

THIRTY SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Budget Deliberations
3/29/24
MINUTES



Call to Order: 9:10 am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jared Bethke, Joshua Burns(Chair), Jack Rowan, Elisabeth Schumm, Kyanna Austin, Madeleine Siegel, Francis Ebuara

COMMITTEE MEMBERS LATE, EXCUSED: Frank Valez (Excused), Chris Cyrille (Excused)

Org Discussing:

Jack: I move to open discussion of the **African Graduate Student Association**

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: They are requesting \$2,500 in the expense category

Jack: They've shown their ability to use their funds effectively, and I support full funding

Madeleine: I agree they have a great set of events

Jack: I move to fund the African Student Association for \$2,500 for expenses

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Approved by unanimous consent

Josh: We will now move on to the discussion on the Anthropology Graduate Student Association, which is requesting \$700 for food and \$650 for clothing and awards, totaling \$1,350.00

Jack: I liked their event, and I think they are requesting less than they need. I am willing to support offering additional funding for shirts since they currently pay out of pocket for some of their shirts

Francis: I don't feel comfortable funding them extra

Jack: We previously had less money, and with our additional funds available, I think it is reasonable to offer additional funds.

Madeleine: They were very interested in receiving more funds when the potential to do so was discussed during their presentation

Elisabeth: motion to fund Anthropology Graduate Student Association \$700.00 in food and \$650.00 in expenses

Francis: 2nd

Josh: The **Bangladeshi Student Association** is next requesting \$2,250.00 in expense, \$5,200.00 for food, and \$1,200.00 for clothing and awards

Josh: I think their request is sound

Jack: I agree and I move to fund 2,250.00 in expense, \$5,200.00 for food, and \$1,200.00 for clothing and awards

Madeleine: 2nd

Josh: We'll move to the **Political Science Graduate Student Association**

Jack: The main use of funds is professional development and graduate student workshops, which I think are great causes

Josh: They are requesting \$7,500.00 in contractual services, \$200.00 expense, and \$1,200.00 in food

Jack: They are requesting more for each speaker than most organizations, but we have the extra funds for it

Madeleine: I noticed that too, is there a reason why?

Josh: motion to hear from an outside speaker?

Madeleine: 2nd

RSO Representative: Most people we fly out are tenured faculty from elite institutions such as Princeton, and we are dealing with inflation. Also, the event is at the end of the semester, which tends to be more expensive.

Madeleine: I think it is great to fund these types of events, and I am in support

Josh: do I have a motion to fully fund \$7,500.00 in contractual services, \$200.00 in expense, and \$1,200.00 in food

Madeleine: I move to fully fund.

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: We'll move into the request from the **Nepalese Student Association** for \$3,700.00 in food and \$400.00 for clothing/awards, and we do have a guest for the org. if we want to move to allow them to speak

Jack: I am glad we were able to sort out differences between their submitted request form and PowerPoint, and I support fully funding

Elisabeth: I agree they had a great lineup of events

Jack: I move to fully fund \$3,700.00 in food and \$400.00 for clothing/awards

Francis: 2nd

Josh: Next, we'll move to **Cheminoles**, who is requesting \$2,250.00 in expenses, \$5,200.00 in food, and \$1,200.00 in clothing and awards

Jack: they focused a lot on community outreach which I enjoyed, and I support their efforts to support STEM in the community

Madeleine: Their events are great, and their presentation was wonderful, with great outreach events within the community

Jack: they have been requesting funds for years, and it shows with the quality of their presentation

Jack: I move to fully fund

Madeleine: 2nd

Jared recused himself from voting

Josh: We'll move into **DURPSA** requesting \$200.00 in expenses, \$300.00 in food, and \$250.00 in clothing and awards

Francis: I have no issues with this request

Josh: Yes, it's a very simple request

Jared: We were not active for a few years, and we are mainly trying to get the ball rolling with funding, which is why our request is so conservative

Francis: I move to fund DURPSA \$200.00 in expenses, \$300.00 in food, and \$250.00 in clothing and awards

Jack: 2nd

Josh: next we will move into **Ecology & Evolution Research & Discussion Group** requesting \$2,709.00 in expenses, \$2,600.00 in food, and \$960.00 in clothing and awards

Jack: this is the one with the iPad, and I am not fully opposed, but I think two iPads are too much. Instead, I say we request they only ask for one, and they could request more later

Madeleine: I am surprised about their number, 380 sounds too little for an iPad, but I agree that it is good idea to test it out with one.

Elisabeth: They are using them for an electronic microscope for kids to use at elementary school

Francis: Why do they need to connect it to an iPad?

