FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

November 4, 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 #51: Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association*

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

*Bill #52: Committee Overhaul Bill*

*Bill #53: Committee Rotation Bill*

*Bill #54: Dep. Speaker for Advocacy Code Bill*

*Bill #55: Dep. Speaker for Advocacy Allocation Bill*

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:**

Next Meeting: **November 18, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Senate Chambers for the start of the 33rd Congress**

**COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as of October 31st, 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACCOUNT** | **ALLOCATION AMOUNT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **AVAILABLE** |
| UNALLOCATED | $51,942 | For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings | $43,163 |
| 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 | $20,605 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the November-February funding period | $61,600 |
| 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 | $12,553 |
| ATTENDANCE GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | $24,000 | Attendance Grant balance for the November-February funding period | $19,680 |
| 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 #:** 51

**Sponsored by:** Maryam Pakdehi

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Amount:** $716

**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.

CEEGSA is organizing an upcoming event to connect current CEE graduate students with department alumni as part of this ongoing commitment. Alumni will share their career paths and experiences, discuss the interview process, and offer valuable insights on topics such as building a competitive CV and developing essential skills that have been critical in their career journeys. This event will provide students with real-world knowledge and help them better understand the transition from graduate school to industry or further academia roles, empowering them to prepare effectively for their own career paths. By hosting a seminar with alumni, we hope to help students envision potential career opportunities and gain advice directly from those who were once in their positions.

Number of attendees: 40-50 people: CEE graduate students, faculty, and staff.

Location of the event: FAMU-FSU college of engineering

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

**Funding Request:**

To make this helpful event impactful, CEEGSA is reaching out for support from the Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) for $761 (minus tax listed on quote) for food and cups.

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

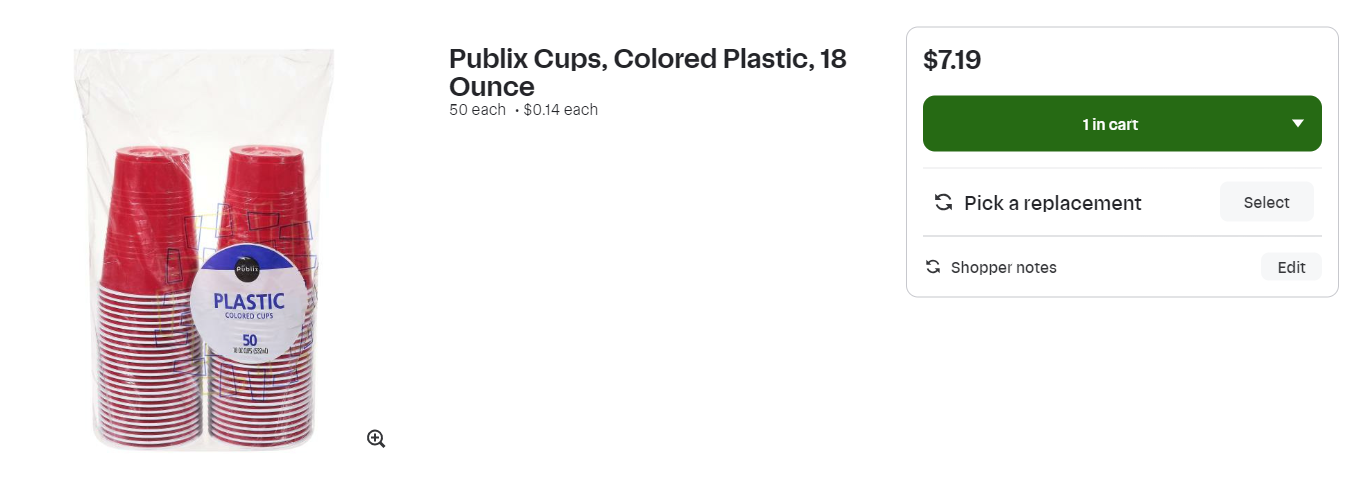
**Itemized Expenditures:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quantity** | **Description** | **Unit Price** |
| Food | Lunch boxes from Panera | $708.02 |
| Cups | Publix | $7.19 |
|  | | |

Total: $ 716

A screenshot of a menu

Description automatically generated



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Statute Revision or Addition**

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 52

**Sponsored by:** Diego Fermin, Eden Punch

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Purpose & Description:** A Bill to Overhaul the COGS Committee Structure and Encourage Strategic Planning

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 108 of the COGS Administrative Code is amended to read:

[**Chapter 108 Committees**](https://fsusga.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=policies#name=Chapter_108_Committees)

