



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
January 22, 2024
6:30pm
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Rep. Velez

Roll Call: Present: Balak, Balogun, Barber, Burns, Cyrille, Delva, Ebuara, Galeano, Hussain, McCraney, Medarev, Pakdehi, Rogowski, Rowan, Siegel, Vaughn, Velez, Wardlow, Wesner, Wheeler

Absent Excused: Beavon, Solmaz

Reading and approval of the Minutes: Rogowski, 2nd - Galeano

Petitions into the Assembly:

Profilia Nord - College of Medicine Seat 2

M1 student and has been at FSU for her Masters program. Saw the work of COGS while in various roles on students and wants to work together. See how we can bridge the gap of understanding between MSC and COGS.

Jamila Alleyne - College of Social Work Seat 1

1st year student. Interested in joining COGS because no one from the Social Work was a representative. Has served in her Community College and undergrad.

Questions:

Rogowski - will you both be available on Monday nights at 6:30? Yes.

Galeano - How long is your program Jamila? 2 years.

Cyrille - You mentioned miscommunications from the medical school. Can you talk more about that. In the past, there was some miscommunication and I want to make sure that doesn't happen again.

Rogowski - What committees are you interested in? Nord - Advocacy; Alleyne - not fully sure at this moment, but will look into it more.

Siegel - Exhaust time; 2nd - McCraney

Pros: Wheeler - I like them both. I think they can both bring a lot to COGS in general. Nord seems like she had a good plan for the future.

Rogowski - Alleyne found us on her own which is great and I'm excited by her past experience with outreach.

Rowan - The way that COGS has grown has been fantastic as we are starting to fill seats.

Motion to call to question - Galeano; 2nd - Pakdehi

Vote: Profilia Nord 19-0-0

Jamila Alleyne 19-0-0

Swearing in.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A

Messages from Student Government: N/A

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:

Rowan - I went to their meeting and there is a bill making its way through the committees that would waive the GRE requirement for veterans.

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker: Budget season for SGA kicked off last week which means our budget season kicks off in about a month. We will be making a call for those interested in joining the budget committee. The dates of this will be the week of March 4th to open and the week of March 25th for presentations requesting fundings and a target date of April 1st of 15th for budget finalizing. A Qualtrics will be sent out for those interested. Our budget this year is looking to be about 1.2-1.3M. I have learned so much about the campus through the process. Have had meetings with Childcare Center to see if other departments could help with the funding. Those working in the center are great. We have a bookshelf in the office now, so please stop by for merch. For new members, please come by after today's meeting to pick up a shirt. You'll see on the agenda a call for a Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs. We hope someone would like to fill this position. It is a paid position, so I highly suggest running for it. There is a lot of legislation on the floor tonight, so please ask questions if you have them.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Financial report is on the 2nd page of the agenda so that you know where our balances are for each account. You can see our current presentation and attendance grants. As we are nearing the end, those balances are getting low, but previous funds can be moved over. Please share information about the grants. The next item is the budget process which is an impactful role of COGS. We get to hear from everyone who gets funding from COGS. I know not many seemed interested in the process, but I really enjoyed it last year. It might be a lot of work, but it's during a short time frame. We have training, attend presentations, and then deliberate the budget. Please consider it. Please talk to me afterwards if you are interested. We can send out a survey for those interested. There is a bill on the agenda transferring sweepings money and I'll talk more about that then.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: N/A
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Reminder about the name tag survey. Please check your spelling and if you wrote your FULL name (first and last). Also, if you are assigned a bill, please send it to me in .doc format, not pdf. Thank you.

Ebuara - Motion for a 10 min recess; 2nd - Galeano at 6:59pm

Reconvene at 7:14pm

Committee Introductions and Reports:

First meetings and election of chairs/vice chairs and time/date for committee meetings - take 15 minutes.

- C-SAC:
- Internal Affairs: Balak - chair; Medarev - vice chair
- Student Advocacy: Hussain - chair; Cyrille - vice chair
- Student Affairs: Wesner - chair; Wheeler - vice chair

Funding Requests:

Bill #3: Art History Association

Opening statement - Asking for \$1,500 to contribute to their Art History Symposium. 3 days and consists of several sessions, social gatherings, and a keynote speaker. The funding being requested will go toward food for two events as well as keynote speaker related funding. The keynote speaker is very well renowned and everyone is invited.

Questions -

Rogowski: You are requesting \$1,500, but the amount is more than that. Where is the funding coming from? The Dean of the College of Fine Arts. Have you had the event before? Yes. There were 80-90 people in attendance last year.

Exhaust time - Siegel; Wheeler - 2nd

Pros -

McCraney: When I read the description, I thought it was so cool and I love they explored many avenues of funding for this.

Nord: I believe that COGS should be supporting initiatives like this that encourage diversity.

Burns: Excited about the speaker and I think it will be a great event.

