

Budget Hearing Day 1 Minutes
Monday, March 25th, Zoom

Physics Graduate Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Josh Burns (Chair), Maddie Siegal
- Presenters: Samuel Ajayi (President), Mehak Ghafoor (Treasurer)
- Start Time: 11:33 am

Samuel: PGSA was not very functional until starting it back last year, mostly due to the pandemic halting things. Mehak has helped with this process as well.

Samuel: Serve as a bridge between students and faculty through events.

Samuel: Food and games is a big incentive for students to come to events. One of the reasons why their request is only in the food category.

Samuel: Physics Open House is an event open for the community to come out.

Samuel: Career seminar is an event where other funding comes from the department, but PGSA helps with food costs.

Josh: Was \$2,000 sufficient for costs this year? With the current costs, will this same amount be enough?

Samuel: Still have enough funds from their \$2,000 from the last budget process.

Maddie: Question and clarification regarding where extra funding is coming from - is this coming from the department?

Samuel: Department uses their funding to bring in speakers.

Mehak: Is it possible to have funding for t-shirts?

Josh: Yes, based on the current request money is only being asked for food, but these funding totals are not final until the end of deliberations and the COGS assembly vote on April 15th. Please let me know if you have any questions about this or want to adjust your request.

LEARN

- Committee Members Present: Josh Burns (Chair) , Liz Schumm, Chris Cyrille, Jack Rowan
- Presenters: Kevin Olsen (Treasurer), Bhushan Dahal (Leadership)
- Start Time: 12:34

Kevin: Loves LEARN because of its purpose of engagement, connecting students with one another, and focusing on ideas around research. Served as a teacher, and LEARN has helped connect him to research.

Kevin: One of the favorite events is the New Student Orientation - helps with new students meeting the new students. Personal connection for him as he got to connect with faculty about research interests. Serves breakfast, lunch, and a social hour with food.

Kevin: Another signature event is the Mini Conference. Last year, the topic was "Wellness in Academia". Students, faculty, and a speaker were there to speak on the topic.

Kevin: Next, there will be a data visualization mini conference.

Kevin: Year end picnic is another opportunity to connect students with faculty. Family is also invited.

Kevin: Fall social event - request for suggestions and ideas.

Josh: A suggestion for this event would be the bowling and billiards space in the Student Union.

Kevin: Is the new Stone Building Terrace available for rental?

Josh: Not sure since this is a new space

Bhushan: One event was a cultural happy hour, some of the events and initiatives do not require funds to use so these things are not discussed as much.

Chris: What are some of the other initiatives to engage students with research and leadership?

Kevin: Faculty from the department spoke on working in the academia space. This was something that did not require funding.

Josh: What events are y'all going to use remaining funds for this fiscal year?

Kevin: Data visualization boot camp and end of year social

Jack: If we could allocate more funds than requested, what would you like for those to be used for?

Kevin: Wanting to see if funds could be used to purchase a STATA subscription, that would be used as a scholarship?

Jack: We will look into if that is possible

LSC

- Committee Members Present: Burns (Chair), Rowan, Siegel, Cyrille.
- Presenters: Sarai Glaze
- Start Time: 1:02pm
- Requesting: \$100,000

Sarai: LSC is made up of a mix of law students from different years and backgrounds. LSC is focused on allocating funds to Law RSOs. Worked to encourage creative use of funds (beyond just lunch & learns), streamline funding processes, supporting local vendors, providing RSOs more resources, etc. A lot of law students don't know about LSC and COGS's role, so LSC worked to educate and organize. Worked with RPPTL, Trial Team RSOs to hold great tabling events. The increased funding request will help RSOs throw better events. This past year, LSC has utilized all funding in a way not previously done. Working to constantly better the work of law school RSOs. No everyone got their budget request this year, so an increase will help.

Cyrille: How much were you allocated last year? A: \$50,000, plus \$12k from sweepings and more from unallocated. \$72k was allocated overall.

Cyrille: How have you worked to make LSC more recognizable? A: Changing the board composition to bring in more corners of the law school and make more parts aware of LSC. Also making LSC elections take place alongside SBA elections to increase awareness of LSC elections. Got more students interested this year than previously expected. Want to work on getting the rest of the board more passionate about their work in the coming year, as well as having more events with other RSOs, as well as more independent events.

Burns: Your responses answered my questions. I appreciate your vision for LSC and trying to maximize your funding.

