



THE THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Calendar: November 3, 2025

Location: Senate Chambers

Time: 6:30 PM

[Submit Public Comment Here](#)

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- 10/20/2025 COGS Meeting 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
- Report of the Deputy Speaker for Advocacy

Advisor Announcements

Committee Report

- Internal Affairs
- Student Advocacy
- Outreach

Funding Requests

- Bill #35: Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association

Unfinished Business

- Resolution #10: IROP Conforming Resolution

New Business

- Bill #30: COGS Code Recodification (Passed IA with Amendments)
- Resolution #11: Strategic Plan Adoption

Round Table

Closing Announcements

Adjournment Sine Die

Congress of Graduate Students (COGS)
Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025

Time: 2:41 PM – 7:39 PM

Location: Senate Chambers

I. Call to Order

- **Presiding Officer:** Speaker Jack Rowan
- Meeting called to order at **2:41 PM**.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Buehler.
- **Quorum confirmed.**

II. Roll Call

Present: Noah, Arazu, Claire, George, Fahad, Nachika, Shazine, Rosaline, Brian, Logan, Nicolette, Isaiah, Luis, Janai, Islamyat, Devin, Joey, Deshaun, Taylor, and William.

Excused Absences: Redwan, Francis, Diego, Seema, Madison, Stevens.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Due to technical issues, the minutes from the previous meeting were not available.
- Approval postponed to the next meeting.

IV. Special Introductions & Student Comments

- **Guest Speaker:** *Dr. Steven McDowell*, Interim Dean of the Graduate School.
 - Dr. McDowell expressed appreciation for the invitation and shared brief remarks.

V. Reports

A. Speaker – Jack Rowan

- This is the **second-to-last meeting** of the 33rd Congress.
- **Next Meeting:** Monday, November 3, 2025, at **6:30 PM**.
 - Will include the **organizational session for the 34th Congress** and the election of new Executive Committee members.
- **Speaker Candidacy Forms:** Due by **Saturday, November 1, 6:30 PM** (submit in person or via email).
- Jack will **not seek re-election** for Speaker.
- **Upcoming Agenda Items:**
 - Re-codification Bill and Strategic Plan (expected at next meeting).
 - Two funding bills for review tonight.
- **Laura Vaughn Representative of the Year Award:**
 - Created in honor of former Deputy Speaker Laura Vaughn.
 - Voting to occur tonight; award presented at **Fall Inauguration (Nov. 12)**.
 - Only Representatives (not Executive Members) eligible for nomination.
- **Fall Inauguration:**
 - **Date:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025
 - **Time:** 5:00 PM (Senate Ballrooms)
 - Optional but encouraged; headshots available before ceremony.
- **Vacancies for Next Term:**
 - **Deputy Speaker for Finance** (Steven intends to run for Speaker).
 - **Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs** (Redwan not seeking re-election).

B. Deputy Speaker for Advocacy – Deshaun

- Will perform the National Anthem at Inauguration.
- Announced intention to **re-run for Deputy Speaker for Advocacy**.

C. Deputy Speaker for Communications – Noah Baez

- **COGS T-shirts** have arrived; members to pick up after the meeting.
- Additional merchandise arriving within the week.
- Encouraged members to attend Inauguration and support Deshaun's performance.
- Announced intention to **re-run for Deputy Speaker for Communications**.

D. Advisor – Tanner

- Congratulated members on re-election.
- **New Student Program Coordinator:** *Veronica Nelson* begins Friday.
 - From Washington State, former guidance counselor, holds M.Ed. degree.
- **SGA Today Newsletter:**
 - First issue released; monthly submissions due by the **15th**.
 - Members can submit updates, conference highlights, or features through Noah.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Internal Affairs – Nicolette

- Meeting did not meet quorum; agenda postponed to next meeting.

B. Student Advocacy – Luis

- Committee divided into **three subcommittees**:
 1. Immigration & International Students
 2. Transportation
 3. Professional Development
- Each subcommittee will develop **short- and long-term advocacy initiatives**.

C. Outreach – Logan

- Developing **social media strategy** for Instagram and LinkedIn.
- Planning **student survey** (via Instagram polls) to gather event feedback in November.
- Promoting **International Coffee Hour – Graduate Lounge**:
 - **Date:** Friday, October 24, 2025
 - **Time:** 5:00 – 6:30 PM
 - **Location:** The Globe

VII. New Business

A. Bill 33 – CHAOS (School Psychology Organization)

- **Purpose:** Faculty-Student Mixer on November 16 (off-campus).
- **Amount Requested:** \$300.
- **Result:** Passed **21–0–1** (1 abstention).
- **Off-campus waiver approved.**

B. Bill 34 – CHAW (Center for Health & Wellness)

- **Purpose:** Mind, Body, and Soul Workshop; funding for food and materials.
- **Amount Requested:** \$750.
- Amendment corrected pricing between Chick-fil-A and Publix.
- **Result:** Passed (as amended) **21–0–1** (1 abstention).

C. Laura Vaughn Representative of the Year Award

- Nominations:
 - **Ridwan** – Nominated by Janai; seconded by Joey.
 - **Shazine** – Nominated by Deshaun; seconded by Luis. (Accepted nomination.)
- Voting held by secret ballot.

- **Winner to be announced at Fall Inauguration.**

VIII. Roundtable Announcements

- **Graduate Lounge / International Coffee Hour:** Friday, Oct. 24 at The Globe, 5–6:30 PM.
- **COGS Merchandise Pickup:** After meeting.
- **Next Meeting:**
 - **Date:** Monday, November 3, 2025
 - **Time:** 6:30 PM
 - Includes organizational session for the 34th Congress and final meeting of the 33rd Congress.

IX. Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Islamyat
- **Second:** George
- **Result:** Motion approved.
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.**



33rd Congress of Graduate Students Legislation Cover Sheet

COGS Bill #: 35

Sponsor(s): Representative Hasan

Short Title: *Funding for CEEGSA Conference, 2025*

Summary of Legislation:

This bill allocates \$1,923.00 from the COGS Unallocated account to the Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEEGSA) to provide lunch for participants at the CEEGSA Conference 2025, scheduled for December 1, 2025. The conference will feature oral and poster presentations by Ph.D. and M.S. students, a keynote session, and networking opportunities. This allocation will specifically support the lunch for attendees, while all other event expenses (about \$7,000) will be covered by the department.

Background Information:

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEEGSA) is hosting its annual Graduate Student Conference on December 1, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. The event aims to highlight graduate research, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, and connect students with faculty and industry professionals.

The morning session (10:00–11:00 a.m.) will feature oral presentations across four sub-disciplines-Environmental/Water Resources, Transportation, Structural, and Geotechnical Engineering-each chaired by graduate student leaders. These sessions will be followed by a keynote presentation (11:00–12:00 p.m.) delivered by invited speaker, Dr. Aican Karaer, Iteris Inc. Then a networking lunch (12:00–1:00 p.m.) will take place, for which COGS funding is requested. In the afternoon, a poster presentation session (1:00–2:00 p.m.) will highlight both completed research and proposal-based studies by Ph.D. and M.S. students.

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has allocated funding (about \$7000) for all awards and logistics, including:

- Oral presentation awards (\$700 each for four categories)*
- Poster presentation awards (\$800, \$700, and \$500 for 1st–3rd in both research and proposal categories)*
- Certificates, materials, and printing*
- Keynote speaker souvenir*

To ensure fair and professional evaluation, the conference will be judged by faculty, alumni, and local professionals. Lunch for approximately 200 participants is being requested from COGS to

support inclusive participation, foster networking among disciplines, and encourage faculty and student engagement throughout the full-day event.

Effect of Proposed Legislation:

If approved, this legislation will provide financial support for Chick-fil-A catering (\$1,923) for approximately 200 participants attending the conference. The event promotes academic engagement, professional development, and community building among graduate students while enhancing the visibility of civil and environmental engineering research at the College of Engineering.





Allocation, Revision, or Transfer

33rd Congress of Graduate Students

Bill #: 35

Sponsored by: Representative Hasan

Date: October 21, 2025

Amount: \$1923.00

From (account name): COGS Unallocated

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

Title: A Bill allocating \$1,923.00 to Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEEGSA) for the CEEGSA Conference 2025 Lunch.

Itemized Expenditures:

Quantity	Description	Unit Price
1	Chick-fil-A Lunch (Meals, Cookies, and Drinks for Conference Participants)	\$1,923.00

Total: \$1,923.00

By: _____
Jack Rowan
Speaker, 33rd COGS

By: _____
Steven Medarev
Deputy Speaker for Finance

Date: _____

Date: _____



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

By: _____
Dr. Amy Hecht
Vice President for Student Affairs

By: _____
Tanner McKinley
COGS Advisor

Date: _____

Date: _____



Attachment

Scheduled Pickup Date

12/01/2025

11:00 AM

Item Name	Quantity	Price
Large Hot Chick-fil-A® Nuggets Tray	8	\$102.00
Boz Chick-fil-A® Sauce	4	
Boz Polynesian Sauce	4	
Boz Garden Herb Ranch Sauce	4	
Boz Barbeque Sauce	2	
Boz Honey Mustard Sauce	2	
Large Chick-fil-A® Cool Wrap Tray	6	\$56.50
Avocado Lime Ranch Dressing	6	
Garden Herb Ranch Dressing	6	
Creamy Salsa Dressing	6	
Zesty Apple Cider Vinaigrette Dressing	6	
Fat-Free Honey Mustard Dressing	6	
Light Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing	6	
Light Italian Dressing	6	
Medium Southwest Veggie Wrap Tray	2	\$42.00
Creamy Salsa Dressing	2	
Fat-Free Honey Mustard Dressing	2	
Light Italian Dressing	2	
Avocado Lime Ranch Dressing	1	
Zesty Apple Cider Vinaigrette Dressing	1	
Garden Herb Ranch Dressing	1	
Light Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing	1	
Large Chocolate Chunk Cookie Tray	8	\$35.50
Regular 96 oz Coffee	25	\$16.00
Paper Goods		

Paper goods, silverware and utensils for 200 guests

*Your payment method may be charged
up to 24 hours before your order is ready.

Subtotal	\$1923.00
Tax	\$144.23
Total	\$2067.23



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33rd Congress of Graduate Students Legislation Cover Sheet

COGS Bill #: 30

Sponsor(s): Speaker Rowan

Short Title: An Act Recodifying the COGS Code.

Summary of Legislation:

This bill recodifies the COGS Administrative Code by repealing the entirety of the current Code and adopting a new Code. The new Code makes sweeping changes to format to improve readability and clarity. Additionally, the new Code makes substantive changes in line with the Internal Affairs Committee's Code review in Summer 2025.

Background Information:

Going into the summer session of the Thirty-Third Congress, the Speaker tasked the Internal Affairs Committee with conducting a wholesale review of the COGS Administrative Code—the first since 2009. Over the course of the summer, the committee met four times to complete a line-by-line review of the Code, recommending many edits to the Code. After the committee completed its edits, it was recommended that the Code be entirely reformatted to enhance clarity and readability. To do so, Speaker Rowan worked to incorporate the edits made by the committee and restructure the Code by combining like sections, separating provisions that have no relationship to each other, and making stylistic edits.

This created the proposed bill introduced during September 2025. The bill was referred to the Internal Affairs Committee, who workshopped the bill and completed another line-by-line review of the Code, and reported favorably, as amended, by the committee on October 27, 2025.

Effect of Proposed Legislation:

Section 1 adopts a new COGS Administrative Code. On a general level, the bill makes several large-scale edits:

- **Restructuring Key Provisions.** As the COGS Code grew and changed over the last sixteen years, provisions have been added and removed in a way that was not entirely consistent. To fix this, the bill restructures the Code by creating more general chapters to bring like provisions near each other. For example, provisions related to the election of officers are moved from the Elections chapter, where it was an aside, to the Officers chapter, where it comprises an entire section.

