FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

November 18, 2024

6:30pm

Agenda

First portion of the meeting conducted by the most senior member of the Congress, Laura Vaughn, until the election of a new Speaker.

**Call to Order:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll Call:**

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:**

**Swearing in of Representatives:**

**Elections for Executive Board:**

*Speaker*

*Deputy Speaker for Finance*

*Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs*

*Deputy Speaker for Communication*

*Deputy Speaker for Advocacy*

**Petitions into the Assembly:**

*Evelyn Furuya - Arts and Sciences Seat 4*

*Madeleine Guerra - Communication and Information Seat 2*

*Steven Medarev - At Large Seat 2*

*Diego Fermin - At Large Seat 6*

*Angelique Tran - At Large Seat 3*

**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 Judicial Affairs:
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications:
* Report of the Advisor:

**Committee Report:**

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

**Funding Requests:**

*Bill #1: Clinical Psychology Diversity Committee*

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

*Resolution #1: Internal Rules of Procedure*

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:**

Next Meeting: **December 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Senate Chambers (3rd floor New Student Union)**

**COGS Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as of November 13th, 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACCOUNT** | **ALLOCATION AMOUNT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **AVAILABLE** |
| UNALLOCATED | $51,942 | For RSO funding requests at COGS meetings | $34,686 |
| 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 | $20,622 |
| PRESENTATION GRANTS (Nov-Feb) | $100,000 | Presentation Grant balance for the November-February funding period | $44,948 |
| 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 | $16,260 |
| 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**

**33rd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Bill #:** 1

**Sponsored by:** Jared Bethke

**Date:** November 18, 2024

**Amount:** $500

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

**To (account name):** Clinical Psychology Diversity Committee

**Purpose & Description:** The Clinical Psychology Diversity Committee is composed of graduate students across research labs and student cohorts within the Clinical Psychology doctoral program. The Committee strives to facilitate open discussions and relevant changes to clinical work, education, and research in our program, with the goal that changes to the program will not only positively affect our own department, but also provide tools and skills to be carried to other institutions as trainees graduate. The Committee also aims to increase representation of people from diverse backgrounds, with a particular focus on groups that have been historically excluded from clinical science and those whose identities face intersecting systems of oppression. The Clinical Psychology Diversity Committee strives to foster an equitable and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and therapy and assessment clients.

The Clinical Psychology Diversity Committee is organizing an upcoming virtual event called the Psychology Diverse Speaker Series.   The Diverse Speaker Series is a clinical science colloquium in which an invited speaker presents their work in the area of clinical psychology. Specifically, we invite speakers whose research and clinical interests involve discussions of cultural humility and psychotherapy with marginalized or traditionally underrepresented groups in psychology.  
     
The speaker will provide a presentation relevant and educational to the Clinical Psychology Diversity Committee as well as other members working at FSU Psychology Clinic. The event will be open to non-members of the organization as well. The headline speaker for the Psychology Diverse Speaker Series session requesting COGS funds is Dr. Platt. Her presentation will focus on treating patients from marginalized communities in the context of racial-cultural issues, trauma, and grief. She will also discuss access and equity in mental health care.

Number of attendees: 50 people

Location of the event: Virtual

**Advertisement:**  
 Email, posters/flyers, class announcements

**Funding Request:**

Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) for $500

**Itemized Expenditures:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quantity** | **Description** | **Unit Price** |
| 1 | Honorarium for Dr. Platt | $500 |

Total: $ 500

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**Resolution**

**33rd Congress of Graduate Students**

**Resolution #:** 1

**Sponsored by:** Rowan

**Date:** November 18, 2024

*Whereas* the 33rd Congress of Graduate Students has organized itself and is ready to begin its work, and

*Whereas* Article IX, Section 4, of the Student Body Constitution grants the Congress the power to set its own procedures, and

*Whereas* Section 110.1 of the COGS Code mandates that any internal rules of procedure be adopted by a two-thirds vote, therefore

**Be it resolved by the Thirty-Third Congress of Graduate Students**: That the attachment to this resolution shall be the Internal Rules of Procedure for the Thirty-Third Congress of Graduate Students, and

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

Andy Johnson, Student Governance & Advocacy Student Program Director, and

Kyanna Austin, Student Governance & Advocacy Program Manager.

