



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

TWENTY SEVENTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Assembly Meeting
COGS Regular Session
Monday, June 15th, 2020
Zoom
6:30 PM
Agenda

Call to Order:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call:

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Petitions into the Assembly:

Special Introductions and Student Comments:

Messages from Student Government:

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:

Elections:

Report of Officers:

- The Report of the Speaker
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
- The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications

Committee Report:

- C-SAC:
- Internal Affairs:
- Student Advocacy:
- Student Affairs:

Funding Requests:

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

- *Resolution #6: Virtual Events*
- *Resolution #7: Social Justice*

Round Table:

Adjournment:

Next Meeting:

Monday, July 20th, 2020 6:30 PM via Zoom



COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2019-2020

ACCOUNT	ALLOCATION AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	BALANCE
UNALLOCATED	\$25,081	For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings	\$4, 038.56
ORGANIZATIONAL (C-SAC)	\$3,000	RSO funding for allocations less than \$1000 for the fiscal year	\$1,843.99
LSC	42,000	Funding allocations from Law School Council to Law School Student Organizations	\$2,594.98
MSC	42,000	Funding allocations from Medical School Council to Medical School Student Organizations	\$987.24
PRESENTATION GRANTS (Jul-Oct)	\$53,000	Presentation Grant balance for the March-June funding period	0
PRESENTATION GRANTS (Nov-Feb)	\$60,000	Presentation Grant balance for the November-February funding period	\$381
PRESENTATION GRANTS (Mar-Jun)	\$47,000	Presentation Grant balance for the March-June funding period	\$8,252
ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Jul-Oct)	\$6,000	Attendance Grant balance for the July-October funding period	0
ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Nov-Feb)	\$6,000	Attendance Grant balance for the November-February funding period	\$343.24
ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Mar-Jun)	\$5,000	Attendance Grant balance for the March-June funding period	\$3,200.00

Accounting has not updated the account amounts & spreadsheets as the fiscal year is being wrapped up, therefore amounts listed are not accurate.



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TWENTY EIGHTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting
Regular Session
via Zoom
Monday, May 18th, 2020
6:30 p.m.
MINUTES



Call to Order: 6:32

Pledge of Allegiance: Speaker Morgan

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Blake-Hedges, Brinkman, Creigh, Hagemeyer, Hirsch, Mathesie, Morgan

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Cheuwa, Fisher, Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: None

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED: None

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Motion to Approve Minutes, Blake-Hedges; Brinkman 2nd; No Objections; APPROVED.

Petitions into the Congress: None.

Special Introductions and Student Comments: Vincenza Antonetta Berardo, Graduate Assistants United- Bills in the legislature that are involving the graduate students and tuition reimbursements.

Messages from Student Government: None.

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs: None.

Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker-** Supreme Court dismissed the SBA appeal and that it cannot be heard again. Met with LSC today and had a great meeting with Dr. Acosta, Stormy Walker, Madison Johnson (LSC Chair, Morgan Applegate, and Jacalyn about student organizations and dues.



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- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance-** Financial report and reviewing of account numbers and travel refunding. We are not spending money really right now and are on a case by case basis reviewing and approving request for virtual events.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs-** Had some people reach out about some topics and will bring them up during discussion later.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**

Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:** None.
- **Internal Affairs:** None.
- **Student Advocacy:** None.
- **Student Affairs:** Meeting 5/19.

Funding Requests: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- **Funding Virtual Events & Conferences-** Speaker Morgan: We have had some groups submit requests to fund speakers for virtual events and conferences. Creigh: I wonder what the guidelines would be as we decide on funding for each group. Morgan: that is a great point and I think we are working now to determine if this needs to be a resolution or a change in policy as we move forward with funding requests. Hirsch: I wonder if they will have a hybrid type event and not potentially following the guidelines. Speaker Morgan: I can see this potential issue and how it can be concerning. Creigh: I wonder if we are funding online conferences will there need to be edits to the constitution about this? Speaker: That is a great question.
- **Art Therapy Inquiry Email-** Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Art Therapy concerned about student resources and if there is a student relief fund to assist graduate students in this time.
- **COGS New Petitioner Apps-** Hirsch: Initial interest application for petitioning in and then have a follow up link they can send to their peers to sign the document. Mathesie: the elections commission has been using google docs and sending it to their friends to have then “sign” in a way.

Round Table:

Adjournment: 7:22 PM



Resolution

28th Congress of Graduate Students

Resolution #: 6

Sponsored by: Representative Hagemeyer

Date: Monday, June 15th, 2020

Whereas: On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, had become a global pandemic;

Whereas: On March 17, 2020, Florida State University announced all class would be held remotely for the remainder of the Spring 2020 Semester, all campus events were also cancelled until further notice;

Whereas: On April 1, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued an executive order that all non-essential workers must stay at home until further notice;

Whereas: On April 15, 2020, Florida State University announced all classes would continue to be offered remotely through the Summer C session;

Whereas: On April 20, 2020, the Twenty-Eighth Congress of Graduate Students issued a resolution that no conference presentation or attendance grants will be awarded until the university reinstates university-sponsored travel and the application to apply for the grants will be closed until that time;

Whereas: On May 5, 2020, Florida State University entered Phase 1 of planned reopening, allowing a small percentage of employees to return to work but maintaining travel restrictions and restrictions on campus events;