- **Improving Readability.** By introducing catchlines which summarize the contents of each section, readers of the Code can more easily find which section(s) apply to their needs.
- **Increasing Clarity.** Many sections of the Code have been written and rewritten to the point where it can be hard to understand. This recodification seeks to make our code clearer and better able to be understood by those without prior experience with legislation.
- **Harmonizing Code with Practice.** Over time, some of our practices have strayed from the letter of the COGS Code. Because of that, the committee was asked to consider where the Code should be amended to meet the practice and where the practice should return to the Code. The latter can be shown through our attendance policy. The policy has not been rigidly enforced up to now, but the committee made the decision that an amended version of the policy should be more rigidly enforced by the incoming Executive Committee.

The bill makes other notable changes, including:

- Introducing a removal process for COGS officers,
- Codifying the Laura Vaughn Representative of the Year Award,
- Authorizing the Assembly and its committees to hold discussions that do not include official actions when a quorum is not present,
- Creating a more nuanced financial enforcement mechanism that recognizes different levels of financial Code violations, and
- Codifying many previously unwritten rules surrounding the conference grant process.

Section 2 continues the sunset provisions from Bill #21 (creating the Combined Grant) so that the Combined Grant will still be repealed at the end of the Spring semester unless the Congress votes to keep the Grant.

Section 3 provides for the transition to the new Code and includes instructions for codification on Municode.

Section 4 provides for the creation of a tracing table (**Attachment #2**) where readers can determine where language in the previous Code is located in the new Code.

Attachment(s):

- Attachment #1: Proposed Bill
- Attachment #2: Tracing Table



COGS Bill #: 30

Sponsor(s): Speaker Rowan

AN ACT

Recodifying the COGS Administrative Code

1 **Whereas**, Article IX, Section 4, of the Student Body Constitution authorized the Congress to adopt an
2 administrative code; and

3 **Whereas**, the COGS Administrative Code ("COGS Code") is the governing document for many aspects
4 of COGS's operations, including the organization of the Congress, financial restrictions on the use of
5 COGS funds, and the structure of the Law School and Medical Student Councils; and

6 **Whereas**, the last recorded recodification of the COGS Code occurred on January 13, 2009, with the
7 passage of Bill 22 of the Sixteenth Congress; and

8 **Whereas**, since 2009, the COGS Code has undergone significant changes that warrant a reorganization
9 and recodification of the COGS Code; and

10 **Whereas**, over the course of the Summer 2025 session of the Congress, the Internal Affairs Committee
11 met to review the entirety of the COGS Code and recommend amendments; and

12 **Whereas**, it is expedient that the amendments be converted into a wholesale recodification of COGS
13 Code, including the reorganization of chapters and sections; Now Therefore

14 ***Be it enacted by the 33rd Congress of Graduate Students at Florida State University that:***

15 **Section 1. Adoption of Administrative Code.**

16 The document attached to this Bill as **Exhibit A**, and incorporated by reference, is hereby adopted
17 as the Congress of Graduate Students Administrative Code.

18 **Section 2. Sunset Provisions to Continue.**

19 The contingent sunset provisions of Section 2 to Bill 21 of the Thirty-Third Congress shall remain of
20 force, except that, rather than Section 1 of the aforementioned Bill being repealed, Sections 307.4(d),
21 307.8(c), and 307.9(d), COGS Code, shall be repealed.

22 **Section 3. Codification Instructions for Previous Code.**

23 For the purposes of codification and maintenance of the historical record, the COGS Code in effect
24 prior to this Act becoming effective shall be kept on Municode, or a successor platform, under the heading
25 "Former Editions of COGS Administrative Code" and shall include a disclaimer at the top of the document
26 that the document is purely for historical purposes and is of no binding effect.

27 **Section 4. Codification Instructions for Tracing Table.**

28 Under the "Former Editions of COGS Administrative Code" heading in Municode, or a successor
29 platform, there shall be a document entitled "Section Tracing Table from July 2025 Code to September
30 2025 Code" which notes where provisions from the former COGS Code can be found in the newly
31 enacted COGS Code. This table shall be promulgated by the Executive Committee and may be updated
32 by the Executive Committee and COGS Advisor as necessary to ensure accuracy.

33 **Section 5. Effective Date.**

34 The provisions of this bill shall take effect upon becoming law.

DONE AND PASSED by the 33rd Congress of Graduate Students at Florida State University this DAY
of MONTH, YEAR.

FLOOR VOTE: Deputy Speaker to Add Vote Count

COMMITTEE REFERENCES AND DATES OF PASSAGE:

- Referred by Speaker to Internal Affairs. Reported Favorably, with Amendments,
October 27, 2025.

By: _____
Jack Rowan
Speaker, 33rd COGS

By: _____
Tanner McKinley
COGS Advisor

Date: _____

Date: _____

By: _____
Dr. Amy Hecht
Vice President for Student Affairs

Date: _____

Exhibit A: Proposed Recodified Congress of Graduate Students
Administrative Code

Title I: Construction of Code

Chapter 100 Technical Construction of The Code

Chapter 100 Technical Construction of The Code

100.1 Purpose.

100.2 Jurisdiction of code.

100.3 Intellectual property of code.

100.4 Code to be split into titles.

100.5 Severability of code.

100.6 Succession of named entities.

100.7 Definitions

100.8 Abbreviations

1. **Purpose.**— This chapter shall outline the system of the Congress of Graduate Students Administrative Code, hereafter referred to as “this code” or “Code,” observed by the Congress of Graduate Students, hereafter referred to as “COGS”, in enacting and adopting measures, as well as provide definitions and interpretations, in the construction of, and in compliance with, this code.

2. **Jurisdiction of code.**— All provisions of this code are fully applicable to all entities, organizations, and individuals within the jurisdiction of COGS. Any and all funding derivative from COGS is contingent upon the recipient’s compliance with this code.

3. **Intellectual property of code.**— This code shall be considered the copyrighted intellectual property of the Florida State University Student Government Association; however, this code may be reproduced or adopted by any entity for non-commercial purposes, so long as such entity attributes the origination of the work to “The Florida State University Student Government Association.”

4. **Code to be split into titles.**— There shall be ~~three~~four titles within this code, each containing related or similar topics, and each composed of numerically ordered chapters and sections as follows:

(a) Title I: (100-199) Construction of Code

(b) Title II: (200-299) The Congress of Graduate Students

(c) Title III: (300-399) Finance Provisions

(d) Title IV: (400-499) Specific Provisions for Select Graduate Entities and COGS Funding Boards

5. **Severability of code.**— All provisions of this code are fully severable. If any word, clause, or provision of this code is found to be in violation of federal law, the laws of the State of Florida, or the Florida State University Student Body Statutes or Constitution, it will in no way affect the validity or applicability of the remainder of this code.

6. **Succession of named entities.**— In the event that an entity referred to within this code should lawfully become identified by another name, or have its responsibilities divested to another entity, the COGS Advisor shall have the authority and responsibility, independent of any action of the Assembly, to replace the inaccurate name in the text of this code to reflect reality.

80 **7. Definitions.—** In construing these statutes and each and every word, phrase,
81 or part hereof, where the context will permit:

82 (a) The singular indicates the plural and vice versa.

83 (b) The terms “Congress of Graduate Students,” “COGS,” and “the
84 Assembly” may be used interchangeably throughout this code and are
85 intended to identify the entity empowered by Article IX of the Student Body
86 Constitution.

87 (c) The term “student” shall be defined as any individual enrolled in a
88 postbaccalaureate, special, master’s, professional, specialist, or doctoral
89 program.

90 (1) Within this code, the terms “student” and “graduate student”
91 may be used interchangeably and shall only refer to the
92 aforementioned individuals.

93 (d) The term “presentation” shall be defined as anything relating to the
94 applicant’s course of study augmenting professional development and
95 stature in the field. Presentations may include, but are not limited to,
96 papers, speeches, demonstrations, art, photography, competition
97 performance, and conferences.

98 (e) The following shall constitute the standards for voting within the
99 Assembly:

100 (1) The term “majority” shall refer to a simple majority unless
101 otherwise specified, which shall be defined as greater than half of
102 the votes cast when an item is under consideration.

103 (2) The term “two-thirds (2/3) majority” shall be defined as greater
104 than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast when an item is under
105 consideration.

106 (3) The term “majority of the entire membership” shall be defined
107 as greater than half (1/2) of all Representatives, whether present or
108 not, except those Representatives on Leave of Absence.

109 (f) The term “Speaker” shall be defined as the Speaker of COGS.

110 (g) The term “Executive Committee” shall be defined as the entity
111 composed of the elected officers of COGS, as listed in s. 204.1, COGS
112 Code, and may be used interchangeably with “Executive Board”.

113 (h) The term “A&S Funds” shall be defined as the funds appropriated to
114 COGS under the Florida State Student Body Constitution from Activities
115 and Service Fees, restricted in use by the Florida State Student Body
116 Constitution, Statutes, and Policies and state and federal laws.

117 (1) The term “A&S Fees” may be used interchangeably with “A&S
118 Funds.”

119 (2) The term “COGS Funds” will encompass “A&S Funds” and
120 any other funds COGS received.

121 **8. Abbreviations.—** The following shall serve as accepted abbreviations
122 throughout this code and in COGS records and papers:

123 (a) A&S: Activity & Service.

124 (b) COGS: Congress of Graduate Students.

125 (c) DSE: Department of Student Engagement.

- 126 (d) IROP: COGS Internal Rules of Procedure.
- 127 (e) LSC: Law School Council.
- 128 (f) MSC: Medical Student Council.
- 129 (g) OPS: Other Personnel Services.
- 130 (h) RSO: Recognized Student Organization.
- 131 (i) SGA: Student Government Association.
- 132

133 **Title II: The Congress of Graduate Students**

134 Chapter 200 Purpose of the Congress of Graduate Students

135 Chapter 201 Membership

136 Chapter 202 Organization of the Congress

137 Chapter 203 Membership Requirements

138 Chapter 204 Officers

139 Chapter 205 Elections

140 Chapter 206 Committees

141 Chapter 207 Proceedings

142 Chapter 208 Budget

143 Chapter 209 Strategic Planning

144 Chapter 210 Ethics

145 **Chapter 200 Purpose of the Congress of Graduate Students**

147 **200.1 Purpose.**

148 1. **Purpose.**— The Congress of Graduate Students, in accordance with Article IX
149 of the Florida State University Student Body Constitution, shall:

150 (a) Defend the interests of graduate, special, master, specialist,
151 professional, doctoral, and post-baccalaureate students in graduate
152 student life, services, and academics.

153 (b) Manage the funds within its purview in a fiscally responsible manner.

154 (c) Work to ensure the greatest participation by graduate students in the
155 immediate governance of, and policy development for, the Florida State
156 University.

157 (d) Provide an official voice through which the opinions of the Graduate
158 Student Body may be expressed.

159 **Chapter 201 Membership**

160 **201.1 Elected Congress.**

161 **201.2 Seats.**

162 **201.3 Leaves of Absence.**

163 **201.4 Resignation.**

164 **201.5 Impeachment.**

165 **201.6 Vacancies.**

166
167 1. **Elected Congress.**— The Congress shall be an elected body of graduate and
168 professional students, with vacancies to be filled by petition. The procedure for the
169 election of Representatives shall be defined in Chapter 205 of the Code.

170 **2. Seats.—** The Congress shall be composed of forty-three (43) Representatives
171 with the following allocation:

172 (a) Thirty (30) seats for the members of each college/academic unit,
173 except for the College of Applied Studies and Special Students,
174 apportioned annually through the D'Hondt Method, based on the most
175 recent annual population data for each college, as provided by the
176 University.

177 (1) By the second COGS Assembly meeting of the Fall Semester,
178 the SGA Supervisor of Elections shall provide the Assembly, by
179 memo and personal appearance at the meeting, with a list detailing
180 the number of seats apportioned to each college/academic unit, as
181 well as an accounting of the calculations used to determine the
182 apportionment. Should the list not be provided by this deadline, the
183 COGS Executive Board shall be empowered to facilitate the
184 apportionment in the Supervisor's place.

