

- The Report of the Speaker
  - Not much has happened since our last meeting. We have fully moved into our office. It is open to everyone if you ever need to be in there.
  - Office hours will be hybrid so we should be very accessible to you all.
  - I spoke at the new Graduate Student Orientation. It went well, and we provided a lot of information. I'm hoping now that we're officially back on campus, we will have some more individuals who will be interested in joining COGS.
  - Please spread the word about the open seats – as you can see, we have a lot of them.
  - We will be moving around committees, to ensure there are at least 5 members on each committee.
  - As for switching seats itself, there is nothing in COGS code against this, but if we believe if you'd like to switch seats, it is preferred that you re-petition to the new seats so we can vote for this change fairly.
  - Hopefully we'll have some events heading into the Fall – if you're interested in leading an event, let me know.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance
  - First, I'm going to have to step down from the role of Dep. Speaker because I'm an international student and this is a paid position. That means that I am working on campus for more than 20 hours, which exceeds what the biology department allows. The only reason Gaurav was able to be Speaker is because he was part of the Department of Education, and everything that happens on campus is related to education. So, this counted more as an internship. My position is not related to biology, so I will need to step down. Officially, I will be stepping down after this meeting. Next time we meet, we will need to go through the process of voting in a new member.
  - If you are interested in this role, please contact me. There are many responsibilities to this job, so let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.
  - It's 10 hours a week and are paid – you are paid to hold office hours. You are responsible for reviewing requests for travel grants. That job can be tedious, but it's not

that bad. You can knock out 50-100 requests within one hour. The other part of the job is reviewing purchase requests by RSOs. You will look at if you have enough money in their budget allocation, and if they are going to the correct places to purchase things.

- I'm making it sound worse than it is, but that's to prepare whoever is interested. It's not that bad, honestly. If you're interested let me know. I will try to do my best to prepare you the best I can. And just know, you will be very supported in this role.
- Second, during the summer, not much has happened. We haven't had many RSOs use the money they have been allocated.
- Third, we have discussed with the executive board about planning for the next budget cycle. In a few months, we will have our budget meetings, where we review any requests for funding in 2023-2024. One of the major problems from last semester was the budget meetings happened one week after the first assembly meetings after the elections. Because of this, many of the newer members were tasked with making financial decisions they were unfamiliar with or unprepared for. \*Vouzas provides an example.
- Our budget meetings will be about how we can allocate money equitably across RSOs. The main goal for the budget committee is for it to get set up as early as possible. Hopefully meetings will begin before deliberations in order to educate members on how the budget allocation process takes place.
- Fourth, there were a few discrepancies in the way that MSC and LSC funding boards were conducting certain business. It came down to how to best ensure everyone abides by COGS code, because both were not following the code. We want to ensure their allocation of resources comply with COGS' rules. We are going to discuss this further, into the next few months.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
  - For those of you who weren't here for the summer, we did some good work with training and familiarizing ourselves with the code. We reached an agreement on how to conduct certain decisions in COGS. We need to clean up a lot of mess from our previous executive board. We want to ensure we abide by the code. This will help our student body in general by not making mistakes.
  - We've made a few changes, or started to abide more closely by the code. An example of this bringing LSC and MSC up to code. I think this will help with the fairness with a whole student body.
  - For the past semester, I came up with a strategic plan for COGS to see if our business aligns with the plan.
  - I would highly encourage you all to familiarize yourself with COGS code. Come to me if there are parts of the code that are difficult to understand.
  - If you're planning to be part of the budget committee, please bring that code with you. In the past, by not following the code, RSOs have not been able to spend their money.
  - Vouzas: the main take home message from this is we are not trying to be punitive with anyone. We are not trying to limit what people can do, but it is critical at this point that we are able to prove to FSU that we can be financially and procedurally sound when it comes to our process. The goal for the future is to accumulate more money (A&S fees) for COGS to allocate for our RSOs.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications
  - I also will unfortunately need to step down. I am unable to commit to 6:30pm meetings, and due to beginning my dissertation data collection, I will be unable to commit to consistent office hours.

- I love this role, I'd say it's one of the more low-pressure roles on exec, while also getting paid. I create graphics, communicate with the congress on behalf of the executive committee. I also communicate with deans and representatives of departments across campus, and organize COGS' participation in the community. I also prepare the bill packet each week.
- I will not officially step down until September 9<sup>th</sup>. So please reach out to me if you're interested.
- I will be reaching out to departments this week and creating graphics to connect to new members. Please share these widely, so we can build up our congress again before the budget hearings.

#### Committee Report:

- C-SAC
  - Nothing to report, have not met
- Internal Affairs
  - Delva: We did meet on Friday. We discussed some changes that we will be voting on today. The changes are just to reflect the COGS budget in the COGS code, as well as ensuring COGS code is up to date. We will discuss this with you all as we present resolutions.
  - We also clarified COGS code with MSC representatives during this meeting. In the past, LSC and MSC would go to conferences together with different groups. If their groups would be interested in attending conferences. But we discovered that they were getting more funding than individual travel grant recipients are allotted. In the code, it states that everyone who asks for funding must go through COGS. There will now be some changes in requesting funds through MSC and LSC.
  - Neale: The only time group travel funding can be allocated is for tabling and if they are speaking on a panel. So, funding groups is not acceptable.
- Student Advocacy
  - Nothing to report, have not met
- Student Affairs:
  - Nothing to report, have not met

Funding Requests: None

Unfinished Business: None

#### New Business:

- Resolution 6: Adjusting COGS Code to Reflect Budget Increase for Travel Grants
  - Presented by Rep. Delva
  - We propose changes in the code to reflect the passed 2022-2023 budget.
  - Total grants for a fiscal year have increased to \$600.
  - Instead of \$200 for presentation grants, students will now be eligible for \$250
  - Instead of \$100 for attendance grants, students will now be eligible for \$150
  - Instead of \$500 for international travel grants, students will now be eligible for \$600
  - Yield rest of the time for questions
- Questions
  - Amaraneni: What is this about again?
  - Delva: It just reflects the changes that were passed by the most recent budget hearing.
  - Vouzas: Motion to extinguish the rest of the time.

- Vaughn: Second
- Pros:
  - Vouzas: This is what we voted for in the budget bill. This increases in the dollar amount for traveling has been accompanied with an increase with a total amount of money. This is the right thing to do, and hopefully in the future we can work to increasing that amount even further.
  - Vaughn: We already voted on this, this is to just put it in writing.
- Cons:
  - Mehyre: If we vote this through, does that set in stone that nothing is changing with how many grants students can get per year?
  - Vouzas: This is something we can talk about allocating for the next fiscal year. This is how we voted, we are just ensuring today that the language matches this.
  - Vouzas: Motion to extinguish the rest of the time for cons.
  - Vaughn: Second
- Pros:
  - Motion to call to question: Vouzas
  - Illesanmi: Second
- Closing comments:
  - We just want to ensure that the code reflects what we're doing. I extinguish the rest of my time for voting.
- Vote: 11-0-0
- Resolution 7: Adjusting COGS Code to Remove Expired Line Items
  - Presented by Rep. Collins
  - This bill is just concerned with removing expiratory language
- Questions
  - Mehyre: Motion to move to pros and cons
  - Vaughn: Second
- Pros:
  - Vaughn: Motion to move to cons
  - Amareneni: Second
- Cons:
  - Collins: Motion to call to question
  - Illesanmi: Second
- Vote: 11-0-0

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:09 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** September 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in person (Senate Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, New Student Union)