



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
September 18, 2023
6:30pm
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Rep. Wesner

Roll call:

Present - Balogun, Beavon, Burns, Delva, Ebuara, Gui, Hussain, Joyner, Risler, Rivers, Rogowski, Rowan, Salimi, Solmaz, Vaughn, Wesner

Absent Excused - Galeano

Absent Unexcused - Elmi

Reading and approval of the Minutes: Joyner, 2nd - Rowan

Petitions into the Assembly:

Graduate School and Special Student Advocate Seat 1: Maryam Pakdehi

3 Minute introduction - Civil Engineering Ph.D. student in 2nd year. Main goal is to advocate for graduate students to make the environment more relaxed so they can focus on their studies instead of stipends and health insurance. Wants to work to advocate for health insurance to be covered as well as insurance for their dependents. With the stipends, it is important because there are worries about expenses instead of studying. There should be raises and stipends should not be so varied. English isn't my first language, but I want to foster our relationship with graduate students and hear their concerns. I want to have meetings with graduate students so that they feel free to share their concerns.

Questions -

Burns - Will you be able to attend COGS meetings at 6:30pm. Yes, but I might have one time conflict with my Prelim exams which is one meeting.

Ebuara - How long do you plan to stay involved with COGS? I hope to stay the rest of my time in COGS, but it depends on my advisor.

Rowan - Do you have a plan to work with FAMU students? For engineering, there is a lot of crossover, so I hope to work with both.

Rogowski - What committee are you interested in? Student Advocacy.

Pros -

Joyner - I feel like we don't have a lot of representation in hard sciences and she would be great on student advocacy. To Rep. Rowan, she's only a 2nd year so it would be hard to bridge that gap at this time.

Rogowski - point of information - that relationship is being worked on by Rep. Galeano

Delva - I have been to events that Maryam has led and they have gone very well. She's very motivated and dedicated to her cause. She does connect with students in her RSO.

Rogowski - She is president of the Iranian Student Association. She's very interested in learning and is invested in learning the ropes of SGA. I have an appreciation for that since it can be hard for international students. She's going above and beyond.

Voting - 14-0-0

Swearing into office.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A

Messages from Student Government: N/A

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker: Happy to have our new Deputy Speaker of Finance on board. Had a great event on Friday for Coffee Hour followed by a great event for the Iranian Student Association. Want to do a workshop for student organizations about event planning and submitting purchase requests on Nole Central. Will occur on Thursday, September 28th and will be on Zoom. Will present the process and have a Q&A at the end.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Has started to transition to the role and approve conference grants. Reminder for everyone to take the financial certification quiz on the SGA website. Thanks to everyone for voting him in and wants to encourage everyone to speak up if they want to meet.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Not much to report, but will be sending an email about the certification.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Candidacy declaration form which will open on 9/20 and close 10/4 at 4pm. They would also need to submit a form that they did not receive any donations or spend any money on their campaign. Please don't reply to things sent out via the cogs mailing list - please email us directly. Also, we have been collecting information for a newsletter mailing list, so that should be coming from Rep. Delva soon.

Committee Report:

We will get into our committee groups to meet each other and plan for first meetings of the semester.

- C-SAC:
- Internal Affairs: Chair is Rep. Rivers; Vice Chair is Rep. Gui; First meeting is Monday, Sept. 25 at 6pm on Zoom.
- Student Advocacy: Chair is Rep. Ebuara; Vice Chair is TBD; Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6:30pm on Zoom
- Student Affairs: Chair is Rep. Risler; Vice Chair is TBD; Thursday, Sept. 21st at 7pm on Zoom. Will discuss a CGE collaboration event.

Funding Requests:

Bill #30: Iranian Student Association

Request is from the Iranian Student Association. The purpose of the request is to have a cultural event. This is a cultural festival and will be open to encourage FSU diversity within the community. It is a get together that all students can attend, listen to music, and connect with each other. The full breakdown of the cost of food for the event is listed.

Questions:

Rowan - How many people will attend? 60.

Ebuara - I see this event is open to everyone. Do we think this will be enough? That's true, but based on experience, 60-70 is the usual amount.

Vaughn - When and where will it be? Sept. 30th at the Rez at 12:30-6:30pm

Rogowski - How is the event being advertised? Social media and Nole Central. Will also send out emails.

Rowan - move to exhaust the rest of the time, 2nd - Salimi

Pros:

Joyner - I'm a fan of it. I hope in the future to get Iranian food for events.

Rogowski - Unfortunately, there is no Iranian restaurants in the area.

Ebuara - motion to extinguish time ; Delva - 2nd

Cons:

Rowan - Move to call to question; Salimi - 2nd.

Closing statement: This will be a great program. Past programs have had great attendance. I want to say that this will be a great event to connect the FSU community.

Reminder that if you are not financially certified that you are abstaining.

Vote: 11-0-4

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Round Table:

Adjournment: 7:50 pm

Next Meeting: **October 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senate Chambers**