

Twenty – Fourth COGS Budget Committee Report

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Introduction

In this proposal, the Budget Committee of the Congress of Graduate Students is presenting the Assembly with a budget for the 2017 fiscal year. The intention of the Budget Committee is to support the mission of COGS, which is to both defend the interests of all post-baccalaureate students in graduate student life, services, and academics while also managing the funds within our purview in a fiscally responsible manner. To do so, the Committee has worked to balance increased funding for successful academic and professional programs with a desire to trim wasteful expenditures and unspent money.

The Committee was also faced with a drastic reduction in revenue due to flat projected graduate enrollment and flat A&S Student fees. This Budget is \$40,000 less than the previous year's. This required the committee to make difficult decisions and to truly weigh the costs and benefits of our expenditures and allocations.

The Committee would like to recognize and thank the assistance of several people who helped make these deliberations possible. Director of Student Affairs, Danielle Morgan Acosta and COGS Advisor, Joshua Kinchen for their input, and their assistance finding dollar figures for COGS Administrative expenses. Speaker Tristan Hall, was present to help the committee, and provided additional input.

While the Committee was not unanimous during deliberations, discussion was enthusiastic and rigorous as this budget reflects a balanced allocation of COGS funds. The budget was passed on a vote of 4-2 with representatives Cavannaugh and Lutrell voting No. The proposed budget will now move on to the full Congress for deliberations and debate. It is in the opinion of the majority of the committee that representatives should vote in favor of the proposed distribution of funds.

Insert Proposed Budget Here

Organizational Support

Many new graduate RSOs requested funding during the budget committee this year. The committee is pleased to see many new RSOs financing growing events to aid the post-

baccalaureate student body on campus. The following organizations requesting funds are: Applied Sport Psychology (ASP), Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), FSU Childcare, Graduate Women in Science (GWIS), Graduate Students Interdisciplinary Studies (GSIS), Hispanic GSA (HiGSA), History GSA (HGSA), Law School Council (LSC), Medical School Council (MSC), Neuroscience GSA, Public Administration GSA (PAGSA), Sport Psychology Organizational Research Team (SPORT), The Graduate School, and University Libraries Scholars Commons.

Applied Sports Psychology

APS was zero funded by the committee. While the committee thought that the request to bring in a certified Motivational Interviewing (MI) trainer to give an eight hour seminar was not without merit. The committee found the expense to be high for a single day event considering the proposed speaker is affiliated with the Florida University system. The committee also feels the RSO should contact FSU athletics and request funding through them, as the proposed speaker will directly benefit student athletes. The committee still encourages the RSO to come before the COGS body in the upcoming fiscal year to receive funding, after these avenues have been exhausted.

Black Graduate Student Association

The BGSA was funded at \$4,500 dollars: \$2,500 in expense, \$2,000 in food, and \$0 in Clothing and Awards. The committee is interested in promoting diversity in the post-baccalaureate environment. The committee could not justify the \$800 expense in clothing and awards. Additionally, the Fall Finale and Black Tie Affair food lines could be funded at a lower value, leading to a \$500 reduction in the food line.

FSU Childcare

FSU Childcare was funded at \$87,000; \$40,912 in Salaried and \$46,088 in OPS Wages. The committee contributed a 2.5% increase to childcare this year. The committee feels that the services provided by Childcare are of tremendous importance. The committee was pleased to see in a challenging fiscal year that the SGA Senate had moved in increase funding for Childcare. The increase is expected to keep costs down for graduate student parents with small children at the university.

Graduate Women in Sciences

GWIS was funded at \$1855 dollars; \$1155 in contractual services and \$700 in food. The committee is excited to see the growth in the GWIS RSO and think they play an important part in promoting graduate women on campus. The contractual services line is designed to fund the planned March invited speaker. Budget limitations have prevented the committee from funding the foreign speaker that was requested, but have provided funds to allow for a domestic speaker. The food line is designed to fund food for the 3rd Annual Art in STEM Research event and the food for the proposed February Workshop with Career Center.

