

Budget Hearing Day 4 Minutes
Thursday, March 28th, Senate Chambers

Called to Order at 3:11pm

Childcare

- Committee Members Present: Burns(Chair), Rowan, Siegel, Eburra, Cyrille (Reps. Present: Hussain)
- Presenters: Tiffany Kaminsky, Dale Stacey
- Start Time: 3:12pm

Highlights

- Provides childcare services to FSU. Capacity of 133 children age 6wks-4yrs.
- Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. FL Gold Seal Quality Program.
 - Only NAEYC accredited program in Leon County and 7 surrounding counties with Infant Care.
- All faculty have degrees, student teachers are pursuing degrees in child centered majors. All staff are CPR and First Aid certified.
- Lower tuition than the average rate in Leon County and comparable FL university childcare centers.
- Hires student employees to further their collegiate progress and student achievement.
- Employs an early intervention specialist for early support of children with additional needs.
- 157 children, 99 of them are the children of students.
- Partnered with Grandbuddies Program, College of Med Pediatric Interest Group's Teddy Bear Clinic, TCC Dental Health, Free Hearing/Speech Training, Free Vision Exams.
- Empowers Student Parents for Success.
- Receives federal grant funding in order to provide financial assistance to parents and provide vouchers for student parents to go to other centers while on the waitlist.
- COGS Support maintains free tuition for student parents and helps maintain the current child-teacher ratio.
- The majority of student workers are undergraduate students.
- Assistant Teacher II - \$13.50/hr
- Assistant Teacher I - \$13/hr

Q&A

- Rowan: We need to discuss the email from this Spring. Who drafted the email to the childcare parents about COGS funding? A: Kaminsky
- Rowan: Did anyone edit this email before it was sent out? If so, who? A: No
- Rowan: Who approved the email before it was sent out? A: Dr. Chu and your supervisor. (Andy: also to myself and Dr. Williams)
- Burns: Dr. Staton is your direct supervisor? A: Yes.

- Rowan: Why did you use the phrase “if we lose funding”, when that was never even suggested? A: In our prior discussions, it was mentioned that COGS was looking for other funding options. This implied that other departments would be approached for that funding. We thought parents should know that it might impact their tuition and fees.
- Rowan: But COGS never said we were considering that we were considering a zero-fund. A: When we don’t know that COGS is a sure source, we have to let our parents know.
- Rowan: Does the College of Social work come to you in actual classes? A: The professor sets up time for students to come to the center to work with the children. Dr. Michelle Thomas and Dr. Lindsay Dennis worked with us.
- Siegel: Can you explain the grant? A: It is designed to help students in higher ed can have resources for childcare. Each year sets a different set of students to prioritize. This year focused on single students.
- Siegel: How much does that fund the Childcare Center? A: We got \$1.5m. Most goes to direct student fee assistance. Also funds six faculty positions. We had to increase the space for infants and toddlers.
- Eburra: Do student parents pay tuition? A: No.
 - I ask because the slide said that our funding helps reduce costs for parents. A: COGS funding allows us to charge a lower rate for student parents outside of the grants.
 - What is the difference between single students and student parents? A: Single student is an unmarried student with a child.
- Rowan: Does Speech and Communication Disorders come in classes? A: They send students working on their developmental disabilities certificate. Their advisor may come in to sit with them and observe their work. They don’t bring full classes.
 - Are there any other colleges who do such specific programming? A: Mostly Social Work, the other departments may send students to us for practicums (Psych, Early Children, Human).

COGS Grants

- Committee Members Present: Rowan (Acting Chair), Siegel, Eburra, Cyrille (Reps. Present: Hussain)
- Presenters: Joshua Burns
- Start Time: 3:45pm

Highlights

- Most discussion on this will be in deliberations
- The grants help support graduate students travel to the many conferences on offer each year.
- Currently:
 - Attendance Grants \$150
 - Presentation
 - Domestic: \$250

- International: \$600
 - Max of two grants, no more than \$600 total.
- 647 Presentation Grants awarded in FY 22-23.
 - Of \$200k allocated, nearly \$180k was awarded.
- 184 Attendance Grants awarded in FY 22-23
 - \$25,500 allocated, all awarded
- 617 Presentation Grants awarded so far in FY 23-24.
 - Of \$200k allocated, over \$160k was awarded.
- 210 Attendance Grants awarded so far in FY 23-24
 - \$25,500 allocated, all awarded
- Request for FY 24-25
 - Presentation: \$324,900
 - Attendance: \$74,880
- Proposed Grant Amounts for FY 24-25
 - Presentation Grants
 - Current: \$250
 - Proposed: \$300
 - Attendance Grants
 - Current: \$150
 - Proposed: \$180
- Proposed amount would allow for >1k presentation grants and 418 attendance grants.
- Costs are going up and the grants haven't in a while.