Attachment A: Adopted IROP

**Thirty-Third COGS Internal Rules of Procedure**

Rule 1: Powers of the Speaker

* 1. The Speaker, or their designee, shall chair all meetings of the Assembly. The Speaker or chair may temporarily name another representative to chair the meeting while the Speaker is the sponsor of or participating in debate of measures. The Speaker or chair may only return to the chair after the measure has concluded.
  2. The Speaker, or the chair, shall rule on all questions of procedure, maintain decorum, and recognize members seeking to speak or raise motions/points.
  3. Any ruling by the Speaker, or the chair, shall be binding unless appealed by a member. If an appeal is made, the following question shall immediately be put to the Assembly without debate: “Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?”. If a majority votes against the question, the ruling is overturned.

Rule 2: Governing Authorities

* 1. All procedural matters not governed by these Rules, the COGS Code, or the Student Body Constitution and Statutes, shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order. If Robert’s is unclear or silent on the issue, the Speaker, or Chair, shall have authority to decide upon the matter.

Rule 3: Meetings of the COGS Assembly

* 1. The COGS Assembly shall meet in regular session on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the FSU Senate Chambers, unless the time or place of the meeting is otherwise specified by the Speaker no less than twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting. Representatives living outside of Leon County, Florida, may appear by virtual means.
  2. Special meetings of the Assembly may be called by the Speaker, with the endorsement of two other members of the Executive Board, or by petition of two-thirds of the COGS membership. All special meetings require twenty-four (24) hour notice to members and the public.
     1. Any member seeking a special meeting shall notify the Speaker and Advisor by filing a petition for the special meeting. Such petition must state the date, time, and location of the meeting, and the topics for said meeting.
     2. Upon receipt of a petition, the Advisor or Speaker shall poll the COGS membership to determine whether the required number of members are in favor of the meeting. Such a poll shall occur without unnecessary delay.
     3. Should two-thirds of the members be in favor of the special meeting, it shall be immediately noticed to all members and the public.
  3. No action may be taken at any meeting of the Assembly or its committees unless a quorum is present, except for a motion to adjourn.
  4. The Agenda of each meeting shall be as follows:
     1. Call to Order
     2. Pledge of Allegiance
     3. Roll Call
     4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes
     5. Petitions to the Assembly
     6. Special Introductions and Student Comments
     7. Messages from Student Government
     8. Report from the Office of Governmental Affairs
     9. Report of Officers
        1. Speaker
        2. Deputy Speaker of Finance
        3. Deputy Speaker of Judicial Affairs
        4. Deputy Speaker of Communications
     10. Advisor Announcements
     11. Committee Reports
         1. Internal Affairs
         2. Student Advocacy
         3. Student Affairs
     12. Funding Requests
     13. Unfinished Business
     14. New Business
     15. Round Table/Final Roll Call
     16. Adjournment
  5. The agenda for the meeting at which the annual budget is considered shall consist solely of the following:
     1. Call to Order
     2. Pledge of Allegiance
     3. Roll Call
     4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes
     5. Special Introductions and Student Comments
     6. Messages from Student Government
     7. Advisor Announcements
     8. Report of the Budget Committee
     9. Consideration of the Annual Budget
     10. Round Table/Final Roll Call
     11. Adjournment
  6. The Speaker shall have the authority to reorder the Agenda at their discretion, or to insert special items other than business.
  7. The Speaker may waive items on the agenda or postpone them to a later meeting subject to a majority (50% plus 1) vote of the Assembly present.

Rule 4: Submission of Bills, Resolutions, and Motions

* 1. Bills and Resolutions shall be submitted to the Deputy Speaker of Communications and the Advisor by email no later than noon on the Thursday preceding an Assembly meeting, unless this rule is waived by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Communications, or a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.
     1. Bills and Resolutions must have at least one Representative as a sponsor.
     2. Bills must include a statement of the purpose of the bill.
  2. Funding Requests from Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) shall be submitted by noon on the Tuesday preceding an Assembly meeting to be considered at the next Assembly meeting.
  3. All motions require a second. If no second is made, the motion shall automatically fail. The movant and seconder shall be recorded in the Minutes.
  4. All motions are deemed to have been passed by unanimous consent unless a member objects, or a vote on the motion is required under the governing documents.
  5. The order of precedence in motions/points from Robert’s Rules shall govern.
  6. Only one motion may be considered at any time. If a motion is being considered and a motion of a higher precedence is made and seconded, the original motion shall be set aside while the new motion is being considered. Once the new motion has been disposed of, consideration will return to the original motion, unless the new motion affects the consideration.

