



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

**THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting  
October 2, 2023  
6:30pm  
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:37pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Rowan

Roll call:

**Present:** Balogun, Beavon, Burns, Delva, Ebuara, Galeano, Gui, Hussain, Joyner, Pakdehi, Risler, Rivers, Rogowski, Rowan, Salimi, Vaughn, Wesner

**Absent Excused:** Elmi, Solmaz

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:** Rowan; 2nd Rivers

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

*Social Sciences and Public Policy Seat 1: Taylor Barber*

Petitioner was absent

*Social Sciences and Public Policy Seat 2: Megan Bettley*

2nd year Masters of Public Administration program. 5th year at FSU. In undergrad was involved in SGA. Served as budget vice chair and chair. Wants to be in COGS to take that next step and work on behalf of graduate students in her program.

*College of Law Seat 2: Jordan Wheeler*

1st year Law student and wants to be in COGS because she wants to enhance her personal skills, help the FSU community, and make a difference. Has been involved in her undergraduate time on campus.

*College of Health and Human Science Seat 1: Frank Velez*

3rd year PhD in food science. No background in SGA, but I want to advocate for my college as we are a small college and I want to branch out and get the name out more. Founder of a food science club and wants to help promote that as well.

Questions for petitioners:

Rowan - What committee would you like to join? Bettley - Student Affairs, Wheeler - Student Affairs, Velez - Student Advocacy

Pakdehi - What are you going to do in COGS for students? Bettley - I want to have more events for graduate students where they can find common ground.

Wheeler - want to get Law students more involved and get people more engaged.

Velez - Hoping through COGS to get the name of his college out there. Has worked some with undergrads and wants to help use that to build up his college's graduate student population.

Rogowski - Are you available Monday evenings at this time? Yes

Rowan - Are you financially certified? Bettley and Velez - Yes; Wheeler - no

Delva - What are you most excited about with COGS? Bettley - want to get more RSOs to be aware of COGS resources; Wheeler - Excited for networking with other graduate students; Velez - Would like to network and in the works to get a certified kitchen to sell out of that kitchen to also give away the food to students. Would like to work to provide food for RSOs.

3 minutes debate in favor:

Rowan - Jordan is one of my classmates and she is a rockstar. She has been a great person within the entire Law School class.

Burns - With what Frank said, his point that there wasn't much representation was important and the kitchen sounds great.

Rivers - I've been working with Frank and he will do a good job. Megan is someone I've worked with and has that budget experience.

Delva - Excited to have 3 petitioners that we have needed seats filled for. Law has been empty and the nutrition representation is new. It's great to see all this increased representation.

Gui - For such a small program, he has a lot of vision.

Vote:

Bettley 16-0-0

Wheeler 16-0-0

Velez 16-0-0

New representatives sworn in.

**Special Introductions and Student Comments:**

Burns - I have an introduction for Gabi who is interning with student governance

Delva - I have brought visitors who are interested in joining COGS from the College of Medicine

**Messages from Student Government:** N/A

**Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:** N/A

**Report of Officers:**

- Report of the Speaker:

- COGS Member Retreat on Sunday, October 8th at 1pm at the Rez

We will be sending out a form to fill out for box lunches. This will let us to all get to know each other and let new members know how COGS works. We will also have time to enjoy the Rez.

- There is a strategic planning committee coming which I will update about in two weeks.

- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Looking at the financial report, you can see that our presentation grants from July-October still have a balance, but the attendance grants are getting low. What I would like to check the room about is moving some of the funding in C-SAC to the attendance grants so that we can approve all of the grants. C-SAC fundings has not been used in a while.

Rowan - could we move the presentation grant funds to attendance?

Burns - Perhaps. I will have to finish getting through all the grant requests.

Rogowski - For the first time, we are running out of money at the end of the funding period. We have 14 applications that might get denied if we don't move around some money.

Burns - The new window for attendance grants is open, but the website isn't fully updated. We did have a RSO information session about funding and this will be posted to the website.

Hussain - So if people were approved in the previous fiscal year, can they still get their funding if they didn't get the message?

Rogowski - Once a fiscal year closes, we cannot reimburse anyone. They can apply for future funding for the funding period that is open.

Burns - Sometimes Survey Monkey does not send confirmation emails, so if you hear about it, they can go back into the platform to see their confirmation. We will send out a guide on how to find that confirmation.

- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: No update, but I want to urge everyone to come to the retreat so that they can learn how to make suggested code changes.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Make sure that you submit your candidacy declaration forms by Wednesday at 4pm if you want to keep your seat. I will continue to send information about the election process as we move forward.