1. All ~~special~~ select committees shall be formed upon request of any member of COGS that is ratified by a majority vote of the Assembly, or by recommendation of the Speaker that is approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The individual initiating the request for formation of the select committee shall describe the purpose, intent, **timeframe,** and scope of the committee.
2. The Speaker shall appoint Representatives to the standing committees no later than each Representative’s second meeting of the Congress.
3. The following are the standing committees of COGS:
   1. The ~~Student Affairs Committee~~ Outreach Committee
   2. The ~~Student~~ Advocacy Committee
   3. The Internal Affairs Committee
   4. **~~The Budget Committee~~**
   5. ~~Committee leadership elections shall be held before February 19th, 2018 for any COGS Committee not existing prior to February 5th, 2018.~~
   6. ~~On February 5th, 2018, the membership and leadership of the COGS committees listed here, shall be dissolved, at which point this provision 108.3(e) shall be stricken from the COGS Code: Internal Affairs Committee, Academics & Student Life Committee and Ways & Means Committee.~~
4. The COGS Select Committees are as follows:
   1. Budget Committee,
   2. Strategic Planning Committee,
   3. Any select committee appointed under COGS Code § 108.1.
5. At each meeting of the Assembly, each standing committee will be required to inform the Assembly of its activities. This shall be the responsibility of either the Chair, or a committee member designated by the Chair. The Budget Committee and Strategic Planning Committee shall only be required to report when necessary, in accordance to Chapter 105 of the COGS Code for the Budget Committee.
6. Standing committees ~~(with the exception of the Budget Committee)~~ shall meet no less than once every two (2) months. The Chair will have the authority to set the meeting time and location on campus in consultation with the committee. ~~Once a~~ Every three months, the chairs of ~~if~~ all standing committees ~~(with the exception of the Budget Committee)~~ shall meet with the Speaker to submit a written progress report, ~~establish~~ review goals, and assign new members to committees.
7. The Speaker shall be entitled to refer any measure for consideration by the Assembly to an appropriate committee before a floor vote. This decision may only be overturned by a majority vote of members present at a COGS meeting.
8. Each committee shall be empowered to propose any measure it feels appropriate to the Assembly, as well as be vested with all those investigative powers necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the committee.
9. The ~~Student Affairs~~ Outreach Committee shall focus on the following areas:
   1. ~~Academics and Honor Policy~~
   2. ~~Parking and Transportation~~
   3. ~~Housing and Dining~~
   4. ~~Library~~
   5. ~~Health and Wellness~~
   6. Social and Community Planning
   7. Recruiting New Members to COGS
   8. Connecting RSO’s across programs and colleges,
   9. Planning and executing events under the COGS banner,
   10. Relations with Graduate Assistants United (GAU),
   11. Implementing the Aspects of the Strategic Plan within the Committee’s Jurisdiction,
   12. All other areas in which the Chair and the Speaker agree the committee should focus
10. The Student Advocacy Committee shall focus on the following areas:
    1. Graduate student pay and funding, in conjunction with GAU
    2. Childcare
    3. ~~Relations with the Graduate Assistants Union~~
    4. Diversity on campus
    5. Health Insurance
    6. Academics and Honor Policy
    7. Parking and Transportation
    8. Housing and Dining
    9. Library
    10. Health and Wellness
    11. Implementing the Aspects of the Strategic Plan within the Committee’s Jurisdiction,
    12. All other areas in which the Chair and the Speaker agree the committee should focus
11. The Internal Affairs Committee shall focus on the following areas:
    1. Prepare and distribute the monthly COGS newsletter
    2. Keep website information updated
    3. **~~Outreach to fill vacant seats in the Assembly~~**
    4. Relations between COGS and the SGA, MSC, and LSC
    5. Oversight all COGS funding expenditure
    6. Train new COGS members
    7. Make/Propose amendments to the COGS Code
    8. Hear cases of impeachment and removal prior to the full assembly
    9. Maintain attendance records, initiate removal proceedings for members who are no longer in compliance with attendance requirements
    10. Implementing the Aspects of the Strategic Plan within the Committee’s Jurisdiction,
    11. All other areas in which the Chair and Speaker agree the Committee should focus
12. The Budget Committee shall:
    1. Consist of the Deputy Speaker for Finance (who shall be Chair) and at least four other COGS members appointed by the Speaker and confirmed by the Assembly. **The Vice Chair shall be elected by the committee.** ~~The Budget Committee shall focus on the preparation of the Annual Budget in accordance with Chapter 105 of the COGS Code.~~
