



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting

June 3, 2024

6:30pm

Agenda

Call to Order:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call:

Reading and approval of the Minutes:

Petitions into the Assembly:

Jake Aboulhosn, Business Seat 1

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Messages from Student Government:

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:

Report of Officers:

- Report of the Speaker:
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance:
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications:
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs:
- Advisor Announcements:

Committee Introductions and Reports:

- Internal Affairs:
- Student Advocacy:
- Student Affairs:

Funding Requests:

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Bill #38: COGS Apportionment Process Reform

Round Table:

Adjournment:

Next Meeting: June 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-2024

| ACCOUNT | ALLOCATION AMOUNT | DESCRIPTION | AVAILABLE |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| UNALLOCATED | \$21,318 | For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings | \$10,541.30 |
| LSC | \$61,000 | Funding allocations from Law School Council to Law School Student Organizations | \$828.47 |
| MSC | \$84,817 | Funding allocations from Medical School Council to Medical School Student Organizations | \$4,659.35 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Jul-Oct) | \$66,250 | Presentation Grant balance for the July-October funding period | \$0 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | \$75,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the November-February funding period | \$0 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Mar-Jun) | \$58,750 | Presentation Grant balance for the March-June funding period | \$4,892.58 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Jul-Oct) | \$9,000 | Attendance Grant balance for the July-October funding period | \$0 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | \$9,000 | Attendance Grant balance for the November-February funding period | \$0 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Mar-Jun) | \$7,500 | Attendance Grant balance for the March-June funding period | \$1,215.13 |



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Statute Revision or Addition

32nd Congress of Graduate Students

Bill #: 38

Sponsored by: Speaker Rowan

Date: June 3, 2024

Purpose & Description: A Bill to Reform the COGS Apportionment Process

Be it enacted by the Thirty-Second Congress of Graduate Students:

Section 1: The Congress finds that the current reapportionment process has created ambiguities that led to incorrect apportionments and also created an excess of vacant seats in colleges where COGS membership may be less practical.

Section 2: Chapter 111 of the COGS Administrative Code is hereby amended as follows:

1. The COGS Executive Committee shall be responsible for conducting elections for the Congress of Graduate Students. If COGS chooses to participate in the SGA election process, then they fall under the Student Government Election Code and are responsible for following all requirements.
2. ~~Seats shall be allocated to each college and school according to its graduate student enrollment as published in the most recent Florida State Fact Book. One seat shall be allocated to a college or school for every two hundred and ninety-nine (299) graduate students, or portion thereof, enrolled. One seat shall be allocated for students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program at the Florida State University Panama City Campus. In addition, one seat will be allocated for each two hundred and ninety-nine (299) graduate students, or portion thereof, enrolled and classified by the University Registrar as "post-baccalaureate/special;" any graduate student may fill seats of this classification as an Advocate. COGS shall be composed of forty-three (43) seats with the following allocation:~~
 - a. Thirty (30) seats for the members of each college/academic unit, except for the College of Applied Studies and Special Students, apportioned annually through

the D'Hondt Method, based on the most recent annual population data for each college, as provided by the University.

1. By the second COGS Assembly meeting of the Fall Semester, the SGA Supervisor of Elections shall provide the Assembly, by memo and personal appearance at the meeting, with a list detailing the number of seats apportioned to each college/academic unit, as well as an accounting of the calculations used to determine the apportionment. Should the list not be provided by this deadline, the COGS Executive Board shall be empowered to facilitate the apportionment in the Supervisor's place.
 2. Should there be a discrepancy that results in the erroneous allocation of seats, the Assembly may move to reject the apportionment and request that the Supervisor (or COGS Executive Board, if providing the list under sub-subsection (1)) provide a corrected apportionment to the Assembly at their next meeting. Such motion requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote to pass and is debatable.
 3. If no motion to reject is passed, the apportionment shall become official upon adjournment of the Assembly meeting in which it is presented.
- b. Six (6) advocate seats under the following titles: Graduate Student Housing Advocate, International Student Advocate, LGBTQ+ Student Advocate, Minority Student Advocate, Veteran's Advocate, and Student with Disabilities Advocate. Any graduate student, regardless of college, may serve as an Advocate,
 - c. Six (6) At-Large seats, which may be filled by any graduate student, regardless of college, and
 - d. One (1) seat for the combined grouping of Special Students, the College of Applied Studies, and the Panama City Campus. Should this seat be filled, attendance by the representative will count towards quorum, but failure to attend will not count against quorum.
3. ~~In addition to the seats listed in § 111.2, one seat shall be allocated for each of the following: Graduate Student Housing Advocate, International Student Advocate, LGBTQ+ Student Advocate, Minority Student Advocate, Veteran's Advocate, Student with Disabilities Advocate and At Large, all of which shall be open to any graduate student at Florida State University.~~
 4. The Deputy Speaker for Communication shall advertise the seat allocation information at least twenty-four (24) hours before the first day of the Declaration of Candidacy date, as specified by the Student Government Election Code. Seat allocation information shall be advertised by email as well.
 5. Elections will be held in conjunction with the regular fall semester Student Government elections.
 6. All enrolled graduate students are eligible to vote in COGS elections.

