



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

**TWENTY NINTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

COGS Assembly Meeting

Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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: Jason Randall (Senate)

Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:

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:

- *Bill 11: COGS Statutes Revisions*

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Round Table/Final Roll Call:

Adjournment:

Next Meeting: Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM via Zoom

## COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2021-2022

ACCOUNT	ALLOCATION AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	BALANCE
UNALLOCATED	\$27,617	For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings	\$27,617
ORGANIZATIONAL (C-SAC)	\$3,000	RSO funding for allocations less than \$1000 for the fiscal year	\$3,000
LSC	\$44,000	Funding allocations from Law School Council to Law School Student Organizations	\$44,000
MSC	\$44,000	Funding allocations from Medical School Council to Medical School Student Organizations	\$44,000
PRESENTATION GRANTS (Jul-Oct)	\$53,000	Presentation Grant balance for the March-June funding period	\$53,000
PRESENTATION GRANTS (Nov-Feb)	\$60,000	Presentation Grant balance for the November-February funding period	\$60,000
PRESENTATION GRANTS (Mar-Jun)	\$47,000	Presentation Grant balance for the March-June funding period	\$47,000
ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Jul-Oct)	\$6,000	Attendance Grant balance for the July-October funding period	\$6,000
ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Nov-Feb)	\$6,000	Attendance Grant balance for the November-February funding period	\$6,000
ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Mar-Jun)	\$5,000	Attendance Grant balance for the March-June funding period	\$5,000

## TWENTY NINTH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Assembly Meeting  
Special Session  
Zoom  
06/07/2021  
6:30 p.m.  
MINUTES



**Call to Order:** 6:38 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Rep. Morgan

**REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Ahlbum, Creigh, Graves, Hagemeyer, Harshe, Hirsch, Morgan, Sizemore, Wiley

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED:** Collins, Delva

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:** Gfatter, Sangokunle, Smith

**REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED:**

**REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:**

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Morgan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wiley

**Special Introductions and Student Comments:** N/A

**Messages from Student Government:** N/A

**Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:**

**Elections:**

**Petition into Assembly:**

Shibu Adhikari

- Second year PhD student. Wants to actively work in the community. He was actively involved within his own community in department. Since there is minor representation within his small department, he wants to give a voice of his colleagues, extend his connections, and improve academic process. Very interested in taking responsibilities regarding COGS. Currently working as a treasurer for his department and would be happy to be involved with COGS.
- Questions:
  - o Rep. Hirsch: Have you looked at the committees in COGS? Which would you like to serve on?

- Answer: Student Affairs.
- Rep. Graves: COGS has meetings on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Do you have any conflicts?
- Answer: Since I am done with coursework, I am a full-time research assistant. There won't be any concerns or conflicts.
- Pros:
  - Rep. Hirsch: They seem eager to learn and get started. He would make a great fit into the Congress.
  - Rep. Harshe: They represent Nepal and therefore a minority community. He would provide a good representation.
  - Rep. Graves: It is great to have someone else in experience regarding school-related committees, along with being an international student. His perspective will help the Congress.
- Call to Question: Rep. Hirsch call to question. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rep. Ahlbum.
- Vote: 8-0-0
- Dept. Speaker Sizemore swore in Adhikari.

### Report of Officers:

- **The Report of the Speaker**
  - Found storage for AEDs, they will arrive at Westcott and shuttle them to university storage. Now waiting on meetings for language on accounts; seeing who in Student Affairs will lead that. Will not distribute AEDs until the language is set for setting them up, maintaining them, and other details for all the buildings. Finding building locations and then installation.
  - COGS did not get sweepings this year. \$2-3K was vetoed. Much of the money is not coming in. Going to set up a meeting to see why the money has not come through yet; it was supposed to take place today, but it was canceled last Friday. It will be difficult to find a time for everyone to meet for a specific time.
  - Ordered new umbrellas; special thanks to Rep. Harshe for finding the money for coffee hours for international students.
  - Asking all reps if there are any organizations that need funding.
  - Jessie O'Reilly talked with Speaker Hagemeyer about locations of COGS assembly and videotaping for representatives that cannot attend in person. Finding locations.
  - FSU Childcare funds were vetoed from the recent meeting, but they will cover those costs themselves.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance**
  - Getting into the swing of things, i.e., the role of Deputy Speaker for Finance. Creating quick references guides for various occasions.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs**
  - Did first office hours today but working on reading COGS code.
- **The Report of the Deputy Speaker of Communications**

