



THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Agenda

Call to Order: 6:36 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rep. Gfatter

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Amaraneni, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Bassualdo, Boatright, Collins, Delva, Galeano, Gfatter, Hagemeyer, Harshe, Hirsch, Horner, Ilesanmi, Linsky, Neale, Myhre, Rogowski, Ryan, Smith, Vaughn, Vouzas

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Creigh, Noor Mustafa, Wilson, Young

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Adhikari, Goulette

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to amend the Minutes to include Micah Hirsch as absent excused: Collins; Vouzas: Second. Motion to approve the amended Minutes: Vouzas, Second: Gfatter

Petitions into the Assembly: N/A

Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A

Messages from Student Government:

- *Ash Soto, Assistant Director for the Pride Student Union*
 - Not present
- *Daymee Sánchez-Huerta, Director, Hispanic/Latinx Student Union*
 - Not present

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- The Report of the Speaker
 - I sent out the notice about the Day at the Capitol. Please let me know if you have any questions, events begin tomorrow. We don't have a table currently, but if people sign up within COGS, I will request that table.
 - This Friday we have our first COGS event with the SASA, a movie night. We do need some people to table at this event. The event starts at 6:30 – any and all representatives will be able to see the movie at 7:00pm.

- Please committee chairs announce when the next meeting is planned. Please also let me know if you don't know your committee.
- I do want to give thanks to Hannah to work with ASLC and setting up the movie night.
- I wanted to let you know that I will be using Speaker Funds to provide free popcorn to people who attend the event.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance
 - Not present, Speaker Gaurav advised the Congress on his behalf that Budget Deliberations will finish up this Friday from 5-9pm.
 - The next grant cycle from March-June just opened up. There are several requirements for this cycle, but we are still trying to work through this and see how this is done.
 - Speaker Harshe calls on Rep. Hagemeyer to talk about the Tom Project.
 - Hagemeyer: Yes, last year we funded a large project to provide campus with new AEDs. It's been difficult to organize this, but I wanted to request funds to provide lunch to representatives helping with AEDs. This would be about \$150 for lunch.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
 - I am going to be providing some language next week to clarify some of the rules and procedures.
 - I have been also updating COGS materials on the website.
 - If you have more than 3 unexcused absences, I will nicely ask you to resign. Attendance is mandatory.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications
 - Not much to report. I am organizing a schedule for speaking to classes which I will share this week. I am updating our flyers, as well, and will make these available to COGS to easily share with people on social media.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC: Dep Speaker Creigh
 - Dep. Speaker Creigh not present.
- Internal Affairs: Rep. Linsky
 - Next meeting is Monday at 7:30pm.
- Student Advocacy: Rep. Noor Mustafa
 - Rep. Mustafa not present. Rep. Rogowski reported they met last Wednesday. We had discussed building teams to talk about different issues of interest. One group is looking at diversity. Representative Harshe and Hirsch will talk about their resolution about that today. Rep. Galeano is making a contact list for RSOs so we can develop communication between COGS and RSOs. Rep Mustafa and Ilesanmi are working on the childcare center – they are going for a tour soon. I am working with the Graduate Student Union – we discussed what we can do to help all graduate students. We thought about doing a COVID care package, that includes N95 masks and other materials. Finally, Rep Boatright talked about healthcare. We are interested in providing more information to students about healthcare and what is required.
 - Our next meeting will be 2/28 at 6:30pm.
- Student Affairs: Rep Smith
 - We are trying to get headshots scheduled for early March
 - We are still discussing Graduate Student Appreciation Week – please contribute ideas to honor graduate students
 - We are looking at an area for a banquet for graduate students – Honors and Fellows House is a potential location
 - Please consider which option (Option 1 or 2) for a name tag
 - We've also discussed soles – we are working with Campus Greek and M&M Monogramming to discuss prices

- Please volunteer for movie night! It will be a great experience to discuss with others about your experiences in COGS.
- Question from Rep. Hirsch: Can we add our pronouns to nametags?
- Smith: Yes! Please let me know if you would like your pronouns.

