

## TWENTY SEVENTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting  
HCB 103  
November 18, 2019  
6:30 p.m.  
MINUTES



**Call to Order:** 6:37 PM By Student Body Vice President Stephanie Lee

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Representative Blake-Hedges

**REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Demirsoy, Fisher, LaBayne, Morgan, Nelson, O'Neill

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:** None

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:** Demirsoy

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED:** Mathesie

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:** None

**REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:** None

**Swearing in of New Members not at Inauguration:** Brinkman, Fisher, Morgan, Nelson, Demirsoy

**Petitions into the Assembly:** Robert Creigh (Music), Chris Hagemeyer (College of Medicine)

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Motion to Approve, Blake-Hedges; 2<sup>nd</sup> LaBayne; No Objections; APPROVED

### **Elections:**

- **Speaker-** Blake-Hedges nominated Representative O'Neill. O'Neill accepted and gave a two-minute speech: truly was an honor to serve as speaker last year and represent you and cogs and to benefit the student body. It is a great honor to be a servant in this role. I worked to build the relationship with LSC and MSC and help make all the things they do for their constituents more aligned with the code of COGS. I look forward to continuing to build our relationship with them and better account for their funds. **Q&A:** Vice President Lee: What was a weakness you had? O'Neill: I did not delegate enough in my role last year, so I plan to do that more with the other officers that are selected as deputy speakers. Brinkman: What changed your mind to run for reelection? O'Neill: There was a change in

my department that I had thought I was going to have too many responsibilities to do this coming semester, but it changed, and I will have more time to dedicate towards COGS. Mendez: how do you plan to recruit more? O'Neill: I want a greater presence on campus and work on grass roots recruitment by talking to people face to face. **PRO:** Brinkman: From the LSC perspective he has grown the relationship and he has the support of LSC. Demirsoy: I remember Adam from joining cogs and since then he has done a good job and with enthusiasm Blake-Hedges: working with him on the exec board, I have gotten to know him well and he is motivated and he knows what he can and cannot do and he represents us very well. Morgan: Adam has the experience from the things he did last year that will allow him to continue to be successful and easily continue with the work that we started last year. Blake-Hedges motioned to vote by secret ballot; LaBayne seconds. **Ballot Vote:** 8– 0 – 0; **APPROVED.** Representative O'Neill is sworn in as the speaker of the 28<sup>th</sup> Congress by Vice President Lee. Speaker O'Neill conducts the rest of the assembly meeting.

- Deputy Speaker for Finance- Representative Morgan nominated Representative Blake-Hedges. Representative Blake-Hedges accepted the nomination and gave a speech: I have been in COGS for a couple of years now, I was chair for Internal Affairs Committee and I was briefly Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs but I have been Deputy Speaker for Finance the longest; it is a difficult role, there's a lot to learn, I plan to be around another 2 years or so, there have been problems with application process and I am trying to fix some of that; I am excited about the annual budget process in January and us beginning to talk about that soon. **Q&A:** O'Neill: what is one way you can improve your performance for next year? Blake-Hedges: with the presentation and attendance grants we are hoping to smooth that process; put some more clear language on our website to improve the application process. Mendez: what was your biggest accomplishment in all of your roles in COGs? Blake-Hedges: I helped with some code changes so learning about how to write legislation was interesting, as speaker for finance I am just focusing on what I have been taught. **PRO:** Fisher: She has been here for a while and working with her on Internal Affairs she knows what is needed and has great ideas. LaBayne: she has done a great job and has a handle on the manuals and on the programming rules and how to allocate funding Mendez: I worked with her as well on Internal Affairs and she has her stuff together and seems knowledgeable. Motion to Vote by Secret Ballot by LaBayne; Seconded by Brinkman. **Ballot Vote:** 8-0-0; **APPROVED.** Speaker O'Neill swore in Representative Blake-Hedges as Deputy Speaker of Finance.
- Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs- LaBayne nominated Representative Morgan. Representative Morgan accepted and gave a speech about serving as Deputy Speaker for Communications this year through lots of transitions, have been taking minutes and conducting a lot of recruitment efforts, developing effective communication with other departments and grad orgs, working on code changes to smooth out new representative processes like when representatives petition into congress right before election and then penalized because they did not run during

the election. **Q&A:** LaBayne: what kind of challenges have you faced? Morgan: reciprocity, reaching out to recruit people wasn't effective, grassroots more effective, developed relationships with people like PIE and leveraging relationships with people we already have. **PRO:** Demirsoy: saw him working hard to recruit people, going to PIEs events and going to different schools to recruit and has been doing a great job. LaBayne: great job thus far, has no issues, right man for the job. Fisher motioned to vote by secret ballot; seconded by Creigh; no objections. **Ballot Vote:** 8-0-0: **APPROVED.** Speaker O'Neill swore in Representative Morgan.

