



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students  
Student Advocacy Committee  
April 8, 2024**

**Call to Order: 7:00 PM**

**Members Present: Balogun, Ebuara, Hussain, Nord, McCraney, Solmaz-Ratzlaff, Galeano Cabral**

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent: Wardlow**

**Suspended:**

**Guests:**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

- Minutes from Feb 26 Approved

**Announcements:**

- Chair - Hussain
  - Hussain has reached out to the Office of Institutional Research about our survey on Qualtrics
    - It was submitted, and Zack investigated it.
      - Turnaround time will be in another week or so
    - Hussain filled out a form for the survey to be approved
      - Waiting to hear back from the office
      - Once approved, it will be circulated to grad students
      - Returned data will be shared with the committee to decide which issues we'd like to advocate for
  - Opportunity to work on housing issues
    - Help incoming grad students find a place to live in Tallahassee
      - Looking to expand the list of housing properties available to grad students
      - Excel is already on the Student Advocacy Teams
        - Fill it out with property details
- Vice-Chair - Cyrille
  - Let's table the Housing opportunity
    - Please reach out to Hussain or Cyrille if interested to lead
      - There will be support from Hussain and Cyrille
  - What will summer meetings look like?
    - Hussain: TBD as of now
      - Must be registered for summer classes to participate in COGS
      - We must have a quorum to continue to have meetings
- Members
  - Balogun: COGS and SGA alliance meeting will be on Wednesday, 4/10, 7 pm-8 pm in the senate chambers. Please attend if you are available
  - This is Galeano Cabral's last meeting, as he is graduating this semester
  - Solmaz-Ratzlaff: what are the requirements to be in COGS?
    - Galeano Cabral: Must be enrolled in FSU as a graduate student
- Guests
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### **Committee Business:**

- McCraney likes the information on the housing Excel spreadsheet.
  - Maybe we should consider generating and sharing a survey with grad students, asking them where they live
  - Solmaz-Ratzlaff supports the idea
    - Hussain: We can populate that list and give incoming graduate students more options. For future the list can be shared on the Office of Provost, Graduate Student Resource Center website
- Nord: there is no new information on the transportation. The past chair informed Transportation that Nord/COGS should be CC'd moving forward.
- Ebuara: the plan to consider reviewing data for the potential increase in conference grants may no longer be necessary because Josh (COGS Deputy Speaker of Finance) has proposed an increase in the new budget plan
  - Depending on how the congress votes, we should have a plan on how we want to move forward
  - Ebuara: Since we plan for 1000 applications to benefit from grants, but the most grant applications we have seen are 700, applicants are receiving more money to benefit them more
  - Galeano Cabral: In conversations with the new director of the resource center, they mentioned having 1000\$ for every doctoral student. To receive that money, they must first apply for the COGS conference grant.
    - Applicants can receive grants from both COGS and the Resource Center.

### **Final Announcements:**

- Chair
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- Vice-Chair
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- Members
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- Guests
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**Date and Time of Next Meeting: TBD**

**Adjourned at 7:40 pm**