Rule 5: Debate

* 1. Debate of Measures shall be conducted as follows:
     1. The sponsor(s) of a bill, resolution, or motion shall explain its purpose to the Assembly for up to three (3) minutes.
        1. For bills funding a specific RSO, the Chair may, by their discretion, allow a representative of the RSO, if present, to provide a further explanation, if time permits.
     2. The sponsor(s) shall take questions on the measure from members of the Assembly for up to three (3) minutes.
        1. For bills funding a specific RSO, the Speaker, or Chair, may direct the questions to a representative of the RSO, if present.
     3. Formal debate shall begin and proceed as follows:
        1. A three (3) minute round of debate in favor of the measure,
        2. A three (3) minute round of debate opposed to the measure,
        3. Two (2) further rounds of alternating debate shall be conducted. Motions to amend the measure may be heard at this point.
           1. All amendments to proposed legislation which are more than three words in length and include more than an amendment to strike language must be provided in writing or typed with date and reference, to the Deputy Speaker of Communications prior to a vote on the amendment. Prior to asking if there are any objections, the Chair shall allow the sponsor of the amendment to explain the amendment for up to three (3) minutes. If objected to, the motion shall be debated and voted upon like any other measure.
        4. Further rounds of alternating debate may be conducted at the discretion of the Speaker, or Chair.
        5. During a round of debate in opposition, a member may move to call the question. If objected to, the motion shall be voted on without debate and pass with a two-thirds majority of members present.
     4. The sponsor(s) may make a three (3) minute closing statement.
     5. The vote shall then be conducted.
  2. Any round of debate or questioning period may be extended or extinguished by a non-debatable motion requiring a two-thirds vote, except that the Chair may extinguish time if no member is seeking recognition.
  3. Representatives may only speak twice per round of debate. The Chair shall give preference in recognition to members that have not spoken on the measure.

Rule 6: Voting

* 1. Voting in the Assembly shall be by show of hands, unless otherwise motioned or the Chair decides to use another prescribed method.
  2. After the sponsor(s) make their closing statement, but before the vote is taken, any member of the Assembly may move for a vote by:
     1. Secret Ballot,
        1. The Advisor shall distribute ballots to members; members will record their vote without a name and submit them to the Advisor.
        2. A motion for a secret-ballot vote shall require a majority vote (50% plus 1) of the assembly, if objected to, without debate.
        3. A successful motion to vote by secret ballot shall supersede any other method of voting.
     2. Roll Call,
        1. A roll call vote shall take place immediately upon the motion being made and seconded, without need for debate or vote.
     3. Voice vote, or
        1. A voice vote shall take place immediately upon the motion being made and seconded, without need for debate or vote.
     4. Electronic Voting, only if such an option already exists and is in active use by the Assembly.
  3. On any vote, members may vote aye, nay, or present/abstain.

Rule 7: Committees

* 1. Each Committee shall use a pre-made template for their meeting minutes. This template shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly. This template shall be changed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Assembly.

Rule 8: Amendments and Suspension of Rules

* 1. The Internal Rules of Procedure shall only be amended by resolution and such resolution shall only pass with a two-thirds majority of members present.
     1. Prior to submitting any resolution that changes the Internal Rules of Procedure to the Deputy Speaker for Communications, the resolution shall be debated and receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote from the Internal Affairs Committee.
  2. A Representative may move to suspend these rules by motion. Such motion shall specifically state which rules are being suspended, is debatable upon objection, and shall only pass with a two-thirds majority of members present.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



**THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Assembly Meeting

November 4, 2024

6:30pm

Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:35pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Stokes

**Roll Call: Present:** Aboulhosn, Alam, Alleyne, Baez, Balak, Balogun, Bethke, Beavon, Chau, Craig, Ebuara, Fermin, Furuya, Greenwood, Guerra, Hussain, Judson, Maxey, McCraney, Nord, Pakdehi, Punch, Rowan, Sabbagh, Stokes, Torres, Vaughn