Madeleine: The digital microscope is easier to use for students

Francis: I know they do a lot of outreach, and I support their effort

Jack: I move to fund Ecology & Evolution Research & Discussion Group \$2,709.00 in expenses, \$2,600.00 in food, and \$960.00 in clothing and awards.

Francis: 2nd

Jack: I move to provide proviso language stating, "only one iPad may be purchased with these funds."

Josh: Next, we're moving into the **Society for Musicology** requesting \$6,000.00 in contractual services and \$400 for food

Jack: all contractual services are for honorarium, which is less than poli-sci, so I am in support

Madeleine: Do we cover food per diem?

Jack: Sometimes it gets wrapped into honorarium

Jack: I move to fund fully

Madeleine: 2nd

Josh: **LEARN** is requesting 2000 in contractual services, \$985.00 in expenses, and \$4,150.00 in food

Elisabeth: Jack, you asked what you would do with extra funds, and they wished to learn more about a potential scholarship

Jack: It was about a scholarship for data analysis software to fund purchasing the software

Jack: I move to hear from the outside speaker.

Elisabeth: 2nd

Outside speaker: It would be beneficial to use extra funds for students to help purchase research software such as STATA.

Jared: It is offered for free from the university, but it is oftentimes challenging to use

Jack: since it is free, I say we should just fully fund

Jack: I move to Fully fund for 2000 in cont. services, \$985.00 in expenses, and \$4,150.00 in food

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next is the **Graduate Researchers of Geography** requesting \$400.00 in contractual services, \$1,200.00 in food, and \$300 in clothing and awards for a total of \$1,900.00.

Francis: I don't think we have any issues, so I move to fund \$400.00 in contractual services, \$1,200.00 in food, and \$300.00 in clothing and awards for a total of \$1,900.00

Madeleine: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into **Graduate Women in STEM**, requesting \$1,150.00 in expenses, \$2,000.00 in food, and \$2,300.00 in clothing and awards for a total of \$5,450.00

Josh: I am very impressed with what they do, such as the art in stem posters in Dirac, and their presentation was great

Jack: Grace, their president, is great as well

Madeleine: They might need more funding later, but I have no issues with their request
Francis: I move to fund the Graduate Women in STEM \$1,150.00 in expenses, \$2,000.00 in food, and \$2,300.00 in clothing and awards for a total of \$5,450.00
Jack: 2nd

Josh and Elisabeth recused themselves for their deliberation

Jack: The **Higher Education Student Association** is next
Josh: There were some issues with spending the remaining funds for this year, but these seemed to be resolved, and there are events they are planning to use funds on
Elisabeth: There are at least three events planned before the end of the semester
Jack: I move to fund The Higher Ed Student Association \$2,750.00 in expenses, \$3,500.00 in food, and \$500.00 for clothing and awards.
Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: **Hispanic Graduate Student Association** is requesting \$3,300.00 contractual services, \$2,140.00 in expenses, \$4,200.00 in food, and \$2,700.00 in clothing and awards
Josh: This is one of our largest requests, but they host a lot of great events, so I support funding them
Jack: I went to an event, and it was excellent and involved coordination between other organizations
Madeleine: Do they work under HLSU, and how many members do they have?
Jack: They do not
Josh: They have 98 members, which is high for a graduate organization
Madeleine: Motion to fund the Hispanic Graduate Student Association for \$3,300.00 in contractual services, \$2,140.00 in expenses, \$4,200.00 in food, and \$2,700.00 in clothing and awards for a total of \$12,043.00
Jack: 2nd

Josh: next is the **History Graduate Student Association** requesting \$1,600.00 for contractual services, \$2,000.00 for expenses, and \$1,600.00 for food
Jack: The main event is their annual conference, which is a large event they host. They present over 30 graduate student papers each year, which I think is great for graduate students' professional development. Also, they self-fund with market Wednesday book sales, which I appreciate.
Madeleine: Motion to approve History Graduate Student Association for \$1,600.00 in contractual services, \$2,000.00 in expenses, and \$1,600.00 in food
Elisabeth: 2nd

Jack: Let's quickly move back to the **Bangladeshi Student Association**, where there was an issue with the BBQ. There was a request for raw food, which is against university policy.
Jack: I move to add a proviso stating, "Pursuant to University policy, no funds shall be expended on raw foods that need to be cooked."
Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into the **Masters of Applied American Politics and Policy Association** requesting \$2,300.00 in contractual services, \$1,200.00 in expenses, \$2,000.00 in food, and \$1,350.00 in clothing and awards