    2. The Budget Committee shall focus on the preparation of the Annual Budget in accordance with Chapter 105 of the COGS Code.
    3. Notify graduate RSOs fifteen (15) school days before budget petitions are accepted.
    4. Along with the COGS Program Associate, notify the graduate RSOs at Florida State University by email letter educating them of their opportunity to receive annual funding during the budget process.
    5. Present the Annual Budget before the COGS Assembly prior to a floor vote in accordance with Chapter 105 of the COGS Code.
13. The Strategic Planning Select Committee shall:
    1. Consist of at least five members, as well as the Deputy Speaker for Advocacy **(who shall be Chair)**, who shall be appointed by the Speaker, and confirmed by a majority vote of the Assembly, no later than the final Assembly meeting of the Fall semester. **The Vice Chair shall be elected by the committee.**
    2. **~~The committee shall be chaired by the Deputy Speaker for Student Advocacy. The Vice Chair shall be elected by the committee.~~** 
       1. For the 33rd Congress, the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker and confirmed by majority vote of the Congress.
    3. The committee shall focus on the preparation and updating of the Congress of Graduate Students Strategic Plan, associated metrics, and accountability mechanisms as described in Chapter 122, COGS Code.
    4. The committee shall run in a 12-week period to commence no later than the second full week of classes in the spring term following the commencement of a new session of COGS.
    5. At the conclusion of the 12-week period, the Strategic Planning Select Committee shall approve a strategic plan to forward to the Congress of Graduate Students for consideration and approval.
    6. Special meetings prior to the 12-week period may be requested as needed by the Speaker, or by simple majority vote of the Congress. Such special meetings must have a specifically identified topic for discussion.
    7. The committee shall meet, at minimum, during the COGS session in which the expiration of the plan falls. The Speaker retains the right to call the Committee more frequently. The committee shall not have more than one 12-week period per session of COGS.
14. The following provisions shall govern selection, retention, and replacement of standing committee leadership:
    1. Each committee shall elect its own chair and vice-chair. The Vice Chair shall serve as the secretary to the committee and shall also chair committee meetings in the Chair’s absence.
    2. Each committee shall also be empowered to recall the Chair or Vice Chair at any time for any reason whatsoever by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the committee.
    3. No election or recall of any Chair or Vice Chair shall take place without at least a two (2) school days’ (forty-eight [48] hours) notice to the Assembly of intent to conduct an election.
    4. A Chair can be recalled by a majority decision of the Executive Committee and the Chairs of all standing committees.
15. All members of the Assembly shall be a member of one (1) ~~participate on~~ a standing committee ~~other than the Budget Committee~~. If for a legitimate reason a member is unable to serve on a standing committee, waiver of this provision may be granted at the discretion of the Speaker. Appeals of the Speaker’s decision shall be made to the Assembly which shall ultimately approve or deny the request for waiver.
16. Any member of the Assembly receiving a waiver under the provisions of § 108.13 will be assigned associate membership on a standing committee. Such associate members may participate in their assigned committee, with all voting privileges, and will count towards quorum when present, but shall never count against quorum, nor be assessed as absent, when not present.
17. After initial committee assignments are made, transfers to a specific committee shall only be made if both the Speaker and the Representative to be transferred give consent. Any Representative shall be transferred out of a committee to an undesignated committee upon request.
18. If the membership of any standing committee ~~(with the exception of the Budget)~~ should fall below five (5) members, the consent requirement in § 108.14 of this code shall be waived and it shall be the duty of the Speaker to reassign a sufficient number of Representatives so that no committee has less than five (5) members. Deference should be given where possible to the desire of Representatives to be transferred.
19. ~~If the membership of the Student Affairs and the Student Advocacy committees are unbalanced (a difference of three or more members) the consent requirement in § 108.14 of this code shall be waived and it shall be the duty of the Speaker to reassign a sufficient number of Representatives so that the committees are balanced.~~