7. Election appeals shall be made first to the COGS Executive Committee. Further appeals shall be made to the full Assembly. If COGS chooses to participate in the SGA election process, appeals shall follow the procedures under the Student Government Election Code.
8. Regular elections to the Assembly shall take place only during the fall semester.
9. Elections of the officers for COGS shall take place on the first meeting of the newly convened Congress. Members of the COGS Executive Committee must be elected before the first meeting adjourns.
10. COGS officer election procedures shall be the following:
 - a. Members of the COGS Executive Committee shall be elected from among the membership of COGS. Election shall be by secret ballot and shall require a majority vote in order to elect a candidate. Quorum of the Congress must be present for the election of each member of the COGS Executive Committee.
 - b. An elected member of the SGA Executive Branch shall act as the Temporary Chair for the first meeting of the new Congress until the Congress elects a Representative to the Office of the Speaker, at which time the Speaker shall be sworn in and chair the Congress. The Temporary Chair shall have the right to cast a vote for election of the Speaker in such cases where his/her vote would be decisive.
 - c. Nominations for Officers shall be taken from the floor and shall require a second. Each candidate may accept or decline the nomination. Candidates who accept their nomination shall be allowed, in alphabetical order, to address the Congress for no more than two (2) minutes. The Chair shall allow three (3) minutes of questions per candidate. No "con" debate shall be permitted during the election process. All nominees not addressing or taking questions from the Congress shall remain outside the COGS Chambers. Candidates shall not be present during debate on the candidates. Debate on the candidates shall take no more than five (5) minutes. Motions to extend time for opening addresses, questions and discussion of the candidates may be made by Representatives in the Chambers and pass by a majority vote of the Representatives in the Chambers. Once the question has successfully been called to vote on the position, all nominees may enter the Chambers and cast their own secret ballots with the rest of the Congress.

Section 3: This Bill shall go into effect upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly and upon receiving the necessary signatures, as mandated by Code. The apportionment shall be used in the 2024 COGS Fall Elections and shall fully take effect upon the adjournment of the Thirty-Second Congress *sine die*.



THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting

May 20, 2024

6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:36pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Skipped

Roll Call:

Present: Alleyne, Balogun, Barber, Cyrille, Hussain, Rowan, Siegel, Strickland, Vaughn

Absent-Excused: Bethke, Fermin

Absent-Unexcused: Beavon, Ebuara, Wardlow

Reading and approval of the Minutes: Siegel, 2nd - Hussain

Petitions into the Assembly:

Sima Sabbagh - International Student Advocate

Hello everyone. I am excited to be here. I am a 3rd year Ph.D. candidate in the Neuroscience program at FSU. I've always been interested in taking part in student associations both in my home country and at FSU. I became interested in COGS after talking with Nella who shared how impactful it is in making graduate student voice heard. I see an opportunity to bring my perspective as an international student here. Being an international student has taught me a lot about the opportunities and challenges here in academia. I have learned how to push for initiatives. I am interested in the advocacy committee. These are areas I feel I can make a difference. I am ready to work for better policies to improve our lives. In closing my dedication to improving students lives are why I want to join COGS. I hope to bring my experiences and skills to create a more inclusive environment for every graduate student.

