FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

July 1, 2024

6:30pm

Agenda

**Call to Order:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll Call:**

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:**

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

**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:**

*Bill #41: Iranian Student Association (ISA)*

**Unfinished Business:**

*Bill #42: Elections Reform Bill*

**New Business:**

*Resolution #5: Appreciation for AVP Angela Chong*

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:**

Next Meeting: **July 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACCOUNT** | **ALLOCATION AMOUNT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **AVAILABLE** |
| UNALLOCATED | $51,942 | For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings | $51,942 |
| LSC | $100,000 | Funding allocations from Law School Council to Law School Student Organizations | $100,000 |
| MSC | $110,000 | Funding allocations from Medical School Council to Medical School Student Organizations | $110,000 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Jul-Oct) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the July-October funding period | $100,000 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the November-February funding period | $100,000 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Mar-Jun) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the March-June funding period | $100,000 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Jul-Oct) | $24,000 | Attendance Grant balance for the July-October funding period | $24,000 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | $24,000 | Attendance Grant balance for the November-February funding period | $24,000 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Mar-Jun) | $24,000 | Attendance Grant balance for the March-June funding period | $24,000 |

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Allocation, Revision, or Transfer**

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 41

**Sponsored by:** Steven Medarev

**Date:** July 1, 2024

**Amount:** $ 917

**From (account name):** COGS Unallocated

**To (account name):** Iranian Student Association (ISA)

**Purpose & Description:** The FSU Iranian Student Association is planning to host a Tirgan Celebration at *FSU Lakefront Park (REZ)* on *July 13th (from 12 PM - 6 PM)* to share the rich cultural heritage of Iran with the Florida State University community.

Tirgan, an ancient Iranian festival, is celebrated in honor of Tishtrya, the deity of rain, and marks the mid-summer season in the Iranian calendar. This vibrant celebration occurs in the month of Tir (June or July), symbolizing gratitude for water and the blessings of nature, highlighting themes of renewal, hope, and joy. With roots tracing back to Zoroastrianism, Tirgan is one of the oldest and most cherished festivals celebrated by Iranians and many others around the world.

Number of attendees: 80 people

**The Tirgan Celebration aims to:**

**Educate**: Provide insights into the history, significance, and rituals associated with Tirgan, promoting a deeper understanding of this ancient celebration.

**Unite**: Bring together students, faculty, staff, and the broader Tallahassee community to foster cultural exchange and mutual respect.

**Build Community**: Strengthen the sense of community among Iranian students and those interested in Iranian culture through shared experiences and celebrations.

**Celebrate Key Themes:** Focus on themes of gratitude, renewal, and the joy of life, which are central to the spirit of Tirgan.

The Tirgan Ceremony is more than just an event; it’s an immersive experience into the culture that has celebrated this mid-summer festival for thousands of years. Central to Tirgan is the tradition of tying colored bands on wrists, symbolizing wishes for prosperity and happiness. Participants also engage in water splashing, a playful and symbolic act representing the purification and renewal of the soul. Our goal is to create a space that not only showcases the tradition of Tirgan but also spreads its messages of gratitude, renewal, and community.

**Advertisement:**  
We will advertise this event via various channels including our Facebook page, Instagram account, email, and our Telegram group to ensure widespread awareness and participation. To promote the event, we also plan to distribute flyers, continuing our traditional advertising approach.

**Funding Request:**

We kindly request a fund of $917 to support the Tirgan Celebration organized by the FSU Iranian Student Association. The funds will be used to cover food for the participants, while other supplies will be provided through additional budgets, such as gathered fundraising.

The Tirgan Ceremony is a significant cultural event that not only celebrates Iran's heritage but also fosters inclusivity, diversity, and cross-cultural understanding within the Florida State University community. Your generous contribution will help us create an unforgettable experience that promotes cultural appreciation and enriches the university's multicultural environment.

We appreciate your continuous support.

