

Budget Committee Hearings

Monday, January 30th on Zoom

Start Time: 5:31 PM

- Budget Committee Present: Susan Rogowski, Joshua Burns, Nella Delva, Kevin Salimi, and Anthanasios (Ethan) Vouzas

- Student Engagement/SGA
 - Presenters: Dr. Felicia Williams
 - Presentation:
 - Dr. Williams: SGA is addressing problems, challenges, and needs across the FSU campus
 - Dr. Williams: Two additional positions are desired to be filled, Program Manager and Student Program Coordinator. Both positions will assist with COGS as well.
 - Dr. Williams: The Program Manager will be instrumental in implementing some of the changes requested by the graduate student task force. Some of these include promoting the existing resources to graduate students, helping to develop a presence for graduate students, having a graduate student appreciation week, and graduate programs that will occur twice a semester.
 - Dr. Williams: Video shown of FSUNITE, an event that shows how students can be brought together. Also, it shows how the previously mentioned positions will help promote student belonging on campus, especially graduate students.
 - Dr. Williams: The request of \$185,000 would be used to cover the salary and expenses (worker's comp, general liability insurance, etc.) of positions.
 - Dr. Williams: OPS Wages of \$8,400 will be used to fund the wages of OPS students, currently two student workers, and would remain the same. The increase in request is due to a wage increase.
 - Dr. Williams: Administrative expenses of \$12,000 used for the upkeep of offices, computer changes, materials, technology, etc. Many of these costs have been associated with being in the New Student Union.
 - Questions:
 - Susan: Can you talk about the position(s), that is requested to be added?
 - Dr. Williams: If the person is requesting a salary amount, a percentage of that must be met. Fringe benefits of 50-55k, then fringe benefits would have to be 20-25k. A request of 160k is meant to be enough for those higher-end salary amounts. There needs to be a cushion for wage increases as well.
 - Susan: What would the Student Program Coordinator do for COGS?
 - Dr. Williams: Would be there for COGS meetings, work with grant programs, and advisement of COGS members. The Program Manager

would be the 'visionary' of growing the Congress and what graduate life would look like on campus.

- Susan: Was the program manager the interviews taking place last semester?
 - Dr. Williams: Yes.
 - Susan: When will an offer be given for the Program Manager position?
 - Dr. Williams: Salary analysis needs to take place first.
 - Kevin: How imperative is the Student Program Coordinator position?
 - Dr. Williams: Already understaffed, so there would immediately be work to do. There is a definite need for a Program Manager, but Coordinator would have work to do as well.
 - Nella: Strategies for recruiting qualified applicants for the role(s)?
 - Dr. Williams: Ways of advertising and recruiting from Higher Education sites and resources. This includes ACPA and NASPA national conferences. The difficulty comes from the pandemic and other factors.
 - Jacalyn Butts: Posted on Inside Higher Ed jobs. The position requires a master's degree. The salary amount also matches the competitive market for hiring in the college area.
 - Susan: Due to cuts, what part of your requests could be sacrificed?
 - Dr. Williams: No area for cuts, but OPS positions could be an area to cut. No wiggle room for requested positions.
- FSU Childcare
 - Presenters: Tiffany Karnisky and Dr. Shannon Staten
 - Presentation:
 - Tiffany: The accreditation process is very rigorous. Two NAEYC accredited centers in Leon county, and FSU childcare is one of them. Only one to offer infant care in surrounding areas.
 - Tiffany: 12 faculty members, student teachers, and all teachers meet mandated state training.
 - Tiffany: For tuition rates, are lower than comparable centers in Leon county. Tuition includes everything that families need. Many programs charge extra fees or require families to bring in supplies.
 - Tiffany: Care and education are high quality and follow current, emerging practices in the field. Have not raised tuition since 2018.
 - Tiffany: 6 to 12 faculty with grant funding. Early Intervention Services is new as of last year and serves students with specialized services.
 - Tiffany: Increased in students at the center, an increase of 32.
 - Tiffany: Several student parents with children at the Center are graduate students.
 - Tiffany: 4-year grant received from the Department of Education, allowed the Center to increase services to children and families. Will go to student families, and 60% of funding goes towards paying tuition.

