



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
November 6, 2023
6:30pm
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:38pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Salimi

Roll call:

Present - Barber, Bettley, Delva, Ebuara, Elmi, Galeano, Gui, Hussain, Joyner, McCraney, Pakdehi, Risler, Rivers, Rogowski, Rowan, Salimi, Solmaz, Vaughn, Wheeler

Present - Late - Balogun, Velez

Absent, Excused - Beavon, Burns, Wesner

Reading and approval of the Minutes: Gui, 2nd - Rowan

Messages from Student Government:

*Marshall Widmann and Hope Hellman - Members of the Sweepings Committee
Thanks to the COGS representatives taking part in the Sweepings committee. Hope Hellman is leaving from being the SGA liaison for COGS*

Petitions into the Assembly:

At Large Seat - Steven Medarev

Current Ph.D. student in Biomedical Sciences. Got BA from FSU and Masters from Tulane. Founded a RSO in undergrad to bridge undergraduate students and the community. Would like to become involved with COGS and help to foster all of the connections within the campus.

Questions: Joyner - What committee would you like to join? Internal Affairs.

Galeano - How long do you plan to stick around? I'm only in my 2nd year, so I will be here for a while.

Joyner - Are you free Mondays at 6:30? Definitely.

Rowan - What are you doing with your degree program and how might that impact your work here? Cardiovascular health. Degree program work is fully separate from his research work.

Rogowski - Did you go through the elections or do you need to re-petition in? I will need to re-petition in.

Pros:

Rowan - seems passionate and as a 2nd year, he can stick around for a while to make some lasting changes.

Joyner - We need more representation in stem and they stay around a little longer.

Rivers - I've seen him here before watching our meetings. He's been thinking about it for a while. If he can come before joining, he can give time after joining.

Galeano - The fact that he knows FSU is a benefit. He knows the issues to tackle or not to. He's got experiences with RSOs.

Rowan - Call to Question; 2nd - Risler

Vote: 19-0-0

Swearing into the Congress

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Piers Rawling - QEP

Professor in the Philosophy program and is here as a representative on the Qualitative Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee. This is a part of the SACSCOC accreditation process that is done every 10 years. Part of this is having a QEP. This is the first time this has been done on graduate education. It's usually focused on undergraduate level. Focus on doctoral education. Charged by Provost to select a committee to do various things and make sure that we comply with the requirements for a QEP. It's a large committee with two doctoral students on it from COGS. Committee is from members all across campus. Have met a dozen times in the Fall and Spring 2022-23 and just met to finalize and approve initiatives. Collected data on doctorate education including a survey sent out to all doctoral students via email. Also used focus groups and institutional data. The initiatives that came out of the group include:

Research and creativity grants - will be adding in more conference travel funding and potentially funding other activities, library skills workshops - hire someone to help with data digitalization, career and interviewing preparedness, creation of a graduate student resource center - to supplement graduate school and to raise awareness of resources that are already out there, teaching preparedness workshops, and student progression tool - app to see where you are in your program and what is your schedule moving forward and annual evaluations to be done in a more useful manner.

Question: Delva - What about STEM equipment? The library has some items that can be rented out. What about items for STEM students to rent out? Can this resource be enhanced? Once the creative activity grants get going, you might could use that for items. The graduate student resource center director would also have resources available and this request is something that could go to them.

The Provost has allotted \$2M a year for the next 5 years to go into this initiative. The Career Center is using an AI interview program to help with practice interviews. They are also getting something called Beyond the Professoriate to help people find jobs outside of academia. Center for the advancement of teaching will get more funding for TA development programs. In order to get the grant travel money, you will need to attend a library workshop.

Joyner - Is there room for comments? I enjoy this plan and it's very broad. However, I feel like the app for your program and some of these other features are very different. Some of this plan should be more program specific? It can be slightly tailored, but it must be university wide. We can't single out departments.

Joyner - Will there be people to help with the different offices to match their needs? We hope to have the program grow with expertise in different areas.

Joyner - Could we have a brown bag type of program where people share their issues and experiences? PIE is moving over to CAT for more teacher training. We don't know what the uptake will be. A lot of departments have their own teacher training because departments are all very different. This is a plan and we will see how it all works out. There will be a role for COGS in interacting with this.