**Absent Excused:** Daniels,Medarev, Strickland

**Absent Unexcused:** Siegel

**Reading and approval of the Minutes:** Balogun, 2nd - Balak

**Petitions into the Assembly:**  N/A

**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: Happy Sine Die. The next time we meet will be the first meeting of the 33rd Congress. Please come to the Inauguration at 5pm next Wednesday. If you would like a headshot, we will have those earlier than 5pm. If you come, please wear professional dress. Our next meeting is November 18th which will be the first meeting of the 33rd. We will first elect the Speaker and after the speaker is elected, we will then do all of the elections of the other officers. Please keep positions in mind if you would like to run. If you have questions about the roles, please ask us. To turn over a Congress, there is a lot of organization at the start. During the 2nd meeting of COGS, there will be committee assignments and Chairs/Vice Chairs will be elected since there will be some member turnover. Tomorrow is election day, please make sure that you vote. We want to beat UF for voter turnout.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Finance: Missed you last time. It's been a great 32nd Congressed. The financial report is attached. We have some money from grants left over that will roll over to the next funding period. The next funding period is going quickly. We are coming up on Budget time. We will be putting together a budget committee hopefully by December 4th. If you are interested in budget committee, please let us know and we will put you on the interest list. The budget committee is a great way to learn about what is going on at FSU. If you are interested in joining, we will review the code for conference grants and will decide how we want to finalize this policy. Budget amounts should be finalized in mid-January. This process will involve hearing from RSOs and their requests and then allocate the funds for the next academic year. It's a great way to take part in COGS. Rowan - we also hope to create a strategic planning committee.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Communications: Inauguration reminder - Nov. 13 at 5pm - formal attire; leaving my position reminder; we are doing bills 51-55 tonight. Last congress we had 32 bills. That increase mirrors the amazing work the 32nd congress has done. Let's keep this up for the 33rd. Please do not leave immediately at the end - we need to do a social media post video/photo.
* Report of the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs: Thank you to those who let me know about their financial test. Please continue to send those in. I'll get a reminder out through Laura.
* Advisor Announcements: Congratulations on a successful 32nd Congress. Please keep up the work. I look forward to working with everyone in the 33rd Congress. Please attend inauguration if you can, but if you can't, we will swear you in at the first meeting. Shoutout to Rep. Stokes who will sing at Spring inauguration. Please think about joining the budget committee. Also please consider joining the strategic planning committee and I'm happy to support this.

**Committee Introductions and Reports:**

* Internal Affairs: We talked about how to execute some of the solutions we talked about at the last retreat when making changes to the code. We are working to better word things concerning code changes to make things easier to conduct work. The budget committee is a great way to get involved.
* Student Advocacy: We worked on the survey and we have it based on campus engagement, parking, housing, health insurance, etc. We hope to continue this at our next meeting.
* Student Affairs: Pups and Cups will not be able to happen, but we are working to pivot and create an event for finals week. We will be collaborating with the GSRC to provide snacks for students during finals week.

**Funding Requests:**

*Bill #51: Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association*

Pakdehi - This bill is for students in the department to connect with each other, faculty, and staff. It will also help students during their study time and research. They can also work to network with others. We have invited 3 alumni to talk about their work and how students can get hired. We are requesting money for lunch boxes. We do get funding from our department such as talk and tea, but the funding is limited which is why we are looking for support for this event.

Q&A -

Pro - Nord - I like the concept and I think it's a way to boost the department's experience and support of students.

Con -

Call to Question - Fermin; 2nd - Punch

Vote - 23-0-3

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

*Bill #52: Committee Overhaul Bill*

Punch - we are working to get rid of the Student Affairs committee and create the Outreach Committee. Some of the tasks for the Student Affairs will now be moved to the Advocacy Committee.

Fermin - We are also working to create a strategic planning committee to make a plan for COGS moving into the future. Making a plan takes a lot of work, so this would create a committee to create that plan. The work will be to squeeze all of the work of cogs into one document that lets campus know what we do. There is also language on how we will create the strategic plan through documentable items. We hope to create an annual report on our goals and how we may revise those if needed.

Q&A - Hussain - I see there is a creation of Outreach committee that will work with GAU, but Advocacy is also working with graduate student funding. Shouldn't that be with the outreach committee instead if they will work with GAU? Rowan - I think there is room for both to do different work with GAU.

Stokes - I was wondering about the library. Is that just general or is it specific? Rowan - It's up to interpretation.

Pros - Bethke - sitting on internal affairs and going to the retreat, I think it's great to have something so well thought out. I've seen the work for this and I'm in favor of this to create goal setting.