185 (2) Should there be a discrepancy that results in the erroneous
186 allocation of seats, the Assembly may move to reject the
187 apportionment and request that the Supervisor (or COGS Executive
188 Board, if providing the list under paragraph (1)) provide a corrected
189 apportionment to the Assembly at their next meeting. Such motion
190 requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote to pass and is debatable.

191 (3) If no motion to reject is passed, the apportionment shall
192 become official upon adjournment of the Assembly meeting in
193 which it is presented.

194 (b) Six (6) advocate seats under the following titles: Graduate Student
195 Housing Advocate, International Student Advocate, LGBTQ+ Student
196 Advocate, Minority Student Advocate, Veteran's Advocate, and Student
197 with Disabilities Advocate. Any graduate student, regardless of college,
198 may serve as an Advocate,

199 (c) Six (6) At-Large seats, which may be filled by any graduate student,
200 regardless of college, and

201 (d) One (1) seat for the combined grouping of Special Students, the
202 College of Applied Studies, and the Panama City Campus. Should this
203 seat be filled, attendance by the representative will count towards quorum,
204 but failure to attend will not count against quorum.

205 **3. Leaves of Absence.—** A "leave of absence" shall be understood as creating
206 a temporary vacancy in the seat of, and for a period of time requested by, the
207 Representative requesting the leave.

208 (a) The Representative's seat may be temporarily filled through petition
209 by another student with similar qualifications; the Representative on a
210 leave of absence shall resume his or her seat upon the end of the leave.

211 (1) The student temporarily filling the vacant seat shall be
212 informed, prior to accepting the position, of the length of his or her
213 seat. Such a temporary Representative may petition the Congress
214 to fill another vacant term (for which he or she is qualified), either
215 temporary or permanent, without submitting an additional petition

form, if the new term would be effective not more than one (1) regular meeting after the old term.

(b) No leave of absence shall become effective unless a written or electronic letter requesting a leave of absence has been communicated to the COGS Advisor and Speaker or acting Speaker. Such letter must contain the individual's name, position, duration of leave of absence (including effective dates of initiation and termination of leave), and reason for the request.

(c) A representative's requested leave of absence will not be granted unless one of the following conditions is met:

- (1) The representative will not be enrolled in graduate credit hours; or
- (2) The representative will be out of town for academic opportunities, such as study abroad, or field research, and will be missing at least three regular meetings; or
- (3) The representative is a member of the U.S. military and is called to Active Duty; or
- (4) Any other reason, if request is approved by the Internal Affairs Committee.

(d) A leave of absence may not be granted if the Representative will not return before the end of the Congress.

4. Resignation.— No resignation shall become effective unless a written or electronic letter of resignation has been communicated to the COGS Advisor and Speaker or acting Speaker. Such letter must contain the individual's name, position, and effective date of resignation. Such letter should be signed by the individual resigning and submitted in person or by e-mail. No letter may have an effective date more than thirty (30) calendar days from submission of the letter.

(a) In the event of resignation of the Speaker or any Deputy Speaker, the Advisor shall notify the Assembly within two (2) school days (forty-eight [48] hours) from the receipt of resignation.

(b) In the event of resignation of the Chair or Vice Chair of any committee, the individual resigning shall notify the committee within two (2) school days (forty-eight [48] hours) of resignation.

5. Impeachment.— COGS Representatives, members of the Law School Council, and members of the Medical Student Council may be removed from office by impeachment. The provisions of this section, as it applies to COGS Representatives, is merely an additional method of recommending impeachment to the Student Senate and does not create additional requirements for impeachment over those set out in the Student Body Constitution or Statutes.

(a) The scope of impeachable charges shall be limited to misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of the following: the COGS Code, the Florida State University Student Body Statutes, Constitution, and Conduct Code, or state or federal law.

- (1) This provision shall not interfere with legislative immunity enjoyed by Representatives on the floor of the Assembly.

(b) The following procedures shall be used for the initiation of impeachment proceedings against an officer covered by this section:

(1) The Internal Affairs Committee, by a majority vote, shall be responsible for initiating impeachment proceedings against any officer, only after formal charges have been presented to the Chair of the Committee by the COGS Advisor, or upon vote of the Committee to recommend impeachment pursuant to § 203.3.

(2) Charges must be filed within fifteen (15) business days of the alleged offense. This section shall not apply to impeachment proceedings occurring as a result of action under § 203.3.

(3) The formal charges must include the name of the student lodging the charge, the name of the officer who committed the alleged offense, the provision of the regulation which the officer has allegedly violated, as well as the date, time, and location where the offense was alleged to occur.

(i) The charge may include multiple offenses.

(ii) The charge must be signed by the student lodging the complaint. If the charge is truancy, pursuant to § 203.3, the charge shall be signed by the Speaker or their designee.

(4) Any member of the Student Body may file a charge with the COGS Advisor, so long as the charge is consistent with this chapter.

(5) Once formal charges have been filed, the Speaker of COGS shall request that the Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court designate a law student to be assigned as counsel to the accused officer. The officer charged may also retain outside counsel at their expense if they so choose.

(c) The Internal Affairs Committee must meet within fifteen (15) business days after said charges have been filed and decide whether to recommend impeachment to the Congress. The fifteen-day rule shall not apply to impeachment proceedings occurring as a result of action under § 203.3.

(1) The Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee shall notify the accused officer of the date, time, and location of any hearing to consider the impeachment, no less than twenty-four (24) hours before the hearing. At the hearing, the accused shall have the right to speak in his/her defense, refuse to appear, remain silent, or refer to counsel at any time. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee shall openly deliberate, and then vote by secret ballot on whether or not to recommend impeachment to the full Assembly.

(i) The student lodging the complaint is encouraged, but not required to appear before the Internal Affairs Committee and testify.

(2) The Committee, through its Chair, shall have the power to subpoena witnesses to testify before it during the course of the proceedings. Such witnesses must be given no less than a twenty-

four (24) hours' notice. Non-compliance with a subpoena without good cause shall be considered nonfeasance.

(3) If the Committee does not vote to recommend impeachment, the charges shall be dismissed, and no appeal to the Assembly shall be available.

(i) This shall not prejudice the ability of individuals to initiate impeachment proceedings with the Student Senate after the fact.

(4) If the Committee does recommend impeachment, by majority vote, impeachment proceedings for the officer in question will be added to the agenda of the next regularly scheduled session of the Assembly.

(d) Should the Internal Affairs Committee recommend impeachment, the Assembly shall follow the following procedures:

(1) The rules governing impeachment proceedings within the Assembly may be laid down in the COGS Internal Rules of Procedure, but in the absence of such provisions, the Speaker shall determine through memorandum what rules shall be followed. In either event, the proceedings shall conclude with a roll-call vote as to whether or not the officer should be impeached. Impeachment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly; abstentions shall not be entertained.

(2) The Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs shall preside over the Assembly during the consideration of any impeachments.

(3) The Assembly, through the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs, shall have the power, by the majority vote, to subpoena witnesses to testify before it during the hearing. Such witnesses shall be notified no less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the hearing. Non-compliance with a subpoena without good cause shall be considered nonfeasance.

(4) If the impeachment vote is unsuccessful, the charges will be dismissed.

(i) This shall not prejudice the ability of individuals to initiate impeachment proceedings with the Student Senate after the fact.

(e) If the Assembly Impeaches:

(1) The Speaker shall immediately transmit a report of the proceedings to the Student Senate President and Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee explaining the proceedings and identifying the officer who was impeached.

(2) The officer shall be immediately suspended from their position, and shall lose all rights and privileges of office.

(f) If after the impeachment report has been lodged with the Senate, the Senate declines to initiate impeachment proceedings, the officer will be immediately reinstated with all rights and privileges of office thereto appertaining.

(g) If after the impeachment report has been lodged with the Senate and the Senate should sustain it, then provisions for the removal of the officer will proceed in accordance with § 405.5 of the Florida State University Student Body Statutes.

(1) Both plaintiff and defendant have the right to appeal the decision of the Student Supreme Court to the Vice President of Student Affairs. Appeals must be submitted within three (3) business days of the decision of the Supreme Court.

(h) For members of the Law School Council and Medical Student Council, the provisions of subsections (f) and (g) shall not apply and the impeachment charges approved by the Assembly shall be filed with the Supreme Court for trial.

(1) The Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs shall serve as the lead impeachment manager on behalf of the Congress and may appoint any other graduate students, as necessary, to assist in prosecuting the impeachment.

(2) The impeached officer shall have the right to be represented by student counsel. The Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court may appoint a law student as student counsel for the officer if requested.

(3) The Student Supreme Court shall set the procedures for impeachment trials, except that the officer shall be removed by majority vote of the justices participating in the case and shall have the right to appeal their removal to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

6. Vacancies.— Vacancies in the Congress may be filled by petition of a student qualified to hold the vacant seat.

(a) The Deputy Speaker for Communication shall advertise vacancies on a regular basis.

(b) A graduate student may fill a vacant seat with the signature of twenty (20) enrolled students within their college, or 10% of the graduate student body of that college, whichever is less. Petitioners must file their petitions with the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs and shall be heard at the next Assemble meeting after their eligibility to serve is certified by the COGS Advisor. All petitioners must be accepted by a majority vote of COGS members present at an official meeting.

(c) In cases where two (2) or more petitions are received for the same seat, COGS shall fill the seat by a majority vote after deliberation, as per the COGS Internal Rules of Procedure.

(d) If two (2) or more petitions are received for the same seat and an at-large seat is vacant, the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs may redesignate the petitioner that was not selected for the seat originally petitioned for by COGS to be a petition for the vacant at-large seat, so long as the petition has twenty (20) signatures.

Chapter 202 Organization of the Congress

397 202.1 Quorum.

398 202.2 Adoption of internal rules of procedure.

399 202.3 Meetings of the Congress.

400 1. **Quorum.**— A quorum is required to conduct business in the Assembly, or any
401 committee thereof.

402 (a) A quorum exists if both of the following conditions are met:

403 (1) The Speaker (in the Assembly), the Chair or Vice Chair (in a
404 committee), or a presiding officer designated by § 204.4 is present,
405 and

406 (2) A majority of Representatives, or a majority of the committee's
407 members in committee, is present at a meeting called in
408 accordance with the FSU Sunshine Act, COGS Code, and IROP.

409 (b) In the absence of a quorum, the Assembly, or any committee thereof,
410 may not take any formal action, except to make a call of the house or
411 adjourn, and may only:

412 (1) Take roll calls,

413 (2) Take public comment,

414 (3) Hear reports and announcements, and

415 (4) Discuss matters not before the body for final decision.

416 2. **Adoption of internal rules of procedure.**— COGS, as per Article IX of the
417 Florida State University Student Body Constitution, shall have the authority to
418 adopt its own internal rules of procedure by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. A resolution
419 adopting the Assembly's IROP shall be considered and adopted by the second
420 meeting of each Congress.

421 3. **Meetings of the Congress.**— The Assembly shall meet on the first and third
422 Monday of each month during the fall, spring, and summer academic semesters.

423 (a) If a regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly would fall within
424 any of the following occurrences, then such meeting shall be considered
425 waived:

426 (1) Within seven (7) days prior to the official Florida State diploma
427 date.

428 (2) During Spring Break.

429 (3) During observed University holidays.

430 (b) If an emergency situation should arise during any of the times
431 identified in subsection (a), the Speaker, upon the concurrence of the
432 COGS Advisor, shall be empowered to call a special session of the
433 Assembly. At such special session, no other business than that which is
434 on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting shall be entertained.

435 **Chapter 203 Membership Requirements**

436 203.1 Definitions.

437 203.2 Attendance requirement.

438 203.3 Attendance enforcement.

439 203.4 Financial certification requirement.

440 203.5 Exceptions.

441 1. **Definitions.**— For the purpose of this chapter:

442 (a) The term "excused absence" shall be defined as an absence for
443 which either:

444 (1) Advanced notice was provided to the Speaker (or Chair for a
445 committee meeting) at least one (1) hour prior to the start of an
446 Assembly (or committee) meeting, and:

447 (i) Is defined as an excused absence under the University's
448 Attendance policy, or

449 (ii) Is otherwise deemed a valid reason by the Speaker (or
450 Chair for a committee meeting).

