

THIRTIETH CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



Budget Deliberation Meeting
Zoom
2/11/2022
5:00 p.m.
MINUTES



Call to Order: 5:06 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Creigh, Vouzas, Wilson, Harshe, Neale, Baffour-Awuah Junior, Linsky

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, EXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES LEFT EARLY, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, EXCUSED: Illesanmi, Delva

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT, UNEXCUSED:

REPRESENTATIVE LATE, EXCUSED: Collins (5:30 p.m.)

REPRESENTATIVES LATE, UNEXCUSED:

Hagemeyer: recommend non-committee members to not speak, take out 2 depts that have never been funded by COGS then we have enough money for all requests, so no need to spend so much time on this, technically just zero fund the departments, did not know that there was an option of zero funding the requests, give money this years, prioritize grad school, not prioritize departments because they have never been funded before, my priority is maintain our reputation and commitment on resolution, start with RSOs, funding boards, and travel, then if any left then give departments, incentivize RSOs to organize, doesn't happen if departments take away this, correction needs to be made for graduate school, hate to see it be made more complicated than it has to be, has been done with way less money and less time, not feel bad and thus give out 30 grand, that's a lot of money to give out just because, great relationships with RSOs in the past, relationship creation, do not know who will be on the next years' budget committee, departments will sequester money quickly, making non-committee members not allowed to speak, go with this steps, will make things smooth, leave you guys to it.

Creigh: Thanks Hagemeyer about Opening remarks and historical context, takes an informal vote to prioritizing committee members speak, top of the hour-3/5 min break, reflection in the past hour

Informal vote: prioritize RSOs, funding boards, and travel.

Invites anyone in the guests to make opening remarks

Student Senate Budget Chair Gonzales: Introduction about how COGS gets the money from Senate, knows about the money process, Renee Wang- past Student Senate Pro-Tempore,

Black Graduate Student Association

Linsky: Move to approve full request for Black Graduate Student Association, Rep Neale seconded

Vote: 6-0-0

CHAOS at FSU

Linsky: Move to approve full request for CHAOS at FSU, Rep Vouzas seconded

Vote: 6-0-0

Cheminoles

Linsky: Move to approve full request for Cheminoles, Rep Vouzas seconded

Vote: 6-0-0

Graduate Researchers of Geology

Linsky: Move to approve full request for Graduate Researchers of Geology, Rep Vouzas seconded

Vote: 6-0-0

Graduate Women in STEM

Linsky: Move to approve full request for Graduate Women in STEM, Rep Vouzas seconded

Vote: 6-0-0

Higher Education Student Association

Questions:

Linsky: What the contractual services are for?

Creigh: \$3000, two Speakers

Linsky: don't know who they are, what are they speaking about

Creigh: speaker ID is separate, we did not ask who they are, highest honorarium is around \$2000, expenses rental car/bus,

Linsky: go and write a blank check, trust us and we will see what trip we go to,

Vouzas: certain degree with Linsky, but this argument can be applied to any other RSO,

Linsky: budgeting for entire year v/s spot checking per event

Creigh: Buses are effective for transporting many people, do not look too much into cutting. Food is \$2000, catering is more than Chic-fil-A or Publix, not too much money on shirts, prioritize travel, but stickers okay

Vouzas: how many members do they have?

Creigh: 84, pretty good size RSO

Wilson: how much they got last year?

Creigh: Do not know if they were funded, first time heard

Linsky: do not see them on the funded ever, asking more money than any other RSO, year 1, expecting that they ask a pile and go away with something, hear from Speaker Harshe about College of Education so moving him to have the floor,

Speaker Harshe: Social Justice & Inclusion Coordinator for HESA, suggest to zero fund the org

Linsky: Enough for me,

Creigh: do we have a motion?

Linsky: move to zero fund the HESA, Vouzas seconded,

Creigh: big change in what we were thinking

Linsky: moving for Speaker Harshe to have the floor, and hear his rationale,

Speaker Harshe: never come to us before, not fiscally responsible,

Linsky: couple of grand, see if they can manage their funds, not all 8k, but allow for an opportunity for a prudent manner, throw one event, cold feet about that motion

Creigh: best way, COGS to trust RSOs to know how to use Nole Central, other processes, then over the years, ramp up, so first fund an event or two and then after that trust has built up, then recommend them coming the fiscal year budget allocation route to not have to knit pick at Assembly meeting, recommend funding some, so feet in the water,

Vouzas: fund one of the two events, prefer them come back, not best to give them zero money, do not exactly how record keeping work but if they have no money allocated this year and they come back, then again there is no record of them

Linsky: perpetual cycle of no history, no credibility, out of 1.2M, only 81k is requested by RSOs, more to RSOs and less to Administration, motion to fund HESA \$1500 in expenses, \$1000 in food, and \$500 in clothing and awards for a total of \$3000

Vouzas: nothing in contractual services?

