



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Resolution

32nd Congress of Graduate Students

Resolution #: 1

Sponsored by: Rowan

Date: February 5, 2024

Whereas the 32nd Congress of Graduate Students has organized itself and is ready to begin its work, and

Whereas Article IX, Section 4, of the Student Body Constitution grants the Congress the power to set its own procedures, and

Whereas Section 110.1 of the COGS Code mandates that any internal rules of procedure be adopted by a two-thirds vote, and

Whereas the Internal Rules of Procedure have not been updated in several years, leading to outdated requirements and confusing structures, and

Whereas the time has come for the Congress to adopt its Internal Rules of Procedure and to cement the format by which amendments and future IROPs shall be adopted, therefore

Be it resolved by the Thirty-Second Congress of Graduate Students: That the attachment to this resolution shall be the Internal Rules of Procedure for the Thirty-Second Congress of Graduate Students, and

Be it further resolved: That the Congress wishes for the attached IROP to be published on the COGS website as soon as possible, with the addition of the COGS logo, and

Be it finally resolved: That a copy of this resolution be sent to:

Dr. Felicia Williams, Director of Student Governance & Advocacy,
Andy Johnson, Student Governance & Advocacy Student Program Director,
Kyanna Austin, Student Governance & Advocacy Program Manager, and
Ben Young, SGA Webmaster.

Read: 02/05/2024

COGS Vote: 17-0-0

Passed: February 5, 2024

CERTIFIED TO THE STUDENT BODY

DocuSigned by:
Jack Rowan 2/6/2024 | 4:45 PM EST
3DAD3CD223A04F1...

Speaker of the Congress of Graduate Students

DocuSigned by:
Andy Johnson 2/7/2024 | 8:21 AM EST
FE9A3D9576B742B...

SGA Staff Official

DocuSigned by:
Joselyn Burns 2/7/2024 | 8:48 AM EST
148E4D18FEB74DF...

Deputy Speaker for Finance

Attachment A: Adopted IROP

Thirty-Second COGS Internal Rules of Procedure

Rule 1: Powers of the Speaker

- 1.1. The Speaker, or their designee, shall chair all meetings of the Assembly. The Speaker or chair may temporarily name another representative to chair the meeting while the Speaker is the sponsor of or participating in debate of measures. The Speaker or chair may only return to the chair after the measure has concluded.
- 1.2. The Speaker, or the chair, shall rule on all questions of procedure, maintain decorum, and recognize members seeking to speak or raise motions/points.
- 1.3. Any ruling by the Speaker, or the chair, shall be binding unless appealed by a member. If an appeal is made, the following question shall immediately be put to the Assembly without debate: "Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?". If a majority votes against the question, the ruling is overturned.

Rule 2: Governing Authorities

- 2.1. All procedural matters not governed by these Rules, the COGS Code, or the Student Body Constitution and Statutes, shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order. If Robert's is unclear or silent on the issue, the Speaker, or Chair, shall have authority to decide upon the matter.

Rule 3: Meetings of the COGS Assembly

- 3.1. The COGS Assembly shall meet in regular session on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the FSU Senate Chambers, unless the time or place of the meeting is otherwise specified by the Speaker no less than twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting. Representatives living outside of Leon County, Florida, may appear by virtual means.
- 3.2. Special meetings of the Assembly may be called by the Speaker, with the endorsement of two other members of the Executive Board, or by petition of two-thirds of the COGS membership. All special meetings require twenty-four (24) hour notice to members and the public.
 - a) Any member seeking a special meeting shall notify the Speaker and Advisor by filing a petition for the special meeting. Such petition must state the date, time, and location of the meeting, and the topics for said meeting.

- b) Upon receipt of a petition, the Advisor or Speaker shall poll the COGS membership to determine whether the required number of members are in favor of the meeting. Such a poll shall occur without unnecessary delay.
 - c) Should two-thirds of the members be in favor of the special meeting, it shall be immediately noticed to all members and the public.
- 3.3. No action may be taken at any meeting of the Assembly or its committees unless a quorum is present, except for a motion to adjourn.
- 3.4. The Agenda of each meeting shall be as follows:
- a) Call to Order
 - b) Pledge of Allegiance
 - c) Roll Call
 - d) Reading and Approval of the Minutes
 - e) Petitions to the Assembly
 - f) Special Introductions and Student Comments
 - g) Messages from Student Government
 - h) Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs
 - i) Report of Officers
 - i. Speaker
 - ii. Deputy Speaker of Finance
 - iii. Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
 - iv. Deputy Speaker of Communications
 - j) Advisor Announcements
 - k) Committee Reports
 - i. Internal Affairs
 - ii. Student Advocacy
 - iii. Student Affairs
 - l) Funding Requests
 - m) Unfinished Business
 - n) New Business
 - o) Round Table/Final Roll Call
 - p) Adjournment
- 3.5. The agenda for the meeting at which the annual budget is considered shall consist solely of the following:
- a) Call to Order

- b) Pledge of Allegiance
 - c) Roll Call
 - d) Reading and Approval of the Minutes
 - e) Special Introductions and Student Comments
 - f) Messages from Student Government
 - g) Advisor Announcements
 - h) Report of the Budget Committee
 - i) Consideration of the Annual Budget
 - j) Round Table/Final Roll Call
 - k) Adjournment
- 3.6. The Speaker shall have the authority to reorder the Agenda at their discretion, or to insert special items other than business.
- 3.7. The Speaker may waive items on the agenda or postpone them to a later meeting subject to a majority (50% plus 1) vote of the Assembly present.

