

TWENTY SEVENTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting
HCB 103
October 21st, 2019
6:30 p.m.
MINUTES



Call to Order: 6:41

Pledge of Allegiance: Fisher

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Blake-Hedges, Book, Demirsoy, Fisher, Hennighan, Morgan, O'Neill, Shahbandeh, Creigh, Cheuwa, LaBayne, Mendez

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: Demirsoy

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Solano, Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED: Walton, Chiodi

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: None

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Brinkman moved to approve, Fisher seconds; Minutes are approved.

Petitions into the Assembly:

Special Introductions and Student Comments: Dr. Amy Magnuson, Director of University Health Services, Ben Serber, Graduate Assistants United,

Messages from Student Government: Brendan Gertz, Student Senate Liaison

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: None

Elections: None

Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker:**
 - Speaker O'Neill: have been coordinating the speakers coming to COGS. I have also been working on the transition to the next congress. If you did not run during elections, you will have to re-petition into the 28th Congress.

- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance:**
 - Deputy Speaker Blake-Hedges: Members who are not financially certified are not allowed to vote on funding request bills. Deputy Speaker Blake-Hedges reviewed the financial report and gave updates about LSC and MSC current funding amounts possibly not being as accurate because of recent requests.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**
None.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**
None.

Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:** Has not met.
- **Internal Affairs:** Has not met.
- **Student Advocacy:** Has not met, meeting was cancelled.
- **Student Affairs:** Has not met, meeting was cancelled.

Funding Requests:

- Bill 23: Ecology and Evolution Research Discussion Group (EERDG)- Bill was presented by Representative Brinkman. Representative Brinkman: this bill is similar to one awarded to this same organization last year. The funds were used appropriately last year to host several events over the year and to provide food and purchase t-shirts. Future planned events include a large emphasis on outreach to the community to increase interest in elementary and middle school students for STEM. **Q & A:** Fisher: how many people attend events? EERDG: it varies widely because many events are community wide but several of the other events average close to 30. Fisher: How engaged are you all in these events? EERDG: most graduate student members participate in at least one event per year, this is great because the outreach prepares us for our future professions. Deputy Speaker Blake-Hedges: what kind of materials you are purchasing for your events? EERDG: we get all items from approved vendors, last year we tried to get a board game for evolutionary biology and we are trying to get approved for that, mostly though we need office supplies and consumables that we used up last year; some longer lasting items, we plan to purchase some more nets so that kids can all participate when catching invertebrates during one of the events, we are also hoping to buy some materials to represent the food web including a giant Jenga. **PRO-** Fisher: this sounds like a family friendly set of events that contributes to the community. Brinkman: this is one of the best funding requests I have ever seen, the detail that they put into the report shows the care that deserves COGS funding. Morgan: the funds go to the professional development of their members and they also spent the funds we gave them last year appropriately which shows good faith. **CON-** None. Deputy Speaker Blake-Hedges moves to amend Bill 23: strike contractual services and replace that with clothing and awards; Fisher seconds; no objections. Blake-Hedges motion to call

to question, Morgan seconds. Bill 23 passes with a vote of 9-0-2. **Expense, Food, & Clothing/Awards: \$1,760.**