Linsky: nothing because they are not at the place where they can show they are capable of expending that money, not capable of having a big speaker event yet so not so much in support of giving them that money to play with,

Vouzas: procedural question, can I have Speaker Harshe talk?

Linsky: withdraws motion

Vouzas: moves to have Speaker Harshe speak

Speaker Harshe: Introduces again about the Exec board member role in the organization

Linsky: can you elaborate on why?

Wilson: same question?

Speaker Harshe: never been funded before, neither through budget or allocation requests

Linsky: have you observed any behavior that they can't be trusted with any money if they got it? What behavior in potential about fiscally responsible?

Speaker Harshe: not the Treasurer so not able to answer that question.

Linsky: Pickle, we want to trust the student leaders in the organization but also give something,

Deputy Speaker Communications: hard to make a judgement without actually seeing how they spend based on hearing about inside members, with our increase in funds this year, we should not be conservative, if RSOs are trusting us and coming to us then we should not send them away,

Neale: new COGS member, encouraged RSOs to come to COGS either if they come to us before or not, so we may encounter many other RSOs like that that are new this year, so support partially funding,

Vouzas: understand where Speaker Harshe is coming from, not sure never having been funded by COGS before is enough reason to not fund them, still believe that we should give them some partial funding to see if they can prove themselves, Ashley still wants to talk then moves to speak

Ashley Gonzales: harmful precedent to set that if you have not funded them before then you will not get funded now, because how does that open the door for anyone, you are the committee, but

I have never seen a representative inside of an RSO say to not fund the RSO, but you have come to a consensus then go with it,

Creigh: good to hear from outside voices, significantly higher, get to other RSOs, wrap up,

Linsky: moves to let Speaker Harshe speak,

Speaker Harshe: HESA always been funded from College of Education and ELPS, and never been able to get funding from COGS, so do not deem them to be fiscally responsible

Linsky: are they trying to dissociate from the Department and come under COGS purview?

Speaker Harshe: no comments

Linsky: moves to partially fund, \$1500 expenses, \$1000 in food, \$500 in clothing and awards, total of \$3000, Deputy Speaker Communications Collins seconded, open to amendment

Neale: moves to let Speaker Harshe speak

Speaker Harshe: question about the A&S fee per tuition hour, \$12.86? 84 people in the HESA

Creigh: do not know the top of the head,

Linsky: if 84 people in HESA, then they generated about 34k in A&S fees per year

Creigh: calls to question,

6-0-1 passes, Wilson abstains

HIGSA

Motion to fund HIGSA in the full amount: Linsky; Second: Baffour

Vote: 7-0-0

HGSA

Last year they were funded 2,200 and this year they are requesting an increase.

Motion to fund the full 3,045: Linsky; Second: Neale

Vote: 7-0-0

INSAT

They are a newer organization, but we have funded them more recently. They are learning what to do through Nole Central.

Motion to fund full 3,000: Wilson; Vouzas: Second

Vote: 7-0-0

LEARN

They have 42 members, have not been funded in the past, funding is requested for mainly expense and food.

Harshe: I do not believe we should fund this organization since we have not funded them in the past.

Collins: We need to remain consistent, and I believe they have been successful by being self-funded.

Vouzas: It is impossible to determine they are fiscally responsible. We want to give them a chance to show they are fiscally responsible.

Linsky: We have more seats at the table here at COGS and we can invite more organizations to utilize funds and underserve organizations that have promise to succeed. This leads up to overserve older organizations who push for more and more money.

Collins: I want to point out that they have concrete plans. This is something they've thought through, and something COGS has shown attention toward in the past.

Vouzas: Yes, we cannot deem they are financially irresponsible because they did not know about COGS.

Linsky: As a reminder, only 80,000 are being requested from organizations. We know exactly where these funds are going toward, which is what we cannot say about departments. I also think we should partially fund and see what they do with the money.

Creigh: This is not a lot of money when it relates to 1.2 million dollars. This emphasizes good for all graduate students.

Vouzas: When it comes to LEARN, I think we should fund their full amount. Their level of organization stretches beyond this organization.