- Tiffany: COGS support helps fund student wages, which cannot be covered by the grant. This is requested as \$243,223 in OPS student wages.
 - Tiffany: COGS invited them to tour the facility and meet with staff and families.
 - Questions
 - Joshua: What are the responsibilities of OPS teaching positions?
 - Tiffany: Really fulfill a full teaching position and responsibilities. This includes lesson plans, assessments, supervision of children, and collaboration with faculty.
 - Nella: Can you address the waiting list of families waiting to enroll their children?
 - Tiffany: The grant allows the Center to work with families to see if they are already receiving assistance in the community. Also, setting up engagement opportunities such as parent education classes. Many of these students and families are low-income, so connecting them to resources in the community as well.
 - Nella: Are you still thinking of partnering with other daycare centers or programs to address waiting list parents?
 - Tiffany: There is a list of comparable centers that is given to these parents. The main thing that helps these parents is grant funding.
- Nepalese Student Association
 - Presenters: Gyanendra Shrestha, Bhushan Dahal, Yuwaraj Adhikari
 - Presentation:
 - Gyanendra: The goal is to help both graduate and undergraduate Nepalese students at FSU
 - Gyanendra: Helping international students with finding an apartment, picking them up at the airport, and assisting with FSU-related paperwork.
 - Gyanendra: With help of COGS funding, it helps fund events such as the Dashain Celebration.
 - Gyanendra: Some of the funding spent is a self-generated fund from non-FSU Nepalese.
 - Gyanendra: The fundraising event in 2015 was able to raise funds, but was not given due to legal difficulties. Now able to send these funds.
 - Gyanendra: The rest of the funding, aside from the \$1,950 requested from COGS, will be requested by NSA-FSU members.
 - Questions:
 - Susan: For clarification, how does funding work other than COGS?
 - Gyanendra: RSVP before the event, to see non-FSU NSA members. This is where other funding is coming from.
 - Bhushan: Clarification on funding is provided in more detail.
- African Graduate Student Association

- Presenters: Alaba Ilesanmi, Doreen Addo-Yobo, and Ellis Boateng
- Presentation:
 - Ellis: Overview of the purpose and missions of AGSA.
 - Ellis: For the spring of 2024, there are plans to hold six events.
 - Ellis: 2,550 for food and \$650 for other expenses.
 - Ellis: Due to COVID-19, there was low membership, but has been built into a larger membership.
 - Ellis: CGE International Coffee Hour for this semester is collaborative and meant to showcase African culture. Expenses will be covered by CGE and COGS.
 - Ellis: Provide services to international students through airport pickup and other transportation services. Has been done since 2020 and is covered by AGSA members.
 - Ellis: Self-Generated funds have been raised by AGSA members.
- Questions:
 - Ethan: What do the \$650 of expenses cover?
 - Ellis: Expenses are used for transportation so that students can come to the event
 - Alaba: Extra expenses are used for an international coffee hour event. Other expenses are used for a beach day.
 - Ethan: For the food category, are the funds used for restaurants?
 - Ellis: Much of the funding is used for food items not made by members
 - Nella: Are there any events planned for the summer?
 - Ellis: Accommodations have been made for fall and spring. There are no planned events for the summer.
 - Doreen: Most members travel out of the state during the summer. Hard to figure out numbers for how many would attend events.
 - Susan: For some of the funding for cars and gas, there would need to be approvals given in the COGS assembly.
- Cheminoles
 - Presenters: Catherine Fabiano, Emily Grumbles, Erica Truong, Fabiola Gonzalez, and Joshua Davis
 - Presentation:
 - Catherine: Three main goals: Networking opportunities within the Chemistry department and outside, love for science within and outside of Leon County, and building a community for students in the sciences.
 - Catherine: Expectations for attendance have been exceeded for events
 - Catherine: Drinks & Discussion has no expenses associated and is meant to build community amongst STEM faculty and students.
 - Catherine: Funding for shirts was not enough, but received \$53 from Chemistry Department.
 - Catherine: Spring 2023 budget outline given

- Catherine: Increases in requested funds due to more food being needed at events and higher attendance numbers.
 - Catherine: Several news events proposed for the 2023-2024 academic year, including a banquet for graduating students. Includes a request for pins for alumni.
 - Catherine: Fundraising coming from events where FSU students can donate, such as the PIE a PI and ChemiNoles 5k Walk/Run
 - Questions:
 - Susan: Where is the additional \$2,000 coming from?
 - Catherine: A lot of the funding is coming from the Back to School BBQ event, two more Tailgate events, pins for the banquet, research-sharing events, and shirts as funding last year was not enough.
 - Susan: What would be your preference for cuts, if needed?
 - Catherine: Pins for the banquet event and cuts to the food budget, as tailgate events can be limited.
- CHAOS
 - Presenters: Heather Miller
 - Presentation:
 - Heather: The member count is currently 45
 - Heather: Former funding has gone towards guest lectures. Attendance was at 42, with 93% member turnout.
 - Heather: All funds were not used, as leadership changes took place. Also, found out that conferences in spring and fall work better than in the summer. Format in-person works better than Zoom.
 - Heather: Would like to expand guest lectures to be outside of the Tallahassee area, as a result, travel expenses were expanded.
 - Heather: Shift from a guest speaker format to a guest panel, which can be beneficial to students in gaining information.
 - Heather: The food budget is being increased due to a preference for boxed lunches. Helps reduce waste and increase attendance.
 - Questions
 - N/A
- Law Student Council
 - Presenters: Cristen Chandler and Samantha Seiglie
 - Presentation:
 - Cristen: LSC comprised of 40 RSOs. Many are catered to specific areas of law. Most students in the college of law in at least one RSO, but some are in multiple.
 - Cristen: Recent budget was \$61,00 for 2022-2023.
 - Cristen: Difficult to list the largest events as they are hosted by the several RSOs.