Sarai: Please be cognizant that LSC funds over 30 RSOs. With a sufficient amount of emergency funds, we can help to set up a few last-minute events. We want to give everyone a bite at the apple, not just SBA.

End Time: 1:20pm

Philosophy Graduate Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Burns (Chair), Rowan, Cyrille
- Presenters: Matthew Dupree, Evan Jones

- Start Time: 2:03pm

Presentation: PGSA organizes events and conferences to foster professional development. The big event is an annual event on Free Will. This is a graduate-student centric. Asking for \$2500 in Cont. Services for speaker honorarium and travel. \$500 for conference food. The conference is open and free to the public. The conference is useful for recruiting graduate students to FSU. Need to support the conference to maintain the rank of the department. #1 Action Theory department in the U.S.

Burns: These are specific requests. If we have extra funds at the end, is there anything else you'd like more funding for, outside the conference? A: We have other events that are a lot smaller: A Minorities in Philosophy event, a FSU-UF conference. Could host more conferences and colloquiums.

Rowan: How many attendees last year? A: 40-50. It depends on who's speaking.

Cyrille: Are those attendees also from other schools? A: It's predominantly FSU grad students, some undergrads and families of speakers.

Cyrille: Any plans on growing the event? A: Nicer catering, presentations, and receptions. This could draw more speakers. Could also try to work with FAMU and TCC's Philosophy departments to bring them out. (Burns: A very good suggestion!)

End Time: 2:13pm

COGS Administration

- Committee Members Present: Burns (Chair), Cyrille, Rowan (also presenting), Ebuara
- Presenters: Jack Rowan
- Start Time: 2:30pm

Rowan: COGS serves many purposes: allocate funds, represent the graduate student body, provide community events, allocate grants, etc.

Rowan: COGS exec includes speaker, deputy speaker of finance, communications, and judicial affairs.

Rowan: Series of funded events that include billiards and bowling, finals food trucks, orientation welcome week, global coffee hours

Rowan: 2023-2024 bulk of request was for OPS wages.

Rowan: Starting this September, \$13 an hour will be the new minimum hourly wage.

Rowan: A new and largest part of the request is the COGS event fund will be set up for the COGS events that occur throughout the year. Also, allow new events to occur.

Rowan: COGS food expense request is larger due to increase in food prices.

Rowan: Clothing and awards includes a list of different merchandise - water bottles, notebooks, pens, charging banks, shirts, etc.

Rowan: Speaker's Request serves as an emergency fund for RSOs. Also, for other expenses that might be last minute.

Rowan: A potential proviso to include language about the speaker reporting the use of speaker's request funds to the assembly.

Rowan: Increases will cut down on the number of transfer bills, helps cushion against cuts in allocated budget.

Cyrille: How are COGS events themselves beneficial?

Rowan: Engagement and recruitment from graduate students, outside from them seeing the COGS logo on merch.

Burns: Face-to-face interaction outside of COGS Assembly meetings

Ebuara: How can we track how much RSOs are using their funds?

Rowan: Nole Central access from COGS Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Finance and SG&A administration helping with tracking.

Burns: How would you like to see an increased number of funding go towards building connections and community from graduate students?

Rowan: Have a larger orientation event at the beginning of the year. Help build a better opinion of COGS. The Deputy Speaker of Communication working with the Student Affairs committee to hold these events.

Ebuara: What's different from how spending towards merchandise is being done now and then for the future?

Rowan: We know how much funding we are working with. The materials that will be purchased for the fall can be spent using funding from what is available currently.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Burns (Chair), Rowan

- Presenters: Noah Robles
- Start Time: 2:57pm

Robles: DURPSA serves as a space for professional development for URP students and those interested in URP. Planning is an essential part of everyone's life, it always impacts us. DURPSA only has \$58 in their account. Hoping to get funding to supplement events. Has optional dues of \$25/yr, which mainly goes to shirts. Currently working to plan fundraisers.

Projecting expenses for guest speakers, namely alumni who have strong ties to URP and would have broad appeal to the student body (Sen. Bobby Powell, Commissioner Jack Porter, etc.). Also wanting \$ for t-shirts that will advertise DURPSA to the university.

Burns: If dues \$ goes to shirts, do you have to pay to get a shirt? A: Yes.

Burns: Since you are asking for \$ from COGS, those shirts will be available to the whole student body? A: Yes. We couldn't do that with just dues \$.

Burns: Re: Guest Speakers. Is the department supporting? A: Have not had conversations about compensating speakers. Porter is willing to volunteer her time, Powell might have state law issues about payments.

