



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

**THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting  
September 19, 2022  
6:30pm  
Agenda

**Call to Order:** 6:47pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Rep. Boatright

**Representatives Present:** Amaraneni, Basualdo, Boatright, Delva, Galeano, Gerhold, Ilesanmi, Myhre, Neale, Rogowski, Vaughn, Vouzas

**Representatives Absent, Excused:** Mekala

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:** Motion - Rep. Boatright; Second Rep. Rogowski

**New Business:** N/A

**Petitions into the Assembly:** N/A

**Special Introductions and Student Comments:**

Speaker/Presenter from OGFA moved to October 3rd meeting

Rep. Rogowski - On Friday, there was a proposal from the Center of Hispanic Marketing and Communications and it was not up to code. Because of miscommunication, there was a delay. Disappointed on how the process was done, especially during Hispanic Heritage Month. Disappointed that we could not have supported the proposal. Call to support Hispanic Heritage Month in the future. Speaker Neale response - travel fundings have to match code perfectly due to past funding issues. There is an opportunity through supporting the Hispanic and Latinx Student Union on October 15th and there will be a future bill for this.

Rep. Galeano - isn't the HLSU mainly undergraduate?

Speaker Neale - We will be checking the code and seeing what we can do. Rogowski - All students are welcome to be a part of HLSU.

Rep. Galeano - No way that the Union has more than 60% graduate students.

Speaker Neale - There are other ways we can support even if it is through promotion, attending, and volunteering.

Rep. Rogowski - Can also propose a resolution for Hispanic Heritage Month and the HiGSA can also work on supporting things.

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

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

**Report of Officers:**

- The Report of the Speaker Neale
- Vouzas and Galeano attended the Provost's QEP gathering

Rep. Vouzas - Provost talked the whole time and discussed expectations. The information given was rather vague. Big take-away is that whatever the committee decides to do, it will happen with full funding. Will not be able to be taken away on the backend. It could be possible to get things like reduced fees, higher health insurance subsidies, higher stipends. Committee is trying to improve the ranking of the university which equal metrics. Last committee was focused on Undergraduates, but now they are focusing on doctoral students. FSU wants to graduate more doctoral students and that could lead to some changes and improvements. Committee will be working for a whole year. There will be a tangible project created in 2023.

Rep. Ilesanmi - Question on how much ability the committee has to make suggestions.

Rep. Galeano - the more specific of a plan, the more likely it is to be looked at. This process will be open to the campus community.

Rep. Vouzas - The committee wants data to analyze - interviews across campus or could be something else. Members of the committee can work to steer the direction of things. Up to COGS members in the committee to help direct some of the solutions. Our priorities as graduate students aren't the same as faculty and administration.

Rep. Delva - We can talk more about this moving forward due to many items on the itinerary today.

Speaker Neale - looking for volunteers for the Tech Committee - tells how money from the tech fee will be used - 6 week commitment. Amaraneni showed interest in this.

Thank you to Rep. Rogowski went to the SGA meeting this week.

State of the Student Body is a once a year meeting - Wed. Sept. 21 at 7:30 in the Senate Chambers.

Looking for a liason for the Office of Governmental Affairs - Basualdo volunteered

If you need a COGS shirt, please let us know.

Please continue to recruit new COGS members to fill seats.

Will be meeting with Dr. Amy Hecht and Dr. Bowden and will keep COGS updated on what is discussed concerning the role of COGS - question of representation between SGA and COGS.

- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance

Working to get onboarded. Met with the previous Speaker Neale of finance.

Unallocated funds have been depleted for this year and will be working through that: we currently have \$9,243 - this is a lot less than what was in the annual budget.

Question of why. We are working on figuring this out.

Speaker Neale : Some of the spring allocations were voided and had issues, some came out of this fiscal year instead of last year. We are working to figure this out.

Amaraneni - Did the left over money from last year not roll over to this year?

Rep. Rogowski - No, it went to sweepings. At the SGA meeting, they are now starting to allocate money from sweepings back to other organizations. We will work to get that. Would like to organize workshops for RSOs so that they can learn about making budget requests, purchase orders, etc.

Wants COGS to be the place to help RSOs when they have financial questions - open door; if RSOs ask members for help, please direct those questions to her.

- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**

Working to try to keep this meeting more on time.

Will be meeting with Internal Affairs.

Please go through the code and see if there are things to change or add. There is a sample of the draft to send her at the bottom to make permanent changes to the code. Things voted on in the assembly go into effect immediately. We want to make permanent changes, not temporary ones.

Will be meeting with the campus attorney in the future - email was stuck in outbox, but this will be fixed.

For those who are presenting a bill today - make sure to look at the changes that were made by Rep. Delva.

- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**

Will be working to transition things and work with better communication including bill packets going out on Friday.