Balak - A ton of work went into this and it sets up a foundation for future congresses to create plans that stretch into the future. If you are looking for specific instructions, I think that's good because it sets a foundation for future congresses to make decisions. I think making a strategic planning committee is great and helps to be more proactive rather than reactive.

Alleyne - It's good to have a plan in place and I think even if someone isn't a part of COGS, it's good for them to know our goals and actions.

Cons - Move to 2nd round of pro

Fermin - Motion to amend the bill and add "11. Managing responsibilities for orientation". We did not have language on that and it should be a duty that is not only for the Executive Committee.

Rowan - Is there an objective? Seeing none, this is adopted. Thank you to Eden and Diego for working on this.

Con - Call to Question - Baez, Stokes - 2nd.

Closing - Punch - Thank you for hearing this out. I think everyone's thoughts influenced these changes. Fermin - Having a strategic plan will be effective for us.

Vote - 26-0-0

*Bill #53: Committee Rotation Bill*

Balak - This bill means that when you join COGS, you can either go to a committee or you can defer your assignment until you have visited all of the committees and then select which you would like to join. That way you have a better idea of what they do and the Executive Committee can give you an assignment. This will give people a better chance of finding a better fit and to be more informed on which committee they join. We do have wording to make sure that committees are still balanced.

Q&A - Alboulhosn - So I joined COGS and would like this experience. Could I do this? Balak - while the bill isn't written in that way, it would depend. Rowan - While we can't do this at the start, this is for moving forward.

Pros - Bethke - I saw a lot of consideration and workshopping in internal affairs and I support this.

Cons - Call to Question - Hussain; 2nd - Judson

Vote - 26-0-0

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

Punch - This creates a deputy speaker for advocacy to help with oversight and work within the committee. The work currently falls on the Speaker and we are trying to shift that work.

Q&A - Alboulhosn - How would this work? Would they be on the advocacy committee? Yes.

Ebuara - I see this person is on the advocacy committee and strategic planning committee. Would there be collaboration between the two? Punch - the idea is that the strategic committee would be 3 months and the role would generally oversee both. Ebuara - Is this a temporary position? Is it consistent? Punch - It is a consistent position.

Alleyne - If it's just 4 months every year or every 3 years? Punch - Yes, the responsibility for the full strategic planning committee would be every 3 years.

Pros - Balak - I think this is a good idea. Having one of the committees not having representation in the Exec committee hurts the committee with communication. Advocacy has done amazing work, but this will only help.

Cons - Call to Question - Alleyne; 2nd - Pakdehi

Closing - This will help to spread the advocacy work and have a point person.

Vote - 26-0-0

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

Bethke - Thank you for creating this new position. Everyone on the Executive Committee does get paid minimum wage. To cover the rest of the year, we are allocating these funds. While we are exploring this new role, we are putting it at 5 hours/week, but can adjust moving forward as needed.

Q&A - Alleyne - I'm concerned that 5 hours might not be enough during the heavy strategic planning years. I think having more room would be good.

Bethke - I'm open to adjust it. We can adjust as needed.

Rowan - This is for the budget proviso where adjustments can be made.

Alboulhosn - Is this a hard cap? Yes, they will only be able to be paid for 5 hours.

Stokes - Is there a way to make it up to 10 hours if they need it in the future?

Motion to extend questions - Nord; 2nd - Alleyne

Bethke - we can amend the bill if 5 hours isn't enough.

Alleyne - Can we make it up to 10 hours? And adjust it moving forward?

Pro - Stokes - It's important to pay people and I'm glad we are doing it.

Con -

Point of clarification - There are 25 total weeks of pay at 10 hrs/week as a baseline for $3,250.

Stokes - Motion to amend the hours to 10 per week, the total weeks 25 and the total amount as $3,250. 2nd - Alleyne

Statement for Amendment - Stokes - I think we need to budget to give the person enough pay for the time they work.

Pros for amendment - Nord - I think this is good to give a new person enough time for the work.

Alboulhosn - This is a worthwhile investment.

Call to Question on amendment - Alleyne; Hussain - 2nd

Stokes - Shoutout to Jamila for this amendment idea.

Vote on amendment - 25-0-1

Call to Question - Baez; 2nd - Alleyne

Vote - 25-0-1

**Round Table:**

**Adjournment:** 7:45pm

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