



THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting

Monday, February 21, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Agenda

Call to Order: 6:37pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Rep. Hagemeyer

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Adhikari, Amaraneni, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Basualdo, Boatright, Collins, Creigh, Delva, Gfatter, Goulette, Hagemeyer, Ilesanmi, Linsky, Neale, Noor Mustafa, Rogowski, Ryan, Smith, Vaughn, Vouzas, Wilson, Young

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Smith, Adhikari, Noor Mustafa, Linsky, Wilson, Amareneni, Boatright, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Vaughn

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Galeano, Harshe, Hirsch, Horner, Young

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Myhre

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes: Hagemeyer; Second: Boatright

Petitions into the Assembly: N/A

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
 - Absent
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance
 - We completed the hearings and deliberations for the 2022-2023 budget – this is posted on the COGS website (bill 6)
 - I recommend looking through the proposed bill to understand the allocation of these funds better. This is the largest budget we've ever had.
 - Attendance grants and presentation grants look untouched, but we are getting a better process for students to get approval much quicker
 - I will be stepping down as Deputy Speaker for Finance at the end of this semester, April 18th will be my last assembly meeting in this position. If any of you are interested in

taking over this role, I would want someone to shadow me, so you get a sense of the responsibilities.

- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
 - You should have received an email from me about Roberts Rules of Order. The information manual should be available from me soon, once it is approved by internal affairs.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications
 - Nothing to report this week.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC: Dep Speaker Creigh
 - We discussed Resolution 3. The Cheminoles are requesting funds for a research event where undergraduate students give research presentations. They've held this event for several years. The \$365 is for food from an approved vendor. It was approved 3-0-0 in the C-SAC committee.
- Internal Affairs: Rep. Linsky
 - We met on 2/14. We did not have quorum. We talked about rules and procedures and how to enforce it.
 - Ryan: I'd like to call acting Speaker Creigh to call to order to cease Rep. Linsky.
 - Linsky: See, this is a good example. By acknowledging the point of order, the speaker can control the conversation to ensure it is pertinent to the topic at hand. This maintains productive debates, etc. I am going to put in the chat a link to our rules and procedures.
- Student Advocacy: Rep. Noor Mustafa
 - We are going to meet 2/28. Last time, rep. Rogowski gave a report on behalf of the student advocacy committee. All the team members are working on different areas on how to move forward. Now we are doing more tangible tasks. Rep. Ilesanmi and I went to FSU childcare center the other day. 43% of the children there are children of faculty members. There are 224 children on the waiting list. Since we are representing graduate students, only half of the graduate students are able to utilize the facility. We want to suggest that the discount for graduate students can be decreased. Or if this can be expanded.
 - Collins: A point of interest that you could perhaps talk about is retaining and hiring childcare providers, because I know they had a hard time hiring for a while.
- Student Affairs: Rep Smith
 - Thank you to everyone has filled out the Google form for the name tags. As soon as they're approved, we'll get them ordered for you all.

Funding Requests:

- *Bill 03: Student Art Therapy Association, Contractual Services, Sponsored by Rep. Smith*
 - They're asking for \$1000 for a workshop that is meant to highlight their own individual work and values. It will be broadcasted through their social media spaces, as well as a departmental newsletter and Linked in.
 - Madilynn Forgione (President): In the description we didn't include the speaker's name, but our speaker will be talking about community engagement and practice.
 - Questions:
 - Hagemeyer: Is the date of this event this Saturday?
 - Forgione: Yes. I had previously put in this request last semester. But it has not made it to COGS until this week.
 - Linsky: Move to enter pro-con debate; Second: Vouzas
 - Pros:

- Linsky: This is not that much money. They've been trying to get it for a while. I'll probably be voting in favor of this.
 - Creigh: If we move quickly, we can get it covered in time. This organization has been persistent with COGS, and it demonstrates good leadership.
 - Delva: This event is needed to engage the community in mental health, especially during times of COVID.
 - Cons:
 - Hagemeyer: I've never seen anything funded this quick. If we expedited this service, it would come at an expense. But you could potentially reach out to our current speaker if this does not pass.
 - Gfatter: Could we table this and maybe reimburse the organization at the expense of the speaker?
 - Creigh: Are you asking if we can use speaker funds to reimburse?
 - Gfatter: I'm wondering if the organization can front the money until we can reimburse them?
 - Forgione: For a point of clarification, we do not need the money by February 26th.
 - Linsky: I move to enter another pro/con debate; Delva: Second
 - Pros:
 - Linsky: I don't feel compelled to be the one to enforce certain parts of the finance code on a group who's trying to get their share.
 - Rogowski: I think going ahead and trying to get them that funding would be good since they have a longer history with COGS.
 - Creigh: Yes. Point of information – speaker honorariums do not get paid until after the event, regardless of how far in advance it was submitted.
 - Rogowski: I can empathize with trying to put an event on with so many obstacles.
 - Cons:
 - Hagemeyer: I still think this will not be feasible. If it were up to me, I would vote no and have Speaker Harshe use speaker funds. It will get funded a lot faster.
 - Gfatter: Motion to extend; Hagemeyer: Second
 - Linsky: Point of order – you cannot extend con without extending pro. We can move into another round of pro/con.
 - Creigh: Motion to move into 3rd round of pros; Collins: Second:
 - Pros:
 - Motion to extinguish first round of pros: Linsky; Gfatter: Second.
 - Cons:
 - Gfatter: I'm all for asking the speaker to wait, but if it sits in their account, it might be best served to have the speaker process this particular request.
 - Rogowski: I'm still concerned about the speaker needing to get a contract and an approved vendor. Would there be any legal issues if the guest speaker was doing this event and not being an approved vendor?
 - Forgione: I have been looking at the process for approving honorariums, but I have also started the process of the purchase order. According to my research, I would not need a purchase order. That is the information I have right now.
 - Creigh: We have had purchase orders from honorariums in order to allocate the funds.
 - Hagemeyer: I think we are treating purchase order and purchase request as the same. The contract itself is going to be enough from a purchase request. I am getting some more information about the technicalities of this reimbursement. We haven't run into a situation where the speaker would be reimbursed after the fact.
 - Sponsor statement:
 - I think they are well-prepared and are trying to get this through but at the end of the day, we'll see what happens. I yield the rest of my time for the vote.
 - Vote: 12-4-2 bill passes

- *Bill 04: Department of Urban and Regional Planning Student Association, Sustainable Community Needs Assessment, Sponsored by Dep. Speaker Creigh*
 - They are asking for approximately 6000 for 5 students to fly to Ecuador to represent FSU in a variety of ways.
 - Karina Amalbert (President): Essentially what we will do is travel to Ecuador. As planners, we will partner with an international client to help with a community needs assessment. We haven't had international students since pre-COVID. Our partner has offered lodging, as well. We hope to fly out of Tallahassee as it is the safest option.
 - Questions:
 - Gfatter: If it doesn't fall within the expense, does it get reimbursed?
 - Amalbert: We are a bit nervous that flights are going to increase. We are looking forward to purchasing flights. We've already been approved by FSU travel. Any money that isn't used it will get reimbursed back.
 - Vaughn: I am curious about the history of funding student trips?
 - Creigh: We usually fund about 200 for conferences. I can't speak to the exact amount per person. SGA only funds \$175 per room, per night.
 - Amalbert: I want to add that we will plan to present our findings at a conference upon return.
 - Motion to extend: Vaughn; Second: Rogowski
 - Boatright: You're flying out March 11th?
 - Amalbert: Yes. We are going to travel a day earlier if we go to Miami.
 - Boatright: Does that put us within 30 days?
 - Hagemeyer: For group travel, I think it's supposed to be within 30 business days. But I'm not able to completely confirm that at this time. If this were not to be completely funded, would you still be able to go?
 - Amalbert: Yes and no. The three primary researchers are from different backgrounds. If all three would not be able to travel, this would drastically affect the project. We just got approval from the provost for international travel.
 - Motion to extend: Vaughn; Second: Gfatter
 - Gfatter: I'm not clear if the rooms are staying within the \$175 limit.
 - Amalbert: I can try to re-evaluate the budget to include \$175 per night.
 - Rogowski: I don't know if anyone knows if you would be able to buy this tomorrow, even if we approve this bill tonight.
 - Amalbert: I was under the impression that we were able to move forward with reimbursement, which we are prepared for.
 - Hagemeyer: It's probably going to be booked through your travel rep and then they would get reimbursed. There wouldn't be an issue getting you funded.
 - Pros:
 - Gfatter: If the recipients in Ecuador are providing accommodations and means to get around, then I want to do our part to get our students there.
 - Rogowski: It sounds like a good opportunity for these students, even if they aren't able to fund it on their own.
 - Hagemeyer: Motion to move to con; Collins: Second
 - Cons:
 - Ultimately, it isn't our decision whether the money gets to these organizations in time. We need waivers at least 15 business days in advance. I am nervous to approve this.
 - Vaughn: I am a little torn, as well. I love the idea, but I have some thoughts about other graduate students who would love to go overseas. Has COGS approved something this large for travel?
 - Hagemeyer: Move to extend pros and cons; Gfatter: Second
 - Pros:
 - Hagemeyer: Our business manager thinks she might be able to get this done

