

Agenda for the Internal affairs committee meeting

Call to Order: 3:05pm 10/05/22; In Attendance: Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs Delva, Speaker Neale, Deputy Speaker for Finance Rogowski, Representative Vouzas

Delva: We will be talking about COGS code, sections with program coordinator and group travel, to agree on interpretation of meaning. The second item, Bill 12, was previously submitted to adjust COGS section in FSU statutes. Sent in 29th Congress, to strengthen relationship and change language, was vetoed previously, want to figure out how to move it forward by potentially changing what was written. 3rd point is interpreting group travel to address meeting with faculty, focusing on highlighted portion below. Goal: agree on interpretation, this is our top priority. My idea of a tabling event is that the group decided to attend an event to promote the RSO or FSU. What are your thoughts on that?

Neale: I believe since it says "and", tabling must be for the purpose of promoting both the RSO and FSU

Delva: Department of Urban and Regional Planning put in a group travel request, was previously allocated funds for travel, however, this was potentially against COGS code.

Rogowski: This is not what I would interpret as a panel. We should research RTAC to be able to offer as a potential alternative.

Delva: According to the request, it doesn't appear to meet the requirements for group travel.

Rogowski: Multiple reasons why we can't fund this, there is no panel discussion or tabling described in the request. We also can't fund anything going to community benefit outside FSU, unfortunately. Meeting with a panel of people doesn't mean the requirement. We need to decide on, in statutes, what a panel means.

Vouzas: This seems like a conference. My opinion is that we should tell the department to recommend that the students go through the attendance/presentation grant program for support.

Rogowski: It seems to be community building program abroad

Vouzas: I understand we aren't supposed to do things that benefit outside communities, but the boundary line to me seems thin. Going to a conference benefits community. This seems to directly benefit the students.

Rogowski: I agree with you.

Vouzas: A lot of times what's considered a "presentation" is open to interpretation. For examples, competing in competitions and musical performances

Rogowski: I think we would interpret it in that case. What musical people are doing is performing somewhere which makes sense for their academics.

Vouzas: Looking at the Qualtrics, it is one trip for 8 days, for 3 people, so, I could make the argument that this trip is a presentation/attendance to present their work.

Rogowski: I'm fine with them applying individually for travel grants

Vouzas: If they go through that program, they're following the rules for travel grants and not setting a precedent against the COGS Code for group travel

Delva: We have to be careful suggesting people to mold their requests to try and fit the requirements. We should ask them directly if the program/project includes a panel or tabling. What is considered a panel and tabling event?

Rogowski: Panel discussion to me means, 3 to 4 people at a table, having a discussion and answering questions. This sounds like a planning meeting, roundtable that isn't a panel.

Delva: I was thinking the same thing. What about tabling?

Rogowski: Like market Wednesday or a space where organizations are able to promote themselves.

Rogowski: By the way, I want us to work on striking this from the code but we have to interpret it this way for now

Neale: Changes definitely need to be made to the travel sections but they must be sustainable within the constraints of our budget.

Rogowski: The whole section of our travel code is vague, if you ask me.

Delva: We can discuss the specifics on what we might want to and could change on that. It needs to be done.

Neale: I think we can begin to brainstorm but we have more homework to do in statutes, FL law, and how A&S fees can be used. Then we can come back together and design something that meets all those restrictions

Delva: Any other questions?

Neale: I believe the primary purpose of the group travel ... What about the 3/4 requirement?

Vouzas: I believe that means that 3/4 of the traveling members need to be leading a panel

Delva: What percentage of time should

Rogowski: I don't want to give guidelines so that people change to match the

Neale: I don't think we should limit ourselves by making unnecessary restrictions not listed in code.

Delva: Homework for next meeting; first section, program coordinator; work section by section, I will work on program associate

Neale: We'll have to decide who's taking over those old responsibilities

Delva: I'll make notes about that for us to discuss next time

Rogowski: We should also inform them of RTAC as a potential resource

Neale: Let them know they can't get RTAC and COGS funding in the same fiscal year. I have some notes

Rogowski: I think the voting member is an issue in the bill

Neale: I agree, that will have to be removed. I have some other ideas about Bill 12:

607.2(B): Faculty advisor should not be a member of COGS. Rather, they should be given the right to speak on the floor.

607.2(C-D): Include the DS Judiciary and the DS Comms in the list too.

607.4(A): Change COGS Bulletin Board to SGA Website.

607.5(D): Changing the reference to 30% of A&S Fees to 50% A&S Fees and "as five (5) or seven (7)." To "post-baccalaureate, special, master's, specialist, doctoral, law, medical, or professional student"

Vouzas: I believe the 5-7 designation is still used in the Registrar's office. I'll follow up

Delva: I will remain the chair through to the 31st Congress

Vouzas: I volunteer to be the vice chair; Delva: nominated Vouzas; Neale: seconded

Votes: 4-0-0

Neale: We need to work on generating a report to be sent to the Speaker once a month

Delva: We'll also need to restart the newsletter; we'll be adding that to our agenda for next time. Deadline of November for Bill 12, the travel section, and program associate

- 1) COGS Code
 - a. Section about program associate
- 2) Review bill 12
 - a. Attached to your email
- 3) Interpretation of group travel

Chapter 202 Travel

202.1 This chapter applies to students, whose travel and/or accommodations are being funded by COGS Funds.

202.2 All funded individual travel must be in the performance of official duties on behalf of COGS, by a student making a presentation at an academic conference, by a student attending an academic conference, or for persons contracted to provide a service to the Student Body.

202.3 Paperwork must be completed as required by the Florida State University Travel Office and the SA&O Accounting Office.

202.4 All per diem shall be funded at the state rate. No per diem shall be authorized for any purposes other than food. This provision shall include, but is not limited to, a prohibition on entertainment and/or alcoholic beverage expenses. This provision may only be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of COGS. Florida State University – Congress of Graduate Students Administrative Code - 29

202.5 No RSO shall receive COGS Funds for travel as a group more than twice in a fiscal year. This can be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly.

A) Group travel is limited to tabling as a promotional entity on behalf of the RSO and Florida State University, or a panel discussion in which at least three-fourths (3/4) of the members are leading.

202.6 RSOs can receive up to \$2,000 per fiscal year Travel. This rule can be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly.

202.7 RSOs can send up to four (4) representatives from their organization to the event for which the travel request is intended. This rule can be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly and must be voted upon independent of the legislation for which the travel request is intended.