

## **Student Advocacy Committee Meeting**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 @ 5:00pm**

**Representatives present** Galeano, Salimi, Burns, Elmi, and Ilesanmi.

**Excused Absence:** Mostbauer

**Unexcused Absence:**

**Guests:**

**Discussion Points:**

1. Medical student COGS code
  - During the recent COGS meeting, a resolution was passed that permits the Medical School Council to modify their constitution. Furthermore, an updated COGS code is in the process of being drafted and is expected to be voted on before the semester concludes.
2. Parking citations
  - In terms of parking citation policies, Representative Salimi has initiated a project to address the issue of steep fines and is pushing for policy change that gives warnings to first offenders. Communications have been established with Richard Rind, the Director of Transportation and Parking Services. A meeting is scheduled for April 14th at 1 pm in Mr. Rind's office to discuss how to move forward with policy changes and how parking citations fit within the FSU infrastructure.
3. Pride Student Union
  - Representative Burns held a productive meeting with the Pride Student Union, where they discussed connecting graduate students to the union through expanded networks within colleges. The conversation highlighted that the existing Pride Student Union is predominantly undergraduate-focused. It was also mentioned to have COGS issue a statement similar to SGA's recent resolution that opposes new state legislation targeting education and LGBTQ+ rights. This is particularly relevant for prospective out-of-state graduate students whom the legislation may deter. Potential next steps include creating a document outlining students' rights despite the new legislation and possibly establishing a graduate student RSO to help facilitate LGBTQ+ networking amongst graduate students. The Pride Student Union's support will be sought, and a resolution will be drafted and sent to the committee.
4. International Student Lawyers
  - Efforts to assist international students through legal counsel have not yielded significant results thus far. Representative Elmi contacted various sources, including the Law School Council (LSC) and current law students, and implementing such a service may be unlikely. Despite the lack of resources

currently available, a possible next step for getting international students legal advice is to facilitate collaborations between LSC and the Center for Global Engagement (CGE) in providing these services. Currently, it is best to see how LSC responds, then move forward with collaboration efforts if needed.

#### 5. The Globe

- Unofficial conversations between Representative Ilesanmi and Jesse revealed that room 3500 is typically available for graduate RSOs, although serving food in the room is prohibited. Alternate options include using the Globe's kitchen if available or providing food to go. The CGE's operating hours, which currently end at 6 pm, pose accessibility challenges for evening events. Right now, they are extending these hours on a case-by-case basis, but the number of RSOs that have done this is limited. Thus, further discussion is needed to understand the approval process for evening event requests and how RSOs are selected for extended hours.

Message to representatives: Remember it is best to keep everyone in the loop by copying the other representatives on emails and even have other committee members join in on meetings.

Next meeting: April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 5:30 pm.