



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

**THE TWENTY NINTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Bill #: 12**

**Sponsored by:** Representative Harshe

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY NINTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS THAT:**

Amendments listed below are made to **Statute Number(s): 607.1**

The purpose of this amendment is to revise the COGS statutes to improve readability, strengthen the relationship between COGS and the Student Senate, and expand the ex-officio voting rights of the COGS Speaker in the Student Senate.

**Statute/Amendment Text:**

607.1. Title and Purpose

- A. ~~Title An organization entitled Congress of Graduate Students (hereinafter referred to as COGS) is established on the main campus of the Florida State University to implement the general policies of the Florida State University Student Government Association (hereafter referred to FSU-SGA) and the specific policies of COGS.~~
1. An organization entitled the Congress of Graduate Students (hereinafter referred to as COGS) is established on the main campus of the Florida State University to implement the general policies of the Florida State University Student Government Association (hereafter referred to FSU-SGA) and the specific policies of COGS.
- B. Purpose of COGS
1. To provide graduate and professional students at FSU, through COGS, an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.
  2. To consider, make recommendations and act upon phases of graduate and professional student life at FSU.
  3. To serve as the principal forum for decisions on matters of broad concern to the graduate and professional students at FSU.
  4. To serve as the chief means by which graduate and professional students may express their university concerns for FSU-SGA.



## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

### ~~C. Membership~~

- ~~1. COGS shall be composed of representatives as defined by the COGS Code.~~
- ~~2. The COGS Faculty Advisor shall be an ex-officio member of COGS.~~
- ~~3. The Speaker of COGS shall preside over COGS and shall vote only in the case of a tie among the representatives.~~
- ~~4. A Financial Officer shall be elected by COGS to serve in the absence, removal, or resignation of the Speaker, until election of a new Speaker.~~
- ~~5. Any graduate, professional or post-baccalaureate (graduate special) student admitted at FSU, taking course(s), maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and in good standing with the University, shall be eligible to seek and hold a position in COGS.~~

### ~~D. Procedures~~

- ~~1. COGS may propose legislation to the Student Senate. Once proposed by COGS, the Student Senate President or the Senate Judiciary Committee must submit such legislation to the Student Senate.~~
- ~~2. COGS shall represent itself in Student Senate, either by a resolution read in Student Senate or by appearance of a delegate from COGS, on the following matters:
  - ~~a. Legislation that changes Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes.~~
  - ~~b. Legislation which is a resolution of COGS concerning university-wide matters.~~
  - ~~c. Other matters as the SGA shall request COGS representation.~~
  - ~~d. Other matters as COGS shall request to be represented before SGA.~~~~
- ~~3. COGS shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting per month.~~
- ~~4. All legislation approved by COGS shall be done so upon simple majority vote of quorum.~~
- ~~5. Legislation concerning the establishment of, or changes in, the COGS Code shall be approved by a two thirds (2/3) vote of quorum.~~
- ~~6. Proviso Language can be added to the funds that are guaranteed by the Student Government Constitution only if that proviso language is agreed upon by both Student Senate and COGS. All funding in addition to those guaranteed to COGS by the Student Government Constitution, may at the discretion of Senate, contain proviso language.~~

### ~~E. Quorum~~

- ~~1. Quorum is required to conduct business.~~
- ~~2. Quorum exists if both of the following conditions are met:
  - ~~a. The speaker or a designated chair is present.~~~~



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

~~b. A majority of representatives is present at a meeting called in accordance with the COGS Code and COGS Internal Rules of Procedure.~~

~~F. Vacancies~~

- ~~1. When a vacancy occurs, notice of the position will be advertised on the COGS bulletin boards a minimum of seven (7) consecutive days.~~
- ~~2. Vacancies shall be filled at the discretion and with the approval of COGS in accordance with the guidelines in the COGS Code.~~