Q&A

- Siegel: Where did the 100-mi minimum for grants come from? A: Not sure where it came from, it's been around since before me.
 - Does the Panama City campus have events that FSU students wouldn't be eligible for? A: Understand that, it's a good thought. It hasn't become a problem with the grants but we can discuss it.
- Eburra: Can you get the presentation and attendance grant jointly for the same conference? A: Yes, but you have to apply separately and it would use all your grants for the FY.
 - This is the best way for graduate students to get help from COGS. Maybe we can bridge the gap to get a combined grant to \$500? A: We just need to make sure the amounts we set are sustainable.
 - Isn't there some unfairness that students missed the opportunity to get a reimbursement from last year if they already submitted the expense report? A: Kinda, but that's how the program worked so we couldn't do it.
- Hussain: Just because you are awarded the \$150, you aren't going to always get it? A: Correct, it's based on what you submit.

The Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Shazin, Josh, Francis, Chris, Jack

- Presenters: Katherine Bilodeau
- Start Time: 4:06 PM

Highlights

- Budget request
 - Identical to last year
 - \$3.3k
 - Expenses and food
- Events
 - Seminars
 - Talks
 - Coffee cart (once a week)
 - Social events
 - Educational events
 - Tallahassee Science Festival

Q&A

- Josh: can you remind me of the vendor you recently approved?
- A: alchemy climbing... had to submit the vendor request four times to get it approved.

Master of Public Health Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Burns (Chair), Rowan, Siegel, Cyrille
- Presenters: Nichole Sanchez, Dayja
- Start Time: 5:03pm

Highlights

- Raises awareness for public health related concerns, as well as enhancing the health status of students, faculty, and the surrounding population.
- Provides professional networking and development.
- Monthly seminars from public health professionals.
- Multiple volunteer events each month.
- Partnering with FSU and TLH orgs that share goals/missions.
- Public Health Professionals Conference: One day conference to learn about all areas of health from advanced professionals, connect with RSOs and orgs in the community.
 - Seminars
 - Tabling
 - Networking Hour
- Goal of 350 students at the conference.
- Requesting \$10,427.09 to ensure functioning.
 - Cost breakdown provided.
 - Headshot photographer and honorariums included.
- Benefits
 - Health is multidisciplinary
 - Poli Sci, Comp Sci, Nursing, etc.

- Free to all students
- Great place to network and find volunteering opportunities
- Partnering w/ RSOs
- Health Info impacts everyone.
- Attendees run the gamut of colleges.
- Another tradition: MPHSA Hooding Tradition
 - Done every fall and spring
 - Fall ~150 attendees in Longmire, costs \$2,061.04
 - Spring ~300 at Alumni Center, costs \$6,955.75
- Also asking for food for monthly meetings.

Q&A

- Burns: How many total attendees last year? A: ~400 and that was just our first conference. Had hoped for 500.
- Rowan: Does the department not chip in for the hooding? A: No.
- Cyrille: Who do you collaborate with? A: Faculty, community orgs, we had someone from FL AHCA. Tried to get a general surgeon, but not successful.

Neuroscience Graduate Student Association

- Committee Members Present: Burns (Chair), Rowan, Siegel, Cyrille
- Presenters: Ryan Ochoa
- Start Time: 5:27pm

Highlights

- Provides support to students in the neuroscience program, which spans a lot of departments and colleges.
- Approx. 8 active members, 35 regular attendees.
- Hosts student lunches with guests who speak and hold Q&As. Travel costs are covered by the department.
- The department has larger speakers near the end of semesters. Speakers are usually chosen by the students in a vote.
- Provides networking and professional development.
- Participated in the TLH Science Festival, also an event put on by the COE at the Challenger Center.
- Continuing outreach where students can get public speaking practice and learning how to explain complex topics in more understandable manners.
- Brain Bee: Highschoolers receive lectures from volunteers about the brain. The students then take a test and can qualify for a national competition.
- Brain Fair: An event in the Psych Building that showcases neuroscience to school children and the community. Demonstrations and posters were presented.
 - Used to get people by the busload, but attendance has slightly decreased as a result of COVID and post-COVID.

- Requesting \$6,200. The department is providing ~\$22k. Most of the request is based on food and shirts as the department covers much of the honorariums and other expenses.
 - Department has been willing to supplement as needed.
- Costs have increased as more events have returned to in-person.
- Benefits
 - Provides collaborative conversations among FSU and visiting scientists in Neuroscience-related fields.
 - Networking opportunities
 - Public speaking opportunities
 - Helping the broader TLH community
 - Advertising FSU Neuroscience

Q&A

- Cyrille: The spending has grown, does this mean the org and its impact have grown? A: Yes, in the sense that we're trying to participate in new events. Our members are participating in more events that provide communal experiences. We then try to internalize some of those opportunities and co-sponsor them. We have lost some members recently due to a large percentage of the program graduating.

Hearings adjourned at 5:45pm

Deliberations begin at 9am in Room 3254 (3rd Floor Project Room) of the Student Union.
Deliberations expected to end by 11am, but are noticed for longer, if necessary.