451 (2) Or the absence is declared "excused" by a majority of the
452 Executive Committee.

453 (b) The term "unexcused absence" shall be defined as an absence that
454 is not excused.

455 (c) The term "unexcused late" shall be defined as an occurrence where
456 a Representative arrives at least five (5) minutes after a meeting is called
457 to order, and the Representative does not provide notice to the Speaker
458 (or Chair for a committee meeting) prior to the start of the meeting.

459 **2. Attendance requirement.**— A Representative and their seat shall be up for
460 review when a Representative has accumulated four (4) total absences from
461 Assembly and committee meetings within the same Congress, unless a leave of
462 absence is granted.

463 (a) For the purpose of this section, the total number of absences is
464 calculated as follows:

465 (1) Unexcused late: 0.5 absence

466 (2) Excused absence: 0.5 absence.

467 (3) Unexcused absence: 1.0 absence.

468 **3. Attendance enforcement.**— The Deputy Speaker for Communication shall
469 keep track of all absences and inform the Speaker, Deputy Speaker for Judicial
470 Affairs, and Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee when a member reaches the
471 threshold set in § 203.2.

472 (a) When a Representative meets the threshold in section (2) of this
473 Chapter, they shall appear before the next meeting of the Internal Affairs
474 Committee, who shall decide, by majority vote, on whether to provide a
475 certain number of additional absences or to recommend the
476 Representative for impeachment, pursuant to § 201.5. The Deputy
477 Speaker for Judicial Affairs shall provide notice to the Representative at
478 least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the committee meeting.

479 (b) If the member is recommended for impeachment, they shall be
480 suspended from COGS pending final disposition of the impeachment
481 proceedings. If final disposition results in action other than the removal of
482 the member, the Internal Affairs Committee shall grant, by majority vote, a
483 specified number of additional absences to the member, which shall be at
484 least one.

485 **4. Financial certification requirement.**— All Representatives must become
486 financially certified, as defined by SG&A Accounting, by their second Assembly

meeting. Upon the start of a new fiscal year, Representatives must be re-certified by the second Assembly meeting after the start of the new fiscal year.

(a) The Representative shall inform the Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs upon becoming financially certified. The Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs shall maintain a record of all Representatives and whether they are financially certified.

(b) Failure to be certified within the period set by this section shall make the Representative ineligible to vote on any matters involving the allocation or transfer of A&S Funds and they should be recorded as abstaining on the matter.

5. **Exceptions.**— Exceptions to sections (2) and (4) of this Chapter may be granted upon unanimous recommendation of the Executive Committee and ratification by a majority of the entire membership of the Assembly.

Chapter 204 Officers

204.1 Creation.

204.2 Election of officers at start of each Congress.

204.3 Procedures for organizational session.

204.4 Procedure for officer elections.

204.5 Oath.

204.6 Resignation.

204.7 Line of succession to Speaker.

204.8 Permanent vacancies of deputy speakers.

204.9 Vacancies of deputy speakers created by leave of absence.

204.10 Vacancy in all officers and chairs.

204.11 Duties.

1. **Creation.**— The Congress shall have five (5) officers which shall be the Speaker, Deputy Speaker for Finance, Deputy Speaker for Communication, Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs, and Deputy Speaker for Advocacy. Together, the officers are referred to as the “Executive Board” or “Executive Committee.”

2. **Election of officers at start of each Congress.**— Elections of the officers for COGS shall take place at an organizational session in which all COGS members elected at the fall election may vote. Officers elected at the organizational session shall assume office upon being sworn in at fall inauguration.

3. **Procedures for organizational session.**— The organizational session shall be held at least one week prior to Fall Inauguration and shall be called by the Speaker, within twenty-four (24) hours of the announcement of COGS election results, by memorandum to the elected members and published electronically to the public. The organizational session must occur at least two weeks after the announcement of election results.

(a) Upon the calling of the organizational session, the Speaker shall provide all elected members with a form for the declaration of candidacy to the office of Speaker. Candidates for Speaker must complete the form and return the form to the Speaker no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the organizational session. The form shall be created by the Speaker and shall include:

(1) The title “Declaration of Candidacy for Office of Speaker”,

- (2) The statement “I, [NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE], do hereby declare my candidacy for the office of Speaker of the Congress of Graduate Students. I affirm, on penalty of impeachment, that I am an enrolled graduate or professional student at Florida State University, that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Student Body Constitution, that I will not graduate during the term I am seeking election for, and that I intend to serve the entire one-year term.”,
- (3) A signature and date line for the candidate to sign and date,
- (4) A signature, print name, and date line, entitled “Nominator”, for the representative that intends to nominate the candidate,
- (5) A signature, print name, and date line, entitled “Seconder”, for the representative that intends to second the nomination of the candidate,
- (b) No later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the organizational session, the Speaker shall publish the names of all candidates for Speaker to the elected members.
- (c) The Speaker shall serve as Chair for the organizational session.
- (1) Should the Chair be a candidate in the election of a COGS officer, the Chair shall be assumed by the next eligible person in the Chapter 117 line of succession for the purpose of that election.
- (d) The Speaker shall begin by tabling the certificates of election of COGS Representatives. The Speaker shall then call the roll of Representatives-elect to determine whether a quorum is present. Should a quorum be present, the Speaker shall immediately proceed to the election of a Speaker for the next Congress. Upon the election of a Speaker, the Chair shall move to the elections of the Deputy Speakers for Finance, Communications, Judicial Affairs, and Advocacy, respectively.
- (1) If a quorum is not present, the Congress shall recess for fifteen (15) minutes and, upon reconvening, call the roll of Representatives-elect again. If a quorum is still not present, the Speaker shall adjourn the meeting and call another organizational session to convene no later than seventy-two hours after the noticed meeting time of the original organizational session.
- (e) A Speaker and two other members of the COGS Executive Committee must be elected before the organizational meeting adjourns.
- (f) The Chair shall then move to a period of closing announcements, followed by the adjournment of the meeting, upon the election of all members of the Executive Committee or upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members-elect to adjourn after the requirements of paragraph (fe) are met.
- 4. Procedure of officer elections.—** COGS officer election procedures shall be the following:
- (a) Members of the COGS Executive Committee shall be elected from among the membership of COGS. Election shall be by secret ballot and shall require a majority vote in order to elect a candidate. Quorum of the

Congress must be present for the election of each member of the COGS Executive Committee.

(b) Nominations for Officers shall be taken from the floor and shall require a second. Each candidate may accept or decline the nomination. After receipt of nominees, the Chair shall close the floor for nominations, only after ensuring that no other nominations are to be made. If only one candidate is nominated, that candidate shall be declared to be elected by acclamation. The elected officer shall then be allowed to make a brief statement to the Congress.

(1) At the organizational session, called pursuant to section (3), only those candidates for Speaker who have returned a completed form, as specified in section (3), to the Chair are eligible for nomination, unless no candidate returns such form. The chair shall call upon the nominator and seconder listed in each candidate's form to nominate and second the candidate. If the nominator or seconder is not present, the Chair may take the nomination or second from any other member-elect.

(2) Nominees for Deputy Speaker for Finance, prior to accepting their nomination, must affirm to the Congress that they are willing and able to serve the remainder of the term they are being elected for.

(c) If there are two or more candidates who accepted their nomination, each shall be allowed, in alphabetical order, to address the Congress for no more than two (2) minutes. The Chair shall allow three (3) minutes of questions per candidate. No "con" debate shall be permitted during the election process. All nominees not addressing or taking questions from the Congress shall remain outside the COGS Chambers. Candidates shall not be present during debate on the candidates. Debate on the candidates shall take no more than five (5) minutes. Motions to extend time for opening addresses, questions and discussion of the candidates may be made by Representatives in the Chambers and pass by a majority vote of the Representatives in the Chambers. Once the question has successfully been called to vote on the position, all nominees may enter the Chambers and cast their own secret ballots with the rest of the Congress.

5. Oath.— COGS Officers shall take the following oath prior to assuming office: "I, [NAME], do swear that I will support, protect, and defend the constitution and laws of the United States, the State of Florida, and the Florida State University Student Body; that I shall serve and protect the rights and interests of graduate and professional students; and that I shall carry out my duties, in the role of [POSITION] of the Congress of Graduate Students, to the best of my abilities; so help me God."

(a) Officers are entitled to request that the following alternate oath be administered: "I, [NAME], affirm, on pain of impeachment, that I will support, protect, and defend the constitution and laws of the United States, the State of Florida, and the Florida State University Student Body; that I shall serve and protect the rights and interests of graduate and

625 professional students; and that I shall carry out my duties, in the role of
626 [POSITION] of the Congress of Graduate Students, to the best of my
627 abilities.”

628 **6. Resignation.—** Officers may resign from their position, while retaining their
629 seat in the Congress, by providing a written or electronic letter to the Speaker
630 informing the Speaker of their resignation and the effective date of their
631 resignation. The Speaker may only tender their resignation to the COGS Advisor
632 and the Student Body President.

633 (a) The Speaker, or the COGS Advisor in case that the Speaker resigns,
634 shall inform the Congress of the officer’s resignation within twenty-four
635 (24) hours of receiving the resignation, except that weekends and
636 university holidays shall not count towards the time limit.

637 (b) The resignation of an officer may take effect upon the election of a
638 successor but shall take effect no later than thirty (30) days after the
639 resignation is tendered.

640 (c) Upon the receipt of any officer’s resignation that takes effect at any
641 time after the next scheduled Assembly meeting, the Speaker or acting
642 Speaker under § 204.4 is authorized to hold an election under section (4)
643 of this Chapter, with the elected Representative taking office upon the
644 resigning officer’s effective date.

645 **7. Removal.—** Any officer of the Congress may be removed through the
646 procedure in this section.

647 (a) A Representative seeking the removal of an officer shall file, with the
648 COGS Advisor, written charges, which shall include:

649 (1) The name of the officer being charged,

650 (2) A plain statement of the facts at issue,

651 (3) The charges upon which the Representative seeks removal of the
652 officer, which shall only be on ground of malfeasance, misfeasance,
653 or nonfeasance, and

654 (4) The name of the Representative bringing the charges.

655 (b) Upon receipt of the charges, the COGS Advisor shall determine, without
656 consideration of the merits of the charges, whether the charges meet the
657 requirements of subsection (a). If the charges meet the requirements of
658 subsection (a), the COGS Advisor shall provide the charges to the Chair of
659 the Internal Affairs Committee.

660 (c) The Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee, upon receipt of the charges,
661 shall inform the charged officer of the charges, inform the charged officer of
662 the next Internal Affairs Committee meeting that is at least seven (7) days
663 after the information is given, and request that the charged officer provide a
664 written defense to the Chair within seven (7) days. Failure to provide a
665 written defense shall not prevent the Chair from continuing removal
666 proceedings.

667 (d) At the first Internal Affairs Committee meeting after the seven (7) days
668 in subsection (c) elapsed, the committee shall hold a hearing on the
669 charges.

670 (1) The Representative making the charges, and the charged officer,
671 shall have the right to address the committee.

672 (2) The committee shall be able to take additional evidence and shall
673 deliberate on the charges.

674 (3) The committee shall vote on whether to adopt each charge
675 individually. The charged officer and the charging Representative
676 shall not vote if they sit on the committee. Adopted charges shall be
677 accompanied by a recommended punishment, adopted by majority
678 of the committee, as to each charge.

679 (4) If the committee, by majority vote, agrees to adopt any charges,
680 the adopted charges shall be placed before the Assembly at its next
681 meeting. Charges not adopted shall be dismissed.

682 (e) At the next Assembly meeting, all charges adopted by the committee
683 shall be heard. The Assembly shall follow the same procedures as the
684 committee, except that a two-thirds vote is required to find the charged
685 officer guilty of a charge.

686 (f) Should the Assembly find the officer guilty of any charge, a
687 Representative may move to punish the officer. The punishment shall
688 include public censure, suspension from their role as an officer for a period
689 not to exceed one (1) month, or removal. Suspension or removal shall
690 require a two-thirds vote.