Jack: MAP is interesting, and what I think is interesting is that many local political leaders come back to the MAP program years into their careers, which I think is great for the university. They have good leadership, and I have faith that they will use the funds well

Madeleine: I have heard the program is difficult, so I think this organization can offer needed support

Jack: I move to fund the Masters of Applied American Politics and Policy Association for \$2,300.00 in contr. services, \$1,200.00 in expenses, \$2,000.00 in food, and \$1,350.00 in clothing and awards

Madeleine: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into the **Masters of Public Health Student Association** requesting \$1,000.00 in contractual services, \$4,278.10 in expenses, and \$11,729.59 in food

Josh: This is our biggest RSO request, but rightfully so because they host a large conference with speakers from multiple programs that pull in many graduate and undergraduate students, so I am in support

Francis: Is this funding only for the conference?

Jack: mostly, but they also host smaller monthly events with speakers

Josh: They also use funds for the hooding ceremony, which I am happy to fund since the administration does not fund it, and it is held in the ASLC.

Elisabeth: Motion to funds Masters of Public Health Student Association for \$1,000.00 in contractual services, \$4,278.10 in expenses, \$11,729.59 in food

Jack: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into the **Organization for Religion Graduate Students** requesting \$3,800.00 in contractual services, \$500.00 in expenses, and \$1,700.00 in food

Jack: I was confused at first because I thought this was an organization for religious students, but it is actually an organization for students in graduate school studying religion.

Josh: A lot of these funds are for the conference they host

Jack: I move to funds Religion Graduate Students requesting \$3,800.00 in contractual services, \$500.00 in expenses, and \$1,700.00 in food

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next, we'll move into **Philosophy Graduate Student Association** requesting \$2,600.00 in contractual services and \$400 in food

Jack: They are the number one action theory department in the nation, which I like. I also liked that they wished to collaborate with FAMU and TSC for their conference

Josh: Do we have a motion to fully fund?

Francis: I so move

Jack: 2nd

Josh: Next, we'll move to the **Physics Graduate Student Association**, which is requesting \$2000 for food. They also wished to receive \$1,500 in funds for clothing but did not get a quote.

Jack: I think we can fund them for \$1,500 for clothing even if they did not get a quote. We have done it before

Jack: I move to fund the Physics Graduate Student Association which is requesting \$2000 for food with an additional \$1,500 for clothing.

Francis: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move onto **Southeast Review**, requesting \$3,500.00 in contractual services, \$3,000.00 in expenses, \$250.00 in food, and \$250.00 in clothing and awards

Josh: A point of clarification, their publication, which is requesting COGS funds, received approval from the publisher to offer free copies for students

Jack: I really like this organization, and I think we might need a proviso. I also think we should consider increasing expense funding for more copies of the publication for students

Madeleine: They fundraise a lot via sales of their publications, which I was very impressed about

Elisabeth: I was also very impressed with this organization, especially their work with the women's prison

Madeleine: I agree that they could use additional expense funds

Elisabeth: I move to fund Southeast Review \$3,500.00 in contractual services, \$3,000.00 in expenses, \$250.00 in food, and \$250.00 in clothing and awards

Jack: 2nd

Jack: I move to add the proviso "Southeast Review shall have a distribution plan where FSU students have the opportunity to receive free copies of the Review."

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move on to **Student Art Therapy at FSU**, requesting \$2,000.00 in contractual services and \$2,000.00 in expenses

Elisabeth: I think the organization is very equitable hosts great self care and outreach event

Francis: I move to fully fund Student Art Therapy at FSU, requesting \$2,000.00 in cont. services and \$2,000.00 in expense

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into **The Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association** request for \$1,450.00 in expenses and \$1,850.00 in food

Jack: This is the coffee cart one Maddie. Since that seems like their main attraction, I think we should help update their coffee cart, which seemed small and worn

Madeleine: Could we help them with that in sweeping?

Jack: we can definitely recommend they go to sweepings

Josh: Do we have a motion to fully fund?

Jack: I move to fund The Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association requesting \$1,450.00 in expenses and \$1,850.00 in food

Madeleine: 2nd

Josh: We will move into our last request, which is from the Neuroscience Graduate Student Association, requesting \$500.00 in expenses, \$4,700.00 in food, and \$1,000.00 in clothing and awards. The only context I would give is that they are trying to become more active post-covid and are doing significant outreach. They also work with K-12 students.

Josh: Do I have a motion to fund fully?

Jack: So moved.

