

TWENTY NINTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting
Special Session
HCB 103 & Zoom
November 8, 2021
6:30pm
MINUTES



Call to Order: 6:56pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Representative Smith

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Adhikari, Amaraneni, Collins, Creigh, Delva, Gfatter, Hagemeyer, Harshe, Hirsch, Ryan, Sangokunle, Sizemore, Smith, Sussman

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: N/A

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: Sizemore

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Illesanmi

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: N/A

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: N/A

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: N/A

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes: Deputy Speaker Creigh;
Second: Representative Gfatter

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Messages from Student Government: Renee Wang, Senate Pro Tempore, Student Government Association

- Our budget week has officially concluded
- The budget will be voted on this Wednesday; I am here to speak with you about COGS
- We would really appreciate COGS being able to cover larger organizations, such as the Globe and FSU Childcare
- If you have any amendments you'd like to propose and make amendments for SGA bylaws, please contact me

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: Rene Wang: If you all would like to read over resolution 83 and propose amendments, please let me know by tonight.

Elections: N/A

Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker**

- Inauguration is November 17th at 5:00pm. We encourage all representatives to attend. We anticipate over 25 new representatives.
- We have our graduate student social this Friday November 12 from 6-9pm. If you are willing to help out, please let me or Representative Harshe know.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance**
 - COGS will be making an off-campus account. This will be at SunTrust. Robert Creigh, Deputy Speaker of Finance, will be the name/holder on the account. Sara Collins, Deputy Speaker of Communications, will also be a name/holder on the account.
 - The annual budget hearing will take place this January. All organizations request funds for the next fiscal year. This happens every year. Qualtrics will be up so we collect all allocations and determine how much is being requested so we can see how much we need to allocate. If you would like a run down on how we fund different events/organizations, being a part of the budget committee is a good way to see how to see funding is processed.
 - Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of the Budget Committee. Each organization will have 15 minutes to present their budget proposals. Deliberations are then on January 28th in order to approve a budget.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**
 - Nothing to report from me. This is my last COGS meeting because I was not able to petition back into COGS.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**
 - Please email me photos for the upcoming Inauguration by the end of the week
 - We are preparing for the upcoming social, and please tune in to our Instagram on Wednesday for a Live Chat

Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:** No requests, no meeting
- **Internal Affairs:** No meeting yet, newsletter is still finishing up the newsletter. This is anticipated to release by next week.
- **Student Advocacy:** For anyone who is in COGS, I have decided to step down from the committee chair. Please let me know if you would be interested in the position.
- **Student Affairs:** Please volunteer for the upcoming social. We are currently over the limit of people who can attend (127 people).

Funding Requests:

- **Bill 17: COGS Conference Attendance Grant Transfer (July-October)**
 - Deputy Speaker Creigh: This bill is proposed to transfer funds that were not used during the previous funding period to this funding period, since it is historically the busiest. Both attendance and presentation grants are increasing.
 - Questions:
 - Seeing none
 - Pros:
 - Dep. Speaker Collins: This is only supporting students to deliver their research, which is back up and running for many, from FSU
 - Gfatter: This will provide more students the opportunity to go and participate in conferences. The timing feels right with more conferences moving to in-person.
 - Cons:

- Seeing none
 - Motion to call to question: Rep. Hirsch, Second: Rep Harshe
 - Vote: 12-0-0
- Bill 18: COGS Conference Presentation Grant Transfer (July-October)
 - Dep. Speaker Creigh: This is the same proposal as Bill 17th, rather it proposes a transfer of funds from the last period for presentation grants to the current funding period. This is a larger amount, because this depletes much quicker than the attendance grants. The majority of these grants are in person for students in need of this grant, thus far.
 - Questions
 - Gfatter: Is the request for presentation grants higher because more people are going to present rather than attend?
 - Creigh: Subjectively, there is a greater likelihood that someone presenting will need a grant to attend so they may present.
 - Pros:
 - Seeing none
 - Cons:
 - Seeing none
 - Motion to call to question: Gfatter; Second: Dep. Speaker Collins
 - Vote: 12-0-1
- Bill 19: Indian Students Association at Tallahassee (INSAT), Expense Request
 - Representative Harshe: This bill is for the Indian Student's Association and South Asian Student Association in order to hold an event to celebrate Diwali. During the event, people light up their houses with lamps, candles, etc. and exchange food and sweets. Both organizations plan to invite their members to this organization. Most food will be dedicated to food (\$2,800) and the remaining (décor/furniture) is estimated at \$400. This event is going to be hosted at Miller Hall on November 20th.
 - Questions
 - Creigh: How many graduate students will be attending?
 - Harshe: The Indian Student Association is primarily Graduate students and international students while the South Asian Student Association is primarily undergraduate students. It is difficult to say how many exactly are graduate students.
 - Adhikari: Is this open to everyone?
 - Harshe: Anyone inside or outside FSU are invited to this event. There will be an RSVP so we do not waste any food, but also so we can estimate the food amount.
 - Pros:
 - Amaraneeni: Diwali is the biggest festival celebrated in India and other Asian countries. This is a great opportunity for students to come and interact.
 - Ryan: I think this is a wonderful event. The cost seems extremely low to fund such a large event. This is also well-thought out, as well, considering the quotations provided for food vendors are provided in the proposal.
 - Cons:
 - Seeing none
 - Second round of Pros:
 - Seeing none
 - Motion to call to question: Creigh; Second: Ryan
 - Vote: 11-0-1