691 ~~(e)~~7. (g) An officer suspended or removed from their role as an officer shall have
692 the right to appeal their suspension or removal to the Vice President for Student
693 Affairs, or person designated by the university to hear such appeals.

694 7.8. Line of succession to Speaker.— In the event of a vacancy in the Office
695 of the Speaker for reason(s) of resignation, incapacitation, ineligibility under the
696 Florida State Student Body Constitution, or for any other lawful reason, the Deputy
697 Speaker for Finance shall act as Speaker until the next regularly scheduled
698 meeting of the Assembly. At this time, a new Speaker shall be elected to serve
699 until the expiration of the Congress in which the vacancy occurred. If the Assembly
700 does not elect a new Speaker, the acting Speaker will continue until the Speaker
701 returns or a new Speaker is elected.

702 (a) If the Deputy Speaker for Finance is unavailable, then the order of
703 succession, in descending order, shall be:

- 704 (1) Deputy Speaker for Communication
- 705 (2) Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs
- 706 (3) Deputy Speaker for Advocacy
- 707 (4) Chair of Internal Affairs
- 708 (5) Chair of Outreach
- 709 (6) Chair of Advocacy
- 710 (7) The most senior member of COGS.

711 (i) The most senior member of COGS shall be defined based
712 on the date of swearing in (ties broken by alphabetical order
713 of last name). The Temporary Chair shall have the right to
714 cast a vote for election of the Speaker in such cases where
715 his/her vote would be decisive.

(ii) The COGS Advisor shall, with the assistance of the Deputy Speaker for Communications, maintain a list noting the order of seniority among members of COGS.

(b) If the current acting Speaker is nominated for the office of Speaker, the next officer willing, able, and eligible to serve as identified in subsection (a), in descending order, shall immediately assume the Chair for the purpose of conducting the election. If no officer is willing and able, the most senior member of COGS (as defined in § 204.7(a)(7)), who is willing and able, shall immediately assume the Chair for the purpose of conducting the election.

8.9. Permanent vacancies of deputy speakers.— Upon a permanent vacancy in the Office of any Deputy Speaker, the Speaker, on advice of the Executive Committee and in a published written memorandum, shall appoint an Acting Deputy Speaker, who shall only serve until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly. At this time, a new Deputy Speaker 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, the acting Deputy Speaker will continue until a new Deputy Speaker is elected.

9.10. Vacancies of deputy speakers created by leave of absence.— Upon a vacancy in the Office of any Deputy Speaker created by the officer taking a leave of absence, the Speaker, on advice of the Executive Committee and in a published written memorandum, shall appoint an Acting Deputy Speaker, who shall only serve until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly. At this time, a new Deputy Speaker may be elected to serve until the original Deputy Speaker's leave of absence expires.

10.11. Vacancy in all officers and chairs.— In the event that the position of Speaker, Deputy Speaker for Finance and all positions identified in § 204.4(a)(1)-(6) are vacant simultaneously after the first meeting of the Congress, the most senior member of COGS, as defined in § 204.7(a)(7) shall be requested to temporarily chair an emergency meeting of the Congress until a Representative is elected to the office of Speaker. The COGS Advisor 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.

11.12. Duties.— The duties of each officer shall be:

(a) 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 committees.
- (5) Take care that the COGS Code, Budget, and the Florida State University Student Body Statutes are faithfully executed.

- 761 (6) Chair the Executive Committee and serve as a member of the
762 Internal Affairs Committee.
- 763 (7) Perform all other duties and responsibilities as may be
764 required by law and the Florida State University Student Body
765 Statutes and Constitution.
- 766 (b) The Deputy Speaker for Judicial Affairs shall:
- 767 (1) Audit the COGS Code and bylaws to ensure continued
768 compliance with the Florida State University Student Body
769 Constitution and Statutes.
- 770 (2) Preside over the impeachment process.
- 771 (3) Swear in new members of the Assembly and inform them of
772 their responsibilities prior to their petition hearing before the
773 Assembly.
- 774 (4) Conduct an audit of COGS financial records no less than once
775 per fiscal year, or upon request of the Speaker.
- 776 (5) Assemble and disseminate to the members of the Assembly
777 an extensive list of pertinent questions to be asked in consideration
778 of petitions of new members.
- 779 (6) Serve as a member of the Internal Affairs Committee.
- 780 (7) Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of
781 COGS.
- 782 (c) The Deputy Speaker for Communication shall:
- 783 (1) Inform all members of meeting dates and happenings.
- 784 (2) Create and supervise COGS announcements and bulletins.
- 785 (3) Act as the public relations liaison between COGS, Florida
786 State University, and public press domains.
- 787 (4) Record minutes of all Executive Committee meetings.
- 788 (5) Work with SGA Student Publications to maintain a website.
- 789 (6) Disseminate information concerning vacant seats in the
790 Assembly to Florida State University students.
- 791 (7) Serve as a member of the Outreach Committee and assist the
792 Committee with its mission.
- 793 (8) Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of
794 COGS.
- 795 (d) The Deputy Speaker for Finance shall:
- 796 (1) Oversee the expenditure of the Annual Budget.
- 797 (2) Prepare budget request guidelines for the upcoming fiscal
798 year for ratification by the Budget Committee.
- 799 (3) Issue reports on the balance and expenditures of COGS
800 accounts.
- 801 (4) Oversee Conference Grant disbursement.
- 802 (5) Serve as a member of the Internal Affairs Committee.
- 803 (6) Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of
804 COGS.
- 805 (e) The Deputy Speaker for Advocacy shall:
- 806 (1) Oversee the advocacy work of COGS,

- 807 (2) Serve as a member of the Advocacy Committee,
808 (3) Work with the Advocacy Committee to implement the
809 advocacy goals of COGS,
810 (4) Serve on the Strategic Planning Committee, as set out in
811 Chapter 209,
812 (5) Act as a liaison between COGS and Graduate Assistants
813 United,
814 (6) Assist the Speaker as needed with the administration of
815 COGS.

816 **Chapter 205 Elections**

817 205.1 Adoption of SGA election code with exceptions.

818 205.2 Supervisor of elections to conduct elections.

819 205.3 Non-partisan elections.

820 205.4 Candidates to not attend seminar.

821 205.5 Combined financial statements for COGS candidates.

822 205.6 Breaking of ties.

823 205.7 Judicial branch to resolve disputed elections.

824 205.8 Elections to be held during fall SGA elections.

825 205.9 Franchise.

826 205.10 Notice of elections.

827 205.11 Certification of elections.

828 1. **Adoption of SGA election code with exceptions.**— Pursuant to Student
829 Body Statutes, the Congress adopts the SGA Election Code, as laid out in Student
830 Body Statutes Title VII, as the governing instrument for COGS elections, except
831 that the procedures of this Chapter shall control for COGS elections,
832 notwithstanding conflicting provisions of the Election Code.

833 2. **Supervisor of elections to conduct elections.**— The SGA Supervisor of
834 Elections shall be responsible for conducting elections for the Congress of
835 Graduate Students.

836 3. **Non-partisan elections.**— COGS elections shall be non-partisan.

837 4. **Candidates to not attend seminar.**— Candidates for COGS do not need to
838 attend the Candidate Seminars.

839 5. **Combined financial statements for COGS candidates.**— Candidates for
840 COGS shall file a combined Campaign Finance Statement by the Final Expense
841 Statement deadline, as set out in Title VII, which shall include:

842 (a) An itemized list of all campaign contributions and expenditures, or

843 (b) A statement, under penalty of disqualification, that the candidate
844 received no contributions, nor made any expenditures.

845 6. **Breaking of ties.**— Any ties in a COGS election shall be resolved by a vote of
846 COGS immediately upon the convening of the new Congress, taken by secret
847 ballot, with the tied candidates being on the secret ballot.

848 7. **Judicial branch to resolve disputed elections.**— Election appeals shall be
849 made to the Student Government Elections Commission, as specified by Title VII.
850 Appeals from the Elections Commission shall be to the Florida State University
851 Student Supreme Court.

8. **Elections to be held during fall SGA elections.**— Elections will be held in conjunction with the regular fall semester Student Government elections.

9. **Franchise.**— All enrolled graduate and professional students are eligible to vote in COGS elections, provided that college-specific seats shall only be voted on by students of the said college.

10. **Notice of elections.**— The Supervisor of Elections shall advertise the seat allocation information at least twenty-four (24) hours before the first day of the Declaration of Candidacy date, as specified by the Student Government Election Code. The Deputy Speaker of Communications shall also advertise the seats up for election on the Congress's social media pages.

11. **Certification of elections.**— No more than two weeks after election day, the Supervisor of Elections shall certify, in writing to the Speaker, the election of all COGS representatives whose elections are not under active appeal. This certification shall include, at minimum:

- (a) The date of the Supervisor's certification,
- (b) The name of each Representative certified as elected and their seat,
- (c) A statement of certification under the Elections Code and COGS Code,
- (d) The signature of the Supervisor and a witness, whose name shall be listed in print as well as the signature, and
- (e) The SGA seal.

Chapter 206 Committees

206.1 Establishment of standing committees.

206.2 Establishment of select committees.

206.3 Committee assignments.

206.4 Deferral of committee assignment.

206.5 Committees to be led by chair and vice chair.

206.6 Removal of chair and vice chair.

206.7 Committees to report to Assembly.

206.8 Committees to meet regularly.

206.9 Referral of business to committees.

206.10 Committees authorized to propose matters to Assembly.

206.11 Charges of standing committees.

206.12 Charges of select committees.

1. **Establishment of standing committees.**— There shall be three standing committees of COGS:

- (a) The Outreach Committee
- (b) The Advocacy Committee
- (c) The Internal Affairs Committee

2. **Establishment of select committees.**— There shall be select committees of the Congress, including:

- (a) The Budget Committee,
- (b) The Strategic Planning Committee,
- (c) Any select committee formed under the following procedure:
 - (1) All select committees shall be formed upon:

- (i) Request of any member of COGS that is ratified by a majority vote of the Assembly, or
- (ii) Recommendation of the Speaker that is approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- (2) The individual initiating the request for formation of the select committee shall describe the purpose, intent, timeframe, and scope of the committee.
- 3. Committee assignments.—** The Executive Committee, by majority vote, shall appoint Representatives to the standing committees no later than each Representative's second meeting of the Congress.
- (a) All members of the Assembly shall be a member of one (1) a standing 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.
- (1) Any member of the Assembly receiving a waiver under the provisions of subsection (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) If the membership of any standing committee should fall below five (5) members, the consent requirement in subsection (b) 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.
- 4. Deferral of committee assignment.—** Upon joining the Congress, a Representative may elect to defer their committee assignment until after the Representative 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.
- 5. Committees to be led by chair and vice chair.—** Each committee shall be led by a chair and vice chair. Unless otherwise indicated by Code, the chair and vice chair of each committee shall be elected by a majority of the committee's members.
- (a) The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the committee, decide points of order, recognize members, set the agenda for meetings, and

943 ensure that all committee meetings are properly noticed. The Chair shall
944 meet with the Speaker on a regular basis to discuss the committee's
945 business and discuss future opportunities for the committee.

946 (b) The Vice Chair shall preside over the committee in the absence of
947 the Chair, shall take minutes of all committee meetings, and ensure that
948 all meeting minutes are posted.

949 **6. Removal of chair and vice chair.—** Except when the chair or vice chair of a
950 committee is prescribed by Code, a chair or vice chair may be removed by either:

951 (a) A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the committee, or

952 (b) Majority vote of the Executive Committee sitting with the chairs of all
953 standing committees.

954 **7. Committees to report to Assembly.—** At each meeting of the Assembly, each
955 standing committee will be required to inform the Assembly of its activities. This
956 shall be the responsibility of either the Chair, or a committee member designated
957 by the Chair. The Budget Committee and Strategic Planning Committee shall only
958 be required to report when the committees are sitting.