Madeleine: 2nd

Josh: We will skip COGS and speaker request and move into **Law School Council** requesting \$20,000 in contractual services, \$25,000 in expenses, and \$55,000 in food

Francis: For the request from the Law and Medical School Council, are their RSOs within the council?

Jack: Yes, there are many RSOs under them

Josh: These councils allocate to these RSO

Jack: I think we should put all funds under expense to give them the flexibility to fund as they wish

Madeleine: I think that putting it all in expense is good and would make it easier for all of us

Francis: Do all RSOs under LSC request funds as well?

Jack: Yes, and both Councils do budget requests each semester, giving COGS more oversight over how they spend funds

Josh: Do we have a motion to fund \$100,000 in expenses for the Law School Council

Elisabeth: I move

Francis: 2nd

Josh: we'll now move into the **Medical School Council** requesting \$4,525.44 in contractual services, \$23,067.00 in expenses, \$76,501.70 in food, and \$5,905.86 in clothing and awards

Jack: I love MCS

Madeleine: Me too. They have \$175,000 in programming but are only asking for \$110,000, which to me, shows dedication to seeking outside funds

Elisabeth: I was very impressed with the detail and dedication in their budget request

Jack: I move to fund the MCS \$110,000 in the expense category

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into **FSU Childcare**, requesting \$262,608.00 in just the OPS wage category

Jack: The childcare center serves an important function in providing free childcare to our students. My main issue was communication. The email sent out lacked context of the process we must go through to fund to childcare center. I was disappointed in the process this year but still recognize the importance of the center. Moving forward, wish to look into alternative funding avenues

Madeleine: The center is important for our students for both childcare and learning opportunities, but I am still confused by why we fund it since most of those benefiting from the center are not graduate students.

Jack: I understand why, this is a deal COGS made in the past to get increased funding but moving forward, we should seek alternative avenues to bring in support from the entire university

Madeleine: are there any grants?

Jack: yes, but it doesn't cover student workers, which we pay for

Francis: is it graduate student workers?

Jack: it is mostly undergrad workers, over 90%

Francis: Did senate ever help with Child Care?

Jack: they used to, but we made a deal with senate to pay the full cost of the Globe and Childcare for extra COGS funding

Jack: With that, I move fully fund FSU Childcare, requesting \$262,608.00 in just the OPS wage category

Francis: 2nd

Josh and Jack are both recused from this deliberation

Josh: first, we will go into the **COGS Administration** request for \$24,024.00 in OPS wages, \$15,450.00 in expenses, \$3,000.00 in food, and \$15,000.00 in clothing and awards for a total of \$57,474.00

Francis: Since we already talked about this during your presentation, Jack, I move to fully fund the COGS Administration budget request.

Jack: I 2nd

Jack: I request a proviso laying out the hours for each office. In previous years we did not have exact hours set for the positions

Francis: Yes, go for it

Jack: motion to include the proviso "OPS Wages: Pays the wages of the COGS Exec Board. Requested pay rates: Speaker (12hr/wk @ \$13/hr for 44wks), Deputy Speaker for Finance (10hr/wk @ \$13/hr for 44wks), Deputy Speaker for Communications (10hr/wk @ \$13/hr), for 44wks), Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs (10hr/wk @ \$13/hr for 44wks)."

Francis: I 2nd that

Jack recused from this deliberation

Josh: Next, we will move into the **Speaker's Request** for \$10,000.00 in expenses

Josh: It is very import if we ever have an issue where an RSO needs funds last-minute funds. In the past, I helped an RSO get last-minute food for using these funds.

Francis: I move to fully fund the Speaker's Request for \$10,000 in expenses

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next, we are going into **The Globe Facilities** request for \$70,541.00 in salaries, \$25,350.00 in OPS wages, and \$2,300.00 in expenses. I do not have many comments but they have been very flexible, especially with their OPS wages, seeking external funds.

Jack: it was over \$100,000 last year

Josh: They have great spaces for graduate students, with a reserved graduate space.

Elisabeth: I was impressed that they were able to cut the number of OPS students and increase hours

Francis: We pay for salaried staff?

Josh: Yes, it is one individual who manages OPS staff and the building. This item pays for his entire salary and allows us to have the reserved graduate room

Jack: There are more benefits than just paying for wages

Jack: I move to fund The Globe Facilities requesting \$70,541.00 in salaries, \$25,350.00 in OPS wages, and \$2,300.00 in expenses for a total of \$98,191.00

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into **The Graduate School** requesting \$6,000.00 in expenses, \$11,400.00 in food, and \$10,500.00 in Clothing & Awards for a total of \$27,900.00

Jack: I want to get Dean Riley to come speak to the COGS board. He is passionate about COGS and he has repeatedly supported COGS and had COGS' back

Elisabeth: You will be speaking at one of their events?