**Itemized Expenditures:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quantity** | **Description** | **Unit Price** |
| Food | Lunch from Chick-Fil-A | $917 |

Total: $ 917

A close up of a receipt

Description automatically generated

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Statute Revision or Addition**

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 42

**Sponsored by:** Speaker Rowan

**Date:** July 1, 2024

**Purpose & Description:** A Bill to Reform the COGS Elections Process to Increase Independence, Reduce Bureaucracy, and Make COGS More Accessible.

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

**Section 1:** Chapter 111 of the COGS Administrative Code is hereby amended to read:

1. The ~~COGS Executive Committee~~ SGA Supervisor of Elections 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.~~ The Congress agrees that its elections shall be governed by the Student Government Election Code, as laid out in Student Body Statutes Title VII, except that the following procedures shall control for COGS elections, notwithstanding conflicting provisions of the Election Code:
   1. COGS elections shall be non-partisan,
   2. Candidates for COGS do not need to attend the Candidate Seminars,
   3. Candidates for COGS shall file a combined Campaign Finance Statement by the Final Expense Statement deadline, as set out in Title VII, which shall include:
      1. An itemized list of all campaign contributions and expenditures, or
      2. A statement, under penalty of disqualification, that the candidate received no contributions, nor made any expenditures.
   4. Any ties in a COGS election shall be resolved by a vote of COGS immediately upon the convening of the new Congress, taken by secret ballot, with the tied candidates being on the secret ballot.
2. COGS shall be composed of forty-three (43) seats with the following allocation:
   1. 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.
   2. 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,
   3. Six (6) At-Large seats, which may be filled by any graduate student, regardless of college, and
   4. 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. The ~~Deputy Speaker for Communication~~ Supervisor of Elections 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. The Deputy Speaker of Communications shall also advertise the seats up for election on the Congress’s social media pages. ~~Seat allocation information shall be advertised by email as well.~~
4. Elections will be held in conjunction with the regular fall semester Student Government elections.
5. All enrolled graduate students are eligible to vote in COGS elections.
6. Election appeals shall be made to the Student Government Elections Commission, as specified by Title VII. Appeals from the Elections Commission shall be to the Florida State University Student Supreme Court. ~~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.~~
7. Regular elections to the Assembly shall take place only during the fall semester.
8. Elections of the officers for COGS shall take place on the first meeting of the newly convened Congress. ~~Members of the COGS Executive Committee~~ A Speaker and two other members of the COGS Executive Committee must be elected before the first meeting adjourns.
9. COGS officer election procedures shall be the following:
   1. 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.
   2. ~~An elected member of the SGA Executive Branch~~ The most senior member of COGS who was a member of the previous Congress, based on date of swearing in (ties broken by alphabetical order of last name), 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.
      1. The COGS Advisor shall, with the assistance of the Deputy Speaker for Communications, maintain a list noting the order of seniority among members of COGS.
      2. If all members who were a member of the previous Congress are candidates for Speaker, the Student Body President shall act as the Temporary Chair.
   3. Nominations for Officers shall be taken from the floor and shall require a second. Each candidate may accept or decline the nomination. After receipt of nominees, the Chair shall close the floor for nominations, only after ensuring that no other nominations are to be made. If only one candidate is nominated, that candidate shall be declared to be elected by acclamation. The elected officer shall then be allowed to make a brief statement to the Congress. ~~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.~~
   4. If there are two or more candidates who accepted their nomination, each ~~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.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Resolution**

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Resolution #:** 5

**Sponsored by:** Speaker Rowan

**Date:** July 1, 2024

*Whereas* Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Angela Chong, J.D., has announced that she will be leaving Florida State University to take up the position of Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Oregon, and

*Whereas* AVP Chong is a proud graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, Indiana University, and the Stetson University College of Law, and

*Whereas* AVP Chong was brought into the FSU family in 2018 when she was appointed as Associate Vice President, and