**Section 2.** Chapter 122 of COGS Code is created and shall read:

**Chapter 122 Strategic Planning**

1. Purpose.
   1. There is created a Congress of Graduate Students Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan shall provide for an organized document to identify the long-term growth and sustainability of COGS.
   2. The Strategic Plan shall serve as a guiding document to improve cohesion between sessions, and provide for a reference point to improve the identified goals of graduate students in student governance.
2. Requirements of the Strategic Plan.
   1. The Strategic Plan shall provide a Mission and Vision Statements for COGS.
      1. The Mission Statement shall be a succinct summary of what COGS is, and provide a easily identifiable foundation for developing name and identity recognition for the body.
      2. The Mission Statement must align with the mission statement identified in the Florida State University strategic plan.
      3. The Vision Statement shall provide the long term goals and aspirations for which COGS seeks to achieve.
      4. The Vision Statement must complement the mission and vision statement identified in the Florida State University strategic plan.
   2. The Strategic Plan shall identify goals in advocacy, community building, and internal operations to support the achievement of the Mission and Vision Statements.
   3. The Strategic Plan shall provide measurable goals to monitor attainment, where applicable.
   4. The Strategic Plan shall adhere to all applicable laws of the State of Florida, Board of Governors regulations, and regulations of the Florida State University Board of Trustees.
3. Strategic Plan development process.
   1. It is the responsibility of the Strategic Planning Select Committee (herein referred to as the Committee) to develop the mission and vision statement, associated goals and metrics, and strategic plan narrative.
   2. The adoption or amendment of a mission and vision statement shall receive approval from COGS prior to the adoption or amendment of the Strategic Plan.
   3. During the 12-week regular session of the Committee, there shall be two sessions: a steering session, and a plan development session.
      1. The first six weeks shall be the steering session. During this portion, the Committee shall hear presentations and updates on COGS and graduate student governance from the Speaker and stakeholders within the university community. The Committee shall consider the presentations against the mission and vision statements, and identify portions of the strategic plan that need updating.
      2. The second six weeks shall be the plan development session. During this portion, the Committee shall conduct the necessary drafting and editing process to update the Strategic Plan.
4. Approval and maintenance of the Strategic Plan.
   1. The Strategic Plan shall be valid for the three subsequent academic years after approval.
   2. Amendments to the mission and vision statement prior to the expiration of the Strategic Plan shall require a 2/3 majority vote of COGS.

**Section 3.** This Bill shall take effect on November 18, 2024.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Statute Revision or Addition**

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 53

**Sponsored by:** Felix Balak

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Purpose & Description:** A Bill to Amend the Committee Assignment Process to Allow New Members to Sit on Each Standing Committee Prior to Being Assigned by the COGS Executive Committee

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

**Section 1.** Section 108.2 of the COGS Administrative Code shall be amended to read:

The ~~Speaker~~ Executive Committee, by majority vote, shall appoint Representatives to the standing committees no later than each Representative’s second meeting of the Congress. Upon joining the Congress, a Representative may elect to defer their committee assignment until after the Representative**~~’s fourth Assembly~~** **attends a** meeting **of each standing committee**. Should the Representative defer their assignment, the Representative shall attend one meeting of each standing committee and, upon attending all standing committees, provide the Speaker with their preference for assignment. Such preference is not binding, and the decision of the Executive Committee may not be appealed to the Assembly.

**Section 2.** This Bill shall take effect on November 18, 2024.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Statute Revision or Addition**

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 54

**Sponsored by:** Eden Punch

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Purpose & Description:** A Bill to Create the Position of Deputy Speaker for Advocacy and Make Technical Changes to the Duties of COGS Officers

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 104 of the COGS Administrative Code is hereby amended to read:

[**Chapter 104 COGS Officers And Duties**](https://fsusga.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=policies#name=Chapter_104_COGS_Officers_And_Duties)