### Committee Report:

- **C-SAC:**

- Nothing to report; has not met.
- **Internal Affairs:**
  - Looking at various ways to help out representatives, prospective representatives, and so on. Team pictures, orientation, new membership and representation for presenting bills, speaking comfortably in front of the assembly, going over the Robert's Rules of Order (training day), and discussions of point of contact.
- **Student Advocacy:**
  - Met on Wednesday May 26, 2021. Got a lot done regarding distributing responsibilities. Dept. Speaker Creigh stepped down from co-chair of Advocacy; Rep. Graves is now the co-chair. Looked at resources for FSU Childcare; providing resources for graduate students by looking at local and federal funds for the assistance of graduate students, as well as other options other than FSU Childcare, along with explaining what the alternatives can do. Looking to see how new graduate students can get this information. Reaching out to GAU to see if childcare concerns/assistance can be introduced to become a part of the bargaining. Communication between COGS and regular graduate students; regarding concerns. Seeing to find links or Qualtrics forms for graduate students to communicate concerns to specific COGS committees, whether that be a form, someone specific, or other means. That is, making easier for students to contact COGS. Future meeting planned.
- **Student Affairs:**
  - Still haven't met since last meeting. Sizemore was thinking about stepping down and wondering about electing a new chair for Student Affairs. A meeting will determine the new chair, along with an election during that meeting.

**Funding Requests:** N/A

**Unfinished Business:** N/A

**New Business:** N/A

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment/Finale Roll Call:** 7:35 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** July 19, 2021



# Statute Revisions & Additions

## 29<sup>th</sup> Congress of Graduate Students

**Bill #:** 11

**Sponsored by:** Representative Harshe

**Date:** July 19, 2021

**Purpose & Description:** Revising the COGS statutes to improve readability, strengthen the relationship between COGS and the Student Senate, and expand the ex-officio voting rights of the COGS Speaker in the Student Senate.

**Statute Number(s):** 607.1

### Statute/Amendment Text:

607.1. Title and Purpose

A. ~~Title An organization entitled Congress of Graduate Students (hereinafter referred to as COGS) is established on the main campus of the Florida State University to implement the general policies of the Florida State University Student Government Association (hereafter referred to FSU-SGA) and the specific policies of COGS.~~

1. An organization entitled the Congress of Graduate Students (hereinafter referred to as COGS) is established on the main campus of the Florida State University to implement the general policies of the Florida State University Student Government Association (hereafter referred to FSU-SGA) and the specific policies of COGS.

B. Purpose of COGS

1. To provide graduate and professional students at FSU, through COGS, an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.



## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

2. To consider, make recommendations and act upon phases of graduate and professional student life at FSU.
3. To serve as the principal forum for decisions on matters of broad concern to the graduate and professional students at FSU.
4. To serve as the chief means by which graduate and professional students may express their university concerns for FSU-SGA.

### C. Membership

1. ~~COGS shall be composed of representatives as defined by the COGS Code.~~
2. ~~The COGS Faculty Advisor shall be an ex-officio member of COGS.~~
3. ~~The Speaker of COGS shall preside over COGS and shall vote only in the case of a tie among the representatives.~~
4. ~~A Financial Officer shall be elected by COGS to serve in the absence, removal, or resignation of the Speaker, until election of a new Speaker.~~
5. ~~Any graduate, professional or post baccalaureate (graduate special) student admitted at FSU, taking course(s), maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and in good standing with the University, shall be eligible to seek and hold a position in COGS.~~

### D. Procedures

1. ~~COGS may propose legislation to the Student Senate. Once proposed by COGS, the Student Senate President or the Senate Judiciary Committee must submit such legislation to the Student Senate.~~
2. ~~COGS shall represent itself in Student Senate, either by a resolution read in Student Senate or by appearance of a delegate from COGS, on the following matters:~~
  - a. ~~Legislation that changes Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes.~~
  - b. ~~Legislation which is a resolution of COGS concerning university-wide matters.~~
  - c. ~~Other matters as the SGA shall request COGS representation.~~
  - d. ~~Other matters as COGS shall request to be represented before SGA.~~
3. ~~COGS shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting per month.~~
4. ~~All legislation approved by COGS shall be done so upon simple majority vote of quorum.~~
5. ~~Legislation concerning the establishment of, or changes in, the COGS Code shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of quorum.~~
6. ~~Proviso Language can be added to the funds that are guaranteed by the Student Government Constitution only if that proviso language is agreed~~



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

~~upon by both Student Senate and COGS. All funding in addition to those guaranteed to COGS by the Student Government Constitution, may at the discretion of Senate, contain proviso language.~~

**E. Quorum**

- ~~1. Quorum is required to conduct business.~~
- ~~2. Quorum exists if both of the following conditions are met:
  - ~~a. The speaker or a designated chair is present.~~
  - ~~b. A majority of representatives is present at a meeting called in accordance with the COGS Code and COGS Internal Rules of Procedure.~~~~