Funding Requests: *Bill 02: Indian Student Association of Tallahassee – Food and Expense*

Presented by Rep. Galeano and Amareneni:

*Representatives reached out to RSO representatives, however, no one in attendance on behalf of INSAT

- They are requesting 1,780 for a festival celebrated in India and many other countries.
- They are expecting around 120 people to the event

Questions:

- Gfatter: I did not understand the budget for cutlery
- Galeano:

Pros:

- Gfatter: I think this will be a great opportunity for the community
- Amaraneni: I also believe this is a great event for the association and a way to reach out to the community

Move to call to question for forego time for cons: Linsky; Vaughn: Second

Vote: 18-0-0

Unfinished Business:

New Business: *Resolution 02: COGS' Response to Florida Senate Bill 1834 and Florida House Bill 1557*

Presented by Rep. Hirsch

- This is a resolution of COGS forming a stance against these two bills
- They are very similar – in both, there are sections that state that educators would be prevented from discussing gender identity or sexuality in school settings
- We are stating that we condemn these bills and we do not think they should pass. It provides an official opinion from COGS. This affects those of the LGBTQIA+ community in both graduate and undergraduate communities.
- This resolution is stating that we condemn this as an entity

Questions:

- Gfatter: This influences elementary grades 1-6. I really don't want my children to talk about religion, sexuality, or any of this in grades 1-6. I feel it's inappropriate for adults to be discussing this when they are still developing. There are a number of people who are concerned that their kids don't get to be kids.
- Linsky: Please ask a question.
- Gfatter: Why are we also lumping high school and middle school.
- Linsky: It allows us to ban conversations that they are deemed as age appropriate. Depending on what teacher you have in the classroom, they also can't have those conversations.
- Motion to extend the time for questions: Vouzas; Second: Linsky
- Hagemeyer: Are we representing the graduate school or only COGS?
- Linsky and Hirsch: We are reflecting COGS at FSU. This is nothing COGS hasn't done in the past. Back in 2020, we also passed similar resolutions, so this is nothing out of the ordinary.
- Harshe: We can take other more subjective questions in the pros and cons section and then that can extend.

Pros:

- Linsky: We represent graduate students who are teachers, parents, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. I think in responding using the same language that the bills stated is a good first step for our organization.
- Harshe: Population are already marginalized, so COGS should support marginalized populations, and this is what this resolution is doing

Cons:

- Gfatter: We should separate the populations – less than 12 and the teenage years. This talks about group discussion. The way that this is phrased, now my second grader is going to have a group discussion about this. I'm on the fence because I don't know enough about the bills, and I think there's a certain point that this could be written better. This is vague.
- Hirsch (in response): There is no wrong time to talk about this. I am a member of this community. We talk about gender and sexuality every day.
- Hagemeyer: I feel like this could be more effective if we had data on the graduate student community to have representation on what the graduate students believe. It would be the graduate students' perspectives that are represented, too.
- Harshe (in response): We are in collaboration with the Pride Student Union because he is fighting for this issue at the capitol currently.

Motion from Gfatter: Motion to table this, as the language is too vague.

Linsky (in response): This is what the legislature is stating, not us. So we need to quote it as it is written.

Primary school may not be as clear, but that is legislative writing from the House and the Senate. It is good to use the language of the bill when talking about the bill. It is framing the bill through our constituency, who are parents and teachers who are graduate students.

Hirsch: We did think about this when grading this resolution. As we saw in pro, there are many ways graduate students are connected to this issue.

Gfatter: Scientifically, I look at this and see "many" graduate students. What is many?

Galeano: What does classroom discussion mean? Or adding a chapter in their book?

Hirsch: It's "not talking about it in the classroom."

Motion to call to question: Horner; Hagemeyer: Second

Vote: 13-7-1

Resolution 02 passes with majority vote

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:22 p.m.

Monday, February 21, 2022 at 6:30p.m. in HCB 313 & Zoom