

TWENTY NINTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting
Special Session
Zoom
Monday, February 15th, 2021
6:30 PM
MINUTES



Call to Order: 6:33PM

Pledge of Allegiance: Blake-Hedges

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Collins, Creigh, Delva, Hagemeyer, Hirsch, Ilesanmi, Morgan, Sangokunle, Sizemore, Smith

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Tiffani, Mendez, Jean Francois Cheuwa

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: Sussman

Reading and Approval of Minutes: motion to approve the minutes, Hirsch. Second, Creigh.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: none

Messages from Student Government: none

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: none

Elections: none

Motion for 5-minute recess, Morgan. Second, Blake-Hedges.

Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker**
 - Went to sweepings committee this morning with Deputy Speaker for Finance and has been going to the student senate meetings recently.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance**

- Our Budget meeting has been pushed to March 15 due to the SGA budget not yet being finalized. Representatives should prepare for the meeting by looking over the proposed budget online. Our current finances have not changed much recently. We have opened the final cycle for the conference presentation and attendance grants. We have received some applications already. Please spread the word about the grants being open to other graduate students. The Speaker and I went to the Sweepings meeting this morning. We requested \$22,000 in total: \$5,000 for FSU Childcare for disinfectant materials, \$5,000 for the Graduate School to increase the funding for the Dissertation Grants, and \$12,000 for LSC for a tent for events that can hopefully be shared with COGS. We will update the Congress when we are notified of what our final funding amount will be.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**
 - Catching up on senate case for preparation for tonight's resolution.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**
 - Sending out flyer for open representative seats for COGS so please get people involved. During the division of student affairs meeting COGS got a shoutout for increased participation.

Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:** has not met
- **Internal Affairs:** elected Collins as the Chair and Morgan as the Vice-Chair
- **Student Advocacy:** Hirsch is staying as the Chair and Creigh is the Vice-Chair; have not met but have set a date for the next meeting which will be next Tuesday.
- **Student Affairs:** elected Sizemore as Chair and Smith as Vice-Chair; plan to have a meeting within the month.

Funding Requests: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

Resolution #2:

- This is a resolution to open in person events again. This is still abiding by the Student Affairs guidelines. This has been approved by the Director of Student Affairs as well as the College of Medicine and the College of Law. We have a duty to allow organizations to spend their money according to the current guidelines.
- Questions:
 - Hirsch: I got an email today about an update about in person event guidelines, they are allowing 50-100 in person events as long as properly

social distanced and CDC guidelines. Does this resolution reflect those changes?

- Hagemeyer: this was worded to reflect the website of student affairs. If student affairs makes any changes this resolution will automatically reflect those changes.
- Creigh: If we approve something and then they re-restrict the guidelines again, like lower the number, would we have to then go back on our vote?
 - Hagemeyer: similar to my previous answer, we will go with whatever guidelines student affairs sets and this Resolution will follow that.
- Pros:
 - Hirsch: I think this is a good resolution to just clear this up. We have had to vote on several other resolutions but it is smart to have a resolution that says we are going to follow whatever the university is doing.
 - Collins: I think this is good timing, as updates are coming out as we are already altering our standards with the university and we are keeping up with these changes and adding more flexibility for ourselves.
 - Creigh: the fact this has already been approved by the Medical and Law school is reassuring.
- Cons: none
- 2nd pros: none
- Motion to call to question, Hirsch. Second, Sangokunle.
 - **Vote passes, 11-0-1.**

Resolution #3:

- Student senate meetings have been very long and not as productive as they could be. One contributing factor may be that they are trying to impeach the student body president and it takes up a large portion of their meetings. They introduced 5 charges of impeachment, and 3 of these have been dismissed by the Judicial Committee. One of the passed impeachment charges is that the President did not report the executive board meeting minutes and the judicial committee said the submitted information was not minutes. The second passed charge of impeachment was tabled for the next meeting. They are electing a new president in March. I think they are exerting a lot of energy into this but it does not help the student body. I was planning to speak at their next Senate meeting and tell them that there are other ways to resolve issues outside of impeachment. My point is this will not help the student body and it is harming the students more than it is helping them. By spending time on this impeachment, it is creating a bad precedent when there are other ways to fix this. I want to tell them to move on and elect a new president in March and focus on matters that will make a difference.
- Questions:
 - Creigh: what are the consequences of impeachment in this case?
 - Hagemeyer: If they do impeach it goes to supreme court and they can determine what happens next, but Dr. Hecht has the final say.

They are also impeaching the Vice President which would make the Student Officer of Elections the President.

- Creigh: All of these meetings and steps would take time away from other matters that would be more important?
 - Hagemeyer: it not only takes away time, but it is also a mental issue for all of the students as it causes much stress. This also deters the issues in the rest of the agenda.
- Hirsch: The issue is that the President failed to take minutes and post them and then he was contacted about that and he did not respond to that?
 - Hagemeyer: Yes, that is my understanding.
- Hirsh: Was there a second step to remind him to submit the minutes?
 - Hagemeyer: they asked for the minutes about a month ago and then the minutes were given to them at the last meeting. They should be holding people accountable, but impeachment is just not beneficial for the student body at this time.
- Motion to extend the questions by 3 minutes, Creigh. Second, Hirsch.
- Sizemore: It seems to me the Senate has more of an issue with the president for other reasons, is there anything that can be put in place to safeguard against that in the future?
 - Hagemeyer: I do believe your assumption may be correct, but I cannot say for sure. As far as trying to create a safeguard to prevent this from happening, I do not think that is possible.
- Hirsch: Is this a pattern of behavior for this person being impeached?
 - Hagemeyer: I understand your hesitation because you are looking at a lot of charges and don't have all the background information. My understanding was that in the Senate meetings no one really had a problem with how he performed, and everyone said he did a good job.
- Pros:
 - Brinkman: in my undergrad, impeachment was reserved for something more severe like a President who committed election fraud. Going through all the minutes and the Student supreme court case it was clear the President did what he needed to. I am all for this resolution.
 - Delva: I think it is important to talk about using our time effectively because there is so much taking up our time these days and we want to spend our time positively. If it is not something that is going to benefit the student body, I do not see how doing the impeachment would positively use that time.
- Cons:
 - Morgan: I agree with everything that is said in the Resolution, my con is not involving us in the matters of the student senate. I agree with all that has been said and that they are wasting their time and making life hard for everyone. I worry that this is going to paint a target on COGS back. If it is going to resolve itself in a month, why should we get involved.

- Ilesanmi: I share the same opinion. I agree with what has been said and the Resolution. I am just reluctant about being involved in this and I also believe due process should happen regardless if your tenure is about to end, time should not be a factor.
- 2nd pros:
 - Hagemeyer: In regard to the charges that were further down on the list, the Senator shared students' personal information with other student senators and couldn't share the information. Charge 4 was dismissed because there was no proof of that happening. I want COGS to be opinionated and SGA doesn't usually share information with COGS.
- 2nd cons:
 - Hirsch: It is not that I disagree with the fact we should not be spending time on frivolous things. I am a little hesitant on what precedent it may set for future incidents like this.
- Motion to call to question, Brinkman. Second, Morgan.
 - **Vote fails, 3-5-4.**

Round Table:

Adjournment/Finale Roll Call: 7:52 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, March 1st