Rowan: Thanks to the organization for working with me to arrange the bill and money requested.

Extinguish time - Rogowski; 2nd - Burns

Cons -

Galeano: Call to question; Balak - 2nd

Closing - I think the bill is a great idea and it brings diverse backgrounds into the forefront with Black History Month being next month.

Vote: 21-0-0

Bill #4: Public Administration Graduate Association

Opening statement - Gathering of the organization and the event creates an opportunity for academics to gather and talk. Requesting money for food and it's a way for them to gather in a more relaxed setting. Graduate students often end up siloed and do not realize they are working on the same topic and this is a way to encourage collaboration and socializing with professors.

Questions -

Ebuara: Have you done this before? Yes. How was it funded? By COGS last year.

Burns: Where is it? On campus.

Hussain: Is it a yearly gathering? No, it's at the start of the semester?

Balogun: Will the funding be enough? Yes, because it will be hybrid.

Pros -

Pakdehi: We all need time to relax and talk about our research. It's a great idea to have a gathering like this.

Barber: Having a social is very important, especially with many classes being online.

Ebuara: I think this is a good idea because not everyone knows what everyone else in their program is doing.

Balak: Good idea because discussing research ideas allows for collaboration.

Cons -

Ebuara: Call to Question; 2nd - Cyrille

Closing - I think this is a great bill to pass in general.

Vote: 21-0-0

Unfinished Business:

Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs - call for nominees

This will be rolled over to the next meeting.

New Business:

Bill #5: LSC Spring Budget

Opening statement - Hopefully this will be fairly straightforward concerning administrative processes. You can see the allocation of funds for the spring semester.

This is a way to proactively handle the funding. It also increases transparency of funding. We want to make the whole process more efficient. The old process was slow and was hard for organizations to put together last-minute events. Makes sure that all of the organizations get adequate funding and can benefit the smaller organizations.

Questions -

Rogowski: From the budget report and the bill, there are some number differences? Not all numbers were finalized and an amendment will be made to change that. The Student Bar Association looks a little low from historical knowledge - will this be an issue? This is part of giving more funds to smaller organizations. RSOs are being encouraged to collaborate.

Pakdehi - extend time; 2nd - Delva

Pakdehi: I see that there is funding for food, clothing, and awards as well as an expense category. Can you explain that? It is a way of allocating funds for events.

Delva: Thank you for putting in this work. Is this something you plan to do every semester or is it a trial? Hope to operate on a semester by semester basis moving forward. A yearly basis would be too hard to track things via calendar for some organizations.

Pros -

Rogowski: There's a lot of good things happening here. If you haven't been involved in this, you might not understand how much better this is. The old process took a long time

and required a lot of approvals and this makes it much more streamlined. Now everyone in COGS knows what is happening in both LSC and MSC.

Delva: I think that having Law students in COGS has helped to streamline these behind the scenes processes. It's great and detailed work.

Cons -

Rogowski - Motion to extinguish; Delva - 2nd.

Pros -

Burns - Motion to under the LSC Expense category, food change from \$500 to \$165.34 and expense number from \$500 to \$165.35; 2nd - Wheeler

Q&A; Pros; Cons - all extinguished and seconded

Vote on the amendment - 21-0-0

Closing - The purpose of LSC is to fund the organizations and this helps improve that.

Vote - 21-0-0

Bill #6: MSC Spring Budget

Opening statement - This is will look a lot like the LSC bill and we are working to fund the organizations under MSC. Looking at past funding, we were inspired to make things more streamlined. Most of what could be said about this was stated by LSC. Thank you for hearing us out. It will make things much easier on our part.

Questions -

Medarev - extinguish time; Nord - 2nd

Pros - Rogowski: met a lot with the past president, Jack. This is will make things streamlined and allow for faster events and greater transparency. It is a moment to appreciate everything about this process.

Rowan: I saw the old spreadsheet and it was horrifying. The work has been done.

Galeano - extinguish time; Nord - 2nd

Cons -

Call to question - Balogun; 2nd - Nord

Closing - A lot went into this, so thank you to everyone for working with this and this is all publicly available.

Vote - 21-0-0

Bill #7: COGS Allocation Transfer

Opening statement - This is a basic transfer of funds of the amount given in sweepings. It was a total of \$45,000. It is to be used to reimburse applicants from last year who did not get funding due to technical issues with Survey Monkey. These funds are being moved to these accounts so that they can be used for this process. We do still have some funds in unallocated, but we wanted to make it easier to keep track of it. Any leftover can be moved to Unallocated and other accounts.

Questions - Nord - extinguish; 2nd - Siegel

Pros - Rogowski: This is creating a shell account to prevent administrative complications.

Medarev - extinguish time; 2nd - Balek

Cons -

Balogun - Call to question; 2nd Hussain

Vote: 19-0-0

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:2

Next Meeting: **February 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Senate Chambers (3rd floor Student Union)**