### **Committee Report:**

- **C-SAC:** Rogowski - To have a new person appointed. Please let us know if you are interested.

- **Internal Affairs:** Nothing to share. For the committees - Please make sure that you send meeting notices 24 hours ahead to be posted online. Also make sure that you are taking minutes. Any changes to the code go through the Internal Affairs. Attendance for committee meetings count for your overall attendance.

- **Student Advocacy:** Rogowski - Met today at 3pm.

New Chair - Boatright, Galeano is the new Vice Chair. Discussed supporting the food pantry - Boatright is working on it. Following up on CGE and Childcare.

- **Student Affairs:** Amaraneni - Informal meeting. Will be having a formal meeting on Wednesday.

### **Unfinished Business:**

*Bill 23: Nepalese Student Association at FSU (Rep. Amaraneni)*

Amaraneni - This is an on-campus event traditionally celebrated both in Nepal and also in India as it is one of the major religious festivals. The event will be mainly focused to bring all the Nepalese and Indian (or anyone who wants to celebrate) students,

along with friends and relatives to celebrate Dashain together. We will have food that we generally have during this festival (Spiced rice, chicken curry, Veg curry, etc.) and cultural events. The Nepalese Student Association is requesting money to provide food to attendees. The event is anticipated to last from 4:00-8:00pm on October 2nd.

Expected to be 60-100 people

Myhre - Tax is on the request, but as a tax exempt organization, this will need to be adjusted.

Ilesanmi - How many of these attendees will be graduate students? 40-50

Delva - Do you have any additional funding? For the sporting event, money has been collected. For the cultural program, there will be leftover funds from a previous event. Asking for money for food.

Amaraneni - motion to extend; second Ilesanmi

Vaughn - you had a welcome program last week, how many attended? 40 new members did.

Delva - Are you a registered RSO? Were you part of the previous budget cycle? This is their first time because they did not know. They have been a registered RSO, but did not know about the funding process.

Rogowski - How did you pay in the past? Self funded in the past.

Delva - Suggested to apply for annual funding in the future.

Rogowski - How will it be advertised? They have fliers and will share in departments.

Delva - Fee for members? No.

First round of debate:

Pros:

Ilesanmi - It's a cultural event, price is reasonable for the expected audience.

Galeano - event is a major religious festival, important for grad students to feel welcome. In favor of this event.

Rogowski - In favor of what is being said. Had evidence that events are well attended.

Motion to extinguish time - Rogowski; Galeano 2nd.

Cons:

Vouzas - Point of information - How to amend to exclude the taxes? Speaker Neale replied with the process.

Delva - Concerned with the amount of unallocated funds. We should keep this in mind moving forward.

Basualdo - motion to extinguish cons; 2nd Rogowski

Call to question - Rogowski; 2nd - Vouzas

Motion to amend - Vouzas; 2nd - Ilesanmi : remove tax amount; requested how much will cutlery be - organization did not have a quote.

Motion to amend to change total amount request to \$755 - Rogowski; 2nd -Boatright  
- Motion to call to question: Galeano, Delva

Checked if everyone was financially certified - yes.  
Voting for amended amount: 11-0-0

Closing comments from sponsor - Asked the Nepalese organization if he missed anything. The organization said that there will be kite flying, dancing, and there will be a lot of celebration. Has invited all of COGS to attend.  
Voting for Bill 23: 11-0-0

### **Funding Requests:**

*Bill 24: Ecology and Evolution Research Discussion Group (EERDG) ( Rep. Basualdo)*  
Basualdo - Listed off the various activities they wish to have - covers them for the year, will be used for community. Has a successful history of events.

Questions -

Rogowski - when were they last funded by cogs? 2-3 years ago.

Why was this not in the annual budget, were you not aware of this? Was not aware that was possible. The last time they were funded they went through this process.

Rogowski - If we were to only fund 1-2 events, which of these line items can we give you? T-shirts would last a few years. Socially Distanced Community Outreach, Virtual School. Tallahassee Science festival - want to buy things for that.

Galeano - motion to extend time; 2nd - Rogowski

Vouzas - What can wait? Can you have t-shirts wait?

Would like to have those items as soon as possible.

Galeano - So your Socially Distance Community Outreach, Virtual School, and Tallahassee Science Festival would be the biggest priority? Yes.

Pros:

Rogowski - Great organization; love the outreach; hope trying to reach minorities; exposing young people to stem is important. Hope we can fund some of these items.

Vouzas - EERDG is the most well organized group he has come across. If they get the money, it will go exactly where it is said it will.

Delva - The proposal was very nicely put together.

Motion to extinguish time - Delva; 2nd - Boatright

Cons:

Rogowski - reminder of the unallocated funds; should come to us during annual budget hearing. Not appropriate use of funding at this time.