Graduate Students in Interdisciplinary Studies

GSIS was funded at \$250 dollars in expense. The funds are designed to allow for the purchase of contractual rights for the PhD Movie. While a relatively new RSO, the committee is pleased to see GSIS using the budget sweeping process.

Hispanic Graduate Student Association

HiGSA was funded at \$1950 dollars; \$650 in expense and \$560 in food. The committee is committed to promoting diversity amongst post-baccalaureate on the FSU campus. The committee was happy to see the RSO committed to fundraising. Additionally, the committee thought the Airport Pick Ups and Wal-Mart Rides were novel and very useful services that the RSO provides. The committee hopes these funds will be used to encourage further growth and events in the RSO.

History Graduate Student Association

HGSA was funded at \$1950 dollars; \$1,000 in contractual services, \$350 in expense, and \$600 in food. The funding decision was based off of previous allocations given to HGSA by the COGS general body. The committee hopes the funds will go towards the Southeast Regional Graduate Student Conference.

Law School Council and Medical School Council

LSC and MSC were funded \$43,500 each (total \$87,000) en bloc. The committee voted 4-2 in favor of the funding line with Representatives Cavannaugh and Luttrell voting no. The council funding was subject to vigorous debate. The dissenting members thought that the funding

allocations to the committees were unfair cuts to the councils. Points included that professional students work more hours and receive fewer of the other services provided by COGS. The members also felt that the Law and Medical school were distinct entities that should be treated separately from the graduate student allocations. The members in favor of funding argued that the councils have historically, left thousands of dollars unspent in their accounts. Additional points included that, even after reductions, the average law and medical student will receive substantially more funding per pupil than graduate students. The supporting members also expressed concern over the lack of financial assistance provided by the Law and Medical schools to these organizations. The committee chair noted that the councils, like all other graduate RSOs, can come before the COGS Congress and request additional funds during the next fiscal year.

Neuroscience Graduate Student Association

Neuroscience GSA was funded \$2450 in food. The committee is happy with the events hosted by the RSO. The committee is especially impressed by the Rushton Lecture Series and the Smith lecture. The committee funded food at \$5 per lunch and \$3.33 per receptions (assuming average attendance). The committee felt that the colloquium series event was inappropriate to fund. The committee fully funded the Brain Bee and Brain Fair events.

Philosophy Graduate Student Association

PGSA was funded at \$2,900; \$2,700 in contractual services and \$200 in food. The committee is enthusiastic to continue supporting the annual Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference. The committee moved the \$600 request from expense to contractual services as that is where lodging costs technically belong. The RSO stated in their request that the event could be funded at \$2,900 dollars and the committee felt the request was reasonable.

Public Administration Graduate Student Association

PAGSA was zero funded. The committee felt the presentation given by the RSO was confusing, and felt that the requested funds would be better received as a request to the full COGS body during a regular meeting.

Sport Psychology Organizational Research Team

SPORT was funded at \$3,500; \$2,500 in contractual services, \$500 in expense, and \$500 in food. The committee is excited to see the growth of SPORT over the past year and is excited to continue to contribute to their events. The funding in contractual services is designed to pay for the Speaker Series Speaker expense and one of the SPEAR keynote speakers. The expense line was reasonable and fully funded. The remaining funds were distributed to food as the committee felt it was the amount COOGS could allocate based on budget constraints.

Graduate School

The Graduate School was funded at \$16,500, \$4,500 in expense and \$12,000 in food. The committee felt it reasonable to pass part of the six and a half percent reduction in COGS funding to the graduate school. The committee wishes funds were available to fund all events proposed by the graduate school. The committee was impressed by the inclusion of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA) and encourages the graduate school to allocate some funding to their events in the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to funding OGFA, the committee hopes the funds allocated will be used to fund the proposed speaker Dr. Isler. The food line is expected to be used to continue funding food at graduate student orientation and PIE orientation, in line with past years.

University Libraries Scholars Commons

Scholars Commons was zero funded. The Scholars Commons were instead funded in FY 2016.