Questions:

Rowan - We are not having committees this summer, but what is your area of focus for being in COGS? In my 3 years here, I have seen problems with international students and health insurance. I have also seen international students not being aware of things. We have differences in things with taxes and single parents also need assistance and support.

Balogun - Will you be available on Mondays for COGS meetings? Yes.

Pros:

Hussain - She will be a good person to fill the international student advocate seat that Jorge had. She brings up some difficult issues, but I am interested in seeing what she wants to do.

Balogun - I can see how committed she is and I believe that is what we need. We need someone with passion and she will be a good candidate. I think she has talked with the previous person in the seat.

Alleyne - Motion to call to question; Siegel - 2nd.

Vote: 8-0-0

Swearing in.

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: Hope everyone is doing well after the recent storms. We have two opportunities for representatives to serve with SGA. Call for volunteers for Garnet and Gold Votes Commission (1 needed). If you have already contacted me about this, thank you. There will be virtual and in person meetings either weekly or bi-weekly. Is there anyone interested? No? Then I will appoint Lauren to this position. Call for volunteers for COGS-SGA Working Group (2 needed). This working group is to create stronger ties with SGA and we hope to start it up this week. If there is anyone interested, please let us know. Hussain - Can you please share more about what the group will be doing? Rowan - We will be doing work to make changes to the statutes and constitution to solidify the SGA and COGS relationship to prepare for things to change in the fall. This group will be more flexible and over Zoom. Please email me if you are interested by Wednesday. Last week the Department of Student Government and Advocacy organized donations for the food pantry to help students and COGS did contribute to this. This summer I want to start talking about how re-apportionment work. Currently it is that for ever 399 students, every college gets a seat. This past year, apportionment was done by percentage and due to that, I think it would be good to talk about this. My initial thoughts is that we move to the percentage system, but create more at-large seats. My hope is to bring a bill at the next meeting to continue this conversation. Does anyone have questions about this? Siegel - I support consistency and having a different system from the undergrads can be understandable, but when it comes to this, we do need to keep it the same as the student senate. Hussain - I agree with Maddie because I think the current at-large seats are not enough. There are many in the STEM fields who would like to be a part of COGS, but their college seat is already filled. It's a good way to bring in more people. Rowan - we do have some open seats in Arts and Sciences and we do have an Engineering seat open as well. We want to remove the excess of seats that haven't been filled in years so that these spots can be filled. Hussain - if more seats open up, then I think people will be interested in filling them.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: I am the acting Speaker of Finance and I am learning how great of a job Josh did. We are going into our new funding period in July. We might need to move some money in June depending on our requests.
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Working on ordering more t-shirts and swag for the 2024-25 academic year. We do have a bill to adjust some funding this meeting in order to pay for that. Thanks to those who gave suggestions.

- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: We have many members of COGS who graduated this past Spring, so we want to try to fill those spots. This is a good time to remind our departments of the open seats. We are working on a bill to revise our seats, so we will work on creating this bill to fill up the COGS seats.
- Advisor Announcements: Thank you for chipping in funds to help with the food pantry last week. We are also working with SGA for volunteer efforts.

Committee Introductions and Reports: No Committees for the Summer

- Internal Affairs:
- Student Advocacy:
- Student Affairs:

Funding Requests:

Bill #37: Funding Transfer to Clothing and Awards

Cyrille - This bill moves money from unallocated to get money into the account to order t-shirts and swag times?

Questions - None

Pros - None

Cons - None

Motion to Call to Question - Alleyne; 2nd - Hussain

Vote: 9-0-1

Unfinished Business:

Nominees for Deputy Speaker for Finance

Rowan - While Chris was appointed as a temporary fill-in, we need to have a formal election. Do we have any nominees?

Balogun - I nominate Chris Cyrille. Vaughn - 2nd.

Rowan - With no opposition, congratulations Chris.

Cyrille - Thank you. Josh did a wonderful job, so I want to continue his work and help streamline some of the processes. Please tell your friends and RSOs about our funds.

New Business: N/A

Round Table:

Adjournment: 7:25pm

Next Meeting: June 3, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