**F. Vacancies**

- ~~1. When a vacancy occurs, notice of the position will be advertised on the COGS bulletin boards a minimum of seven (7) consecutive days.~~
- ~~2. Vacancies shall be filled at the discretion and with the approval of COGS in accordance with the guidelines in the COGS Code.~~

**G. Duties and Responsibilities of COGS**

- ~~1. To establish rules of order and internal operating procedures (hereinafter referred to as Code) as necessary to implement the purpose and responsibilities of COGS.~~
- ~~2. In the event of a vacancy, to appoint qualified students to serve on COGS, its committees, and its task forces as necessary.~~
- ~~3. To write and vote on its own guidelines and Code.~~
- ~~4. To construct a budget for each fiscal year for portions of the Activity and Service Fee revenue apportioned to COGS. This revenue will total thirty (30%) percent of all main FSU campus A&S monies collected from students designated by the Registrar as five (5) or seven (7).~~
- ~~5. To approve the expenditure of monies allocated to the COGS budget, with the authorizing signature of two members of the COGS Executive Committee.~~
- ~~6. To review annually COGS Bylaws and make appropriate revisions.~~
- ~~7. To submit a copy of its budget to the Student Senate detailing its categorical spending in a timely fashion.~~
- ~~8. COGS will be offered a non-voting ex-officio seat on all Student Senate Budget Committees, budget sub-committees, Central Reserves Committee, and Sweepings Committee.~~
- ~~9. COGS may establish procedures in the COGS Code to freeze funds or otherwise sanction non-complaint student organizations within its jurisdiction, subject to appeal to any competent body or officer in accordance with Chapter 805 of these statutes.~~
- ~~10. COGS may, by a two-thirds (2/3), (66%) vote, suspend and recommend to the Senate that any officer or member of COGS or of any entity with the jurisdiction of COGS, be impeached limited to the grounds of~~





## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

~~misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, and excessive absences. Once an individual has been suspended they will lose all privileges of their office until such time as the Senate may undertake a review. The Senate may issue an order reinstating the officer or impeach the officer in which case they will be subject to removal from the office in accordance with 405.5. In the event of a conflict between this subsection and any provision in Chapter 405, this subsection will control.~~

### H. ~~COGS Speaker Duties and Responsibilities~~

- ~~1. To plan and coordinate the execution of all administrative work necessary for the efficient operation of COGS.~~
- ~~2. To be the chief liaison between COGS and SGA.~~
- ~~3. To be empowered to represent the graduate, professional, and postp-baccalaureate FSU Student Body officially within the university and serve as spokesperson for COGS.~~
- ~~4. To be responsible for the supervision/hiring/firing of authorized COGS OPS employees funded by A&S Fees, with the final approval by majority vote of COGS.~~
- ~~5. To authorize the expenditure of A&S allocations as described in the COGS budget.~~
- ~~6. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.~~

### I. ~~COGS Representative Duties and Responsibilities~~

- ~~1. To attend all regular and special meetings.~~
- ~~2. Prior to any contractual agreements, to make known to COGS and the SGA Business Manager any potential conflict of interest situation that may exist.~~
- ~~3. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.~~

### J. ~~Interaction Between COGS and SGA~~

- ~~1. A copy of all bills, minutes, and resolutions shall be sent promptly to COGS to SGA and vice versa. This task is the duty of the Information Officer of COGS and of the Student Senate Pro Tempore.~~
- ~~2. COGS and SGA representatives shall meet a minimum of twice a year to share and discuss issues, problems, and items of mutual concern. Each group shall host one liaison meeting each year.~~
- ~~3. Notification shall be given by the Student Senate Pro Tempore to COGS at the time of the first reading of bills originating in the Student Senate which change FSU Statutes, the Student Body Constitution, or any university wide issues which affect COGS. A minimum of one week shall elapse between the first and second reading of the bill.~~



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

~~4. Legislation originated in Student Senate which would change Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes must pass the Student Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.~~

~~K. All provisions of Chapter 607 shall be considered fully severable.~~

607.2. Membership

- A. COGS shall be composed of representatives as defined by the COGS Code.
- B. The COGS Faculty Advisor shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of COGS.
- C. A Speaker shall be elected by COGS.
- D. A Financial Officer shall be elected by COGS to serve in the absence, removal, or resignation of the Speaker, until election of a new Speaker.
- E. Any graduate, professional or post-baccalaureate (graduate special) student admitted at FSU, taking course(s), maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and in good standing with the University, shall be eligible to seek and hold a position in COGS.

