FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

September 23, 2024

6:30pm

Agenda

**Call to Order:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll Call:**

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:**

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

*Noah Baez - EHHS Seat 1*

*Eden Punch - Law Seat 2*

*Ashley Judson - Law Seat 3*

*Isabella Daniels - Social Work Seat 3*

*Jayda Craig - Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship 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: COGS Retreat October 6th
* 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 #48: Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association*

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

*Civic Plus Training*

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:**

Next Meeting: **October 7, 2024 at 6:30pm Union Room 2213**

**COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as of September 20rd, 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACCOUNT** | **ALLOCATION AMOUNT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **AVAILABLE** |
| UNALLOCATED | $51,942 | For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings | $48,765 |
| LSC | $100,000 | Funding allocations from Law School Council to Law School Student Organizations | $94,546 |
| MSC | $110,000 | Funding allocations from Medical School Council to Medical School Student Organizations | $106,657 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Jul-Oct) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the July-October funding period | $32,136 |
| 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 | $13,920 |
| 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 |

**Allocation, Revision, or Transfer**

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 48

**Sponsored by:** Maryam Pakdehi

**Date:** September 23, 2024

**Amount:** $ 666

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

**To (account name):** Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEEGSA)

**Purpose & Description:** CEEGSA is dedicated to fostering a supportive and enriching environment for graduate students pursuing studies in civil and environmental engineering. Their primary goals include promoting academic excellence, professional development, and community engagement among graduate students within their department. CEEGSA also enhances their career development initiative through various events and seminars. To achieve these objectives, they are planning a series of events and initiatives throughout the academic year.

As the new semester kicks off, we’re excited to welcome new CEE graduate students and help them connect with their peers and faculty members. This event offers a fun and relaxed opportunity to meet fellow students, make new friends, and enjoy some downtime before the semester gets busier. It would be an evening of bowling, where they can unwind and get to know the CEE community better in a lively, friendly environment.

Number of attendees: 60-70 people: CEE graduate students, faculties, and staff.

Location of the event: FSU Bowling and Billiards center

**Advertisement:**  
We will advertise this event via social media, email, Nole central and distributing flyers.

**Funding Request:**

To make this kick-off truly memorable and impactful, they're reaching out for support from the Congress of Graduate Students (COGS). They're looking to cover essential expenses:

* Firstly, for the dinner event, they need funds to provide food and refreshments, creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.
* Secondly, they require money to reserve 6 lanes at the FSU Bowling and Billiards center.

With your help, they can set the stage for a successful connection, and laying the groundwork for a vibrant and engaged association.

**Itemized Expenditures:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quantity** | **Description** | **Unit Price** |
| Food | Dinner from Chick Fil A | $510 |
| Expense | FSU Bowling and Billiards center | $156 |
|  | | |

Total: $ 666

A bill receipt with a bill and a bill in it

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A close-up of a receipt

Description automatically generated

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

September 9, 2024

6:30pm

Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:42pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Medarev

**Roll Call:**

**Present**: Aboulhosn, Alleyne, Balak, Balogun, Bethke, Ebuara, Hussain, Medarev, Nord, Rowan, Siegel, Strickland, Vaughn

**Absent-Excused:** Taylor, Beavon, McCraney, Pakdehi, Sabbagh, Schumm, Wardlow

**Absent-Unexcused:** Fermin, Solmaz

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

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

Shahin Alam - Engineering Seat 1

I am from the College of Engineering. I am trying to understand the university and student government. I have been in many organizations and I'm involved in organizations here at FSU. Thank you.

DaSean Stokes - Music Seat 1

I am a first year doc student studying opera performance. I want to be involved with COGS and I believe in the importance of advocating for the arts. I want to ensure that Music is given a voice. I also want to help graduate music students tap into funding and COGS resources. We were able to put on an event where we could pay students this past spring with the support of SGA. I want to help grad students reach beyond their bubble. I am interested in joining the Student Advocacy committee.

Taylor Torres - Arts and Sciences Seat 3

Japanese Masters student and TAing Japanese 2. I wanted to get involved in student government and am interested in getting a law degree. I care about the student community and want to spread the interest in the graduate student community. I want to help grad students find funding and help with diverse students feeling more included. I am interested in joining the Student Advocacy committee. I am also interested in working with the GAU. I want to make sure that everyone has a voice in the graduate student body, especially those in modern languages and linguistics. Thank you.