959 **8. Committees to meet regularly.—** Standing committees shall meet no less
960 than once every two (2) months. The Chair will have the authority to set the
961 meeting time and location on campus (or by teleconference) in consultation with
962 the committee.

963 **9. Referral of business to committees.—** The Speaker shall be entitled to refer
964 any measure for consideration by the Assembly to an appropriate committee
965 before a floor vote. This decision may only be overturned by a majority vote of
966 members present at a COGS meeting. The Assembly may also refer a measure
967 to an appropriate committee by majority vote.

968 **10. Committees authorized to propose matters to Assembly.—** Each
969 committee shall be empowered to propose any measure it feels appropriate to the
970 Assembly.

971 **11. Charges of standing committees.—** The standing committees are
972 charged with the following competences:

973 (a) The Internal Affairs Committee shall focus on the following areas:

974 (1) Prepare and distribute the monthly COGS newsletter,

975 (2) Keep website information updated,

976 (3) Relations between COGS and the SGA, MSC, and LSC,

977 (4) Oversight all COGS funding expenditure,

978 (5) Train new COGS members,

979 (6) Make/Propose amendments to the COGS Code,

980 (7) Hear cases of impeachment and removal prior to the full
981 assembly,

982 (8) Maintain attendance records, initiate removal proceedings for
983 members who are no longer in compliance with attendance
984 requirements,

985 (9) Implementing the Aspects of the Strategic Plan within the
986 Committee's Jurisdiction, and

987 (10) All other areas in which the Chair and Speaker agree the
988 Committee should focus.

- (b) The Outreach Committee shall focus on the following areas:
- (1) Social and Community Planning
 - (2) Recruiting New Members to COGS
 - (3) Connecting RSO's across programs and colleges,
 - (4) Planning and executing events under the COGS banner,
 - (5) Relations with Graduate Assistants United (GAU),
 - (6) Managing responsibilities for orientation,
 - (7) Implementing the Aspects of the Strategic Plan within the Committee's Jurisdiction, and
 - (8) All other areas in which the Chair and the Speaker agree the committee should focus.
- (c) The Student Advocacy Committee shall focus on the following areas:
- (1) Graduate student pay and funding, in conjunction with GAU
 - (2) Childcare
 - (3) Diversity on campus
 - (4) Health Insurance
 - (5) Academics and Honor Policy
 - (6) Parking and Transportation
 - (7) Housing and Dining
 - (8) Library
 - (9) Health and Wellness
 - (10) Implementing the Aspects of the Strategic Plan within the Committee's Jurisdiction,
 - (11) All other areas in which the Chair and the Speaker agree the committee should focus.
12. **Charges of select committees.**— The select committees shall be charged with specific competences as determined by memorandum of the Speaker (which shall, if the standing committee was created by motion of the Assembly, include the scope set by the motion), but the following select committees shall at least have the following competences:
- (a) The Budget Committee shall draft the Annual Budget, as prescribed by Chapter 208, review and recommend changes to the conference grant amounts outlined in § 307.9, and discuss any other matters agreed upon by the Chair and the Speaker.
- (b) The Strategic Planning Select 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 209.

Chapter 207 Proceedings

207.1 Construction.

207.2 Ratification of actions of officers.

207.3 Bills.

207.4 Resolutions.

207.5 Investigative rights of the Congress.

1033 1. **Construction.**— The provisions of this Chapter shall be read in conjunction
1034 with IROP. But in case of conflict, the provisions of this Chapter shall preempt
1035 IROP.

1036 2. **Ratification of actions of officers.**— Ratification of actions, shall be
1037 conducted by motion, and shall follow the Internal Rules of Procedure. A
1038 confirmation or ratification vote shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority, except as
1039 otherwise required by this code.

1040 3. **Bills.**— Bills shall be used to amend COGS Code, Annual Budget, and Annual
1041 Budget proviso. Amendments to the COGS Code shall require a two-thirds (2/3)
1042 vote of COGS.

1043 (a) Bills shall include a title which summarizes the bill, a short title for the
1044 bill, and shall include the enacting clause “Be it Enacted by the [Number
1045 of Congress] Congress of Graduate Students that:”

1046 (b) Bills may include proviso language to take ancillary actions,
1047 including, but not limited to:

1048 (1) Setting an effective date later than upon becoming law.

1049 (2) Issuing waivers under COGS Code (unless Code requires the
1050 waiver to be made by resolution)

1051 (3) Providing limitations on funds allocated by COGS

1052 (4) Providing approval for COGS to enter into written agreements
1053 related to the bill.

1054 (c) Bills amending COGS Code shall be signed in the following order
1055 after approval by the Assembly:

1056 (1) The Speaker, who signs in a ministerial capacity to signify the
1057 Assembly’s approval of the bill

1058 (2) The COGS Advisor, who shall sign, in a ministerial capacity,
1059 within two (2) school days of receipt to signify receipt by the SGA
1060 Advising Staff

1061 (3) The Vice President for Student Affairs, who has ten (10)
1062 school days from being presented with the bill to sign or veto the
1063 bill. Should the bill not be acted upon within the aforementioned
1064 time limit, the bill shall be deemed as approved and enrolled.

1065 (d) Bills amending the Annual Budget or its Proviso shall be signed in
1066 the following order after approval by the Assembly:

1067 (1) The Speaker, who signs in a ministerial capacity to signify the
1068 Assembly’s approval of the bill

1069 (2) The Deputy Speaker for Finance, who signs in a ministerial
1070 capacity to acknowledge the amendment to COGS finances

1071 (3) The COGS Advisor, who shall sign, in a ministerial capacity,
1072 within two (2) school days of receipt to signify receipt by the SGA
1073 Advising Staff

1074 (4) The University President or their designee, who has ten (10)
1075 school days from being presented with the bill to sign or veto the
1076 bill. Should the bill not be acted upon within the aforementioned
1077 time limit, the bill shall be deemed as approved and enrolled.

1078 4. **Resolutions.**— Resolutions shall be used to convey the opinion of the
1079 Congress, amend the Internal Rules of Procedure, and issue waivers (as required
1080 by Code). Resolutions shall be signed by the Speaker, acting in a ministerial
1081 capacity, to signify the Assembly’s approval of the resolution.

1082 (a) Resolutions shall include the following resolved clause: “Be it
1083 Resolved by the [Number of Congress] Congress of Graduate Students:”

1084 (b) The Congress may not enter into written agreements unless
1085 approved by resolution, except for those agreements allowed for in bill
1086 proviso.

1087 5. **Investigative rights of the Congress.**— COGS, and its committees, shall be
1088 vested with the necessary powers to investigate acts of students, RSOs, and other
1089 entities or officers who are associated with COGS. This shall include, but not be
1090 limited to, subpoenaing witnesses, hearing testimony, and reviewing documents.
1091 The exercise of this power shall be delineated in the COGS Internal Rules of
1092 Procedure, or in the absence of such provisions, at the discretion of the Speaker.

1093 **Chapter 208 Budget**

1094 208.1 Short title.

1095 208.2 Purpose.

1096 208.3 Budget to be completed by start of fiscal year.

1097 208.4 Source of funds.

1098 208.5 Proposed budget to be drafted by Budget Committee.

1099 208.6 Proposed budget to be noticed.

1100 208.7 Budget to be approved by Assembly.

1101 208.8 Budget to be reviewed by university.

1102 208.9 Amendments to budget.

1103 208.10 Student organizations held harmless.

1104 208.11 Authority to create reserves.

1105 208.12 Authority to designate funding as discretionary.

1106 1. **Short title.**— This chapter may be referred to as “The Annual Budget
1107 Procedures Act of 2012.”

1108 2. **Purpose.**— This chapter is to establish a procedure by which the COGS
1109 Annual Budget is produced and passed.

1110 3. **Budget to be completed by start of fiscal year.**— The Annual Budget shall
1111 be approved by COGS before the beginning of the fiscal year that it affects.

1112 4. **Source of funds.**— The Annual Budget will derive its funds from those funds
1113 appropriated to it under the Florida State Body Constitution and any other source.

1114 5. **Proposed budget to be drafted by Budget Committee.**— The Annual
1115 Budget shall be prepared and proposed by the Budget Committee.

1116 (a) The membership of the committee shall be appointed by the Speaker
1117 and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly. The committee
1118 shall be comprised of at least four COGS members and the Deputy
1119 Speaker for Finance. The Deputy Speaker for Finance shall serve as chair
1120 of the Budget Committee.

1121 (b) Hearings, deliberations, and meetings of the Budget Committee shall
1122 be properly noticed to the public.

- 1123 (c) Hearings, deliberations, and meetings of the Budget Committee are
1124 public and shall be advertised in the Congress. The Chairperson of the
1125 Budget Committee shall not exclude any student from witnessing the
1126 hearings or deliberations in accordance with the FSU SGA Sunshine Act.
1127 (d) The Budget Committee, through its chair and vice chair, shall provide
1128 proper notice at the beginning of the budget drafting process, which shall
1129 include:
1130 (1) Notifying graduate RSOs of the budget process fifteen (15)
1131 school days before the deadline to submit budget requests, and
1132 (2) With the COGS Advisor, notifying the graduate RSOs at
1133 Florida State University by email letter educating them of their
1134 opportunity to receive annual funding during the budget process.
1135 (e) Each organization receiving money from the Annual Budget shall
1136 make a budget request.
1137 (1) A budget request shall consist of questions pertaining to the
1138 organization's activities in a form designed by the Deputy Speaker
1139 for Finance and approved by the Budget Committee.
1140 (2) All RSOs that are eligible to receive COGS fundings, and are
1141 not funded by MSC and LSC, are eligible to submit a budget
1142 request.
1143 (3) The Budget Committee is authorized to fund more than the
1144 amount requested.
1145 (f) The Budget Committee shall hold hearings during which budget
1146 requests are defended. Each budget request shall have a separate
1147 hearing. The procedures for hearings shall be set by the Chair of the
1148 Budget Committee prior to the start of hearings.
1149 (g) At the conclusion of all hearings, the Budget Committee shall openly
1150 deliberate on the budget and create a proposed Annual Budget bill,
1151 including any proviso language. The bill shall be officially proposed upon
1152 a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Budget Committee. The Chair of the Budget
1153 Committee shall have the authority to make technical and formatting
1154 changes prior to presenting the proposed Annual Budget bill.

1155 **6. Proposed budget to be noticed.—** The proposed Annual budget shall be
1156 noticed as follows:

- 1157 (a) Upon completion of technical and formatting changes to the
1158 proposed Annual Budget Bill, the Chair of the Budget Committee shall
1159 present the bill to the Congress, either in person or via email, at least ten
1160 (10) school days prior to a floor vote.
1161 (1) The Chair of the Budget Committee shall provide an electronic
1162 copy of the proposed Annual Budget, as presented to the
1163 Assembly, to the COGS Advisor.
1164 (b) The proposed Annual Budget and proviso language must be
1165 advertised on the COGS website by the Chair at least five (5) school days
1166 before it is considered in a meeting of the Assembly. Such publication must
1167 include the date, time, and location of the COGS meeting where the

proposed Annual Budget is to be debated, along with the phrase “public comment is welcome.”

7. Budget to be approved by Assembly.— The Annual Budget shall be approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly.

(a) Amendments to the proposed Annual Budget must follow a majority vote to unlock a specific line item and category of the proposed Annual Budget or a line of the proviso language. Any amendment which affects the allocation amount in any line of any recipient shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Congress.

(b) The Annual Budget and proviso language cannot be approved separately.

(c) The final vote on the proposed Annual Budget shall be by roll-call vote.

(d) If COGS fails to pass the proposed Annual Budget, the Budget Committee shall propose a new Annual Budget with substantial changes within three (3) weeks of the prior proposed Annual Budget’s failure in the Congress.

8. Budget to be reviewed by university.— Once approved by COGS, the Annual Budget shall be presented to the University President, or their designee, for signature. If the University President, or their designee, should veto the Annual Budget, it shall be returned to COGS for revision. If the University President, or their designee, does not sign or veto the Annual Budget within fifteen (15) school days of receipt, the Annual Budget will be considered approved.