~~G. Duties and Responsibilities of COGS~~

- ~~1. To establish rules of order and internal operating procedures (hereinafter referred to as Code) as necessary to implement the purpose and responsibilities of COGS.~~
- ~~2. In the event of a vacancy, to appoint qualified students to serve on COGS, its committees, and its task forces as necessary.~~
- ~~3. To write and vote on its own guidelines and Code.~~
- ~~4. To construct a budget for each fiscal year for portions of the Activity and Service Fee revenue apportioned to COGS. This revenue will total thirty (30%) percent of all main FSU campus A&S monies collected from students designated by the Registrar as five (5) or seven (7).~~
- ~~5. To approve the expenditure of monies allocated to the COGS budget, with the authorizing signature of two members of the COGS Executive Committee.~~
- ~~6. To review annually COGS Bylaws and make appropriate revisions.~~
- ~~7. To submit a copy of its budget to the Student Senate detailing its categorical spending in a timely fashion.~~
- ~~8. COGS will be offered a non-voting ex-officio seat on all Student Senate Budget Committees, budget sub-committees, Central Reserves Committee, and Sweepings Committee.~~
- ~~9. COGS may establish procedures in the COGS Code to freeze funds or otherwise sanction non-complaint student organizations within its jurisdiction, subject to appeal to any competent body or officer in accordance with Chapter 805 of these statutes.~~
- ~~10. COGS may, by a two thirds (2/3), (66%) vote, suspend and recommend to the Senate that any officer or member of COGS or of any entity with the jurisdiction of COGS, be impeached limited to the grounds of misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, and excessive absences. Once an individual has been suspended they will lose all privileges of their office until such time as the Senate may undertake a review. The Senate may issue an order reinstating the officer or impeach the officer in which case they will be subject to removal from the office in accordance with 405.5. In the event of a conflict between this subsection and any provision in Chapter 405, this subsection will control.~~



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

~~H. COGS Speaker Duties and Responsibilities~~

- ~~1. To plan and coordinate the execution of all administrative work necessary for the efficient operation of COGS.~~
- ~~2. To be the chief liaison between COGS and SGA.~~
- ~~3. To be empowered to represent the graduate, professional, and post-baccalaureate FSU Student Body officially within the university and serve as spokesperson for COGS.~~
- ~~4. To be responsible for the supervision/hiring/firing of authorized COGS OPS employees funded by A&S Fees, with the final approval by majority vote of COGS.~~
- ~~5. To authorize the expenditure of A&S allocations as described in the COGS budget.~~
- ~~6. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.~~

~~I. COGS Representative Duties and Responsibilities~~

- ~~1. To attend all regular and special meetings.~~
- ~~2. Prior to any contractual agreements, to make known to COGS and the SGA Business Manager any potential conflict of interest situation that may exist.~~
- ~~3. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.~~

~~J. Interaction Between COGS and SGA~~

- ~~1. A copy of all bills, minutes, and resolutions shall be sent promptly to COGS to SGA and vice versa. This task is the duty of the Information Officer of COGS and of the Student Senate Pro Tempore.~~
- ~~2. COGS and SGA representatives shall meet a minimum of twice a year to share and discuss issues, problems, and items of mutual concern. Each group shall host one liaison meeting each year.~~
- ~~3. Notification shall be given by the Student Senate Pro Tempore to COGS at the time of the first reading of bills originating in the Student Senate which change FSU Statutes, the Student Body Constitution, or any university wide issues which affect COGS. A minimum of one week shall elapse between the first and second reading of the bill.~~
- ~~4. Legislation originated in Student Senate which would change Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes must pass the Student Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.~~

~~K. All provisions of Chapter 607 shall be considered fully severable.~~

607.2. Membership

A. COGS shall be composed of representatives as defined by the COGS Code.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

- B. The COGS Faculty Advisor shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of COGS.
- C. A Speaker shall be elected by COGS.
- D. A Financial Officer shall be elected by COGS to serve in the absence, removal, or resignation of the Speaker, until election of a new Speaker.
- E. Any graduate, professional or post-baccalaureate (graduate special) student admitted at FSU, taking course(s), maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and in good standing with the University, shall be eligible to seek and hold a position in COGS.

607.3. Procedures

- A. COGS shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting per month.
- B. All legislation approved by COGS shall be done so upon simple majority vote of quorum.
- C. The Speaker of COGS shall preside over COGS and shall vote only in the case of a tie among the representatives.
- D. Legislation concerning the establishment of, or changes in, the COGS Code shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of quorum.
- E. Proviso Language can be added to the funds that are guaranteed by the Student Government Constitution only if that proviso language is agreed upon by both Student Senate and COGS. All funding in addition to those guaranteed to COGS by the Student Government Constitution, may at the discretion of Senate, contain proviso language.

L. Quorum

- 1. Quorum is required to conduct business.
- 2. Quorum exists if both of the following conditions are met:
  - a. The speaker or a designated chair is present.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

- b. A majority of representatives is present at a meeting called in accordance with the COGS Code and COGS Internal Rules of Procedure.