- Deputy Speaker of Communications- O'Neill nominated Representative LaBayne. Representative LaBayne accepted and gave a speech: I am a representative for criminal justice and have been a member of student government for the past 5 years of my academic career; I was an assistant the e-board and started the COGS Instagram; I am interested in expanding COGS and getting our presence known. I think tabling on Market Wednesdays, I think this will be important and get us out there and I am passionate about that; hopefully we can get our membership up. **Q&A:** Fisher: what is a factor of boosting the presence of COGS? LaBayne: maybe we could have COGS t-shirts and tabling at Market Wednesdays, get out there and get into classrooms to tell students what COGS is, I think students just don't know that we are here. **PRO:** Fisher: I think 5 years of SGA is good experience and she seems motivated and her work already shows good direction. Fisher motioned to vote by secret ballot; seconded by Demirsoy. **Ballot Vote:** 8-0-0: **APPROVED.**

**Special Introductions and Student Comments:** None

**Messages from Student Government:** Brendan Gerds – discussed the relationship between COGS and Student Senate and his role in helping build this relationship by working with Adam on some legislation.

**Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:** None

**Report of Officers:**

- **The Report of the Speaker:**  
Has been attending tech and service fee meetings and helping with that. Continuing to work with groups across campus to build COGS' relations with them and working on initiatives.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance:**  
Reviewed the financial report with sufficient and necessary detail for COGS members to make informed decisions regarding use of COGS funds; announced the need to select members for the budget committee and solicited interest from members to take part in this process
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**

Discussed plan to reduce the strain of joining COGS associated with petitions that are received right before elections.

- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**  
None.

#### **Committee Report:**

- **C-SAC:** Has not met; there was technically not a Deputy Speaker of Finance.
- **Internal Affairs:** Has not met.
- **Student Advocacy:** Has not met.
- **Student Affairs:** Has not met.

#### **Funding Requests:**

- Bill 1: Spanish Graduate Student Organization (SGSO)
  - Sponsored by Representative Fisher: Did this event happen before? What was the turn out? SGSO: It has not happen before, but we expect 70-75 people. Fisher: how is this adaptable to all languages? SGSO: this is focused on training for instructors so this is task-based language instruction and the methodology will focus on all languages. O'Neill: which numbers are you adding to this 2275 number? SGSO: rental car and hotel, when I looked for hotels some of the spots were sold out. Demirsoy: what is the event time, date, and location? SGSO: Jan 21-24, will be on Wednesday evening and Thursday. Demirsoy: do you have flyers? SGSO: yes, through student pubs and we are advertising through word of mouth through our general body meetings. Fisher: is there only one keynote speaker? SGSO: this will be our main event of the year, but we do have other meetings and social events; we are super new, this is our first year, we want to expand but we want to see what the members need; this is the only speaker. Demirsoy: do you do fundraising? Or funding from the department? SGSO: we won't be receiving any funding from the department because this is the first year the department is bringing other speakers as well; we have tried to fundraise via local restaurants but we haven't been able to get into contact with the owners. **PRO:** Fisher: this is their first event and this is good faith in this organization and good to work on cultural diversity for the student body. Mendez: the diversity is a plus. **CON:** Brinkman: the hotels are averaging the low of 262 to high of 359 so this seems high and that is something to consider, the price of food is a bit high; they could consider other restaurants and they seem to be looking at only Hispanic food. **SECOND PRO:** Brinkman: move to amend contractual service \$1134.50 and food to \$350 (2nd Nelson); Objection by Blake-Hedges: I think this would be low for an honorarium because we would be ignoring the speakers fee; second and motion rescinded. Brinkman: moves to amend contractual service to \$1,500 and food to \$330; seconded by Nelson; no objections: **PASSED.** Morgan motioned to call the question and Blake-Hedges seconded; no objections. **Vote:** 6-0-2; **PASSED: Contractual Services & Food: &1,830.**
- Bill 2: MRS FAMU-FSU Chapter