*Whereas* AVP Chong has dutifully served the student of Florida State University, particularly through her work as Dean of Students, where she provided outstanding leadership for FSU Campus Recreation, University Health Services, and the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services, and

*Whereas* AVP Chong had the high responsibility of overseeing FSU’s conduct system, including the normal conduct process and FSU’s compliance with Title IX, which is integral to ensuring that FSU is a safe and welcoming environment for all students, and

*Whereas* it is proper to give our best wishes to someone who has provided great leadership to FSU for the last six years, therefore

**Be it resolved by the Thirty-Second Congress of Graduate Students**: That the Congress gives its deepest thanks to AVP Angela Chong for her service to Florida State University and particularly to its graduate students, and

**Be it further resolved**: That the Congress wishes AVP Chong the best of luck as she undertakes her new position at the University of Oregon, as well as in all her future endeavors, and

**Be it finally resolved**: That a copy of this resolution be sent to:

Angela Chong, J.D., Associate Vice President for Student Affairs,

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

June 17, 2024

6:30pm

Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:38pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Skipped

**Roll Call** (Quorum not met)**:**

**Present:** Aboulhosn, Alleyne, Balogun, Barber, Cyrille, Hussain, Sabbagh, Strickland, Vaughn

**Absent Excused:** Rowan, Siegel

**Absent Unexcused:** Beavon, Bethke, Ebuara, Fermin, Medarev,

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:** Strickland; 2nd - Hussain

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

**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: N/A
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: March-June funding period has closed and the July-October funding period has opened for conference grants.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: call for Academic Honor Policy volunteers (reminder of email); swag has been arriving last week and will be arriving this coming week; Involvement fair - thank you for those who have volunteered. We will send out more info soon.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Reminder to help recruit for new members, please reach out if interested. If you are not going to be at a meeting, please remember to let us know ahead of time.
* Advisor Announcements: Please looking into the advisory board if you are interested and it's great to be included in those efforts. We are reviewing the COGS logo. Don't feel boxed in. We do have room for creativity and can go back to the drawing board.

**Committee Introductions and Reports: Skipped**

* Internal Affairs:
* Student Advocacy:
* Student Affairs:

**Funding Requests:** *NA*

**Unfinished Business:** *NA*

**New Business:**

*New COGS Logo Discussion*

Vaughn: Here are some of the logos that we have been sent. Do you prefer the wheel design or the 2A and 2B design?

Hussain: I like the first design.

Aboulhosn: I also like the first design better. The plain version seems easy to use. The ones with colors might be too hard to use.

Strickland: Maybe can try to use 3rd wheel design for stickers.

Vaughn: Great. If no one disagrees, then we will go with the wheel design. What do we think of the text on the logo?

Cyrille: I like the text on option 1. It's straight to the point.

Strickland: I agree with Chris on the text. It looks more fluid.

Vaughn: How do we feel about the font on design 1 vs. the merch order

Hussain: I have a question. Does it have to be "at"?

Vaughn: We were told it needed to include the "at" with the new format requirements.

Aboulhosn: Do we have to have the SGA part included on the logo?

Vaughn: I'm not fully sure. Kyanna?

Austin: That's up to COGS.

Hussain: Can we eliminate SGA from the logo?

Aboulhosn: I second that.

Vaughn: Are we all comfortable removing SGA from the logo?

No objections.

Cyrille: Can we get a revised logo with the text of the merch logo in all caps? Perhaps with both styles of text?

Vaughn: We can make that request. Call for volunteer to help write the resolution for the logo once one has been selected.

Strickland: I can do it.

Vaughn: We will try to get more drafts for the logo and continue this during the next meeting. Thank you.

Cyrille: Thank you everyone.

*Pending Elections Bill for next meeting*

Cyrille: This is a bill that Speaker Rowan is working on. Please make sure that you look over it and send us questions if you have them before the next meeting. This is also to work revising the elections process and wording.

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:** 7:10pm

Next Meeting: **July 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**