9. Amendments to budget.— After the Annual Budget has been approved, amendments to the Budget, as well as Budget proviso, may be made by bill.

(a) Monies may be moved within a line item between the categories of Salary, OPS Wages, Contractual Services, Expense, or OCO upon request of any COGS-funded entity by a majority vote of the Assembly. Such transfers of \$500 or less shall be deemed approved when, during New Business, the Deputy Speaker for Finance presents en bloc all pending transfers of \$500 or less and no Representative objects. If there is an objection, each bill shall be debated as normal.

(b) Any amendment to the Annual Budget, or its proviso, shall require the signature of the University President or his/her designee.

10. Student organizations held harmless.— If this chapter is violated by COGS with respect to any RSO, no prejudice shall be held against the RSO for failure to appear or failure to comply with the process before the RSO learned of the meeting or process.

11. Authority to create reserves.— The Budget Committee and Assembly shall have the option to set aside funding to the "COGS Reserves" account. Requests to allocate COGS Reserves funds to other accounts shall be proposed as a COGS Funding Bill and must be approved by a majority of the COGS General Assembly. The organizations, and internal COGS accounts, throughout the fiscal year, may request transfers from reserves through a form promulgated by the Executive Committee.

12. **Authority to designate funding as discretionary.**— Within the COGS Budget Bill, the Budget Committee and Assembly shall have the option to set aside "Discretionary Funding" for organizations requesting COGS funding for each budget category. Discretionary Funding may be utilized for approved purchases within the allocated budget category not defined in organizations' annual budget requests.

Chapter 209 Strategic Planning

209.1 Creation.

209.2 Purpose.

209.3 Strategic plan requirements.

209.4 Strategic planning committee.

209.5 Timeline.

209.6 Adoption of strategic plan.

209.7 Duration of strategic plan.

209.8 Amendments to strategic plan.

1. **Creation.**— There is created a Congress of Graduate Students Strategic Plan.

2. **Purpose.**— The Strategic Plan shall provide for an organized document to identify the long-term growth and sustainability of COGS. 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.

3. **Strategic plan requirements.**— The COGS Strategic Plan shall:

(a) 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.

(b) Identify goals in advocacy, community building, and internal operations to support the achievement of the Mission and Vision Statements.

(c) Provide measurable goals to monitor attainment, where applicable.

(d) Adhere to all applicable laws of the State of Florida, Board of Governors regulations, and regulations of the Florida State University Board of Trustees.

4. **Strategic planning committee.**— There shall be a Strategic Planning Committee, which shall be a select committee of the Congress.

(a) The committee shall 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

1258 than the final Assembly meeting of the Fall semester. The Vice Chair shall
1259 be elected by the committee.

1260 (b) For the 33rd Congress, the Chair of the Strategic Planning
1261 Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker and confirmed by majority
1262 vote of the Congress.

1263 **5. Timeline.**— The committee shall run in a 12-week period to commence no later
1264 than the second full week of classes in the spring term following the
1265 commencement of a new session of COGS.

1266 (a) At the conclusion of the 12-week period, the Strategic Planning
1267 Select Committee shall approve a strategic plan to forward to the
1268 Congress of Graduate Students for consideration and approval.

1269 (1) During the 12-week regular session of the Committee, there
1270 shall be two sessions: a steering session, and a plan development
1271 session.

1272 (2) The first six weeks shall be the steering session. During this
1273 portion, the Committee shall hear presentations and updates on
1274 COGS and graduate student governance from the Speaker and
1275 stakeholders within the university community. The Committee shall
1276 consider the presentations against the mission and vision
1277 statements, and identify portions of the strategic plan that need
1278 updating.

1279 (3) The second six weeks shall be the plan development session.
1280 During this portion, the Committee shall conduct the necessary
1281 drafting and editing process to update the Strategic Plan.

1282 (b) Special meetings prior to the 12-week period may be requested as
1283 needed by the Speaker, or by simple majority vote of the Congress. Such
1284 special meetings must have a specifically identified topic for discussion.

1285 (c) The committee shall meet, at minimum, during the COGS session in
1286 which the expiration of the plan falls. The Speaker retains the right to call
1287 the Committee more frequently. The committee shall not have more than
1288 one 12-week period per session of COGS.

1289 **6. Adoption of strategic plan.**— The Strategic Planning Select Committee shall
1290 develop the mission and vision statement, associated goals and metrics, and
1291 strategic plan narrative. The Committee shall approve the Strategic Plan by
1292 majority vote. Upon committee approval, the chair and vice chair of the Committee
1293 shall present the Strategic Plan to the Assembly, who shall adopt it by majority
1294 vote.

1295 **7. Duration of strategic plan.**— The Strategic Plan shall be valid for the three
1296 subsequent academic years after approval.

1297 **8. Amendments to strategic plan.**— Amendments to the mission and vision
1298 statement prior to the expiration of the Strategic Plan shall require a 2/3 majority
1299 vote of COGS.

1300 **Chapter 210 Ethics**

1301 **210.1** Short title.

1302 **210.2** Ethics and professional conduct rules.

1303 **210.3** Enforcement.

210.4 Non-exclusivity.

1. **Short title.**— This chapter may be referred to as the “Ethics Code.”

2. **Ethics and professional conduct rules.**— The following shall constitute the individual rules governing the ethical and professional conduct of COGS Representatives and members of funding boards:

(a) Representative Office in COGS is a trust to be performed with integrity in the public interest. By personal example and by admonition to colleagues whose behavior may threaten the honor of the Congress, they shall watchfully guard the responsibility of their Office and the responsibilities and duties placed on them by the Congress.

(b) A member shall respect and comply with the law and shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and independence of the Congress. Each member shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner that promotes a professional environment, free from discrimination.

(c) A member shall accept nothing which reasonably may be construed to improperly influence their official act, decision, or vote.

(d) A member shall scrupulously comply with the requirements of all laws related to the ethics of public officers.

(e) No member shall knowingly make or issue false or malicious statements about other Representatives or officers of the Student Body.

(f) With the exception of the Annual Budget, no member shall vote on any measure which will personally and directly impact them financially. With the exception of the Annual Budget, or sub-allocation budgets from MSC or LSC, no member shall vote on any measure which will directly impact any organization of which that member is a member of their executive board. The Speaker or Chair may, on their own action upon personal knowledge or upon being informed by point of order, require that a member abstain from a vote that implicates this subsection. This decision is appealable and may be overturned by majority vote of the Assembly. Voting incompatible with this subsection is an actionable violation of the Ethics Code.

3. **Enforcement.**— Violations of the Ethics Code are to be filed in writing with the COGS Advisor and COGS Speaker. Allegations of violations of this chapter shall be referred to the Internal Affairs Committee within ten (10) school days of receipt of the charges, who shall investigate the allegations. Should the committee determine, by majority vote, that a violation occurred, it may:

(a) Initiate impeachment proceedings under § 201.5,

(b) Present a resolution of censure to the Assembly, which shall only be adopted with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly,

(c) Suspend the Representative or funding board member for a period of no more than fourteen (14) calendar days, or

(d) Any combination thereof.

4. **Non-exclusivity.**— Punitive action under this chapter shall in no way affect liability for violation of the Florida State Student Code of Conduct, Student Body Statutes, or any other lawful procedure.

Chapter 211 Awards

211.1 Laura Vaughn Representative of the Year Award

1. Laura Vaughn representative of the year award.— Each Congress, at the last or second-to-last meeting of that Congress, shall determine which Representative will be names as the Laura Vaughn Representative of the Year.

(a) The award shall go to the Representative who, in the opinion of the Congress, has best served the Congress, the Graduate Student Body, and the university over the course of the Congress.

(b) The sitting officers of the Congress shall not be eligible to receive the award.

(c) The Speaker shall take nominations for the award from the floor. No debate shall be allowed. The Speaker shall provide the Congress with a secret ballot by which Representatives may rank the nominees in order of preference.

(d) Should no Representative receive a majority of first-preference votes, the Representative with the least number of first-preference votes shall be removed from contention and their votes shall be redistributed based on the next preference of each vote. Should no Representative have a majority of votes after this redistribution, the Representative with the least number of votes shall be eliminated and votes distributed in accordance with each vote's next preference. This shall continue until a Representative has a majority of votes.

(e) The award shall be presented to the winner by the outgoing Speaker at Fall Inauguration.

(f) A list of the names of the Representatives who were named Laura Vaughn Representative of the Year shall be maintained on the COGS website.

(1) Laura Vaughn shall be listed as the Laura Vaughn Representative of the Year for the Thirty-Second Congress.

4.—

Title III: Finance Provisions

Chapter 300 Requirements for Student Organizations to Receive Funding

Chapter 301 General Restrictions on Spending

Chapter 302 Funding of OPS Positions

Chapter 303 Self-Generated Funds

Chapter 304 Purchase Request Procedures

Chapter 305 Printed Materials

Chapter 306 General Travel Policies

Chapter 307 Conference Grants

Chapter 308 Compliance and Enforcement Mechanisms

Chapter 300 Requirements for Student Organizations to Receive Funding

300.1 Organization recognized by university for four weeks.

- 300.2 Organization officers financially certified.
- 300.3 Elected president and financial officer.
- 300.4 Majority graduate student membership.
- 300.5 Second signer for expenditures.
- 300.6 Abiding by organizational constitution.
- 300.7 Mandatory dues prohibited.
- 300.8 Compliance does not guarantee funding.
1. **Organization recognized by university for four weeks.**— All student organizations must be recognized by the Division of Student Affairs for a minimum of four (4) weeks in order to receive COGS Funds.
 2. **Organization officers financially certified.**— The president and treasurer of an RSO must be financially certified by COGS in order to receive COGS Funds.
 3. **Elected president and financial officer.**— RSOs are required to elect a Financial Officer to oversee budgetary accounts and a President to countersign for expenditures. To be eligible for COGS Funds, the President and Treasurer of the RSO must be A&S fee-paying graduate or professional students at Florida State University.
 4. **Majority graduate student membership.**— To be eligible for COGS Funds, a majority of the organization's members must be A&S fee-paying graduate students at Florida State University.
 5. **Second signer for expenditures.**— All expenditures of COGS Funds by said organizations will require a signature from the Financial Officer and President, or other financially certified officer.
 6. **Abiding by organizational constitution.**— No RSO which receives funding from COGS, or any of its sub-allocation authorities, may violate the provisions of its individual RSO constitution. Failure of an RSO to abide by, or secure any right granted under its constitution, shall make the organization subject to the measures outlined in Chapter 308 of this Code.
 - (a) The Speaker shall enforce this provision upon application from any student, or upon being made aware of an ongoing violation of an RSO's constitution.
 - (b) The Florida State University Student Supreme Court shall have concurrent jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this section through appropriate writs. In the event of a conflict between the Speaker and the Student Supreme Court, the determination and orders of the Student Supreme Court shall prevail.
 - (c) The copy of an RSO's constitution, filed with the University during the annual RSO recognition process, shall be considered authoritative.
 7. **Mandatory dues prohibited.**— RSOs within the jurisdiction of COGS may only collect voluntary dues. This provision shall not require RSOs to pay state or national membership dues on behalf of members.
 8. **Compliance does not guarantee funding.**— No provision under this chapter shall guarantee an RSO to receive COGS Funds from the SGA Accounting office.

Chapter 301 General Restrictions on Spending

1439 301.1 Purpose of entities when allocating COGS funds.

1440 301.2 Purpose of receipt of COGS funds.

1441 301.3 Compliance with applicable policies.

1442 301.4 Anti-discrimination policy.

1443 301.5 Events to be open and available.

1444 301.6 Events to be free to students.

1445 301.7 Prohibition on use of funds to support political parties or campaigns.

1446 301.8 Prohibition on use of funds for alcohol.

1447 301.9 Limits on per person expenditures for food.

1448 301.10 Limits on expenditures for gratuity on food.