- Bill 24: Public Health Student Association (PHSA)- Bill was presented by Representative O'Neill. Speaker O'Neill relinquished the speaker roll to Deputy Speaker Blake-Hedges while he represented Bill 24 and 25. Representative O'Neill: allocation request is for 8 out of 11 lunch meetings left this semester, these meetings inform the members and bring speakers as well, these are open to all students, they have an itemized budget and the department has grown so they are expecting the meetings to grow accordingly. PHSA: there is now an undergrad public health degree and we are trying to get the new students involved and grow interest in pursuing graduate level education in public health. **Q & A-** Fisher – why is this allocation not under C-SAC? O'Neill: the total of their two allocations would have been over \$1000 for the year and C-SAC was not fully formed yet. Mendez: were they funded in the past? O'Neill: yes, the events were successful, and they used the funds appropriately. Morgan: how do you plan to advertise? PHSA: Nole Central, within the department, and we have flyers. **PRO-** O'Neill: the group is trying to enrich both graduate and undergraduate students, they used the funds well in the past they are capable of spending the funds in a good manner. Mendez: they laid everything out clearly and this looks like a good submission. **CON-** None. Closing statement from PHSA: you are all welcome to attend our seminars, there are 8 left for the year and we have some exciting speakers coming up soon. O'Neill: move to call to question. Morgan seconds. Bill 24 passes in a vote of 8-0-3. **Food: \$857.36**
- Bill 25: Public Health Student Association (PHSA)- Bill was presented by Representative O'Neill. Representative O'Neill: the allocation is for food for an end of the semester event; this will be open to anyone who wants to come; hoping to have the Surgeon General as a speaker; highlighting the work of the students; previously done in a casual manner but hoping to make it a more formalized event. **Q & A-** Morgan: where will the event be held? PHSA: we are hoping to host on campus in a free ballroom space. Cheuwa – is there a place in the department to host the event? PHSA: we are really trying to expose undergrads to the opportunities that come with graduate training in public health. Mendez – will this serve as a recruitment event? PHSA: yes, but not formally. Fisher: are expecting 150 in accordance with previous events? PHSA: no, this is the first time we are hoping to have the event this large, but we are estimating based on the size of the department and all expected guests. **PRO-** O'Neill – this is good because it goes to a group that is typically underfunded; it will also be a recruitment opportunity. Fisher: I think it is appropriate to authorize this amount since it is a larger event. **CON-** None. O'Neill: move to call to question. LaBayne seconds. Bill 25 passes in a vote of 8-0-3. **Food: \$358.69**

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Bill 26: Code Revisions, LSC- Brinkman motioned to table Bill 26 and Bill 27 until COGS' November 4th meeting. Book seconds.
- Bill 27: Code Revisions, MSC- Tabled.
- Resolution 8: Local Fees Support- Speaker O'Neill presents Resolution 8: this was the results of three different meetings and several town hall meetings; this both defines what local fees are and what they are used for; this resolution will go to several administrators and student senate; this resolution will have to go all the way to the Board of Governors; because student fees have not been raised, this represents a cut to our funding because it does not account for inflation. **Q&A:** LeBayne: will this be frozen at the state level given the past history of governors not being in support? Blake-Hedges: we approve it but yes, it goes up the chain and has been voted down before. O'Neill: yes, we would just be saying we approve this recommendation. Shahbandeh: how would this affect graduate students? O'Neill: this would represent an increase of \$1.72 per credit hour but the service increase to students would be equal to or greater than the extra cost. Shahbandeh: our salaries won't increase but we will have to pay more in student fees; what does the \$215? O'Neill: this means that Local Fees cannot be more than that amount, it would be about \$80 total and we are well below that amount. **PRO:** Fisher: I know most people don't want increases, but this is necessary for us to be consistent and competitive across Florida. O'Neill – when you look at athletic fee, that goes entirely to women's sports so that will benefit more students of diverse backgrounds. Morgan: COGS has a limited budget and if the A&S fee were higher then there is potential COGS and other organizations on campus would have more funding to improve student body experience. **CON:** None. O'Neill motions to call to question. Fisher seconds. Resolution 8 passes in a 9-2-0 vote.

Round Table: Blake-Hedges, Book, Fisher, Hennighan, Morgan, O'Neill, Shahbandeh, Creigh, Cheuwa, LaBayne, Mendez. Please keep in mind that we will be having a November training on an opposite Monday that is not a COGS meeting at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment: 8:35 PM

Next Meeting:

Monday, November 4, 6:30 PM, HCB 103

Fall Meetings

Monday, November 18, 6:30 PM, HCB 103

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