Rogowski - How much of this will be available to students outside of Ph.D. such as with the funding? Will medical students be included? While these are targeted at doctoral students, the graduate student resource center will be for all graduate students. We are limited in what we can do through the accreditation, so there is a focus on doctoral students at first. If it is successful, we hope to expand.

Joyner - Would doctoral students who graduate also be able to use these resources? I don't know how that would work, but that is something that is yet to be determined.

Delva - What about interdepartmental STEM collaboration? I was hoping to see that in the plan. That falls outside the scope of this and that would be difficult to measure. There are efforts being made to do this elsewhere on campus.

Rowan - Are there any concerns about the viability of this plan? I had those same concerns and the Provost said that we will pursue this plan.

Hussain - With the student tracking process, how is it being done? With the student progression tool, one of the requirements is the annual evaluation where you can read it. Working to make sure that dissertation advisors do a better job.

Next steps: Prepare and submit the final report, publicize the report, hire the GSRC Director and begin implementation. Then will have meetings with the SACSCOC Committee on March 18-21, 2024.

Rogowski - Is possible for a COGS rep to have input on the hiring of the director? We can suggest it.

Monoka Venters (from the Office of the Provost) - is working on the QEP. Has suggested that graduate students be a part of the hiring process. There will be an implementation plan for those 5 years. This is the 3rd QEP that we have done at FSU.

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker: Applied for a sweepings request to retroactively reimbursed the presentation and attendance grants from last year. We applied for \$75,000, but we are not likely to get that. Would only be able to reimburse students who could not get any funding and paid out of pocket. Sweepings will be decided tomorrow. I will be stepping down as Speaker. November 27th meeting will be the new 32nd Congress with new elections for officers. It is a 10 hour per week paid position. We have so many new passionate people and it's okay for anyone to be nominated and elected. Remember that we are working as a team to make lives better for graduate students. We are non-partisan and we'd like to keep it that way. If multiple people are going for a role, it is because they are passionate about it.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Out at a conference, but does hope to run again for his role. Finance report is on the agenda.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Will be stepping down from the role. Lots of progress with the Code. Thank you to Andy and the administrative team for your support.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications:
SGA Inauguration - November 15th, time tbd - please look for an official invitation. Remember all bills and items need to be submitted by noon the Friday before all meetings. Please turn in items on time.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC: N/A
- Internal Affairs: Went over a bill to reform the Law Council, will go over rules and procedures and the dissertation bill. For the newsletter, we are putting together aspects to come soon. If anyone has done anything to be highlighted, please reach out.

- Student Advocacy: Not a lot going on right now, but we are trying to engage with parking for graduate students. Also looking into the WES evaluation requirement. Things are taking time. Data analysis is also being worked on and we will present it when it is ready.
- Student Affairs: We are making plans to have Frother's Daughter on campus the week before finals. Team is working on a t-shirt design for COGS.

Funding Requests:

Bill #: 34 Nepalese Student Association

This is a request for t-shirts. The image and quote is attached to the agenda. The t-shirt is to help advertise the organization at sporting events.

Questions:

Rowan - There is a part on having XXL t-shirts, are you working on that? We have looked into that.

Pakdehi - Can you explain the t-shirts? We have many sporting events and want to use the t-shirts to help promote the organization.

Rowan - With the recommended distribution, would the organization be able to cover the rest of the cost? No, we do not have any money fundraised right now.

Pros:

Rowan - I support this bill. My only concern is that the organization has to cover the sales tax. We need to make sure this is not an issue.

Galeano - Giving out a t-shirt is a great way to support an organization. I support this.

Vaughn - We have given funding for t-shirts in the past. It's a good organization.

Rogowski - point of information - FSU is tax exempt, so they would not be paying tax.

Hussain - It's a good way to promote the organization.

Ebuara - motion to extinguish time; Elmi - 2nd.

Cons:

Rivers - Motion to call to question; Delva - 2nd.

Closing - I think this is a great opportunity to build community. I apologize for the XXL t-shirts. We do want to be inclusive, but it would add a cost that they don't have. This is not required.

Vote: 19-0-0

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business:

Bill #: 35 Law Student Council

Rowan - Happy to share this bill. This is a way to have the Law School Council better organized. We have the LSC and the Student Bar Association. There has been confusion over governance and the allocation of funds. This is a collaborative bill.