Bryanna Chau - Social Work Seat 2

Masters of Social work student. I want to join cogs because at orientation, we had a speaker come and talk to us. I wanted to contribute to the college and I want to be a voice for our college. Many students in the Masters of Social Work already have families or full time jobs, so I can be a voice for them. I also want to work to advocate for the scheduling of classes that are during the daytime for those who have jobs and struggle to schedule classes. I have also noticed that the equipment isn't as new as many other colleges and I want to advocate for change so that students can more easily participate in class.

Zeke Greenwood - LGBTQ Advocate

First year Masters student in English, Literature, and Culture. I got my undergrad degree at FSU. I have heard about it, but I did not know much about it until talking with Jack about COGS last spring when I was accepted into the grad school here. I do not have an assistantship in my department and I already see a lack of care. I have had to go extra steps to find out information. I don't have a lot of experience in student government, but I was an exec member in a RSO in undergrad. I have experience with organizing protests and was able to make some changes within Tallahassee. Have experience advocating for students. As a trans person in Florida, I understand the importance of Advocacy and I would like to join that committee. I also am interested in helping maintain bonds between COGS and the GAU.

Isiah Maxey - Minority Student Advocate

PhD student in music education. I started at FSU in 2011 through the CARE program who support first gen students who need financial support. Worked as a High School music teacher for 6 years and is very proud of students. I believe in the power of education and advocating for student needs. I am interested in the advocacy committee to support student needs. It feels like I have come full circle in my journey.

Questions: Bethke - How is your availability on Mondays and how long do you hope to serve? Alam - I like to help people and I am happy to invest my time. Stokes - I am free on Monday and I will be here up to 5 years. Torres - I am free at this time and I hope to be here for 2 years. Chau - I will be here until I graduate. Greenwood - I am free on Mondays and I hope to serve for at least one to two years. Maxey - I have a class at 7, but I have worked with my teacher and I hope to be here until I graduate.

Strickland - For those who have not mentioned it, what committee are you interested in? Alam - I'm not sure, but I am interested in helping out. Chau - Student Advocacy because of childcare; Greenwood - I could do advocacy or student affairs.

Hussain - I see many of you are interested in Student Advocacy, so our meetings will be when COGS doesn't meet on Mondays. Vaughn - Student affairs does that as well.

Rowan - Are you financially certified yet?

Pros:

Ebuara - I think this group is the most motivated that I've seen. I'm super excited seeing them here. They all have reasons to be here. They will be a great resource for COGS.

Strickland - I like them all as well. I think they have a lot of power and ideas to bring to COGS.

Bethke - This is a great diverse group. Us going to orientations did make an impact so props to everyone because it made a difference.

Call to Question - Alleyne; 2nd - Ebuara

Vote: Alam - 13-0-0

Stokes - 13-0-0

Torres - 13-0-0

Chau - 13-0-0

Maxey - 13-0-0

Greenwood - 13-0-0

Swearing in of petitioners.

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

**Messages from Student Government:**

Supervisor of Elections Rampino - Apportionment

We have gone from 36 seats to 30. Several colleges have lost a seat, so be aware of those changes. These changes have been attached to the agenda.

Rowan - If you think the apportionments are off, please let us know. Otherwise, the apportionments have been approved. We will work with you on the seat changes if your college has lost a seat.

**Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs:** N/A

**Report of Officers:**

* Report of the Speaker: Welcome back and it's great to see everyone including all of the new faces. We have 27 members now and we hope to hit 30 before the end of the congress. Thank you to those who volunteered at the orientations. We have seen an increased amount of requests in the conference grants due to this. To the new members, we are here to help you out, so please reach out with questions. We will try to do a fall retreat to share information and get to know each other and set goals moving forward. I need to do two sets of calls for volunteers. The tech fee committee is starting soon and supports tech projects across the campus. Let me know by Friday if you are interested. The local fee committee is also starting soon. We are working to finalize that seat, but we will be looking for a volunteer for that. Please let me know if you can do that tonight. We have had some resignations due to conflicts, so I would like to thank them for their service. We are looking to fill these seats. Thank you for those who have served. Finally, I have had a request from the Law School where a student is working to set up a graduate student chess tournament. If you are interested in helping with this, please reach out. This event would be happening in the spring.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Great to be back. I've been serving as interim for the past month and it has been interested to learn about the process. The financial report is attached. This report was made on September 3rd, so numbers have changed with the grants as students request conference funding. If anyone has questions about the grants, please let me know if I am able to stay in this role officially.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Thank you to those who helped with orientation in August. We do have one more involvement fair tomorrow at 10:30 at Bellamy and we need someone to help from 10:30-12pm with setup and hosting the table. Volunteers? We also are changing how we are submitting bills, posting the agenda, and posting minutes this fall. This will be done through a program called Civic Plus. We will be having training on this process at the meeting on the 23rd, so be prepared for that. Finally, we will be having elections on October 16th. Declarations of Candidacy will open on September 13th and will close on September 27th. If you plan to return for spring, please do not forget to submit this on the SGA elections website. I will send an email with the full info later this week as well as what seat that you currently hold so that we don't accidentally run against each other if your school has multiple seats.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: It's good to see everyone here. I'm sorry I can't be there in person. Congrats to our new members. I can see your passion and I will continue to send out more information including the financial certification test. We also have some resignations, so we will be looking for those to fill the seats before elections.
* Advisor Announcements: Hi everyone. I am Kyanna Austin for the new and returning faces. I am echoing congratulations of the work over the summer. It is helping to keep COGS relevant on campus. Happy to be back.

**Committee Introductions and Reports:**

* Internal Affairs:
* Student Advocacy: Stokes is the new Vice Chair.
* Student Affairs: Alleyne is the new Chair and Chau is the new Vice Chair

Rowan: We will start meetings next week and we will work with everyone on Civic Plus.

**Funding Requests:**

*Bill #43: Masters of Public Health Student Association Inter-account transfer*

Balak - Working to transfer funds from their accounts to pay for t-shirts. After looking at the budget, there was no money to purchase t-shirts. It's a great way to promote the organization and represent the organization on campus.

Questions - Ebuara - Are the t-shirts for only your org, or can others get a t-shirt? There might be extra that can be shared once the members get the shirts.

Bethke - Does your RSO have membership fees? No.

Pros - Ebuara - I support transferring the money because having t-shirts is a great way to show off the organization.

Call to Question - Strickland; 2nd - Hussain

Closing - This is a great program that puts on great events and having t-shirts is good.

Vote - 15-0-4

*Bill #44: Black Graduate Students Association*

Alleyne - BGSA would like t-shirts and have money for food for their Halloween themed meeting at the Black Student Union. It's a great opportunity for Black graduate students to meet and have a safe space to talk.

Questions -

Bethke - Have they've had this in the past and what is the turnout? Alleyne- They have had events in the past and they are working to rebuild after many people graduating. They are planning to advertise through Instagram. They had a lot of interest when working to reform their board in the summer. They hope to get more members this year.

Pros - Rowan - I had good conversations with Lauren and I hope they come back as an annually funded RSO.

Stokes - I have a friend in this organization and they are a great organization and they advertise a lot on Instagram.

Call to Question - Bethke; 2nd Strickland

Closing - Hopefully this is a great event and I shared about funding for the future.

Vote - 14-0-4

*Bill #45: Philosophy Graduate Student Association*

Aboulhosn - This is a bill for their yearly conference where they invite keynote speakers. It's the 13th annual conference and the funding request is for food and part to pay speaker honorarium.

Questions: Bethke - Do you know the split up for the honorarium? Aboulhosn - It was going to be more, but they had money to cover most of it. This money is to fund the remaining. It's being split between 2 speakers.

Pros: None

Call to Question: Strickland; 2nd Hussain

Closing - This is a great event and I hope this passes.

Vote: 14-0-4

**Unfinished Business:**

*Deputy Speaker of Finance Election*

Rowan - this seat became vacant in the summer when Chris graduated and we have had an interim speaker. We will now nominate those for candidacy.

Aboulhosn - I nominate Jared Bethke, 2nd - Strickland.

