



THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
Monday, March 21, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Agenda

Call to Order: 6:33 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rep. Neale

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Amaraneni, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Basualdo, Boatright, Collins, Creigh, Delva, Galleano, Gfatter, Harshe, Ilesanmi, Linsky, Meyer, Neale, Noor Mustafa, Rogowski, Ryan, Smith, Vaughn, Vouzas, Young

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Neale

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: Ryan

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Hagemeyer, Wilson

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Adhikari, Goulette

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes: Amareneni; Second: Noor Mustafa

Petitions into the Assembly:

- *Mounika Mekala, LGBTQ Advocate Seat*
- Introduction
 - Here since Fall 2021, graduating in December 2022. I got my Bachelor's in engineering in India. Petitioner yields 2:33 for questions
- Questions
 - Vaughn: Why do you want to be a part of COGS?
 - Mekala: I want to represent graduate students as a part of FSU. I believe everyone needs to feel accepted. I understand the statistics of violence against this community, so I want to make a difference for this community.
 - Delva: Do you have Monday evenings available this semester and the coming semesters to be a part of COGS and the assembly.
 - Mekala: Yes, I am available.
 - Rogowski: Have you looked into the committees we have in COGS and have you thought about which committee you'd like to be a part of?
 - Mekala: Student Affairs
 - Mustafa: What vision do you have for the LGBT community?
 - Mekala: I want to participate as a represent. There is a website I can interact which can help the community.
- Pros:

- Amareneni: Monuka is actively participating on campus. She does well in her studies, and I think she would be a good fit.
- Linsky: We need more people, and I think if she's interested, and she should fill the seat. I move to call to question if no more questions arise. Creigh: Second
- Vote: 17-0-4
- Rep. Mekala is sworn in by Dep. Speaker Delva.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: *Iris Cheng, Student of the College of Music*

- I am here to speak about incidents within the College of Music. There are concerns for sexual misconduct that are not being addressed appropriately as the members involved are part of the investigation. I am aware of two separate incidences. To my knowledge, COGS engages in collective bargaining, so I am bringing this issue here with the hopes that it can be addressed.
- Speaker Harshe: Thank you for addressing this issue. We have connected with your story. We do connect to Graduate Assistants United, but we do not engage in collective bargaining. We encourage representatives to reach out to Dep. Speaker Creigh and Speaker Harshe or Iris to discuss this issue further or offer support in any way.

Messages from Student Government: N/A

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- The Report of the Speaker
 - I want to apologize for lacking preparedness from our prior meeting. Everyone on the executive board now has access to the Zoom link. We also have a plan moving forward.
 - We are calling a Special Meeting on 3/28 to review the budget that is proposed. Please contact the executive board if you will be unable to attend.
 - We have the Spring Inauguration coming up on 4/11 at 5:00pm. If you all could please attend, that would be appreciated. There will also be headshots available at that time, and food. Please dress professionally if you are able to.
 - Neale: If you do need professional clothing, you can rent 4 items per semester on campus through the Career Center.
 - I will be graduating this April, and the Speaker position will be open. If you are interested in shadowing this position, please let me know so you can see if it would be a good fit for you. The obligation is 10 hours per week.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance
 - Here is Bill 7 (Proposed Budget): <https://sga.fsu.edu/cogs/budget/COGS-Annual-Budget-Bill-No.7-2022-2023.pdf>
 - It is good to be aware of the organizations, funding programs, etc. with the largest funding period we have ever had.
 - During our assembly on March 28th, we will only be reviewing this bill and voting on it. No other funding request will be reviewed.
 - This will all need to be completed by next month, so we need to review this as soon as possible.
 - The budget committee has already deliberated this, but please come with your questions and comments.
 - I am continuing to look through purchase requests and grant requests as usual.
 - I do have someone shadowing me for Dep. Speaker role since I will be stepping down, but if you are interested, please let me know so we can prepare you as a candidate.
 - Harshe: I want to echo that preparing to attend the Budget review meeting prior, so the meeting progresses smoothly.

