FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

October 21, 2024

6:30pm

Agenda

**Call to Order:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll Call:**

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:**

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

*Evelyn Furuya - Arts and Sciences Seat 4*

*Madeleine Guerra - Communication and Information Seat 2*

**Special Introductions and Student Comments:**

*The Garnet and Gold Voting Commission is hosting a Block Party for Change event on 10/23 from 3pm-6pm at the union green.*

**Messages from Student Government:**

*Student Body President Boisvert Q&A*

**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 #50: Art History Students Association*

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

*Discussions on COGS/SGA relationship*

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:**

Next Meeting: **November 4, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Senate Chambers**

**COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as of October 18th, 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACCOUNT** | **ALLOCATION AMOUNT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **AVAILABLE** |
| UNALLOCATED | $51,942 | For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings | $43,619 |
| LSC | $100,000 | Funding allocations from Law School Council to Law School Student Organizations (as of September 9th)\* | $94,546 |
| MSC | $110,000 | Funding allocations from Medical School Council to Medical School Student Organizations (as of September 9th)\* | $106,657 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Jul-Oct) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the July-October funding period | $20,256 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the November-February funding period | $69,100 |
| 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 | $12,860 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | $24,000 | Attendance Grant balance for the November-February funding period | $20,040 |
| 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 #:** 50

**Sponsored by: Ridwan Balogun**.

**Date:** 10/21/24.

**Amount:** $432

**From (account name):** COGS unallocated.

**To (account name):** Art History Students Association

**Purpose & Description:** Global Indigenous Cinema Event

The Art History Student Association seeks funding to organize an Indigenous film event aimed at promoting diversity and addressing negative stereotypes about Native American populations. This event will provide a platform for students and the broader Florida State University (FSU) community to engage with Indigenous narratives through film, supporting cultural awareness and inclusion. We plan to host the film screening on November 14, 2024, at the William Johnston Building, Room G40 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. The featured film, Kanehsatake, directed by graduate students, serves as a powerful medium to challenge misconceptions and provide a more accurate representation of Native American Indigenous communities. With an estimated 40 active members in our organization, we expect a strong turnout. The event will be advertised through Instagram, GroupMe, Facebook, and Nole Central to maximize campus-wide participation, and we plan to collaborate with other departments to further promote the event. The event is free and open to all members of the FSU community. We request funding to provide meals for attendees, with quotations for the meal expenses attached. This initiative not only fosters community engagement but also supports fellow graduate students in the creative arts, offering a valuable opportunity to showcase their work.

**Itemized Expenditures:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quantity** | **Description** | **Unit Price** |
| 1 | Publix Deli Fresh Fruit Platter Small Serves 8-11 | $25 |
| 1 | Publix Deli Sub Selections Medium Serves 16-20 | $55 |
| 2 | Publix Deli Served Fresh Chilled Chicken Tender Platter Medium Serves 16-20 | $120 |
| 1 | Publix Deli Garden Fresh Vegetable Platter, Small Serves 8-12 | $28 |
| 1 | Publix Bakery Medium Bakery Cookie Platter | $26 |
| 2 | Sprite 12-Pack | $20 |
| 2 | Coke, 12-Pack | $20 |
| 1 | Publix Napkins, 250 each | $4 |
| 4 | Publix Deli Unsweet Tea | $20 |
| 20 | Publix Deli Fresh Popcorn | $60 |
| 1 | Publix Trash Bags, 30 gal | $16 |
| 3 | Publix Paper Plates, 48 each | $15 |
| 7 | Public Lemonade | $14 |
| 2 | Publix Paper Cups | $9 |
|  | Delivery | Unknown |

Total: $432

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

October 7, 2024

6:30pm

Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:33pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Bethke

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Aboulhosn, Alam, Alleyne, Baez, Balak, Balogun, Bethke, Beavon, Craig, Daniels, Ebuara, Fermin, Hussain, Maxey, McCraney, Medarev, Nord, Pakdehi, Punch, Rowan, Sabbagh, Schumm, Stokes, Strickland, Torres, Vaughn

**Absent-Excused:** Chau, Greenwood, Judson, Siegel

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:** Strickland, 2nd - Nord

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

**Special Introductions and Student Comments:**

Strickland: The Garnet and Gold Voting Commission is hosting a Block Party for Change event on 10/23 from 3p - 6p at the union green. There will be food trucks, activities, and representatives for both parties.

