



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

**THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

June 5, 2023

6:30pm

Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:35pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Basualdo

**Roll call: Present:** Balogun, Basualdo, Beavon, Delva, Ebuara, Galeano, Rogowski, Solmaz, Vaughn

**Absent, Unexcused:** Wesner

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

**Petitions into the Assembly:** N/A

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

**Messages from Student Government:** Introduction from Andy Johnson - new Program Director for Student Governance and Advocacy. He has been working with Dr. Williams in this job for 6 days. Has a background in politics. Has been wanting to work with FSU for a while and is excited to work with student government. Working to fill out vacancies in the office and is here to support student government. Looking forward to getting to know all of us. Has an open door policy for those who have questions and concerns.

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

**Report of Officers:**

- Report of the Speaker: Moving away at the end of the month because he got a job in Miami-Dade County. Hasn't finished school, but needs to jump on this opportunity. Will work on transitioning for Fall. Has faith in us for moving forward.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Was out of town in May, but is now back. Has spent time catching up on conference grants. Has 34 left to approve for the end of the fiscal year. Will be using most of the money allotted for the grants. Encourage people to apply for attendance grants. Automated emails are working for presentation grants, but not attendance grants. Please spread the word that there is still money available for attendance grants. If you know anyone who applied for attendance grants, please email me, Laurel, or Andy at [ajohnson23@fsu.edu](mailto:ajohnson23@fsu.edu) to check the Teams file on who has been approved. June is the end of the fiscal year, so audits will be done in July to see if we can raise the funds for next year. Will be able to approve purchase requests again starting in July.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Congratulations to Andy and we are excited to have you on board. I don't have any updates today. I know we had some ideas to discuss more last meeting, so we can continue these discussions.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: We have our swag continuing to arrive. We will be looking for people to help out with International Student Orientation tabling on August 11th and 18th from 5-6pm. More details coming soon.

**Committee Report:**

- C-SAC:
- Internal Affairs: Have not met, but we do want to meet and talk about more updates to the code soon.
- Student Advocacy: Have not met and no updates. Still haven't heard anything from Graduate Admissions Office even after emailing again.
- Student Affairs: Have not met.

### **Funding Requests:**

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### *Fall planning discussion part 2*

Delva - Have a few things we can continue to discuss from our last meeting. We want to talk more about having an area where students can discuss the issues they are facing. Any type of advocacy/solutions that can be brought up. There were questions about how to set it up and make it productive. Want to make it so that it is conversational and productive.

Rogowski - Point of information to Rep. Galeano who is on the Quality Enhancement Plan for graduate students. Isn't there something like this on the plan?

Galeano - crafting the plan is still happening, but one of the options is to create a new centralized space for graduate students. It's not exactly a center, but it would be centralized for resources. QEP is a requirement for FSU accreditation. Link - <https://sacs.fsu.edu/qep> This is done every 5 years to enact the next 5 years. For this process, FSU is focusing on doctoral programs. After a lot of brainstorming, have narrowed down some options. These proposals will be sent to the Provost for approval. Two committees: initiative and budget. Some of the initiatives listed are: graduate education resource center, doctoral student council on research - competitive internal grant, and a progression tracking tool. Some of this might be combined.

Rogowski - Wanted to share this so you know about it being in the development process long term. That way there would be a space for graduate students in the future. This isn't going to happen in the next 1-2 years. Report will be submitted in December, so it will take time. Likely 2024-25 academic year at the earliest.

Delva - For a more immediate thing, can we think about a resource handbook or a link on the COGS website with resources for students?

Vaughn - The College of Education sent out an email with resources. Would we want to add something like this with more explanation to the COGS email?

Rogowski - I like the idea of adding a page to our website. I also am planning on setting up resource workshops for the Fall on how organizations can apply for funding. I might also set up a workshop concerning how to apply for conference funding. When considering a handbook, the QEP sent out a survey and might be publishing those results. Might can use that as well for how to help students.

Solmaz - I suggested this in order to make it clearer on how students can get connected with COGS and how they can ask for help. Was frustrating to not hear anything about funding last year. I didn't want others to experience what I experienced.

Delva - From an inside COGS perspective, what would be a better way to see the outside perspective since we do have a lot of turnover?

Solmaz - I sent 3 emails and got no reply, so I gave up on funding. Maybe some way of looking at who to contact if they don't hear anything after a certain time period.

Delva - The reason I'm asking about the outside perspective is because we want to know how to help those who don't know what is going on. We do have an office now.

Solmaz - Maybe info can be shared on who our representatives are so that we can then talk to them if there are issues?

Dr. Williams - I have some suggestions. We are working on the emails system and I have met with survey monkey to work through the system and the errors. I would like to allow people to see their application status in Survey Monkey as well. COGS office hours are posted on the website and perhaps we work to make those more visible. The last thing we want to happen is for students to give up and not go to conferences.

Rogowski - When you were going through this process, did you try to access any of the information on our website? It's all on our website, so how can we make this more accessible?

Solmaz - I did look on the website, but I didn't know how friendly COGS would be. I had never met anyone from COGS. This is why I suggested making social media more visible.

Delva - It is a little harder to make connections via a website which is why we want to have more events in the Fall to make that connection.

Vaughn - Speaking of events and reaching out to student populations, while we will not be able to present during International Graduate Student Orientation we will have tabling on August 11th and 18th from 5-6pm. We will also be hosting Coffee Hour on September 15th in order to promote COGS and explain SGA. One event that I would like to make a tradition is having Frother's Daughter during finals week. Our event this past semester went well and it's only around \$1,000 to have, so it is an easy and affordable event with great outreach. Are there any other small events that anyone would like to suggest?

Delva - We want to really make connections during these events in the Fall. A good point to advertise the grants and to encourage people to talk to us about grants.

Galeano - I like the idea of saving the big event to the end of the academic year in case we need the money, and doing something smaller for the fall.

Rogowski - We can try to aim for a small social in October? I know we have done things off campus in the past. I like the idea of doing a small social event, but it's not necessary since we do have other plans in place. Maybe something for Student Affairs to discuss.

**New Business:** N/A

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:** 8:00 pm

**Next Meeting: June 26, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**