- Sponsored by Representative Blake-Hedges: MRS at FSU is a materials research society between FSU and FAMU students and get students excited about material oriented research and they are asking for money for food for their general body meetings and money for t-shirts for their members, they say they have about 20 active members and at each meeting they will have presentations from students and career liaisons and plan to advertise through meeting flyers and other things and they plan to get the food from Publix. **Q&A:** Nelson: who are the t-shirts for? Blake-Hedges: for members and to promote the society, other orgs buy t-shirts to promote themselves too. Fisher: 20 members currently, how many join each year? MRS FAMU-FSU: each year we get about 5-6 new members; every meeting has at least 5 people at it. **PRO:** Fisher: initially I was hesitant about that many t-shirts but given the changes in membership I can see this amount being appropriate for them. LaBayne: I think t-shirts on campus are a good way to promote the organization; we fund these kinds of things regularly. **CON:** Blake-Hedges: we need to know that the price per shirt is before we can be sure. **SECOND PRO:** Morgan motioned to amend clothing from \$420 to \$400; Blake-Hedges seconded; no objections: **PASSED.** Morgan motioned to call the question; seconded by LaBayne; no objections. **Vote:** 8 – 0 – 0: **PASSED: Clothing/Awards & Food: \$1,020.81.**
- Bill 3: History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO)
  - Sponsored by Representative Morgan: Funding for conferences, 11<sup>th</sup> time, holding it, have funded it in the past, food and expenses for material for conference and food for attendees, primarily things like coffee, contractual service for keynote speaker, bring in cultural groups that haven't been as visible in normal historical contexts, or turning the viewpoint of certain groups in respect to history, have people in mind for speaker but haven't picked one yet. Have followed financial rules in the past, last year had 20 presenters, regional conference with emphasis on FSU graduate students presenting to develop important skills, allow individuals from other departments, advertising with student pubs, social media, 50-75 people attended last year, already have people submitting for presentations. **Q&A:** Brinkman: if students want to attend is there a sing up or can they can just show up? Mendez: do students have to pay a fee to attend? HGSO: No. Blake-Hedges: what is the student pub fee? HGSO: this is just for paper we have to supply when we print through them. **PRO:** Fisher: this sounds like a good conference for diversity. **CON:** None. **SECOND PRO:** Blake-Hedges motioned to call question; seconded by Nelson. **Vote:** 7 – 0 – 1: **PASSED: Expense, Food, & Contractual Services: \$2,090.**
- Bill 4: Indian Student Association of Tallahassee
  - Sponsored by Representative O'Neill: This is event is of cultural significance, the food is higher than normal but this is appropriate for the cultural dietary needs of the organization. **Q&A:** Fisher: what is the turnout for their events? ISAT: Our last event had 60 -70 people, for this event we expect about 100 to 125 people. **PRO:** Morgan: this organization has done a good job of living up

- to their end of the responsibility of using COGS funds and they host excellent events. **CON:** Second Pro: Representative O'Neill motioned to amend food to \$850 and allocate \$100 to expense for grocery supplies; seconded by Brinkman) no objection. Nelson motioned to call the question; Brinkman seconded; no objection. **Vote:** 8 – 0 -0: **PASSED: Food & Expense: \$850.**
- Bill 5: College of Social Work Doctoral Student Organizations
    - Sponsored by Representative LaBayne: This will pay for expenses associated with a workshop on statistical models to prepare for preliminaries; the cost will go to plates and utensils for a meal. **Q&A:** Blake-Hedges: How will you advertise? CSWDSO: flyers. Mendez: who are the attendees? CSWDSO: mostly doc students but open to anyone. Morgan: do people have to register? CSWDSO: No. **PRO:** LaBayne: they host this event every month; this is a good investment for COGS, we should fund them. **CON:** None. **SECOND PRO:** LaBayne motion to amend from expense to food; second Creigh. Brinkman moved to call question second Nelson. no objection. **Vote:** 7 – 0 – 1; **PASSED: Food: \$60.**

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Resolution 1: Establishing Internal Rules of Procedure  
Introduced by Speaker O'Neill: Resolution 1 is to adapt and set the internal rules of the Congress. **PRO:** Blake-Hedges gives us a great outline and establishment on how to conduct business. Brinkman motions to vote by acclimation; Hagemeyer seconds. No objections - resolution **passes.**

**Round Table:** Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Creigh, Fisher, LaBayne, Mathesie, Morgan, Nelson, O'Neill. Guidebooks were given out and encouraged that everyone review them before our next meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Adjournment:** 8:25 PM

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, December 2, 6:30 PM, HCB 103