607.4. Vacancies

- A. When a vacancy occurs, notice of the position will be advertised on the COGS bulletin boards a minimum of seven (7) consecutive days.
- B. Vacancies shall be filled at the discretion and with the approval of COGS in accordance with the guidelines in the COGS Code.

607.5. Duties and Responsibilities of COGS

- A. To establish rules of order and internal operating procedures (hereinafter referred to as Code) as necessary to implement the purpose and responsibilities of COGS.
- B. In the event of a vacancy, to appoint qualified students to serve on COGS, its committees, and its task forces as necessary.
- C. To write and vote on its own guidelines and Code.
- D. To construct a budget for each fiscal year for portions of the Activity and Service Fee revenue apportioned to COGS. This revenue will total thirty (30%) percent of all main FSU campus A&S monies collected from students designated by the Registrar as five (5) or seven (7).
- E. To approve the expenditure of monies allocated to the COGS budget, with the authorizing signature of two members of the COGS Executive Committee.
- F. To review annually COGS Bylaws and make appropriate revisions.
- G. To submit a copy of its budget to the Student Senate detailing its categorical spending in a timely fashion.
- H. COGS may establish procedures in the COGS Code to freeze funds or otherwise sanction non-complaint student organizations within its jurisdiction, subject to appeal to any competent body or officer in accordance with Chapter 805 of these statutes.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

- I. COGS may, by a two-thirds (2/3), (66%) vote, suspend and recommend to the Senate that any officer or member of COGS or of any entity with the jurisdiction of COGS, be impeached limited to the grounds of misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, and excessive absences. Once an individual has been suspended they will lose all privileges of their office until such time as the Senate may undertake a review pursuant to Chapter 405 of these Statutes. The Senate may issue an order in the form of a Resolution reinstating the officer or impeach the officer in which case they will be subject to removal from the office.

607.6. COGS Speaker Duties and Responsibilities

- A. To plan and coordinate the execution of all administrative work necessary for the efficient operation of COGS.
- B. To be the chief liaison between COGS and SGA.
- C. To be empowered to represent the graduate, professional, and postp-baccalaureate FSU Student Body officially within the university and serve as spokesperson for COGS.
- D. To be responsible for the supervision/hiring/firing of authorized COGS OPS employees funded by A&S Fees, with the final approval by majority vote of COGS.
- E. To authorize the expenditure of A&S allocations as described in the COGS budget.
- F. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.

607.7. COGS Representative Duties and Responsibilities

- A. To attend all regular and special meetings.
- B. Prior to any contractual agreements, to make known to COGS and the SGA Business Manager any potential conflicts-of-interest that may exist.
- C. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.

607.8. Interaction Between COGS and SGA

- A. COGS may propose legislation to the Student Senate. Once proposed by COGS, the Student Senate President Pro Tempore must submit such legislation to the Student Senate.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

- B. COGS shall represent itself in Student Senate, either by a resolution read in Student Senate or by appearance of a delegate from COGS, on the following matters:
  - a. Legislation that changes Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes.
  - b. Legislation which is a resolution of COGS concerning university-wide matters.
  - c. Other matters as the Student Senate shall request COGS representation.
  - d. Other matters as COGS shall request to be represented before the Student Senate.
- C. The COGS Speaker or their designee shall serve as a voting ex-officio member of the Student Senate Budget, Central Reserves, and Sweepings Committees.
- D. A copy of all bills, minutes, and resolutions shall be sent promptly from COGS to the Student Senate and vice versa. This task is the duty of the Communications Officer of COGS and of the Student Senate President Pro Tempore.
- E. COGS, Student Senate, and Executive Branch representatives shall meet a minimum of twice a year to share and discuss issues, problems, and items of mutual concern. Each group shall host one liaison meeting each year.
- F. Notification shall be given by the Student Senate Pro Tempore to COGS at the time of the first reading of bills originating in the Student Senate which change FSU Statutes, the Student Body Constitution, or any university-wide issues which affect COGS. A minimum of one week shall elapse between the first and second reading of the bill.
- G. Legislation which would change Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes must pass the Student Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

All provisions of Chapter 607 shall be considered fully severable.





FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Read: 7/19/2021  
COGS Vote: 12-0-0

**PASSED: July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**CERTIFIED TO THE STUDENT BODY**

DocuSigned by:

*Chris Hagemeyer*

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Speaker of the Congress of Graduate Students

DocuSigned by:

*Jacelyn Butts*

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SGA Staff Official

DocuSigned by:

*Robert Creigh*

148E4D18FEB74DF...  
Deputy Speaker for Finance