Jack: Yes, and a part of their request is reserving Ruby Diamond for that event

Elisabeth: I think it is great that they are having you speak, Jack.

Jack: It's fantastic, and they generally do great work, and I am happy we are supporting them.

Francis: So are we just funding the grad school?

Jack: We help fund the grad school and workshops that OGFA does, but we do not directly fund OGFA

Josh: Do we have a motion to fully fund?

Elisabeth: I move to fund The Graduate School for \$6,000.00 in expenses, \$11,400.00 in food, and \$10,500.00 in Clothing & Awards for a total of \$27,900.00

Jack: 2nd

Josh: Next, we will move into the **Dissertation Research Grant**, requesting \$10,000 in grants

Jack: they use the full amount each year and have already used all funds. Dissertation research is expensive, especially for STEM, so I am in full support

Francis: How is it awarded?

Jack: committee of faculty review requests twice a year. Students can receive a max of \$1,000

Francis: I have never seen a call for application.

Jack: it is on the graduate school website, and someone is working on a master list of funding options, which I have been working on to help add all graduate opportunities.

Jack: I move to fund a Dissertation Research Grant for \$10,000 in grants

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: we will now move into the **Graduate Student Op-Ed Competition** (Graduate School) requesting \$5,000.00 in expenses

Elisabeth: I think it is very impressive and think it's great that it is open to all of grad school even though it is through the English Department

Jack: I will be working with Senate for additional funding

Francis: Which RSO is this?

Jack: It's a new event from the grad school, and I put it in a separate line item alongside the grants. It is going to include Op-Ed workshops and is open to all graduate students in all categories, from STEM to politics

Elisabeth: I also appreciated the workshop aspect for professional development

Francis: I move to fund the Graduate Student Op-Ed Competition fully

Elisabeth: 2nd

Josh: Shezin has been here for a while if you have any questions and we will move into the **Conference Presentation Grants(Conference Attendance Grants)** requesting \$324,900.00 in expenses which is my proposed new amount.

Jack: I like the 20% increase. Some have cautioned about going too high, but I think 20% is good with increased prices. This would allow us to nearly double the number of grants. I think we might need to cut a few \$10,000s from this. I think this is the biggest area we can afford to cut considering we want to fund some RSOs more. Multiple RSOs did not put in requests that normally make major requests, and I would like to continue to fund them. I think we should cut grants to fund those RSO

Shezin: How would you like to fund?

Jack: Based on the number in the presentation, I think we can do \$1,200 per presentation and we can significantly increase unallocated funds and if we went down to \$1,000 we could increase unallocated by \$25,000. This would increase both the grant total and the number of requests.

Josh: I think this is a better, more realistic increase

Shezin: I just want to understand the figure and if you think that is feasible.

Jack: For clean numbers fund 300,000 for presentation and 400,000 for attendance grants, not including international.

Shazime: \$300,000 for presentation?

Jack: Yes

Jack: Students receiving presentation grants can receive an extra \$50 per request

Francis: I think presentation grants are one of the most important parts of COGS

Jack: In QEP, they have set aside 1.3 million dollars annually in grants for the next four years, with \$1,000 available to every doctoral student for research and travel. Those wishing to request this grant must go to COGS beforehand.

Shezin: They must go to COGS first to receive this grant. Correct?

Jack: that is my understanding.

Shezin: Getting a 20% increase will make a difference for students making presentations. I have heard from many students who were happy just to get something from COGS.

Jack: Question for you, Josh, since we're not requesting the international increase, will we not have to change the \$600 cap?

Josh: yes

Jack: then we can address it at a later

Jack: I move to fund the Conference Attendance Grants \$72,000

Elisabeth: 2nd

Jack: I move to fund \$300,000 for Presentation Grants

Elisabeth: 2nd

Jack: I move to include the proviso "Notwithstanding conflicting COGS Code, for the 2024-2025 FY, the domestic Presentation Grant shall be \$300, and the domestic and international Attendance Grant shall be \$180. No later than February 1, 2025, the Speaker shall appoint a committee to study whether to permanently change the grant amounts in the COGS Code, which shall report to the Assembly before final passage of the COGS FY 2025-2026 Budget."

Francis: 2nd

Josh: Move to approve the current budget

Jack: So moved

Francis: 2nd

Adjournment/Finale Roll Call: 11:48 am