Motion to fund the full amount: Collins; Second: Neale

Vote: 5-2-0

Neuroscience Graduate Student Association

They have been funded in the past

Motion to fund 5,480 total: Vouzas; Second: Neale

Vote: 7-0-0

ORGS

Motion to fully fund: Wilson; Second: Neale

Vote: 7-0-0

Philosophy Graduate Student Association

Motion to fully fund (\$2,750): Vouzas; Second: Neale

Vote: 7-0-0

Physics Graduate Student Association

Motion to fully fund (\$1,750): Neale; Second: Vouzas

Vote: 7-0-0

Political Science Graduate Student Association

Motion to fully fund (\$7,280): Vouzas; Second: Collins

Vote: 7-0-0

Society of Musicology

This has been their funding amount for the past 8 years

Motion to fully fund (\$4,200): Wilson; Second: Neale

Vote: 6-0-1

SALSA

Asking for \$5,000

COGS has funded them once or twice recently, but they are a new organization

Motion from Neale for Speaker Harshe to have the floor

Harshe: Have you received funding before, and when were they founded?

Neale: We have not been funded but have had two organizations that have been successful most recently.

Creigh: Could you elaborate on these events?

Neale: The first event was a movie screening, we tabled at Market Wednesday. We had good turnout. With the movie screening, we had around 15-20 people attend. The first talk of the SALSA event, we had a confirmed 15 in attendance at the Globe.

Harshe: Did you have that event in public domain?

Neale: We did advertise on social media and list serves so it was open to other students

Harshe: Did you know about movie sharing rights to students outside of organizations?

Neale: Another student was responsible for doing so.

Harshe: Pointed out where to find this information.

Neale: I'm not privy to this.

Creigh: How much do you plan to spend for each speaker?

Neale: We're looking to reach outside of our alumni and staff for a quality speaker, but I modeled this request from other organizations. This would go toward one speaker with a higher cost (3000) or two speakers with a lower cost.

Creigh: If we fund only one speaker, we are exceeding the precedent we usually set for funding one speaker.

Neale: We can just fund two

Harshe: Would they be in violation to the financial manual? Since they did not receive the rights for the movie?

Neale: I am not privy to that information

Wilson: I move to fund 2000 in contractual services, 1000 in expense, 500 food, and 500 in clothing. Second: Vouzas

Vote: 6-0-1

Cell and Molecular Graduate Student Association

Asking for 3,550 this year, compared to last year they requested 2,110 for food only.

Vouzas: I have been a member of this organization. This money will primarily go toward equipment and materials for events that involve the public. In the past, the organization has borrowed material from the department, but the board wants to be able to fund everything themselves so they can be more independent from the department.

Vouzas: I motion to fund the full amount (3,550); Second: Collins

Vote: 6-0-1

LSC

They are asking for 61,000 and this is based on a calculation given the increase in COGS funding. With an 11% increase, they are asking for an 11% increase.

Motion to approve full amount of 61,000 for the Law School Council.

Neale: Second.

Question: Harshe – How many graduates are representative of LSC?

Linsky: Over 1000 enrollment. I was surprised they only asked for what they did.

Collins: I don't know if it's beyond the point for questions. I understand with the increase with COGS and how it relates to LSC and larger organizations. Could you speak a little more about the justification about what this is going toward?

Linsky: The LSC has 30-35 RSOs. It is difficult for them to project their increased benefits.

Collins: Is this projected to look like increasing these events? Or what is it going toward?

Linsky: More food, and better food, to my understanding. This increases morale and gives us our value as far as credits go. When it comes to the value, we put in about 150,000 into A&S fees.

Creigh: Last year we funded 44,000 for both organizations, year before that: 44,000.

Linsky: Speaking as a rep from the law school, it makes sense that the med school gets more money. They pay more money because they are taking more classes.

Harshe: College of Law counts for number 3 for largest schools, and College of Med is actually ranked 8th.

Linsky: As far as credits taken, (ir.fsu.edu – source), they do take more than the law school. Student enrollment is one metric, but this should be linked to credit hours taken.

Motion to fund the full amount (61,000): Linsky; Second: Neale

Motion to call to question (based on previous motion): Collins

Vote: 6-0-1

MSC

The medical school council is asking for 84,816.73.

Vouzas: If I remember correctly, MSC is giving money to grad students for conference travel. The main point I have is whether there is a limit of how much COGS funding is going toward the med school for conference travel. Funding for conferences should stay fair and equitable between all colleges. Why shouldn't a student from the music department be getting the same amount of money to go to a conference? Is there a mechanism to guarantee that students in other departments will get the same amounts.

Creigh: I know a large portion of the increase is going toward conference travel.

Wilson: I will defer to Ariana Genovese, president of MSC.

Genovese: We make sure conferences are advertised to the entire college of medicine. There are times where we can only fund the registration fee. We are funding live educational experiences and we do not have enough funding toward MSC for conference travel. It's not just extra curriculums. We try to make it super equitable. Students don't always get conference travel funding, either from COGS.