607.3. Procedures

- A. COGS shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting per month.
- B. All legislation approved by COGS shall be done so upon simple majority vote of quorum.
- C. The Speaker of COGS shall preside over COGS and shall vote only in the case of a tie among the representatives.
- D. Legislation concerning the establishment of, or changes in, the COGS Code shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of quorum.
- E. Proviso Language can be added to the funds that are guaranteed by the Student Government Constitution only if that proviso language is agreed upon by both Student Senate and COGS. All funding in addition to those guaranteed to COGS by the Student Government Constitution, may at the discretion of Senate, contain proviso language.
- L. Quorum



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Quorum is required to conduct business.
2. Quorum exists if both of the following conditions are met:
  - a. The speaker or a designated chair is present.
  - b. A majority of representatives is present at a meeting called in accordance with the COGS Code and COGS Internal Rules of Procedure.

607.4. Vacancies

- A. When a vacancy occurs, notice of the position will be advertised on the COGS bulletin boards a minimum of seven (7) consecutive days.
- B. Vacancies shall be filled at the discretion and with the approval of COGS in accordance with the guidelines in the COGS Code.

607.5. Duties and Responsibilities of COGS

- A. To establish rules of order and internal operating procedures (hereinafter referred to as Code) as necessary to implement the purpose and responsibilities of COGS.
- B. In the event of a vacancy, to appoint qualified students to serve on COGS, its committees, and its task forces as necessary.
- C. To write and vote on its own guidelines and Code.
- D. To construct a budget for each fiscal year for portions of the Activity and Service Fee revenue apportioned to COGS. This revenue will total thirty (30%) percent of all main FSU campus A&S monies collected from students designated by the Registrar as five (5) or seven (7).
- E. To approve the expenditure of monies allocated to the COGS budget, with the authorizing signature of two members of the COGS Executive Committee.
- F. To review annually COGS Bylaws and make appropriate revisions.
- G. To submit a copy of its budget to the Student Senate detailing its categorical spending in a timely fashion.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

- H. COGS may establish procedures in the COGS Code to freeze funds or otherwise sanction non-complaint student organizations within its jurisdiction, subject to appeal to any competent body or officer in accordance with Chapter 805 of these statutes.
  - I. COGS may, by a two-thirds (2/3), (66%) vote, suspend and recommend to the Senate that any officer or member of COGS or of any entity with the jurisdiction of COGS, be impeached limited to the grounds of misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, and excessive absences. Once an individual has been suspended they will lose all privileges of their office until such time as the Senate may undertake a review pursuant to Chapter 405 of these Statutes. The Senate may issue an order in the form of a Resolution reinstating the officer or impeach the officer in which case they will be subject to removal from the office.
- 607.6. COGS Speaker Duties and Responsibilities
- A. To plan and coordinate the execution of all administrative work necessary for the efficient operation of COGS.
  - B. To be the chief liaison between COGS and SGA.
  - C. To be empowered to represent the graduate, professional, and postp-baccalaureate FSU Student Body officially within the university and serve as spokesperson for COGS.
  - D. To be responsible for the supervision/hiring/firing of authorized COGS OPS employees funded by A&S Fees, with the final approval by majority vote of COGS.
  - E. To authorize the expenditure of A&S allocations as described in the COGS budget.
  - F. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.
- 607.7. COGS Representative Duties and Responsibilities
- A. To attend all regular and special meetings.
  - B. Prior to any contractual agreements, to make known to COGS and the SGA Business Manager any potential conflicts-of-interest that may exist.
  - C. To perform other duties and responsibilities as delineated in the COGS Code.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

607.8. Interaction Between COGS and SGA

- A. COGS may propose legislation to the Student Senate. Once proposed by COGS, the Student Senate President Pro Tempore must submit such legislation to the Student Senate.
- B. COGS shall represent itself in Student Senate, either by a resolution read in Student Senate or by appearance of a delegate from COGS, on the following matters:
  - a. Legislation that changes Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes.
  - b. Legislation which is a resolution of COGS concerning university-wide matters.
  - c. Other matters as the Student Senate shall request COGS representation.
  - d. Other matters as COGS shall request to be represented before the Student Senate.
- C. The COGS Speaker or their designee shall serve as a voting ex-officio member of the Student Senate Budget, Central Reserves, and Sweepings Committees.
- D. A copy of all bills, minutes, and resolutions shall be sent promptly from COGS to the Student Senate and vice versa. This task is the duty of the Communications Officer of COGS and of the Student Senate President Pro Tempore.
- E. COGS, Student Senate, and Executive Branch representatives shall meet a minimum of twice a year to share and discuss issues, problems, and items of mutual concern. Each group shall host one liaison meeting each year.
- F. Notification shall be given by the Student Senate Pro Tempore to COGS at the time of the first reading of bills originating in the Student Senate which change FSU Statutes, the Student Body Constitution, or any university-wide issues which affect COGS. A minimum of one week shall elapse between the first and second reading of the bill.
- G. Legislation which would change Chapter 607 of the Student Body Statutes must pass the Student Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

All provisions of Chapter 607 shall be considered fully severable.