1. The COGS Speaker, Deputy Speaker for Finance, Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs, ~~and~~ Deputy Speaker for Communication, and Deputy Speaker for Advocacy shall be elected by a majority vote of COGS at the first meeting following the fall semester COGS elections, and they shall together compose the “Executive Committee.”
2. The Speaker shall:
   1. Preside over all COGS functions.
   2. Represent COGS and the Graduate Student Body to the University and the public.
   3. Create and oversee the implementation of COGS functions.
   4. Appoint Representatives to ~~all standing and ad-hoc~~ select committees~~, and may appoint a temporary chair until such position is filled by the committee~~.
   5. Take care that the COGS Code, Budget, and the Florida State University Student Body Statutes are faithfully executed.
   6. Chair the Executive Committee and serve as a member of the Internal Affairs Committee.
   7. Perform all other duties and responsibilities as may be required by law and the Florida State University Student Body Statutes and Constitution.
3. The Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs shall:
   1. Audit the COGS Code and bylaws to ensure continued compliance with the Florida State University Student Body Constitution and Statutes.
   2. Preside over the impeachment process.
   3. Swear in new members of the Assembly and inform them of their responsibilities prior to their petition hearing before the Assembly.
   4. Conduct an audit of COGS financial records no less than once per fiscal year, or upon request of the Speaker.
   5. **~~Disseminate information concerning vacant seats in the Assembly to Florida State University students.~~**
   6. Assemble and disseminate to the members of the Assembly an extensive list of pertinent questions to be asked in consideration of petitions of new members.
   7. Serve as a member of the Internal Affairs Committee
   8. Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of COGS.
4. The Deputy Speaker for Communication shall:
   1. Inform all members of meeting dates and happenings.
   2. Create and supervise COGS announcements and bulletins.
   3. Act as the public relations liaison between COGS, Florida State University, and public press domains.
   4. Record minutes of all Executive Committee meetings.
   5. Work with SGA Student Publications to maintain a website.
   6. **Disseminate information concerning vacant seats in the Assembly to Florida State University students.**
   7. Serve as a member of the Outreach Committee and assist the Committee with its mission.
   8. Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of COGS.
5. The Deputy Speaker for Finance shall:
   1. Oversee the expenditure of the Annual Budget.
   2. Prepare budget request guidelines for the upcoming fiscal year for ratification by the Assembly.
   3. Issue reports on the balance and expenditures of COGS accounts.
   4. Oversee Travel Grant disbursement.
   5. Serve as a member of the Internal Affairs Committee.
   6. Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of COGS.
6. The Deputy Speaker for Advocacy shall:
   1. Oversee the advocacy work of COGS~~, in coordination with the Chair of the Advocacy Committee~~,
   2. Serve as a member of the Advocacy Committee,
   3. Work with the Advocacy Committee to implement the advocacy goals of COGS,
   4. Serve on the Strategic Planning Committee, as set out in Chapter 122,
   5. Act as a liaison between COGS and Graduate Assistants United,
   6. Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of COGS.
7. The individuals acting as Speaker and Deputy Speakers at the expiration of a Congress shall remain in their offices until the election of a new Speaker and Deputy Speakers at the beginning of the new Congress. Such officers shall act in a caretaking capacity, conducting only normal executive business, until the initiation of the new Congress; they shall not undertake to effect any substantial policy deviations until a new Congress convenes.
8. ~~The COGS Executive Editor:~~ 
   1. ~~Shall review and revise any proposed legislation prior to an Assembly meeting to correct grammatical and technical errors, and improve the clarity of language by adopting clear and uniform language. Such revision by the Executive Editor shall not be considered an amendment for the purposes of the Internal Rules of Procedure.~~
   2. ~~Shall not have the authority to make any amendments or revisions to proposed legislation which would result in substantive changes in the meaning, policy, or interpretation of a measure.~~
   3. ~~Shall be allowed to make amendments that are proposed by a Representative that are approved by the sponsor(s). If any of these amendments are made, the Editor must have a report for the COGS meeting stating these amendments.~~
   4. ~~Shall submit a copy of proposed revisions to the sponsor(s) of the legislation, and to the COGS Program Associate one (1) day (twenty-four [24] hours) prior to an Assembly meeting. Failure to comply with this provision, or any provision in this section, shall constitute nonfeasance by the Editor, but shall not prohibit COGS from conducting a vote and adopting a measure.~~
   5. ~~The Executive Editor may be any currently enrolled graduate or professional student and shall be appointed by the Speaker and confirmed by the Assembly. The Executive Editor may be removed through impeachment proceedings.~~ 
      1. ~~Preference in appointments should be given to:~~ 
         1. ~~Representatives with a semester or more experience in the Congress.~~
         2. ~~Students with specialized skills in the area of drafting and editing, as indicated by their educational and professional background.~~
         3. ~~Students with previous experience in student government.~~

**Section 2.** Chapter 117 of COGS Code shall be amended to read:

[**Chapter 117 Line Of Succession Of The Congress Of Graduate Students**](https://fsusga.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=policies#name=Chapter_117_Line_Of_Succession_Of_The_Congress_Of_Graduate_Students)

1. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Speaker for reason(s) of resignation, incapacitation, ineligibility under the Florida State Student Body Constitution, or for any other lawful reason, the Deputy Speaker for Finance shall act as Speaker until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly. At this time, a new Speaker shall be elected to serve until the expiration of the Congress in which the vacancy occurred. If the Assembly does not elect a new Speaker, the acting Speaker will continue until the Speaker returns or a new Speaker is elected.
   1. If the Deputy Speaker for Finance is unavailable, then the order of succession, in descending order, shall be:
      1. Deputy Speaker for Communication
      2. Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs
      3. Deputy Speaker for Advocacy
      4. Chair of Internal Affairs
      5. Chair of ~~Student Affairs~~ Outreach
      6. Chair of ~~Student~~ Advocacy
      7. ~~A COGS Representative selected by the Student Body President~~ The most senior member of COGS, as defined in COGS Code §111.9(b).
   2. If the current acting Speaker is nominated for the office of Speaker, the next officer willing, able, and eligible to serve as identified in § 117.1(a) of this code, in descending order, shall immediately assume the Chair for the purpose of conducting the election. If no officer is willing and able, the ~~Student Body President or their designee~~ most senior member of COGS (as defined in COGS Code §111.9(b)), who is willing and able, shall immediately assume the Chair for the purpose of conducting the election.
2. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Deputy Speaker for Finance, the Speaker, on advice of the Executive Committee and in a published written memorandum, shall appoint an Acting Deputy Speaker for Finance, who shall only serve ~~the next officer willing, able, and eligible to serve as identified in § 117.1(a) of this code (replacing “Student Body President” with “Speaker”), in descending order, shall serve as Deputy Speaker for Finance~~ until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly. At this time, a new Deputy Speaker for Finance may be elected to serve until the expiration of the Congress in which the vacancy occurred. If the Assembly does not elect a new Deputy Speaker for Finance, the acting Deputy Speaker for Finance will continue until the Deputy Speaker for Finance returns or a new Deputy Speaker for Finance is elected.
3. In the event of a permanent vacancy in the office of Deputy Speaker for Communication, Deputy Speaker for Advocacy, or Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs, the Speaker shall appoint a replacement officer who shall serve until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly. At this time, a new Deputy Speaker shall be elected who shall serve until the expiration of the Congress in which the vacancy occurred. In the event of a temporary vacancy, the Speaker shall appoint a replacement officer who shall serve until the Deputy Speaker returns, which must be confirmed by the Assembly.
4. In the event that the position of Speaker, Deputy Speaker for Finance and all positions identified in § 117.1(a) (1)-(5) of this code are vacant simultaneously after the first meeting of the Congress, the most senior member of COGS, as defined in COGS Code §111.9(b) ~~an elected member of the Florida State SGA Executive Branch~~ shall be requested to temporarily chair an emergency meeting of the Congress until a Representative is elected to the office of Speaker. The COGS Program Associate shall notify all COGS Representatives and call an emergency meeting of COGS no later than one (1) week from when the concurrent vacancies were discovered. Quorum shall not be required for such a meeting. In such a meeting the only business conducted shall be the election of a Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Finance who shall serve until the expiration of the Congress in which the vacancies occurred.

**Section 3.** This Bill shall take effect on November 18, 2024.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Allocation, Revision, or Transfer**

**32nd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 55

**Sponsored by:** Dep. Speaker Jared Bethke

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Amount:** $1,885

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

**To (account name):** COGS Administration (OPS Wages)

**Purpose & Description:** To allocate funding for a Deputy Speaker for Advocacy in order to have the position be functional in the 33rd Congress.

The COGS Administration Proviso for the COGS 2024-2025 Annual Budget is hereby amended to read:

COGS Administration - OPS Wages: Pay rates: Speaker (12hr/wk @ $13/hr for 44wks), Deputy Speaker for Finance (10hr/wk @ $13/hr for 44wks), Deputy Speaker for Communications (10hr/wk @ $13/hr for 44wks), Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs (10hr/wk @ $13/hr for 44wks), Deputy Speaker for Advocacy (5hr/wk @ $13/hr for 29wks).

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

October 21, 2024

6:30pm

Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:41pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** McCraney

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Aboulhosn, Alleyne, Balak, Balogun, Craig, Daniels, Greenwood, Hussain, Judson, McCraney, Medarev, Punch, Rowan, Sabbagh, Stokes, Torres, Vaughn

**Absent Excused:** Alam, Beavon, Bethke, Balak, Chau, Ebuara, Fermin, Nord, Pakdehi, Strickland

**Absent Unexcused:** Schumm, Siegel

**Late Unexcused:** Maxey

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:** McCraney; 2nd - Balak

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

*Evelyn Furuya - Arts and Sciences Seat 4*

Originally from Tokyo, Japan and has been in the U.S. for 5 years. Masters History major. Applying because she wants to help other graduate students. Has helped support research in her department. Experience helping students and has done undergraduate honors in her undergraduate degree and understands the importance of funding for conference travel. Also has worked within the department to put together social events and has been a part of the History club and has been a social media coordinator. Is able to make graphics and things for events. Would love to be a part of COGS to support other students in their research.

*Madeleine Guerra - Communication and Information Seat 2*

Grad students in the Masters program at FSU in Marketing and Communications. Would like to one day go to Law School. Is interested in joining the internal affairs committee. Has worked to manage funds and is interested in joining cogs to help represent graduate students. Has experience working with financials professionally and has done internships concerning budget managing. Has experience with carrying out proposals. Also has experience with social media and updating websites. Understands maintaining a social media experience. Has also done volunteer work and advocacy. Would like to work on the cogs newsletter and keep things updated digitally. Would like to make sure that students have access to information. Wants to help collaborate communication across SGA, LSC, and MSC. Hopes to work to foster community at FSU and work to adjust the COGS code. Has history with record keeping skills and wants to support COGS with her skills. Passion for advocacy and experience organization.