Rowan: What's your average attendance? A: ~20-30. The department is about 60 students.

Rowan: Have you reached out to Dean Chapin about support for DURPSA? A: Department chair recommends getting further down the line for events before asking for support.

Burns: If we have extra funds, do you have anything else to fund? A: More speakers, namely those more focused on planning. Also, helping to fund more professional development events, such as attending workshops with the state planning interest group.

End Time: 3:12pm

Organization for Religion Graduate Students

- Committee Members Present: Burns (Chair), Rowan
- Presenters: Emily Olsen
- Start Time: 3:31pm

Olsen: ORGS serves as a networking group for Religious Studies students and hosts an annual symposium that draws a strong crowd from universities like Baylor, Brown, UNC, etc. >80 attendees at the last symposium's keynote speech.

Very minor increases in food and cont. services to improve the keynote speaker from the symposium. \$5,000 total request.

Cont. Services used for the keynote and for a roundtable of other local scholars.

Food is focused on the reception after the keynote. Want to get a local caterer for future years.

Expenses pay for the symposium.

Burns: Where is this held? A: It changes. This year was in SSB, so it was free. Some years, have had to pay for the venue, depending.

Burns: What would you do with more funds? A: Have more speakers, especially at the roundtable.

Political Science Graduate Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Bethke (Vice Chair), Jack Rowan(Acting Chair), Maddie Siegel, Francis Eburra, Elisabeth Schumm.
- Presenters: Domain Bolt
- Start Time: 4:35

PSGSA represents PHD grad students within the political science field. There are no fee to join, and all students are members. They organization offers mentoring and hosts socials. The main event is the social science methods workshop. It is meant for all social science fields, not just political science. This is a 4-day event where experts speak on methods topics. The event is open to undergraduates and graduate students but is primarily for grad students. Provides methodological training, aiding students with dissertations. The event was held in 2019, 2022, and 2023. Topics in 2023 include machine learning and network analysis. Meant to supplement training in the dissertation writing process

In 2022, the event needed additional funding from the college department. The cost of event has gone up substantially over the years due to greater anticipated interest and inflation/

For 2024 expect 30 attendees, which is about the same as last year. On May 7-11th. Focused on survey experiments. Two professors writing on survey experiments are coming to speak at the workshop. Expect to use all COGS funds and might need to request extra funds for the dean.

For 2024-2025 budget of \$8,900, the main expense will be the methods workshop. Asking for an increase in budget in all categories but food to get the best possible speakers and due to inflation. Wish to avoid relying on the dean like in previous years when there was a budget shortfall

The event will be advertised on the Bellamy TVs

Rowan: Is the attendance only FSU students?

Bolt: Has always been all FSU student and mostly political science students. 5-8 students from other departments and a few undergrad students.

History Graduate Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Bethke (Chair), Rowan, Siegel, Eburra
- Presenters: Christopher Loman
- Start Time: 5:00pm
- Requesting: \$5,100

Loman: HGSA serves as a representative org for history graduate students. Holds an annual conference.

Increase of >\$600 over last FY. Accounts nearly depleted because the main events are already done.

Internal Events: Paintnik, Greek Food Festival, Diversity Day Potluck, End of Semester Social. Most food is handled potluck-style to save money.

The Main Event - Southeast Regional Graduate Student Conference. Done to attract prospective students, encourage networking, CV building, professional development, and raise university visibility. Students include: VSU, Georgetown, etc. Departments represented: Musicology, History, English, etc. >30 papers were presented at the 2024 conference. The conference includes specialty panels that involve skills training and feedback on in-progress research.

Fundraising has been heavily-discounted book sales on Market Wednesday. Cannot do this sale every week.

Costs have increased over time. The keynote speaker need competitive honorariums to get good speakers. Expense costs are being increased to allow for more events during the year. Food increases is needed to account for catering costs and increased attendance.

Rowan: What was this year's attendance? A: 40, plus professors.

Bethke: How many attendees came from other universities? A: 4 this year, had more when there were Zoom panels as well.

Bethke: Is the food request just for the conference? A: Yes. All other events are funded with external money.

Bethke: So, about \$30/person? A: Yes, over three meals.

Siegel: Happy about the inclusivity for dietary restrictions, also that you have used nearly all of your funds.

End Time: 5:17pm

Hearings Day #1 adjourned at 5:19 P.M.

Hearings resume on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 3:30 P.M. in the Senate Chambers.