- Rogowski: I was confused with the formatting of the bill. Is this the money that the committee has already approved?
- Creigh: The funds that are allocated to us are coming from SGA, and what the committee has done is they approved which way the funds are being allocated. We will shape and amend it a bit on the floor, but we will not go through it line by line.
- Rogowski: So, the money listed on the bill is what was already approved?
- Creigh: Yes, that is correct.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
 - I am finally contacting Ben about printing a sample of our Booklet. We are Zooming tomorrow, but I am excited to have a sample to show the committees and provide a guide book to the new members of COGS.
 - I want to note that I will be continuing in my role.
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications
 - Not much to report from me, but I want to apologize ahead of time, that I will not be able to attend the next couple of meetings due to preparing a grant and travel. I will be discussing this with the executive board, but if you are available and willing to take the notes for these meetings, that would be great. Send me an email.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC: Dep Speaker Creigh
 - We have not met, so there's nothing to report.
- Internal Affairs: Rep. Linsky
 - We did not meet over break, so there is nothing to report.
- Student Advocacy: Rep. Noor Mustafa
 - Prefaced Resolution 4
 - Just under 50% of our funding actually goes toward supporting the children of faculty members, not graduate students.
 - We want to propose a resolution that FSU Childcare will ensure that 65-70% of the children they support are of graduate students.
- Student Affairs: Rep Smith
 - Name tags should be in by next week, so I will figure out a way to distribute those
 - Stoles are getting approved, so we are hopeful they will be here before graduation
 - April 4-8 is graduate student appreciation week, so I will need help overseeing these events.
 - Please sign up to help out

Rogowski: Motion for recess for 5 minutes; Second: Delva

Funding Requests:

- *Bill 07: Higher Education Student Association – Speaker Series*
 - Sponsored by Rep. Vaughn and Young
 - Overview:
 - We would like to request 1000 for a speaker on Zoom. This will be open to all graduate students via Zoom. I do not have a draft of the recruitment flyer, but it should be coming fairly soon. The speaker will discuss social justice and different issues and complexities of being White in the U.S. and how this has impacted the nation.
 - Questions:
 - Creigh: Have you started the process to get Dr. Battalora a vendor?
 - Kate (Member representative): I'll bring that up with her on Friday in a meeting, but I don't know that information at this time.
 - Creigh: How many people do you typically have attend these types of events?

- Rogowski: This is a rather new event, however, we have had various Q&A sessions and attendance varies between 10-20 studies. We hope to get closer to 50 participants since we are bringing in a speaker from outside the University.
 - Pros:
 - Noor Mustafa: I think it's a great opportunity and I would definitely love to attend this. I hope it becomes a regular event, and adds value to the students' experiences.
 - Young: I think this is a great opportunity to bring in an outside speaker, since it's nice to hear from the different colleges we have on campus.
 - Gfatter: Whatever groups are hosting outside speakers, it's an external means of getting ideas to the college.
 - Cons:
 - Rogowski: It takes around 30 days to get a vendor in the system. We are definitely within the 30 days, but we have made this work in the past so I'm sure it'll work.
 - Creigh: This will actually need to be Bill 11 since Bill 7 is the Budget.
 - Delva: Motion to amend the Bill to read Bill 11; Second: Creigh.
 - Motion to call to question: Linsky; Delva: Second
 - Vote: 16-0-4
- *Bill 08: LEARN – End of the Year Picnic*
 - Sponsored by Rep. Young and Vaughn
 - Overview:
 - This picnic is an opportunity for organizations and students to work together and bond through the year's accomplishments.
 - Questions:
 - Baffour: Expense is 150 but that is not on the supplemental document.
 - Young: There was a 100 rental fee, that was not reflected in the original submission. There has been an edit.
 - Pros:
 - Vaughn: I am a member of the College of Education, but we are very excited about this event. This will be our first event in several years where we are able to gather together as an entire department. We want to celebrate getting to know each other.
 - Noor Mustafa: I am also part of the College of Education. We are excited and we hope that this can become an annual event so at the end of the academic year, we can celebrate everyone's achievements. We also want this event to be special for a professor who is retiring.
 - Delva: I'm happy to see events like this going on because we all know that COVID has impacted social interactions.
 - Cons:
 - Linsky: Barring any comments in con, I move to call to question; Second: Delva
 - Vote: 14-0-1
- *Bill 09: COGS Conference Presentation Grants November-February 2021-2022 Funding Period*
 - Sponsored by Rep. Creigh
 - Overview:
 - This is a transfer of funds from this account (Expired funding period) to this funding period. I am requesting we move this into COGS unallocated, since this gives us extra money in case we need to spend it on anything else.
 - Questions:
 - Rogowski: Why are the allocation amount and the balance column different?
 - Creigh: In the previous congress, we moved money from previous funding periods. It's adding what was left of the 53,000 from the previous funding period.
 - Pros: Seeing none
 - Cons: Linsky: Barring any comments in con, I move to call to question; Delva: Second
 - Vote: 18-0-1