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

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

**Report of Officers:**

* Report of the Speaker: Thank you to those who came to the retreat. We had some great speakers and great discussions. We only have one thing on the agenda tonight, so we will be continuing things from the retreat concerning committee structure and upcoming goals for the year. I also want to talk about the veto of constitutional amendment 1. I am disappointed that it was vetoed by the student body president after being passed nearly unanimously by the Senate. There was a lot of support for this. This is not the end. This will be moved to the CRC which has power to put constitutional amendments on the spring ballot. Eden has been nominated for the CRC and hopefully she will be approved. We are not letting this be stopped and we hope to see it on the ballot in the Spring. Please share out this information and the importance of COGS on this campus. Make sure that people know how vital it is that graduate students have an equal seat at the table and that we deserve to have representation. I will take questions now for those who were not able to attend the retreat yesterday. Stokes: First question, is this the same person who introduced himself to COGS? Rowan: Yes. Second question, if this passed, how can he veto it? Rowan: He has interpreted the constitution to say that he was able to veto acts of the senate. However, I was told that taking action against this would not be good. I disagree with the veto message. This was an 11 month process about the short term and long term impacts of the amendment. I hope this delay means it will be even stronger moving forward. Torres: Is there a veto overrule? Rowan: There is a process, but it is highly unlikely. This is why we are shifting plans to the CRC and there is a lot of support there for COGS. I will be working with them to make sure the amendment is strong for the spring. Fermin: Is there a method of accountability to request him to speak to us about the veto? Rowan: We can ask him to attend one of our meetings. Also, he will be giving his justification on Wednesday night at 7:30pm in the Senate Chambers. I will be there and I highly recommend that you join me there to show the faces of COGS and that we are 30 strong of graduate students who want to represented. I will appreciate all of you coming to join. Balak: You mentioned other channels, but I don't think this is best practice. I think that it is because of personal and political reasons. Are there any other paths for us? Rowan: I think the CRC will be a successful path and that the process will yield an amendment supporting graduate students. Strickland: I won't be able to come to the Senate meeting, but I would like him to come to us and say it to our face. Rowan: I can request him to come to our Oct. 21st meeting. Stokes: I motion to request that Student Body President Boisvert attend the October 21st, 2024 COGS meeting to provide an oral justification for his veto and to answer questions from the representatives; 2nd - Alleyne

Aboulhosn: Can he say no? Rowan: He can. Strickland: Is there anything in statutes that says he needs to attend if requested? Rowan: No. Fermin: Is the veto message public? Rowan: It should be published and public soon.

* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: I think that it's great we are all in this fight together. Things are moving along with our grants. If you are going to a conference between Nov-Feb, there is funding out there, so please tell your friends and classmates. Last day to apply for the current cycle is October 15th. We have used over 75% of the budget for the July-Oct. period. Review of the attached budget report. We held our RSO workshop for funding and if you know anyone who has questions, please share the recording with them. We also had a workshop on the grants and also have a recording for that.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Those who had to email to get on the ballot, please make sure to send your employee id to Jacob. You should have an email in your inbox. Elections on the 16th and don't forget to do your financial report by Friday the 18th. I'm no looking to re-run for my officer position, ask me for more info. The elections for COGS leadership will be November 18th.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: There are no petitions today, but we are looking forward to having more in the future. I have gotten information from those who have passed the financial test. I will send out a form asking you when you passed your financial certification, so please fill that out.
* Advisor Announcements: I am enjoying the dialogue and energy on continuing the fight. I have noticed the disconnect between Senate, COGS, and the Executive branch. I think it's important to ask the questions you want answers to. It's great to ask why a veto is happening. Please continue these conversations and share why COGS is important.

**Committee Introductions and Reports:**

* Internal Affairs: Balak: Thank you to those who came to the retreat. I think we all learned a lot. If you have ideas for future retreats, please send me an email.
* Student Advocacy: Hussain: We were scheduled to meet on Monday, but with the hurricane, we were not able to meet.
* Student Affairs: Alleyne: We did meet last week to prepare for International Coffee Hour. It was a success and we shared information about the upcoming election and COGS. We will meet again on Monday.

**Funding Requests:**

*Bill #49: Indian Students’ Association of Tallahassee*

Beavon - The Indian Student Association will have a large celebration and will be expecting 400 people in attendance. They are looking for funding for food on November 2nd. It will be a large event and there will be cultural performances. They encourage everyone to attend.

Questions: Bethke - I have a question about the water. Are you getting jugs? Yes.

Craig - What type of promotion will you have for the event? Instagram and partnership with other organizations.

Ebuara - Will people have to pay for the event? No. Then what is the ticket for? It is for people to make sure that everyone gets food before they can get seconds.

Pakdehi - Why did you not apply for the annual budget? There was officer turnover at that time, but we will be aware moving forward.

Fermin - Do you have cups? Yes, we will have cups.

Pros: Pakdehi - I'm excited and want to attend. Nord - I love the cultural diversity for this event. Stokes - I'm excited for this event and I know someone in my program who I want to invite for this program. Rowan - This event has always been amazing and it is a pleasure working with their board.

Call the Question - Fermin; 2nd - Strickland

Beavon - This is an event many students look forward to and it's a great way of celebrating culture.