Rule 4: Submission of Bills, Resolutions, and Motions

- 4.1. Bills and Resolutions shall be submitted to the Deputy Speaker of Communications and the Advisor by email no later than noon on the Thursday preceding an Assembly meeting, unless this rule is waived by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Communications, or a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.
- a) Bills and Resolutions must have at least one Representative as a sponsor.
 - b) Bills must include a statement of the purpose of the bill.
- 4.2. Funding Requests from Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) shall be submitted by noon on the Tuesday preceding an Assembly meeting to be considered at the next Assembly meeting.
- 4.3. All motions require a second. If no second is made, the motion shall automatically fail. The movant and seconder shall be recorded in the Minutes.
- 4.4. All motions are deemed to have been passed by unanimous consent unless a member objects, or a vote on the motion is required under the governing documents.
- 4.5. The order of precedence in motions/points from Robert's Rules shall govern.
- 4.6. Only one motion may be considered at any time. If a motion is being considered and a motion of a higher precedence is made and seconded, the original motion shall be set aside while the new motion is being considered. Once the new motion

has been disposed of, consideration will return to the original motion, unless the new motion affects the consideration.

Rule 5: Debate

5.1. Debate of Measures shall be conducted as follows:

- a) The sponsor(s) of a bill, resolution, or motion shall explain its purpose to the Assembly for up to three (3) minutes.
 - i. For bills funding a specific RSO, the Chair may, by their discretion, allow a representative of the RSO, if present, to provide a further explanation, if time permits.
- b) The sponsor(s) shall take questions on the measure from members of the Assembly for up to three (3) minutes.
 - i. For bills funding a specific RSO, the Speaker, or Chair, may direct the questions to a representative of the RSO, if present.
- c) Formal debate shall begin and proceed as follows:
 - i. A three (3) minute round of debate in favor of the measure,
 - ii. A three (3) minute round of debate opposed to the measure,
 - iii. Two (2) further rounds of alternating debate shall be conducted. Motions to amend the measure may be heard at this point.
 1. All amendments to proposed legislation which are more than three words in length and include more than an amendment to strike language must be provided in writing or typed with date and reference, to the Deputy Speaker of Communications prior to a vote on the amendment. Prior to asking if there are any objections, the Chair shall allow the sponsor of the amendment to explain the amendment for up to three (3) minutes. If objected to, the motion shall be debated and voted upon like any other measure.
 - iv. Further rounds of alternating debate may be conducted at the discretion of the Speaker, or Chair.
 - v. During a round of debate in opposition, a member may move to call the question. If objected to, the motion shall be voted on without debate and pass with a two-thirds majority of members present.
- d) The sponsor(s) may make a three (3) minute closing statement.
- e) The vote shall then be conducted.

- 5.2. Any round of debate or questioning period may be extended or extinguished by a non-debatable motion requiring a two-thirds vote, except that the Chair may extinguish time if no member is seeking recognition.
- 5.3. Representatives may only speak twice per round of debate. The Chair shall give preference in recognition to members that have not spoken on the measure.

Rule 6: Voting

- 6.1. Voting in the Assembly shall be by show of hands, unless otherwise motioned or the Chair decides to use another prescribed method.
- 6.2. After the sponsor(s) make their closing statement, but before the vote is taken, any member of the Assembly may move for a vote by:
 - a) Secret Ballot,
 - i. The Advisor shall distribute ballots to members; members will record their vote without a name and submit them to the Advisor.
 - ii. A motion for a secret-ballot vote shall require a majority vote (50% plus 1) of the assembly, if objected to, without debate.
 - iii. A successful motion to vote by secret ballot shall supersede any other method of voting.
 - b) Roll Call,
 - i. A roll call vote shall take place immediately upon the motion being made and seconded, without need for debate or vote.
 - c) Voice vote, or
 - i. A voice vote shall take place immediately upon the motion being made and seconded, without need for debate or vote.
 - d) Electronic Voting, only if such an option already exists and is in active use by the Assembly.
- 6.3. On any vote, members may vote aye, nay, or present/abstain.

Rule 7: Committees

- 7.1. Each Committee shall use a pre-made template for their meeting minutes. This template shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly. This template shall be changed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the General Assembly.

Rule 8: Amendments and Suspension of Rules

- 8.1. The Internal Rules of Procedure shall only be amended by resolution and such resolution shall only pass with a two-thirds majority of members present.
 - a) Prior to submitting any resolution that changes the Internal Rules of Procedure to the Deputy Speaker for Communications, the resolution shall be debated and receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote from the Internal Affairs Committee.
- 8.2. A Representative may move to suspend these rules by motion. Such motion shall specifically state which rules are being suspended, is debatable upon objection, and shall only pass with a two-thirds majority of members present.