Questions: Aboulhosn - Are you available every other Monday for these meetings? Yes. How long do you plan to stick around? Furuya - I will be here for 2 years. Guerra - At least one year.

Balak - Of the 3 committees, which are you interested in? Furuya - I would be interested in Student Advocacy.

Rowan - Are you financially certified? Both - No.

Pros: Alleyne - They are passionate about their majors and brining that passion into COGS.

Balak - I like that they both had specific goals for joining COGS.

Vote:

Furuya - 18-0-0

Guerra - 18-0-0

**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*

Boisvert - Hello, my name is Jackson and I am the student body president. Because I did veto an constitutional amendment that impacted you, I wanted to come to talk to you.

Alleyne - What are you thoughts on this since you did veto it.

Boisvert - The bill would have made this a bicameral system and this would have made this a higher/equal system than SGA. I think this is flawed because it keeps conversations between Senate and COGS separated. I wanted to encourage more conversations. One item that was included was that it would give veto power and I didn't think that was good.

Stokes - So you talk about an equal voice for graduate students with undergraduate students? How many graduate students are in senate and how many undergraduates?

Boisvert - None. 77.

Stokes - What is your vision moving forward?

Boisvert - How we have been doing apportionments has not been representative of students on campus. This creates a system where graduate students aren't represented and undergraduates are overrepresented in some areas. I think we can do this without creating a bicameral system.

Stokes - Would this take away COGS?

Boisvert - No, I think it would help to represent students, but not take COGS away because it serves an important role.

Stokes - What would the difference be for someone in COGS vs. someone in senate.

Boisvert - The work in senate would be the student body as a whole, not just undergraduate or graduate students. The graduate student representation would be a part of the whole body. COGS would focus on graduate students and their needs. Undergraduate students don't see those needs. It allows Senate to see how graduate student needs are being met.

Stokes - Following up on that, for graduate students, you said there are 77 seats in senate, so that would be 15 graduate students would be needed for equal representatives. Would those students be able to offer ideas?

Boisvert - Yes, they could propose ideas and offer a view of legislation that would be a voice of graduate students.

Craig - Thank you for coming. I'm in the Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship. With the graduate students in Senate, I'm not seeing a lot of equal representation. My school does not have the same voice or representation as other colleges do. The Jim Moran graduate students are pushing for parking because since we are off campus, the cost is extra and this isn't being heard within the Senate because we have no voice in the Senate. I would like more clarification on our voices being heard. It seems like while in COGS meetings, we can share issues we are passionate about, this is not being transfer to the Senate because it's not for the whole of campus, but graduate students are a part of the student body. How can we be promised that we will be heard?

Boisvert - From my end, I see the intent to give graduate students representation, but I worry that everything will be siloed in echo chambers. With how it was written, there was no room for effective communication where and having graduate voices in the room can help create a voice for graduate students.

Balak - I represent the college of medicine. About half of who I represent are not on campus because of the system. How do you suggest that the systems represent our college if they have no access to these systems?

Boisvert - That's a great question that I wish I could answer. We had visitors from the Panama City campus and there is also a communication gap. I would love to talk more to you about this gap.

Aboulhosn - I'm with the college of business? Logically, what are the next steps?

Boisvert - To give an accurate vision, we will need to discuss how many students that would be. Every few years, there will be a breakdown of the seats and what they look like. In the next few months, they will be looking at the vision for the future.

McCraney - Do any graduate students sit on the constitutional review committee?

Rowan - Myself and Eden Punch if approved.

Stokes - You just said there aren't 80 seats in here. Can't we get another room? If this goes forward and we keep 77, would you say that it's the percentage apportionment within that number?

Boisvert - This room was supposed to be bigger, but we have to work with what we have. We would be doing it percentage wise. This is a conversation I've heard is happening.

McCraney - So you think a solution for this would be best found in the constitutional review committee. Is there space for COGS members to provide input moving forward.

Boivert - The meetings will be open to the public, so if there is something you are passionate about, then you can either relay through the graduate student representatives, or giving public comment.

McCraney - You think the answer to this representation problem is found in this committee?

Boisvert - Absolutely. It provides conversation on this issue and others.

McCraney - 9 members and 2 graduate students?

Rowan - 3 graduate students.

Balak - You mentioned wanting to have graduate students in Senate. Is there a way to have representation for those smaller colleges?