Bethke - I accept.

Rowan - Any other nominations? If there no more, then Bethke is elected under acclamation following the new rules on the election process.

Bethke - Thank you very much. I am working to streamline the application process for student grants using AI and programming for approvals. Trying to use the time to work with RSOs and students so they can help use our funds. Excited to serve in this role. Thank you.

**New Business:**

*Bill #46: MSC Budget*

Nord - Thank you for allowing us to present early because we have a new Dean presentation tonight. Attached is the breakdown of the MSC budget. We have worked to scale back some requests, but have worked to provide for all RSOs under MSC.

Questions - None

Pros - Rowan - I have worked hard with MSC and they were very professional to work with. They have put together a great budget.

Call to Question - Balak; 2nd - Alleyne

Closing - Thank you to COGS for working with MSC's 44 RSOs. We look forward to our continued partnership.

Vote: 14-0-4

*Bill #47: LSC Budget*

Siegel: This is similar to the MSC bill, but for the Law School's 40 RSOs. We have been working on this for several months. This is supposed to be a streamlined process and we are working on financial transparency. Please look at the attached budget and please let me know if you have any questions.

Questions: None

Pros: Balak - It's well organized and it's all open to public record, so let us know if you would like to learn more.

Rowan - I've been working on this with Maddie for a while and I hope we can continue this moving forward so that it gets easier each time.

Call to Question: Lauren; 2nd - Aboulhosn

Closing - Thank you for your time and if anything comes up, please let me know.

Vote: 13-0-4

*Resolution #7: Stronger Future Working Group*

Rowan steps down from the Speaker position and Bethke takes over.

Rowan - This resolution looks at the final package for the Stronger Future Working Group through Resolution 3. This is to make a new path for graduate student governance at FSU. We have been described as being in the boonies since our power is mostly in our budget and advocacy. With the working group, we are setting up ties with SGA to create a clear path forward. There are 7 bills as a part of the package. We want to make FSU one of the few universities that has a bicameral student government on the basis of graduate and undergraduate. This would make the Senate for undergraduates and COGS for graduates. We would give us more power to have our say when it comes to law that impact graduate students. There is a lot of great work and this resolution is stating our support for it. This will be presented to Senate on Wednesday and would put the constitutional amendment on the ballot for the fall.

Questions: Stokes - If it does get separated, how does this impact orgs who have both undergrads and grads? Rowan - orgs go to whichever population is the largest and they can't double dip.

Strickland - This will provide more of a relationship between the two? Rowan - This should help provide more transparency and create a stronger bond. We will have to work with each other when passing big policy changes. Currently, that is not the case when SGA passes things currently.

Aboulhosn - Has there been an early reception for this? Rowan - Things are being passed and SGA wants to work with graduate students and hear them. This is the perfect time to make a change.

Torres - What do you mean about the ballot? If it passes the Student Senate, it will go on the ballot for the Fall 2024 elections to vote on.

Motion to Extend time: Ebuara; 2nd - Stokes

Medarev - How many students are being represented? Rowan - There are 4 graduate reps out of 80 in SGA. Many graduate seats were abolished in 2020 forcing grad students to run against undergrads for Senate seats.

Pros: Strickland - I feel this is a great thing with what has happened over the summer. It is important to establish to ensure graduate students are heard.

Aboulhosn - Thank you to Jack for working on this. I think you have helped to create these bonds.

Bethke - I echo that appreciation for Jack's work on building bridges.

Balak - There is a lot of back work on this over the past several months. This will make a great change in how graduate students are represented.

Motion to Extend by 1 minute: Steven; 2nd - Balak.

Torres - I think this is a great idea. I was wondering when I was petitioning if it would be worth it with the power differences and this shows that it is.

Call to Question: Strickland; 2nd - Alleyne

Closing remarks: Rowan - When I first started grad school, I was asked why join COGS. There was talk about dismantling COGS and the fact that we are here, I am happy with all of the changes. It gives us a duty to continue this work and fill our seats. We will continue to fight for graduate students and their voice. If this passes, it will be on the October 16th ballot.

Vote: 17-0-0

Speaker Rowan returns to Speaker role.

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:** 8:46pm

Next Meeting: **September 23, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Senate Chambers**