Whereas: During May 2020, the Executive Board of the Congress of Graduate Students approved funding for an event that the Sport Psychology RSO modified from an in-person format to a virtual format;

Whereas: It is likely that virtual events will be a primary vehicle of professional and scholarly engagement until the COVID-19 pandemic recedes to safe levels;

Whereas: It is also likely that virtual events will be a popular form of professional development after the COVID-19 pandemic recedes to safe levels;



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Be it resolved by the Twenty-Eighth Congress of Graduate Students of Florida State University that: all RSOs who have been approved for funding of live events or group travel in the 2020-2021 fiscal year are allowed and encouraged to submit modification proposals for these events to enable the potential approval of these events or travel plans to a virtual event;

Be it further resolved: a committee shall be formed to determine official guidelines for the Congress of Graduate Students to use to determine future funding of virtual events and whether amendments to COGS Code is warranted to cement these guidelines;

Be it further resolved: no funding proposals for virtual events out of the COGS Unallocated account will be accepted for review until such a time that the aforementioned committee has created funding guidelines and/or a funding related Code Amendment for virtual events has been ratified;

Be it further resolved: copies of this resolution be sent to the SGA accounting staff, the Director of SGA, Dr. Danielle Morgan Acosta, and the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Amy Hecht.



Resolution

28th Congress of Graduate Students

Resolution #: 7

Sponsored by: Representative Hirsch

Date: Monday, June 15th, 2020

Whereas: Every Representative in the Congress of Graduate Students, the Law School Council, and the Medical School Council takes an oath of office to uphold the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Florida, and laws of Florida State University;

Whereas: This oath recognizes a duty to uphold and defend the position that all people are fundamentally equal and have a right to enjoy and defend life and liberty regardless of race, religion, national origin, or physical disability, which is officially recognized in the Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Florida;

Whereas: The oath also dictates that Representatives have a duty to uphold and defend the right of peaceful assembly and to petition for redress of grievances as outlined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Florida, and FSU Policies Chapter 3 (FSU-3.003);

Whereas: Florida State University upholds “a policy of non-discrimination for any member of the University’s community on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veterans’ status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other legally protected group status” (FSU Equal Opportunity & Non-Discrimination Statement);

Whereas: The history of Florida State University is permeated with agitation for social justice as evidenced by the arrest of FSU student Joe Spagna for trading seats on a segregated bus with two FAMU students, Leonard Speed and Johnny Herndon, in 1957;

Whereas: The history of Florida State University also evidences the power of student assembly in the form of student picketing of non-FSU business for segregation policies during the 1960’s, the sit-in protest by Black FSU students in the Office of FSU President J. Stanley Marshall in 1971, and large protests of the Supreme Court nomination of the segregation supporting judge Harrold Caswell in the 1970’s;

Whereas: The history of Florida State University also includes administrative impedance to social justice activities and infringement of civil rights, which included censorship of social justice related literature (i.e., “The Pig Knife”), refusal to extend official recognition to a social justice oriented student organization (i.e., Students for a Democratic Society), and utilization of the legal system to prevent a rally (i.e., peaceful assembly) of the Students for a Democratic Society which resulted in mobilization of local law enforcement in an evening now remembered as “The Night of Bayonets”;



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Whereas: Current peaceful protests and demonstrations are taking place nationwide, including in Tallahassee, against systemic racism and injustice sparked by the abuse of power by police officers and the injustice served for the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other Black Americans.

Whereas: These facts demonstrate the difficulties associated with the struggle for social justice and inclusivity at the system level, and how the Florida State Student Body has been an example for the United States in the legal application of the right to assemble as a means to seek redress for grievances;

Whereas: The fruits of inclusivity and social justice advocacy at Florida State University have results in national recognition of one of the most diverse student populations in the United States and official recognition as a “Diversity Champion” by INSIGHT in Diversity magazine;

Whereas: Continued emphasis on diversity and inclusivity by administrators at Florida State University has resulted in Goal III of the strategic plan that includes a prerogative to, “foster a campus culture that celebrates diversity and inclusion”;

Whereas: Administrators have recently demonstrated sensitivity to the concerns raised by the FSU Student Body in relation to the needless deaths experienced by Black people related to racism and have issued strong statements and condemnations, including taking action to meet with Student Body and Community leaders;

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Eighth Congress of Graduate Students of Florida State University that: this resolution represents an official acknowledgement of the acute emotional pain at the societal level and the civil unrest associated with systemic injustice experienced by marginalized peoples in the United States. Furthermore, this resolution also affirms that:

1. COGS supports FSU students’ rights for peaceful protest and assembly by soliciting funding proposals for events that focus on social justice opposed to racism and injustice against marginalized groups;
2. COGS is committed to the inclusion, diversity, and equity of FSU students, staff, faculty, visitors, and other University community members from marginalized groups;
3. COGS stands against discrimination and racism and supports justice for the many Black lives lost due to the injustice and abuse of power from police officers across the country. Black Lives Matter;

Be it further resolved that: copies of this resolution be sent to:

1. Eduarda Machado, President of the MSC Funding Board
2. Madison Johnson, Chair of the LSC Funding Board
3. President John E. Thrasher
4. Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President of Student Affairs
5. Dr. Mark Reily, Dean of the Graduate School
6. Dr. Judith Devine, Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School