COGS GRANT PROGRAMS

COGS currently funds four grant lines: the Presentation Grants, the Academic & Professional Conference Attendance Grants, the Dissertation Research Grant, and the Organizational Support Grant. The committee held a vibrant discussion about how much and where to reduce funding to alleviate the reduction in overall funding.

Presentation Grants

Many members of the Budget Committee believe that the Presentation Grants program is the most important program that COGS funds. It is certainly the most well-known COGS program on campus, and thousands of grants have been given to graduate students over the

years. The majority of the committee felt that maintaining a flat rate for the upcoming fiscal year was a reasonable request and the committee recommends funding at \$155,000.

Academic & Professional Support Attendance Grants

The majority of the committee recommends funding the Academic & Professional Support Attendance Grants at \$17,600 for the upcoming fiscal year. Members of the committee felt that this grant line was the least damaging to reduce. The majority of the committee recommending funding at this level.

Dissertation Research Grants

The majority of the committee recommends that Dissertation Research Grant funding be kept at \$7,000 dollars for the next fiscal year. Members on the committee felt that the Dissertation Research Grants provide a vital means of research support on campus. Members also felt that a cut to these grants would be detrimental to the post-baccalaureate student body.

Organizational Support Grants

The majority of the committee recommends funding Organizational Support Grants at \$4,000 dollars. This is a \$1,000 dollar reduction from the previous year. Members felt that a reduction allowed COGS to reduce funds while minimizing cut to other RSOs.

COGS ADMINISTRATION

The COGS Administrative account is composed of all the direct allocations which are not line items or funding boards. All of the following except speakers request were approved en bloc by the committee.

Salary and Insurance

Salary and Insurance are a mandatory expense. \$112,800 were allocated for the item in the next fiscal year. Projections were compiled by the SA&O office. The funds compensate the COGS Administrator, Whitney Brown, as well as other administrative officials affiliated with COGS day-to-day operations.

COGS Officers

COGS Officers were recommended funding at \$20,000 dollars. These funds are used to compensate the work of members of the executive board in COGS. The funds are based off of contracted hourly rates developed by FSU payroll and represents a \$2,000 dollar reduction from the previous year.

OPS Office Staff

OPS Office Staff was recommended funding at \$3,500. It is used to fund SGA/COGS accounting office staff.

Food

Food was recommended funding at \$2,000 dollars. The line allocates funding for food during COGS meetings. The food is available to all students who attend the meeting.

Office Supplies

Office Supplies was recommended funding at \$500 dollars. The line is used to fund necessary office supplies for the COGS office and affiliates. The line item is a \$200 dollar reduction from last year.

NAGPS Membership

NAGPS Membership was recommended funding at \$500 dollars. The line represents the annual dues the COGS pays to the National Graduate and Professional Student Government body. The spending of the funds is subject to a vote of the full COGS body in the fall of the fiscal year.

Telephone

Telephone was recommended funding at \$1,500 dollars. This represents a \$1,000 dollar reduction from the previous fiscal year. COGS office and staff are consolidating the number of phone lines provided. A phone line will remain for the COGS administrator.

Maintenance & Repair

Maintenance & Repair was recommended funding at \$500 dollars.

Insurance

Insurance was recommended funding at \$500 dollars. The insurance is a mandatory pay into workers compensation insurance at FSU.

Speaker's Request

Speaker's Request was recommended funding at \$3,700 dollars. The speakers request is used to as a means of funding COGS graduate student orientation events. The recommended funding is a decrease of \$300 dollars from the previous fiscal year. The committee felt that is was a reasonable reduction considering the funding shortfall. The money is expected to be used to fund the Madison Social new graduate student social, ice cream for the COGS tabling at orientation, and the new international student Tallahassee bus tour.

COGS UNALLOCATED

The remaining funds that have not been dispersed will be held in the COGS unallocated account. These are the funds the COGS Congress will use to allocate to RSOs in FY17. Presently, the account is allocated \$27,285 dollars. This represents an 18.7% decrease in the COGS unallocated account from the previous fiscal year. While COGS has funded many new RSOs this year during budget the committee chair feels funding for RSOs will be more competitive in the next fiscal year due to the reduction.