



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
September 11, 2023
6:30pm
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance: All representatives

Roll call:

Present: Balogun, Beavon, Burns, Delva, Galeano, Hussain, Risler, Rogowski, Salimi, Vaughn, Wesner

Absent Excused: Ebuara, Solmaz

Absent Unexcused: Elmi

Reading and approval of the Minutes: Burns, 2nd - Galeano

Petitions into the Assembly:

College of Arts and Sciences Seat 3: Savoya Joyner

3rd year neuroscience student. Interested in joining cogs - part of the Graduate Assistant Union. Have a shared interest and need to bridge the gap. Wants to look into the student fees and where those A&S fees go. Interested in meeting everyone.

College of Law Seat 1: Jack Rowan

Hope to have more petitioners from the College of Law. Is a first year student at the College of Law. Looking at making some structural reforms. Are in the early stages of this, but would be happy as more updates appear. Was a Political Science major with the SGA for the 72nd and 73rd Senate. Worked to make sure that SGA was following rules and regulations. Has worked with previous COGS speakers on behalf of SGA. Has experience with the budgetary process. Looks forward to working with COGS.

College of Fine Arts Seat 1: Erick Rivers

Coming off Undergrad degree with 2 years in SGA. Was active in SGA in 74th and 75th Senate. Did financial and judiciary work. Worked to put together free headshot booth with Career Center. Ran for Student Body President. Heard about the TOM Project and wanted to join COGS once getting into a Grad student role. Understands some of the problems facing COGS the past few years and wants to help support it.

Questions:

Delva - What is one thing you will bring in terms of advocacy and service to COGS that you think COGS needs right now.

Joyner - I will bring my background since I have a different type of background than some other representatives. Brings in diversity and how we can branch out to FAMU. Works with the Psych department. Has a lot of connections around campus.

Rowan - opportunity to build bridges. No representative from the Law School right now. Lack of contact between the main campus and the law school. Making sure to bridge that gap and that we are active to make the whole campus better. Has a lot of connections on the undergraduate level to avoid working alone. Try to work with all students, not just graduate students only.

Rivers - Coming from Senate and is used to having all seats being full. Wants to work to fill the seats and making sure that smaller colleges have a voice on campus. When it

came to elections, wanted to make sure that there were voices heard within SGA. Want to make sure that people know about the opportunities available. Has been working within Fine Arts to share information about COGS to help with funding. Many programs need to know about the resources for students. Advocate for the smaller colleges.

Rogowski - Are you available Mondays at 6:30pm? Yes.

Rogowski - What committees are you interested in? Joyner - Advocacy; Rowan and Rivers - Internal affairs.

In favor:

Burns - Savoya's connection to the GAU is great. Having someone involved there really helps bridge that gap. All of them seem to have great experience.

Delva - This is a group of very motivated graduate students who know about SGA. I'm positive for there to be future change.

Gui - I think that Erick's experience with SGA will be invaluable. Having that experience is very beneficial.

Balogun - Having a petitioner from Arts and Sciences will be a great addition. The fact that they all have experience is great. They already know how to get results.

Vaughn - I appreciate the enthusiasm and how Erick wants to get seats filled.

Galeano - These petitioners have great connections and would be a perfect fit.

Vote:

Joyner - 11-0-0

Rowan - 11-0-0

Rivers - 11-0-0

Swearing in of the new officers

Rogowski - Reminder to complete your financial certification if you have not already. The returning members also need to complete the financial certification for this academic year.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: N/A

Messages from Student Government: N/A

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: N/A

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker: Looking for volunteers to be on the technology fee committee. It's a 12 hour commitment over a 6 week period. October 12- November 22. Volunteers - Rowan and Salimi. The other piece of business is for the student advocacy committee - asking to help with the conference grants and performing an audit on the conference grants. Would like a report by November as we enter the new COGS. Additionally, there have been multiple complaints about student parking. Would like the Student Advocacy committee to work with the Union on how to improve the parking situation.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Take a look at the financial report on the agenda. We have allocated some funding already back in July. Will be helping the formerly known as RISE office to go to sweepings. LSC and MSC are

working through their funds. Presentation and Attendance grants are actively being used.

- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Welcome to the new members. Not much to report and we are going full force on the COGS Newsletter for this academic year as well as work on the Code. If you have any ideas, I'm here. Rep. Joyner - How do I know when committees meet? Rogowski - we will need to re-assess the committees and we will send that out before the next meeting.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: CGE Coffee Hour on September 15th at 5pm in the Globe promoting elections for SGA and COGS. Graduate Student Kickback event - Sept. 21 from 11:30am-2:30pm at Club Downunder. Fall 2023 SGA Election. The election will be held on Wednesday, October 25th from 8am-7pm. Candidacy Declaration will open on September 13th at 4pm and will close September 27th at 4pm. Watch your email for how to re-run for your current COGS seat.

Committee Report:

- C-SAC: N/A
- Internal Affairs: N/A
- Student Advocacy: N/A
- Student Affairs: Unofficial meeting about the Coffee Hour event on Friday last week.

Funding Requests:

Bill #29: Iranian Student Association

Presentation by Rep. Wesner: This money will go towards a commemorative event for the death of Mahsa Amini who was killed for not following the mandatory hijab law in Iran. Event will raise awareness of social activism and women's right. A professor will be a guest speaker and it will be a big event for the ISA and the wider FSU population. The money will go towards Publix catering for the event. Yield the rest of my time.

Questions:

Rowan - What's the expect attendance? At least 50.

Joyner - When does this event take place? Friday.

Rogowski - point of information: The event is on Friday, but Laurel has confirmed that funding will be okay with this short turnaround.

Ridwan - Where will the event be? Landis Green.

Joyner - Has this been done last year? No because she was killed a year ago.

Galeano - Will the bottled water be an issue? We are going to check that and if it is still listed, we will remove it.

Ridwan - What publicity is being done? The organization has made a flyer and has posted on Instagram.

Pros:

Joyner - This event is very important being COGS's goal includes diversity.

Burns - Important event to hold in remembrance of what happened. It can serve as a platform to bring students together. People in the U.S. might not be aware of this.

Rowan - For the water bottles, we can approve it with an amendment.

Rogowski - Point of information - I can make sure that they change the water purchase if we approve the bill or we can make an amendment.

Solmaz - Muslim student association does not always have information of events going on. It's important to share out information. Others would be interested in knowing about the event.

Delva - attended an event at the Capital and it was beautiful to see the chants and culture. Learning about their lives and research was great. Made friends at their events. It is more than just the Iranian community. It's a way to advocate for others and ourselves.

Cons:

Rivers - Call to Question; 2nd - Delva

Closing statement: ISA and the larger community should connect with each other and I will encourage the ISA to reach out to others more about the event.

Rogowski - Short recess since returning representatives may not have done the financial certification process for this fiscal year. Back to order at 7:28pm.

Salimi - Motion to waive the financial certification statute as it applies to this specific bill. 2nd - Delva.

Rogowski - we will vote with the understanding that everyone gets Financially Certified by next week.

Vote: 14-0-0

Unfinished Business:

Deputy Speaker for Finance Call for Nominees

Salimi - I would like to nominate Rep. Burns; 2nd - Balogun

Burns - I accept the nomination. I am a 2nd year Masters students in the Higher Education program. I have been a member of COGS since fall of last year. I tried SGA in Undergrad, but it was too much. I tried COGS here. It has been a great experience and does great work for graduate students and RSOs. I enjoyed being a part of the budget process this past year. Although the process is intimidating, it is an important one. The money has an impact on graduate students. Originally, I was nervous about this position, learning about the code, and learning about finance, it looked like it was a lot. I feel like being in this position, I can work with everyone to make change. We want to make sure that our systems are equitable and clear for all.

Questions:

Joyner - When you talk about grants, do you mean the presenter grants? Yes.

Rowan - Do you know anything about A&S fees going up? I've heard about it, but I have not heard much.

Balogun - Any plan to raise the conference funding? I think that we should look at raising it because costs are going up and we need to see what we can do with that.

Rogowski - How long do you hope to be in the role? I hope until May 2024 when I graduate.

Salimi - motion to extinguish time; 2nd - Wesner

Pros:

Balogun - Josh is knowledgeable and accessible. He's always willing to devote his time to get things done. I think he will do well in this role.

Delva - Josh was part of the budget committee last year. He took all the notes and was very professional. He deserves the role. He understands it very well. He's very organized.

Rogowski - I've talked with Josh about the role and I've been transparent about the workload. He's said he's ready to go. His experience with the budget committee is important. He understands the role at all levels.

Joyner - To emphasize what he said, he said that he tried SGA in Undergrad and stepped back, but then tried COGS again. I think that shows his resilience.

Vote - 13-0-0

Swearing in as Deputy Speaker of Finance

New Business: N/A

Round Table:

Adjournment: 8:19pm

Next Meeting: **September 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senate Chambers**