Delva - Agree with Rep. Rogowski, this is funding many events, not just one.

2nd round of pro:

Vouzas - Understand the concern, but it's important to look at the dollar value and the benefit to the community. Should fund events that are a priority.

Point of information - Rogowski - organization has 65 active members

Motion to extinguish time - Rogowski; 2nd - llesanmi

Motion to Amend - Rogowski - Adjust the amount requested to \$415 to fund the Socially Distance Community Outreach, Virtual School, and Tallahassee Science Festival line items. 2nd - Vaughn

Pros: Vaughn - with our current funding issue, it's important to fund what we can and then encourage them to request more funding later on.

Cons: Vouzas - Reject this amendment and propose a new amendment to include the booth at Downtown Farmer's Market. Should fund \$655 instead.

Myhre - This money isn't for graduate students, so it should not be funded. Medical school has had to deny things like this in the past.

llesanmi - We should fund more community things. Not in favor of this specific event. Thinks everything should be funded. We are too closed in and should reach out to the community. Wants to increase the funding to cover the farmer's market and the food request. We should fund \$8-900.

Point of information - Rogowski - Who can participate in these outreach events? Anyone is welcome to participate.

Point of information - Delva - The outreach is outside of the university. Only T-shirts and food would be relevant.

Point of personal privilege - Rogowski - These events are local and are accessible for people to take part in these volunteer events.

Point of clarification - Delva - Looking at the code, limitations on community benefits.

Point of clarification - Vaughn - Looking at the code, we can only fund the t-shirts and food.

Delva - the funding for shirts and food all comes from different pools.

Speaker Neale : A&S Spending Rules within 802.5 - we can only legally fund the t-shirts and food. We can work with the organization on how to request things in the future.

Rogowski - motion to remove amendment

Motion to amend - Delva - Fund the t-shirts only for \$952; 2nd - Rogowski

Point of information - Vaughn - What is the lowest number of shirts that can be printed at that price? It is currently 144.

Pros: Myhre - extinguish time; Amaranemi 2nd

Cons: Amaranemi - should be for 65 people for not more than \$8 per shirt.

llesanmi - add something for food because that directly benefits the students.

Motion to extinguish time - Myhre; 2nd is Amaranemi

Motion to call to question - Myhre; 2nd Amaranemi

Vote for amendment: 8-2-1

Amendment passes

Delva - Call to question; Amaranemi - 2nd

Closing Comments - Basualdo - we have had a lot of discussion. Let's at least give them t-shirts.

Vote on bill 24: 9-0-2

*Bill 25: Indian Student Association of Tallahassee (Rep. Boatright)*

Boatright - Diwali Festival, are asking for support to help fund food. Multicultural event, with 300 attendees. In the past, there have been 230 attendees. Events this semester have had a larger turnout.

Questions: Rogowski - where are the other funds coming from? Leftover funds from last year and gotten quotes from restaurants. Looking for additional funding support.

Rogowski - Is this all the money you have for the year? We have some money in another account for the spring.

Vaughn - How many Graduate students? 180 (nole central) 270 total (including those not in nole central)

Pros: Amaranemi - likely more than 300 people will attend and recent events have been very successful.

Myhre: Motion to extinguish the time; Ilesanmi - 2nd.

Cons: Delva - great event, but it's a lot of money on food. While they are only asking us for \$1,500, it's still a lot of money on food.

Motion to extend time for cons: Galeano, 2nd Basualdo

Con: Basualdo - we are in a bit of a financial crisis, so we should adjust how much we give them. We can't just give them the full amount. We need to make some concessions.

Amaranemi - motion to extinguish time; 2nd -Myhre

2nd round of pros:

Rogowski - Let's fund this. We can really work to get more money.

Ilesanmi - \$1,500 for 300 students is reasonable. This is a once a year event.

Myhre - The first bill was more per person than this one is.

Amaranemi - We need to consider the history of the organization and how many people attend and how many grad students are there. This is huge for SE Asian countries. We can do it.

Rogowski - Motion to call to question; Myhre - 2nd.

Cons: Amaranemi -call to question; 2nd - Rogowski

Closing Statements - Boatright - This is going to be a great festival. We've done it in the past.

Vote for Bill: 9-0-1

*Bill 26 - Delva - Our resolution that was pass need to be done in a bill format.*

Pros: Vaughn - We already voted for it.

Cons: Motion to call to question: Rogowski; 2nd - Sam

Closing statements - Already voted on it.

Voting: 10-0-0

**Round Table:**

Removed for this meeting - welcome to stay, please take food, remember to vote for your committee chairs

**Adjournment:** 9:05pm

Next Meeting: **October 3rd, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Senate Chambers (3rd floor New StudentUnion)**