



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Resolution

32nd Congress of Graduate Students

Resolution #: 4

Sponsored by: Rowan

Date: April 15, 2024

Whereas the structure of the Congress of Graduate Students, and its relationship to the Student Government Association, has been fairly static for the past thirty years, and

Whereas the current structure of COGS creates a limbo-like state where graduate students are technically represented by two bodies, but are in fact primarily represented by COGS, and

Whereas Florida State University has committed itself to the success of graduate students, as demonstrated by the adoption of the Quality Enhancement Plan, in order to propel FSU into the upper echelons of universities, and

Whereas, over the last weeks and months, discussions about a new COGS-SGA relationship have been ongoing between the Speaker and the Student Body President, and

Whereas these conversations have reached such a satisfactory point that the initial consent of the Congress of Graduate Students and the Student Senate to a roadmap for discussions surrounding the statutory and constitutional language needed to effectuate the necessary changes to the COGS-SGA relationship is now proper, and

Whereas FSU SGA should shift to a quasi-bicameral system, where a fully undergraduate Student Senate maintains the prerogative in matters of legislating, confirming nominees for Student Body office, controlling funds within the Senate's discretion (with adequate representation for graduate students on the Budget Committee during consideration of the Annual A&S Fee Budget), and making alterations to their Rules of Procedure ,and

Whereas COGS should become a constitutionally non-partisan graduate chamber, holding the ability to participate in the legislative process with an opportunity to present and dissent from revisions to Student Body Statutes and Constitutional Amendments (particularly on matters which have an impact on graduate students), confirm Supreme Court justices (with the advice of the Senate Judiciary Committee, should COGS take on the Court's budget), solely enact changes to the COGS Administrative Code and Internal Rules of Procedure, pass the Annual COGS A&S Fee Budget (with the ability for undergraduate students to provide substantive comment), control funds within the discretion of COGS, ask for advisory opinions, and

Whereas the Senate and COGS should have joint powers over resolutions stating the joint opinion of Senate and COGS and, possibly, the confirmation of certain high-ranking Student Body officers, and

Whereas each chamber would have independent authority over their officers, Rules of Procedure, the transfer of funds within their discretion, and resolutions that state the opinion of one particular chamber, therefore:

Be it resolved by the Thirty-Second Congress of Graduate Students: That COGS agrees, in principle, to the framework set out in this resolution for a Stronger Future in the COGS-SGA relationship, and

Be it further resolved: That COGS requests the agreement of the Student Senate in this Stronger Future Framework prior to the end of the Spring Senate Session, and

Be it further resolved: That COGS asks the Student Senate to agree to a timeline for the implementation of this framework where an unofficial working group would draft and finalize the necessary constitutional and statutory changes necessary to effectuate the Stronger Future Framework (while consulting with Senators, Representatives, the Executive Branch, and our University partners), reporting back to COGS and the Senate with the proposed constitutional amendment and statutory revisions by the end of the first week of the Fall 2024 semester, and that COGS and Senate agree to the constitutional amendment within the time necessary to ensure that the amendment is on the Fall 2024 SGA ballot, and

Be it further resolved: That COGS offers that the working group include, at a minimum, the Speaker of COGS, two members of COGS (as decided by the Speaker), two senators (as decided by the Senate President), and a representative of the Student Body President, as well as any other persons deemed necessary by the group, and

Be it further resolved: That the Speaker, under Chapter 607 of Student Body Statutes, is ordered to appear before the Student Senate at the first available opportunity to read this resolution into their record and to advocate for the passage of a resolution agreeing to the Stronger Future Framework, and

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

Jackson Boisvert, Student Body President,
Joseph Cofer, Student Senate President,
Jason Gorelick, Student Senate President Pro-Tempore, and
The Members of the 76th Student Senate.

Read: 04/15/2024

COGS Vote: 20-0-0

Passed: April 15, 2024

CERTIFIED TO THE STUDENT BODY

DocuSigned by:

Jack Rowan

4/16/2024 | 1:52 PM EDT

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Speaker of the Congress of Graduate Students

DocuSigned by:

Andy Johnson

4/17/2024 | 3:16 PM EDT

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SGA Staff Official

DocuSigned by:

Joshua Burns

4/17/2024 | 3:48 PM EDT

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Deputy Speaker for Finance