#### **Committee Report:**

- C-SAC: N/A
- Internal Affairs: We met and the Medical School Counsel was asking about funding students who are not living in town, but still pay A&S fees. We want to restart the newsletter. Might be best for once a month. See if other committees can help out. Try to get the template from the Senate. Creating a minutes template for all committees to use. This will be a resolution that hopefully will come to the congress next meeting. Please make sure that you are sending your minutes to Ben Young. I have been emailing people around campus to get seats filled.

- Student Advocacy: We have Rep. Joyner as our vice chair. At our meeting we discussed exploring the possibility of teaching assistants get parking spots in staff spots. A previous issue concerning international student admissions changes for language qualifications was discussed. We looked at grants data and the information is a work in progress. Rep. Wesner shared an issue about veterans and we are making a resolution in support.
- Student Affairs: We met and discussed an event that was going to be held with CGE this Wednesday, but the event was unfortunately canceled. Rep. Wesner did bring up the same veterans issue and we want to help make a resolution in support of veterans. Rep. Beavon is the new vice chair.

### **Funding Requests:**

#### *Bill #31: Southeast Review*

Rep. Beavon - Southeast Review showcases the work of emerging writer. They wish to have a writer for an event. The event will be in the spring at the Museum of Fine Arts. This magazine has a lot of experience putting on these events. We just recently became a RSO so this is why this is our first request.

Questions:

Delva - Is the \$3,500 just the honorarium? Yes, it's just the honorarium. The total cost is more, so we are trying to get some of it covered.

Rowan - Is this covering the full cost of the honorarium? No, we are fundraising the rest of it. Point of information - Are you aware that this will need to be approved by the Senate after our approval because of the amount? Yes.

Rowan - How will you promote this? Social media and through fliers on campus.

Motion to extend time - Gui, Delva - 2nd.

Delva - Can you tell us more information about this speaker? We haven't secured the speaker yet due to funding, but the event isn't until March.

Hussain - What will the speaker be doing? Reading their own work.

Pakdehi - Is this an open event? Yes, this will be open to everyone. How did you come to the number of 60 people? From past events.

Rivers - How do you know the cost if you don't have one yet? Based on past speakers.

Galeano - Will there be other expenses? Yes, but we are able to cover those costs.

Motion to extend time - Savoya; 2nd - Delva.

Rowan - Could you get a quote for the speaker? We could probably do that after a couple of weeks. Do you have people in mind? Yes, 5-6.

Joyner - Could we table this and discuss the funding after the speaker is picked? That is another part of the process.

Rogowski - Do you charge money for the event? It's free.

Gui - Who is covering food and lodging? The English department.

Beavon - Is my understanding of the process is that it's an invitation plus offer first? Yes, we invite them with an offer versus them giving a quote.

Hussain - How famous is the person? Last year we had someone who had won awards.

Pros:

Joyner - I'm for the event especially because of the importance of DEI. However, there are a lot of gray elements which is why we might want to discuss this in the future since this is so far out.

Point of information - we could potentially table this for later

Delva - I like this event because it has been going on for a long time.

Rogowski - The Southeast Review did come to me about this request. They have other money they are using for this event. Even though it's a large request, it's a small amount for the total cost of the full event.

Balogun - The backing they have from their department shows how serious this event is.

Bettley - It's important to have these types of events now with the uncertainty of DEI.

Cons:

Rowan - I'm saying this because of where this request is in the process. I understand why there isn't a quote right now, but with this large of a request, I have concerns about the uncertainty. I think it would be better to give them some time to reach out for quotes and then revisit this bill next meeting. The Senate will not look upon the resolution favorably at its current stage. Getting quotes would be a better action.

Delva - This is one of the biggest contractual services we've given in a long time. I want to see more people participating for it being this expensive. I would like it to be advertised more to get more attendants.

Rowan - I move to table this bill to the 16th; 2nd - Delva

Rowan - I withdraw my motion for now.

Rivers - I think the problem is that there is no name on the request and as someone who was on Senate, this would be voted no because without knowing the speaker, anyone could be brought on campus. We'd like a name for liability.

Balogun - The name is important or at least 2-3 names. We also need to know who else is paying how much of the cost.

Delva - Would you be ready with the information on the 16th? Would we need to get quotes or have someone locked in? Quotes and some summaries of who is being invited. A breakdown of how much has been raised would also be helpful.

Rowan - I move to table this bill to the 16th; 2nd - Delva

Rogowski - The bill will be tabled until the 16th with more information.

**Unfinished Business: N/A**

**New Business: N/A**

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment: 8:04pm**

Next Meeting: **October 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senate Chambers**