Vote: 26-0-0

**Unfinished Business:**

*Continuation of Retreat Discussions*

Rowan: We have two big questions to discuss:

1. How should committees be structured? Rowan: Exec has been talking about the current committee structure and if it works. Internal Affairs is pretty clear. Student Affairs is split by doing events, but by COGS is supposed to work with parking, health services, and campus things. Advocacy is unclear and is also trying to work to advocate for things like parking, housing, etc. I would like to suggest that we move to 4 committees: Internal, Outreach that does events and recruitment, and then two final committees that would work on advocacy, but where should that line be? How would those responsibilities be split? We had some initial suggestions: Committee 1 handles academic issues and 2 handles social issues. One suggestion is FSU based and Community based. Another is determining issues vs. advocating issues. Another is student affairs vs. only the advocates.

Ebuara - I'm trying to understand. Are the committees overlapping their responsibilities? Rowan - Yes, there is some bleed over because things aren't defined very well. Both Affairs and Advocacy has talked about parking, so we are trying to more clearly define duties.

Ebuara - I think with more defined committees, then if one committee talks for one issue, it can be moved to the right committee. It makes it more streamlined. I don't think it's about the number of committees, I think it's about the responsibilities. Vaughn - There is a lot of advocacy being done, but it's a lot of overlap that is happening. Rowan - There is a lot that advocacy is doing that is assigned to student affairs, but student affairs is busy doing a lot of events. We are trying to make assignments more balanced. We need to change this, but we need to adjust practice vs. what is in writing. Fermin - I think having an advocacy committee that does all advocacy needs to be cleared. Vaughn - I functionally work on event planning and that's part of why student affairs works on events and recruitment because it is a lot of work. Rowan - So are you supporting a split of a group to think of the problems, and then another group to go out and talk about making the changes. Fermin - I think something on the duty is good. Hussain - With being on advocacy, our tasks do overlap some, but we are looking at housing off campus. I think defining the boundaries is important. We are also assigned to childcare, and it is challenging for us and we do not feel like we can handle it because of all the rules and policies. Rowan - Childcare is its own thing because it is a campus department. I will be going to a childcare advisory board meeting tomorrow. Maxey - If we do a split of advocacy goals vs. outreach, they should meet together to be on the same page. Alleyne - I think the doers and thinkers is a good idea. My own concern is that there are a lot of topics under our committees and it is a lot of work and time. It's too much for just one committee. I also think the Execs need to spread out among the committees so that communication is better. Nord - I do like the action idea, but there needs to be a separation so that committees can do what is in their codes. Balak - I understand why we are having this chance, but we also need to future proof it. If membership shrinks, then it might be harder to do our duties. If exec are in more roles and committees, then that can lose track of what is going on. I think these are good ideas, but we need to remember the staffing commitment. Austin - We don't have room to shrink with where we are with SGA. We need to keep seats filled as we move on. Rowan - Maybe we have everyone in one committee, but then that committee has sub-committees of doers vs. thinkers. We can continue this conversation in internal affairs. Thank you for your discussion.

2. What should COGS be talking about that we are not right now?

Rowan - advocacy is trying to put out a survey on what we should do, but I want to talk about that here. At the retreat, we talked about parking downtown for Jim Moran and parking in general. The unreliability of the bus system. Events for all graduate students on campus. Graduate student involvement fair and career fair. Accessibility of gender neutral bathrooms. Fostering communication between campus organizations. Punch - I think it would be good for organizations that are similar to work together such as the Black Law Student association and the Black medical student organization. We could put together a database of these organizations. Stokes - I think that we should be more inclusive of the Arts. Aboulhosn - Is there anything COGS can do with weather and disasters? Rowan - We did provide funds for tornado recovery efforts for food and water for the food pantry. Austin - SGA is working to continue a relationship with emergency services. Rowan - There will be a presentation to Senate about Helene, so we can ask if they can also talk to us. Fermin - What about higher education legal issues that we can keep those in mind such as legislative laws that impact graduate students on campus? Alam - A lot of things in Florida is not helpful with students. Insurance is only health, but not dental or eye insurance. Other schools have more options. Can we raise our voice on this? Rowan - The cost did go up and that is something to talk about. Fermin - Our student body president does sit on the board and should be advocating for all students, not just undergrads. Balak - It was hard to know what the committees did when I joined. Can we have a process where new members can get to know committees before joining. Medarev - Maybe an orientation process with the committees? Alleyne - To add on to what Diego said, can that what advocacy can also do - give a list of things for the student body president to present? Rowan - We can definitely consider that and put together resolutions passed by COGS for it. Bethke - An initial idea for COGS is to partner with the recycle bike process. There is Sustainable Campus who takes old bikes on campus and reuses them for students. We can maybe partner with them and provide funding to help students access bikes. Stokes - Tallahassee is not a bike friendly campus and can't support more bikes. It gets hard when you live far away. Bethke - Tallahassee is trying to work on this, but it does suck. Daniels - An organization we could work with is Bike House on Railroad Square who gives out bikes for those in need. Rowan: Thank you for all of these suggestions. We will discuss them as Exec and within the committees.

**New Business:**

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:** 7:47pm

Next Meeting: **October 21, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Senate Chambers**