- Gfatter: I know it is possible to get all their approvals at the very last second
 - Creigh: I think this is a good opportunity to represent FSU internationally. Looking at the budget, we do have the funds.
 - Collins: I think these types of opportunities is what brings money into FSU, so
 - Motion to call to extinguish con: Gfatter; Second: Rogowski
 - Vote: 12-2-2
- *Bill 05: Black Graduate Student Association, Reallocation of Contractual Services to Food, Sponsored by Dep. Speaker Delva*
 - They are requesting we transfer money to food and clothing budget since they will not have any speakers planned for this funding period. I yield the rest of my time to questions.
 - Questions:
 - Hagemeyer: Is this a transfer or an allocation?
 - Delva: Yes
 - Collins: Motion to amend the bill to remove transfer from COGS unallocated; Second: Gfatter
 - Rogowski: Did they mention specifically what this would be for?
 - Delva: No, they just mentioned that they would not be having any speakers.
 - Hagemeyer: Dep. Speaker Creigh or Speaker Harshe will ensure funding is allocated to specific areas of need, as another layer of governance.
 - Pros:
 - Hagemeyer: I'm shocked they want to transfer self-generated funds, but I don't see a problem with this.
 - Creigh: Usually when there is a transfer, it is likely for a good reason.
 - Rogowski: We've discussed how important it is to spend this money, it's much easier to spend money in the food category.
 - Cons:
 - Baffour Awuah: As much as we want to use these funds, I don't think it's clear of what these funds will be used for.
 - Motion to call to question: Collins; Vaughn: Second
 - Sponsor statement:
 - I think this is a good use of funding because although they don't have specific information of how to use the funds. Clothing and awards are easier to spend, so it's easier to transfer those unused funds in order to maximize spending for other places.
 - Vote: 11-1-1
- *Bill 06: Reallocation of November 2021-February 2022 Grant Funding to Speaker Funds, Sponsored by Rep. Hagemeyer*
 - Since we will only be discussing the budget next week, I wanted to present an alternative plan by taking money from conference presentation grants to transfer to speaker funds. We wanted to do an event for student veterans here, and the majority (of 500) are actually graduate students. These students feel isolated and distant from the student body. I wanted to put on an event for student veterans to interact. I've been working with the Veteran Student Union. We are requesting \$4000 worth of food for ~200-250 people. A point that might be of contention is t-shirts. The tshirts are more than \$8 per shirt, however, COGS does not bind us to funding only \$8. This was an effort to not push off this bill any longer.
- Questions
 - Rogowski: I'm excited about this. In the description, there's a mention of a live band? Do we pay for this?
 - Hagemeyer: It's something that's built into the rental cost. We will have the whole venue this time. So, this comes with a live band, food, games, etc.
 - Ryan: I was just wondering how you are going to advertise this to get people to show up?
 - Hagemeyer: This is going to be our focus to the next month. This will be promoted from the veteran student union. This will also be advertised through Greek organizations, too.

- Motion to extend the questions for 3 minutes; Second: Delva
- Delva: Would you have some type of sign-up sheet? How would you control for involvement?
- Hagemeyer: It'll be open for all students, however, we cannot deny FSU students to attending. We thought about RSVP, but now I think we may band veterans.
- Delva: Would shirts be distributed at the event?
- Hagemeyer: Yes, I'm hoping we will have some leftover too.
- Collins: How are we making sure Greek organizations are not taking over the event?
- Hagemeyer: Organizations will be advertised to first, and Greek organizations have offered to put down money of their own. I will also advertise in primarily graduate student areas.
- Pros:
 - Rogowski: It sounds like a good event. If it's anything like last semester, I think it's a good idea. There's some veterans in my department, who have struggled with the COVID situation.
 - Delva: I like the idea of having shirts and distributing them at the event. It sends a clear message of why we're getting together and why we are celebrating. It's going to be a good opportunity to interact.
- Cons:
 - Motion to extinguish the rest of con and call to question: Collins; Second: Delva
- Speaker comments:
 - I wanted to make a distinction about the speaker fund. Speaker Harshe and Dep. Speaker Creigh will ensure I am spending money where I am supposed to.
- Vote: 12-0-2

Unfinished Business:

New Business: *Resolution 3: CSAC Reallocation for the Cheminoles*

- Acting Speaker Creigh requests Dep Speaker Delva to take over as speaker while Speaker Creigh sponsors this resolution.
- Delva accepts.
- This is primarily for undergraduates, but it benefits the graduate students to give them experience with presenting and possibly recruiting new undergraduates who would be interested in the graduate program at FSU
- Questions:
 - Vaughn: How many undergraduates would be there?
 - Creigh: 65, and 4 graduate students
 - Ryan: Rory, did you receive anything else for this?
 - Creigh: No breakdown, but this has been a running event for the past two or three years
- Pros:
 - Collins: I think this is a good opportunity to connect with undergraduate students who could be potential research assistants.
- Cons:
 - Seeing none
 - Ryan: Motion to call to question; Vaughn: Second
- Vote: 12-0-1

Round Table:

Adjournment: 9:07p.m.

Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30p.m. on Zoom