- Bill 20: Ecology and Evolution Research Discussion Group, Expense Request
 - Dep. Speaker Collins: The EERDG organization is requesting funds for their upcoming T-shirt meeting, which is usually the last meeting of the Fall semester where they say goodbye to their graduating graduate students. With the current funding proposal, the EERDG hopes to provide t-shirts to current members, members who have graduated in the past two years, and future members. The organization aims to provide 72 shirts in total, and the meeting is anticipated to occur December 3, 2021. Deputy Speaker Collins proposes that we amend the change of allocation to 72 shirts, rather than stating this is TBD.
 - Pros: Rep. Ryan amends to change the total amount \$864 for the t-shirts, which would make it \$12 per shirt for 72 shirts (to replace “TBD”). Rep. Delva 2nd. Amendment passes 8-1-2.
 - Creigh: The amendment would be \$12 per shirt, rather than the regular \$8 per t-shirt, as per SGA guidelines.
 - Harshe: Bringing up the financial manual code that SGA allocate \$8 per shirt.
 - Hagemeyer: Rep. Randall raised the allocation of shirts to up to \$10 per shirt, so the \$12 per shirt would be too much.
 - Ryan: Question about taking away the amendment. Is it better to withdraw the bill to have it re-amended outside of the assembly, or if it is just fine to amend it here. It might be better to provide more information about the shirts and the costs for the current bill.
 - Hagemeyer: we can either table this or amend the shirts to \$8 per shirt.
 - 2nd round of pros: Harshe question to Aaron: what should we do now? Should we
 - Aaron: we could probably find a better option for buying shirt.
 - Ryan: \$8 per shirt is low, but we should make an exception for this bill rather than tabling it for the future. The event is in December, and therefore the timeline would not be feasible.
 - Gfatter: I would not feel comfortable changing the “shirt” to “sweatshirt” to change the amount allocated for the promotional item.
 - Creigh: suggested funding the \$8 per shirt and have the organization to fundraise it.
 - Aaron: we need to meet as an executive board to assess to resubmit. Therefore, withdraw the bill.
 - Butts: There is lacking information on the bill, and therefore the assembly would not be able to vote on it because there are no breakdowns on what would be spent.
 - Hagemeyer: any motions?
 - Collins: request to withdraw the bill. Delva 2nd.
- Bill 21: ChemiNoles Graduate Student Association – Food and Clothing & Awards
 - Deputy Speaker Creigh, joined by ChemiNole Member Michael Deck: The ChemiNoles are requesting \$1,000 for catering their holiday food drive. This is hosted by the ChemiNoles as a means to give back to the Tallahassee community. However, we cannot fund any prizes, so I would recommend someone propose to amend to have this aspect of the proposal removed. Graduate students are invited to attend a holiday celebration with food; they are anticipating about 60 people will attend.
 - Questions:
 - Creigh: How many students do you anticipate attending? Which type of catering service are you using?
 - Michael Deck: We expect 60-70 students, and the vendor we’ve selected appears to be an approved vendor of FSU (Persi’s Biryani: Indian Grill).

- Hagemeyer: Are there any quotes for food or an outline of how much food will be purchased?
- Michael Deck: Our total, including sales tax, is \$1,014.69, however, we may be sales tax exempt, but that should bring it down approximately \$70.
- Hagemeyer: When is the event?
- Deck: December 10th
- Creigh: I believe we can fund up to \$15 per person?
- Hagemeyer: Yes, that is correct. We can overrule it though, with a 2/3 majority vote.
- Pros:
 - Dep. Speaker Collins: Motion to amend the bill so prizes are removed from the request to total \$960 in food.
 - Delva: Second
 - Vote on amendment: 10-0-1
- Pros: Seeing none
- Cons: Seeing none
- Motion to call to question: Ryan; Collins: Second
- Vote: 10-0-1

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business:

Resolution 8: Deputy Speaker Hagemeyer (who steps down from his role as Speaker to present this bill; Deputy Speaker Creigh assumes the role as Speaker for the time being): Constitutional Amendment 10 proposes that there will be an increase in the allocation of graduate student activities and service fees to 50% of their annual yield. Therefore, we propose we cover the support for the Globe and FSU Childcare.

Questions:

- Creigh: Are you going to present this at the next COGS Assembly meeting?
- Hagemeyer: No, we will vote on this today.

Pros:

- Seeing none

Cons:

- Seeing none

Second round of pros:

- Motion to call to question: Collins; Second: Ryan

Vote: 10-0-1

Round Table:

Adjournment/Finale Roll Call: 9:27pm

Next Meeting: Monday, November 29, 2021 at 6:30pm in HCB 103 and Zoom