

TWENTY EIGHTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting
Regular Session
via Zoom
November 2, 2020
6:30 p.m.
MINUTES



Call to Order: 6:31 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: Hirsch

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Cheuwa, Collins, Fomberg, Hagemeyer, Hirsch, Ilesanmi, Mathesie, Sangokunle, Smith

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Morgan, Creigh, Mendez

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to Approve Minutes: Mathesie; Hirsch second; No Objections; APPROVED.

Petitions into the Assembly: Kayla Sizemore (Law School)

- Questions:
 - Fomberg: wants to make sure Sizemore is free for monthly meetings? Yes.
 - Blake-Hedges: what year are you in law school? 1st year
- Pros:
 - Fomberg, said she went to FSU for undergrad, seems very dedicated
 - Collins: she seems diverse, her backgrounds seems great and has a lot of experience
 - Brinkman: she is amazing, she really wants to be involved and would do wonderful
- Motion to call to question: Hagemeyer; Fomberg second; No objections
- VOTE: 9-0-0

Special Introductions and Student Comments: none

Messages from Student Government: Jason Randall, SGA Senator, COGS liaison: Here to help COGS with anything related to SGA. There were questions about the sign left on the Law School Campus from the Get out and Vote event held by SGA. The sign had a message that may be deemed inappropriate and further communication with the SGA President and Jason will follow up on the issue.

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: none

Elections: Announcement for opening of the Speaker, elections will be held next meeting for this position. SGA elections are soon, fill out the declaration candidacy form which can be found on the SGA website by Tuesday, November 3 at 5:00pm.

Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker**
 - N/A
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance**
 - Our financial report is bill packet is not updated, but we have not spent much money so far. As for unallocated, the 2 bills this evening will come from that account and we have enough to fully fund both. LSC has spent some money, MSC has not. We have funded some conference grants but not many.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**
 - Met with LSC, they are on the same page and prepared to follow the COGS guidelines for funding events.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**
 - N/A

Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:**
 - Have not met
- **Internal Affairs:**
 - Have not met
- **Student Advocacy:**
 - Have not met, but they are meeting tomorrow, November 3 at 18:00
- **Student Affairs:**
 - Met last week and went over ideas for the training video and PowerPoint. They are putting cement under pull-up bars. The track is closed still, but the gym and other things are open, so will work on that issue.

Funding Requests: None

Unfinished Business:

- *Bill #23: Ecology and Evolution Research & Discussion Group Funding Request*
 - Questions:
 - Fomberg: a lot of these requests is for stuff they hope to do but may do, it is not something COGS normally does, so wants to know where the line is being drawn.
 - The bill was created over 2 weeks ago, and it was more so for things they were hoping would happen if COVID ended soon. With the updated budget, I am not sure if they have plans or not.
 - Answer: we have changed this and made it for events that are actually going to happen and occur.
 - Blake-Hedges: are these events virtual?
 - Answer: Yes
 - Hagemeyer: Please outline the cost for the virtual events
 - Answer: The one Blake Hedges is sharing is the accurate amounts and the new cost if \$1,430. Some of the kits we are giving out to the community and other items are stuff we can use continually we can use for years to come.
 - Hagemeyer: We usually only fund \$8 per shirt, can you subsidize the rest of the shirt?
 - Answer: unless we request plain white shirts, the price is over and this year we requested more shirts in order to bring the cost of the shirt down. We are not ordering them in mass quantity.
 - Blake Hedges: For the November 14th event, can this be pushed back?
 - Answer: we are pushing that November 14th event to the Spring.
 - Pros
 - Hagemeyer: in favor of some portions of the request, this groups shows they do get these events done and they are organized. I think it is great they are exploring how to make these events virtual.
 - Fomberg: Echo what Hagemeyer said, I appreciate the group switching things around to be more COVID friendly.
 - Cons
 - Hagemeyer: As far as investments for the possible future of in person events, we should not be funding in person events.
 - Motion to amend: Hagemeyer: motion to amend bill to only include the two December events that are virtual and the socially distanced activity. Making the total amount of the Bill \$415 in the expense category.
 - Fomberg Seconds
 - Hersch Objects the motion
 - Thinks we should include the undergrad reading groups, so we should just fund all four events. Making the total \$490 in the expense category.
 - Hagemeyer withdraws the amendment

- Motion to Amend: Hirsch Motions to amend the Bill to \$490 in expense. Oluwatoyin seconds.
 - No objections: motion passes
- Motion to call to question on amended bill: Fomberg; Collins seconds.
- **VOTE 8-0-2; PASSED.**

New Business:

- *Bill #24: BGSA Allocation Request*
 - Questions
 - Mathesie: wanted to point out about the shirts and journals
 - Answer: the journals may not be allowed in a purchase request.
 - Mathesie: meals at \$25 a person?
 - Answer: with catering the cost is allowed to be higher, but the limit is \$15 per person.
 - Pros
 - Ilesanmi: this kind of event is very much needed especially for the black community.
 - Fomberg: I think this sounds like a really great event and a good time to have it.
 - Cons
 - Mathesie: It seems like there is a per student benefit of \$65 and this would be 16% of unallocated budget on.
 - Point of Information
 - Fomberg: we cannot fund in person events.
 - Blake Hedges: we will not fund events that will be associated with increased risk of COVID. Under our guidelines we cannot fund specific parts of this request, including food, decorations for the event, and rental fees for the space.
 - Blake Hedges: Shirts are listed as \$15 a shirt but we recommend we stay to the \$8/shirt minimum in financial manual.
 - Brinkman: this cannot be funded now, but this may be something we could table until January to see if the restrictions for lifting the in-person event restriction.
 - Discussion led, RSO wants us to only vote on what we can fund, and they will re-apply in January for the in-person portion of this event.
 - Motion to amend the bill: Fomberg, include the journals, \$8 per shirt, and the retreat materials. Total will be \$1,650. Hirsch seconds. No objections.
 - First round of pro on newly amended bill:
 - Pro:
 - Fomberg: think this is a great event, is needed right now.
 - Brinkman: seems like a good event, I appreciate their flexibility.
 - Cons

- Hagemeyer: this is an event that COGS should approve at some point. I am hesitant to approve partial plans at this point, can this still be held with the need for all these supplies if it is online.
- Ilesanmi: Asking how you will distribute the retreat materials in order to stay COVID safe. I am reluctant on voting on this.
- Mathesie: I would rather have a full proposal about the entire event at this moment. I am okay with the shirts, but I would like more information on the journals.
- Motion to call to question: Hagemeyer Second: Fomberg. No objections.
- **VOTE 7-2-1; PASSED.**

Round Table: Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Cheuwa, Collins, Fomberg, Hagemeyer, Hirsch, Ilesanmi, Sangokunle, Sizemore, Smith

Adjournment: 8:38 PM

Next Meeting: November 16th, 2020