- *Bill 10: HiGSA – Transfer Request*
 - Sponsored by Rep. Galeano and Rogowski
 - Overview:
 - This is also regarding a transfer of funds. We would like to transfer 600 from contractual services to food accounts. The guest speakers decided to participate online for the festival. Therefore, the guest speaker fees are lower than planned. So they want to offer more food to members.
 - Questions:
 - Seeing none
 - Pros:
 - Seeing none
 - Cons:
 - Linsky: Barring any comments in con, I move to call to question; Delva: Second
 - Vote: 18-0-0

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

- *Resolution 04: FSU Childcare Funding Support – Sponsored by Reps. Noor Mustafa and Ilesanmi*
- Overview:
 - Mustafa: We shared the presentation. We would like more funds to benefit more students than faculty members.
 - Ilesanmi: This is for the children of graduate students. We want to make sure that we are not spending it on faculty.
- Questions:
 - Linsky: On what research was done to alternative funding sources for FSU Childcare? Do they charge a nominal fee for faculty members? Where else is the money coming from?
 - Mustafa: The money is coming from us. And the fees faculty and graduate students are paying fees.
 - Linsky: Are there any sources of confirmation?
 - Mustafa: Yes, the people we spoke to shared this information.
 - Linsky: Who is the name of this person?
 - Mustafa: We spoke with Tiffany, and met with her leadership team.
 - Ilesanmi: Regardless of other funding sources, we just want to make sure we are funding graduate students. It is their business to provide funding and it is our business to take care of our constituents.
- Motion to extend question time 10 minutes: Rogowski; Creigh: Second
 - Rogowski: I wasn't here last year, so I don't know what was funded for the childcare. I believe our increase in funding was contingent on giving this money to childcare. Covering tuition for students – do we know how we are going to do that?
 - Mustafa: We are going to discuss this with them, and this will be next year, of course. We are going to come up with criteria for this. It will be contingent on our funding every year.
 - Creigh: I am in full support of the intentions, but I am concerned about the wording. Have you considered changing the language to move the language with 'contingent' to 'consider'?
 - Ilesanmi: I think changing 'contingent' to 'consider' is going to be a big deal, so I'm open to changing that wording.
 - Collins: How are children selected?
 - Mustafa: Graduate students are prioritized, then faculty, then staff/alumni.
 - Ilesanmi: However, regardless of what is their priority, graduate students are unable to pay for the tuition.
 - Harshe: Are you suggesting graduate students would not be able to pay?
 - Ilesanmi: Can graduate students comfortably take out \$550 a month from their pay checks for this?
 - Gfatter: I want to speak from first-hand knowledge. When I was a TA, I made around 20-25,000 per year. I do have an infant, and I'm all for doing what we can do to help graduate students who are financially in need.
- Pros:
 - Linsky: This is excellent work to find a cause with a substantial amount that would influence FSU graduate students.

- Rogowski: There are so many people who are going to graduate school because of accessible childcare. I'm happy we're making an effort for graduate students to make childcare more accessible.
- Vaughn: I think this is a great bill. I was surprised this tuition is subsidizing funding for graduate students only.
- Cons:
 - Creigh: I motion to amend the wording on Resolution 4 whereas 'contingent' is replaced with the word 'consider'. Second: Vaughn.
 - Sponsors find this amendment friendly.
- Motion to extinguish cons and call to question: Gfatter; Second: Linsky
- Vote: 17-0-0

Round Table:

Adjournment: 9:22 p.m.

Monday, March 28, 2022 at 6:30p.m. on Zoom