Boisvert - We have this issue for undergraduate students as well in the Senate for some colleges. The only way to ensure these numbers represent who is being represented is through looking at the metrics.

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

**Report of Officers:**

* Report of the Speaker: Remember to finish up stuff with elections. If you were late in submitting your financial statements, please reach out to me ASAP. Some of you will need to re-petition in because you forgot to declare. We will make it all work out. Welcome to our new members, because you aren't financially certified, you will need to abstain. Internal Affairs had good conversations and there should be 3 bills coming on Nov. 4th. That meeting will be our final meeting for the 32nd Congress. Inauguration is November 15th. Please come! First meeting of the 33rd Congress is November 18th where Vaughn will be presiding. If you are interested in running, please reach out to any of us.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Jared is out, so please look at the budget report. We almost used up the presentation grants. These funds will roll over to the next funding period. You can apply for the next period's grants.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Congrats to everyone who made it through the election process; reminder that I am not seeking re-election in November, so please let me know if you are interested in running;
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: I have gotten some responses on the financial certification google form. Please fill this out if you haven't so that we can keep up our records.

**Committee Introductions and Reports:**

* Internal Affairs: Balak - We had a meeting on the 14th. We thought of the ideas about committees and subcommittees. We think we have some ideas that we will be writing up into bills and there will be more to come.
* Student Advocacy: Hussain - Met on the 14th. Discussed the graduate student survey design. We will work on making a questionnaire and focus on specific topics. Everyone will be discussing it together and it will be done through Qualtrics. Nord will be joining the transportation meeting coming up. We are working on a housing excel sheet to help with information on housing.
* Student Affairs: Alleyne- We met on the 14th. We were trying to workshop and end of semester event. We had to table things because we didn't have enough meeting.

**Funding Requests:**

*Bill #50: Art History Students Association*

This is to organize a yearly event to showcase an indigenous film to the FSU community. Film is interesting and they want everyone to be a part of this show. They want funds to provide food and refreshments for attendees. This would be mainly for graduate students, but is open to the entire FSU community.

Guest Speaker - President of the organization - we usually fundraise for our symposium each year. This film is a part of that as well. Nov. 14 from 5-9pm in the William Johnston building. We hope to fill all seats and collaborate with other departments as well.

Questions: Stokes - Has this happened before? For how many years? Yes, it has happened for a few years now.

Vaughn - Will you send me marketing information through Instagram? Yes.

Pros: Sabbagh - As an international student, I find this event interesting.

Aboulhosn - I have been to other foreign film events and they are always fun and informational.

Alleyne - As a Canadian, I think it's a great film to watch about the tragedy faced.

Cons: Call to Question - Alleyne; 2nd - Hussain

Closing: Thank you for the support and I hope to see you there.

Vote: 18-0-2

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

*Discussions on COGS/SGA relationship*

Rowan - Internal affairs had great conversations about this and I look forward to continue conversations about this. This process will likely take several months. Please reach out to me with your questions. Having graduate students voices protected is very important. If you need time to reflect, we can talk more at our next meeting.

McCraney - The protection of COGS and representation is important. We need some type of legislature that protects COGS and the amount of work that is done. I have seen the process of getting money from SGA vs. COGS. There is so much within SGA, and it makes it hard.

Rowan - I fully intend to bring all of this up. The protection part is more important because we aren't just a funding board, we are an advocacy board that speaks out for graduate students.

Balak - When talking with others around the state, FSU is known for student engagement with Medical students and that's important for residencies and rankings. I want reiterate that our RSOs are a huge draw and we need to keep that.

Rowan - It's these investments that help our students and programs.

Hussain - As a graduate student, we need a voice. International students pay double the tuition and we deserve to have a say. During my time here, COGS is an important place for us to have a voice. With international students, we are paying more and should have a voice on campus. Dept. of Biology had issues of documentation and evaluation through WES and it is impacting graduate student applications. They must send an original application and a WES copy which costs double the money. The departments aren't even getting the applications and it is hurting international students. I think we should look into it.

Punch - Is the apportionment currently unconstitutional?

Rowan - It's not. We did have grad student seats until 4 years ago where a bill was passed to not have separate graduate students, and we can see the results of this with only 3 Law School students in the Senate.

Stokes - It seems like it's us and them when it should be us together. It's important that undergraduate students and graduate students have a students' first voice together rather than looking us all as students.

Rowan - I hope we can take down some of these barriers.

Guerra - FSU is known for pathway students and this is an extension of that.

Rowan - This is an important discussion to have and we will continue to talk about this moving into the 33rd congress.

Motion to Exhaust Roundtable - Alleyne; 2nd - Aboulhosn

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:** 7:53pm

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