- Cristen: Providing a breakdown of expenses by month in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023.
- Cristen: Middle months tend to be the busy months, which are October and March.
- Samantha: In October, some RSOs had to be told that there was too much being requested for good.
- Cristen: In November, expenses started to slow down as finals season started. This continues in December as the expenses are low. At the End of the semester, there was \$30,985 left in funds.
- Cristen: \$7950 is a high number for January, but includes food, expenses, and contractual services costs.
- Cristen: A request is to have more funding for competitions and registration in the 2023-2024 school year.
- Questions
 - Ethan: How much funding is allocated for the tailgates? What is purchased for those?
 - Samantha: \$500-\$1000 for the tailgate. Goes towards supplies such as food, cups, drinks, etc.
 - Kevin: Is the \$9,000 increase due to SBA not having dues anymore?
 - Samantha: Pre-COVID, first-year members would pay dues. Members could get in for free at events, but non-members could not. SBA has now phased out its dues, but there are still some members that did pay dues. Funding now would come from LLC.
 - Kevin: Is the ball a ticketed event? Open to the general public?
 - Samantha: Yes it is, for the sale of alcohol. It is open to the public.
 - Susan: SBA can make dues an optional thing, but is hesitant as ticketed events cannot be covered by A&S fees.
 - Samantha: SBA has optional dues, but no one pays it. The ball event had a high ticket price of \$75. SBA was told that this event cannot be charged for FSU students.
 - Susan: Where could cuts take place, if needed?
 - Cristen: Food is seen as an essential area for events. In the expenses area, contractual services can be limited as requests have been down.
 - Susan: What are examples of costs covered in the expenses category?
 - Samantha: Used on items such as games materials
 - Cristen: A lot of this goes towards the venue, Barristers. Decrease in traveling and conference expenses.
 - Susan: What is the cost of a band and what does it cover?
 - Samantha: \$10 and covers the tab cost for drinks
 - Kevin: Is SBA buying shirts for first-years?
 - Samantha: Yes, difficult to buy a small number of shirts due to costs.
 - Samantha: Every law school and their SBA holds a ball.
 - Susan: There have been issues with the executive board connecting with LSC. How often are you meeting for LSC?

- Samantha: Once a month, but oftentimes more for various reasons. ‘
 - Susan: Do you think it would be beneficial for RSOs to meet twice a month?
 - Samantha: It can be, but some months are slower than others. The beginning of the semester months is usually the busiest. RSOs can have issues with getting budgets finalized, but LSC offers support, especially for the smaller RSOs.
- Student Art Therapy Association
 - Presenters: Emma Garcia
 - Presentation:
 - Emma: Mostly graduate students as it is a graduate program, but have undergraduate students that are interested in the program or just have general interest. Collaborations with Studio H, another student organization.
 - Emma: Typically, the same events occur every year. Has collaboration with other organizations, such as the football team.
 - Emma: Monthly events costs are lower, which consist of art supplies. Encourage donations for t-shirts, but do not require them. For the \$3,000 workshop cost, the most go towards the cost of the speaker.
 - Emma: The bulk of the budget is the AATA conference, in which 10 students max are funded to attend with \$500.
 - Questions
 - Susan: Is the current budget request Qualtrics updated?
 - Emma: The funding on the Qualtrics is just for the 2023 spring workshop. This request has already been submitted as an unallocated funds request.
 - Susan: For the conference, asked to go through the conference grant request. Currently, the \$5,000 conference request will be deliberated.
 - Susan: Dues are not currently being charged?
 - Emma: Yes, that is correct.
 - Susan: Are there any funds coming outside of COGS and A&S funding?
 - Emma: No.
 - Susan: Are there funds for students to attend conferences?
 - Emma: Three scholarships are offered to students.
 - Susan: Recommendation to reach out to an advisor to match funding through the department for conference funding.
- Hispanic Graduate Student Association
 - Presenters: Claudio Robelo Guzman, Jorge Galeano, Martin Gandur, and Alexia Bejarano
 - Presentation:
 - Martin: Main events for spring include International Coffee Hour, Cinehassee, HiGSA Talks, and International Bazaar.

- Martin: Growth has been seen in NoleCentral members, WhatsApp group chat members, and email subscribers. There are several co-sponsorships with other departments, offices, and organizations at and outside of FSU.
- Claudio: Going to table at Market Wednesdays as it has been successful to connect with students and faculty.
- Claudio: Another important item is funding for Cinehassee. Although there is outside funding, funding from COGS is also needed.
- Questions:
 - Susan: What are the plans for spending the increased budget?
 - Claudio: Wanting to purchase two new banners and new graphic designs, and decided to shift budget items from the spring to the fall semester. This is due to the events HiGSA Talks and Cinehassee.
 - Claudio: Funding for items to give away at Market Wednesday.
- End Time: 8:55 PM