Changes the composition of the LSC by having elected members and having the chair elected. Will have 3 representatives from the Student Bar Association. We are in a way reverse engineering what MSC does. Hope to improve the governance. The other main change is to the budgeting process. It's currently done on a weekly basis. This works, but is a lot of forethought. We want to move to a budgeting process for a semester to semester basis. This budget will be presented to COGS once a semester for approval.

Questions:

Wheeler - Do you have the amendments? Yes. We need to make things easier for accounting. It will change a lot, but simply changes things to a semesterly process.

Ebuara - Will this make things easier? It's a lot change. Yes, it will make getting involved easier. The one item of the bill that is a little odd is that the SBA election is during a different time from the SGA election. It makes more sense to be on the SBA ballot.

Delva - motion to extend time; Gui - 2nd

Ebuara - If this bill is passed, will the majority of Law students be happy with it? We brought in many law students to vocalize their needs at a town hall. Had support of the administration and students.

Delva - Can you elaborate more on the budget things I saw? We will have an unallocated part of the budget similar to what COGS does.

Hussain - Can you clarify the budget term? It will be on a semester term.

Administrative Question from Andy Johnson - Can you clarify the elections and the Spring election language? That is why changes are being made. Members are not being elected.

Who will be administering the election? SBA already has the infrastructure.

Pros:

Wheeler - It will make things go more smoothly.

Gui - We have a similar process as what is being proposed in the Med School and it's fairer this way.

Risler - Motion to extinguish time; 2nd - Bettley

Cons - Bettley - Motion to extinguish time; Delva - 2nd.

2nd Round of Debate in Favor

Rowan - motion to amend the following:

300.6: C. ~~and transfers made outside of the semesterly budget, whether original allocations, or after the fact amendments to the budget,~~

D. ~~budgeting the yearly making~~ allocations to member RSOs for the upcoming Fall semester. The process for making allocations for the Spring semester of a fiscal year

6) The LSC Budget shall contain an "Unallocated" line item, which shall be used to fund requests by RSOs made outside the annual semesterly budget cycle. It shall also contain an "LSC Expense" line item, which may be drawn upon by the Chair, with the agreement of the Treasurer, in support of the mission of the LSC.

7) Line items ~~must be split into an allocation~~ shall only be for the Fall semester the budget is being created for and the Spring semester. Monies in the Fall semester allocations not spent by December 31st shall be swept back into the LSC Unallocated budget and reallocated through a process set by LSC Bylaws.

8) The Chair shall make every effort to complete the budgetary process within one month of beginning the process prior to the final board meeting of March.

H) During the period between the creation of semesterly budgets, the LSC shall have the authority to transfer monies between organizations, funding categories within a specific organization, or from the "Unallocated" line item to a requesting organization. Requests for such transfers and new funding shall be made by a form provided by the LSC and shall be considered in accordance with the

LSC Bylaws, subject to the conflict of interest rules in this Chapter and the approval of the proper COGS officials as stated in this Chapter.

300.9 C) The LSC, as currently constituted, shall meet in December to allocate the remainder of their funding for the Spring 2024 semester in the manner laid out in COGS Code §300.6(D).

Questions: Motion to Extinguish - Risler; 2nd - Salimi

Pros for Amendment: extinguish time - Risler; 2nd - Joyner

Cons: Rowan - call to question; 2nd- Elmi

Vote on Amendment: 21-0-0

Rowan - Yields time for the amended bill.

Questions - Extinguish time - Risler; 2nd - Joyner

Pros:

Rogowski - This bill will make things easier for the Law students.

Salimi - extinguish time; Joyner - 2nd.

Cons:

Saslimi - motion to call to question; Ebuara - 2nd.

Closing: Thank you for your time. There has been a lot of work done with this. I yield my time.

Vote: 21-0-0

Resolution #6: Internal Rules of Procedure Change

Rivers - This bill is to change the internal rules and procedures so that they follow a template for committee minutes. We want to use the same standards and guidelines. A template needs to be approved to be used. Will help streamline things.

Questions:

Ebuara - Will this just be for committee meetings? Yes.

Ebuara extinguish time; Joyner - 2nd

Pros:

Rowan - Great resolution.

Risler - Helpful for the co-chairs to write the minutes.

Bettley - Extinguish time; Joyner - 2nd.

Cons:

Rowan - Call to question; 2nd - Delva

Vote: 21-0-0

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: November 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senate Chambers - First meeting of the 32nd Congress