Wilson: If we are trying to get this money to students' hands, we need to increase conference travel. If we don't have the money to fund their travel, we will send them to COGS. Removing them out of our hands, COGS may not be able to handle this influx.

Creigh: Yes, I cannot handle this influx, as someone who handles every grant.

Collins: I'm interested to hear how it is equitable across other departments at FSU? Collectively, these departments do not get these kinds of funding boards.

Wilson: I'm hearing a lot about increase, but we are not increasing the amount we give per students. We will fund the bare minimum of the registration fee.

Genovese: I see why you guys would be concerned. What I think makes this clearer, it's equal among departments based on the average student. If you are a first-year student, and you're not presenting research, we will only provide the registration fee. Someone on the residency panel, we give more. We are considering so many different factors that is comparable to the COGS process. The average student is about the same as every organization.

Linsky: When it comes to equity, last year, there were 31,641 credits taken at the medical school at 12.86 per credit. They put in over 400,000 in A&S fees.

Vouzas: I am in no way opposing this allocation, but I am concerned because I want to make sure that a random other student is not going to be disadvantaged because they are not part of the college of medicine. If you fund only a portion of a student's expenses, where does the rest of the money come from?

Genovese: Do you mean if they requested 5000 and we only gave them 1000?

Vouzas: Where does the rest of the funding come from? If you don't fund the full amount?

Genovese: Out of their own pocket.

Vouzas: Okay. In other departments, if you only get partial funding from COGS, you may get funding from a PI.

Harshe: MSC meetings last for 2 or more hours every week or other week. There's a lot of labor they put in because of how COGS is inefficiently run. It is unfortunate how this labor is fun. So I think Vouzas's question is how can COGS be more equitable with distributing funds across departments.

Motion to fund MSC full amount of 84,816.73; Second: Vouzas

Vote: 6-0-1

The Graduate School

Requesting 18,740 (10,000 is going to the dissertation research fund)

Linsky: Moves to fund the full amount of 18,740; Vouzas: Second

Vote: 6-0-1

Further discussion about funding the globe or another graduate student position:

Linsky: I think it is best to keep up on our promise and fund the globe

Ashley Gonzalez (SGA): It is the expectation that COGS fund the Globe.

Wilson: Does that account for an increase that the Globe is requesting?

Gonzalez:

Two positions explained by Dr. Williams: We want more dollars to support more students. It was discussed that there was need for enhancement in grad student life and grad student experiences. We are discussing the student program coordinator, advises COGS, attends meetings, supporting connections with professional schools, ensures meetings are carried out, advise other RSOs. This position supports COGS directly. There is still the turnover with graduate students, but the constant role is there with the graduate student coordinator. A student program manager would provide support to legislation, make sure statutes are up to date, and make sure senate is supported the way they should be supported. We also needed someone who was responsible for academic affairs – this person would help with the vision of COGS on the student affairs side. My hope is this person would help with career development for graduate students, looking into housing, hearing the voices of graduate students, a physical social place for graduate students. This conversation came from the need to have a graduate student life task force. I am also willing to drop to 135,000 so you are able to support the Globe.

Creigh: if we were not to fund the department of Sport Management, we would have a surplus of 85,100

Question Harshe: How has the COGS position been funded in the past? Is this a recommendation of the task force?

Linsky: Motion to approve 142,300 for the SGA salary account; Second: Vouzas

Vote: 7-0-0

OPS Wages

Motion to approve 7,700 for OPS wages for office staff: Linsky: Second: Vouzas

Vote: 7-0-0

Linsky: I'd be opening to talking about the Globe again – since we have made a commitment in the name of the Congress of Graduate Students.

Creigh: As it stands, we funded it 64,700. The original request was 94,026. The difference in funds was salary. This would be for the night staff of the Globe building.

Harshe: We keep saying in the future, we will not be considering the globe. How will we ensure that to happen? In terms of budget chair Ashley Gonzalez and what she is saying, where will the globe building go next year?

Creigh: As it stands right now, we do have a commitment to fund the Globe building, FSU Childcare, and overhead. What we can do is to not pass a resolution for funding these line items.

Linsky: there was more money going to COGS, and our budget didn't increase by 2/3, which is the difference between 20 and 50%. Somebody realized that they had been taking the proportion for graduate students out, there was then more money coming through. There is going to be no such surprise unless there's another constitutional amendment. We need to find areas where we've been spending dramatically over the years.

Motion to amend the Globe's funding allocation to account for an additional 30,360 to go toward OPS hours for the Globe: Linsky; Second: Vouzas

Vote: 6-0-0

Adjournment: 9:02 p.m.