1449 1. **Purpose of entities when allocating COGS funds.**— COGS and all entities

1450 within its jurisdiction, or which receive its support, shall promote accessibility to

1451 education, effective funding of RSOs, and support to Florida State University

1452 administrative functions or offices which contribute to the assimilation,

1453 organization, and professional development of graduate students at Florida State

1454 University.

1455 2. **Purpose of receipt of COGS funds.**— All Funds allocated by COGS or its

1456 sub-allocation authorities, such as graduate funding boards, shall be offered in an

1457 effort to nurture the highest levels of scholarship, research, creativity, and social

1458 activities necessary to support a comprehensive graduate research university.

1459 3. **Compliance with applicable policies.**— Activities funded must not conflict

1460 with the purpose and regulations of this code, the Florida State University Student

1461 Body Constitution, Statutes, and Board of Trustees' policies, or with state or

1462 federal laws.

1463 4. **Anti-discrimination policy.**— No RSO which receives funding from COGS

1464 will practice de facto or de jure discrimination against discrimination or differential

1465 treatment in membership or otherwise on the basis of race, creed, nationality,

1466 alienage, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family

1467 status, or socio-economic status.

1468 5. **Events to be open and available.**— All events funded in whole, or in part, by

1469 COGS Funds or derivative resources must be equally accessible to all enrolled

1470 graduate students at Florida State University, or serve a legitimate academic

1471 purpose.

1472 (a) All purchases for events held off of the Florida State University

1473 campus require the approval of the Assembly by resolution in a majority

1474 vote, unless approved by proviso to a funding bill.

1475 (b) MSC and LSC are authorized to waive this section for events funded

1476 by the respective councils by motion approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote.

1477 6. **Events to be free to students.**— RSOs within the jurisdiction of COGS may

1478 not charge Florida State University students admissions fees to any event

1479 subsidized or paid for by COGS Funds.

1480 (a) No RSO receiving funding from COGS may charge Florida State

1481 University students for food purchased with COGS Funds.

1482 7. **Prohibition on use of funds to support political parties or campaigns.**—

1483 Funds may not be expended to support, in whole or in part, a candidate for political

office, nor for contribution to a political party. This provision shall also apply to on-campus SGA political parties and campaigns.

8. Prohibition on use of funds for alcohol.— COGS Funds cannot be used to fund alcoholic beverages.

9. Limits on per person expenditures for food.— NO RSO shall incur more than \$20 per person, per meal, when using COGS Funds.

(a) This section can be overridden by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of the Assembly.

10. Limits on expenditures for gratuity on food.— RSOs may request, receive, and expend a reasonable amount not to exceed twenty percent (20%) as gratuity, for food purchases for events. Reimbursement shall not be granted on meals for individuals who are receiving a per diem in conjunction with travel. The gratuity must be recorded on the receipt and should be reflected in the total.

Chapter 302 Funding of OPS Positions

302.1 OPS positions to be held by enrolled students.

302.2 Advertisement of non-elective OPS positions.

1. OPS positions to be held by enrolled students.— Elected and non-elected OPS positions shall be held by persons currently enrolled at FSU unless otherwise specified in this Code, the rules of procedure, or Student Body Constitution and Statutes.

2. Advertisement of non-elective OPS positions.— All OPS non-elected positions under COGS, or its organizations, shall be advertised in a widely publicized campus forum for a minimum of two (2) weeks.

Chapter 303 Self-Generated Funds

303.1 Definitions.

303.2 Deposit of self-generated funds.

303.3 Prohibition.

303.4 Reimbursement of COGS funds when used in part to generate funds.

1. Definitions.— The term “self-generated funds” shall be defined as funds earned or obtained without the expenditure of COGS Funds, or COGS-Fund derivative resources.

2. Deposit of self-generated funds.— Self-generated funds may be housed within the organization’s current DSE or FSU Foundation account. A copy of all deposit transmittals of Self-Generated Funds must be submitted to the DSE Accounting Office in accordance with DSE procedures.

3. Prohibition.— COGS funding may not be used solely for fund generation.

4. Reimbursement of COGS funds when used in part to generate funds.— If funds are generated from an event that is paid in whole, or in part, by COGS Funds, the funds generated will be used to offset the cost of the event.

Chapter 304 Purchase Request Procedures

- 1527 304.1 Requirements of purchase requests.
- 1528 304.2 Mandatory denial of purchase requests.
- 1529 304.3 Discretionary denial of purchase requests.
- 1530 304.4 Submission does not guarantee receipt.
- 1531 1. **Requirements of purchase requests.**— All requests for expenditures shall:
- 1532 (a) Be submitted to NoleCentral, or a successor platform,
- 1533 (b) Be submitted at least ten (10) business days in advance,
- 1534 (c) Include estimates of all materials to be produced or purchased, and
- 1535 (d) Include a justification identifying benefit(s) of the expense to all
- 1536 students at Florida State University.
- 1537 2. **Mandatory denial of purchase requests.**— Any request shall be denied by
- 1538 the Speaker, Deputy Speaker for Finance, or SG&A Accounting for:
- 1539 (a) Failure to meet any of the requirements of section (1), or
- 1540 (b) Violations of Code or any other applicable law.
- 1541 3. **Discretionary denial of purchase requests.**— The Speaker and Deputy
- 1542 Speaker for Finance shall reject requests for expenditures that they deem fiscally
- 1543 irresponsible and/or excessive. Reasons for rejection include, but are not limited
- 1544 to, any request deemed excessive or irresponsible.
- 1545 (a) Denials on discretionary grounds may be appealed through writ of
- 1546 injunction to the Student Supreme Court, which shall only issue if clear
- 1547 error is shown.
- 1548 4. **Submission does not guarantee receipt.**— The initiation of a request in no
- 1549 way guarantees the receipt of funds.
- 1550

1551 **Chapter 305 Printed Materials**

- 1552 305.1 Acknowledgement of COGS funding.
- 1553 305.2 Disclaimer of COGS neutrality.
- 1554 305.3 Inclusion of organization branding.
- 1555 1. **Acknowledgement of COGS funding.**— All printed materials for any and all
- 1556 advertisements, services, activities, programs, or events sponsored by a recipient
- 1557 of COGS Funds must adequately display the COGS logo or the phrase “Paid for
- 1558 by COGS.”
- 1559 2. **Disclaimer of COGS neutrality.**— All printed materials of a COGS-Fund
- 1560 recipient that contain a political or controversial message shall carry the phrase
- 1561 “The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of COGS or SGA.”
- 1562 3. **Inclusion of organization branding.**— Printed materials paid for, or in part
- 1563 by, COGS Funds must display the organization’s name or logo.

1564 **Chapter 306 General Travel Policies**

- 1565 306.1 Application of chapter.
- 1566 306.2 Types of funded travel.
- 1567 306.3 Paperwork.
- 1568 306.4 Per diem.
- 1569 306.5 Group travel policy.
- 1570 1. **Application of chapter.**— This chapter applies to students, whose travel
- 1571 and/or accommodations are being funded by COGS Funds.

2. **Types of funded travel.**— All funded individual travel must be:
- (a) In the performance of official duties on behalf of COGS,
 - (b) By a student making a presentation at an academic conference,
 - (c) By a student attending an academic conference,
 - (d) Part of an honorarium given for services to the Student Body, or
 - (e) For persons contracted to provide a service to the Student Body.
3. **Paperwork.**— Paperwork must be completed as required by the Florida State University Travel Office and the DSE Accounting Office.
4. **Per diem.**— All per diem shall be funded at the state rate. No per diem shall be authorized for any purposes other than food. This provision shall include, but is not limited to, a prohibition on entertainment and/or alcoholic beverage expenses.
5. **Group travel policy.**— As a general policy, COGS does not fund travel for RSOs.
- (a) COGS shall not fund RSO travel for career development and conference travel.
 - (b) RSO group travel is limited to travel that serves the promotion of the mission and goal of the RSO as well as to the betterment of the FSU student body.
 - (c) Group travel may only be approved by bill proviso or resolution of the Assembly, passed by a two-thirds (2/3), however no such funding may exceed \$1,500 except by unanimous vote of the Congress.

Chapter 307 Conference Grants

307.1 Creation.

307.2 Administration.

307.3 General restrictions for conference grants.

307.4 Types of conference grants.

307.5 Budgeting of funds for conference grants.

307.6 Distribution of funds into three periods.

307.7 General eligibility for conference grants.

307.8 Specific eligibility for conference grants.

307.9 Amounts of conference grants.

307.10 Reimbursement of funds.

307.11 Interpretation of chapter.

1. **Creation.**— There shall be a system of individual conference grants by which the Congress supports graduate and professional students to attend conferences that further their academic or professional endeavors.

2. **Administration.**— The conference grants system shall be administered by the Deputy Speaker for Finance, in coordination with the COGS Advisor and any other persons designated by the Speaker, and shall be administered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

3. **General restrictions for conference grants.**— No student shall:

- (a) Receive more than two (2) grants per fiscal year. Any student receiving a Combined grant shall be considered to have received two grants.
- (b) Receive more than seven hundred dollars (\$700) in total grants per fiscal year.
- (c) Receive more than one (1) grant per conference attended.
- 4. Types of conference grants.—** There shall be four (4) types of conference grants awarded by the Congress:
- (a) Attendance grants,
- (b) Domestic presentation grants,
- (c) International presentation grants, and
- (d) Combined grants.
- 5. Budgeting of funds for conference grants.—** The Annual Budget shall allocate funds for conference grants, with funding split between attendance grants and presentation grants. Combined grants, domestic presentation grants, and international presentation grants shall be considered “presentation grants” for the purpose of this section.
- 6. Distribution of funds into three periods.—** Annual COGS Conference Grant allocations shall be equally distributed into at least three grant funding periods, each lasting four (4) months, defined in the Annual Budget’s proviso language.
- (a) One month following the close of a conference grant funding period, the remaining funds shall be moved forward to the current funding period.
- 7. General eligibility for conference grants.—** Enrolled and A&S Fee-paying graduate and professional students at Florida State University are eligible to be awarded conference grants so long as they:
- (a) Complete an application promulgated by the Deputy Speaker for Finance and posted on the COGS website,
- (b) Submit their application no fewer than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the conference,
- (c) Provide proof of registration for the conference, and
- (1) Proof of attendance shall require one or more (at the discretion of the Deputy Speaker for Finance) of the following: conference registration receipt, conference materials, or a conference program.
- (d) Are not, individually or as a member of an RSO, receiving any other SGA funds for their conference travel.
- (e) Are attending a conference more than ~~two hundred~~ one hundred fifty (200150) miles away from Tallahassee.
- (1) Students may apply for a grant for a virtual conference but may only be reimbursed for the cost of conference registration and such reimbursement shall not exceed the amount given as an Attendance grant.
- 8. Specific eligibility for conference grants.—** The following grants shall have the following specific eligibility requirements:
- (a) Domestic presentation grants:

- 1660 (1) The student shall provide proof that they have been accepted
1661 to present at the conference the grant is for. Presentations may
1662 include, but is not limited to, being a solo presenter, serving on a
1663 discussion or presentation panel, or giving a poster presentation.
1664 (2) The conference must be within the United States.
1665 (b) International presentation grants:
1666 (1) The student shall provide proof that they have been accepted
1667 to present at the conference the grant is for. Presentations may
1668 include, but is not limited to, being a solo presenter, serving on a
1669 discussion or presentation panel, or giving a poster presentation.
1670 (2) The conference must be outside the United States.
1671 (3) The student shall provide proof of approval by the University
1672 for international travel.
1673 (c) Combined grants:
1674 (1) The student shall provide proof that they have been accepted
1675 to present at the conference the grant is for. Presentations may
1676 include, but is not limited to, being a solo presenter, serving on a
1677 discussion or presentation panel, or giving a poster presentation.
1678 (2) The student must not have received any grants for the current
1679 fiscal year.
1680 (3) The student shall make an acknowledgement that receiving
1681 the Combined grant makes them ineligible for any further grants in
1682 that fiscal year.
1683 **9. Amounts of conference grants.—** The amount of each grant shall be as
1684 follows:
1685 (a) Attendance grants: \$200.
1686 (b) Domestic presentation grants: \$350.
1687 (c) International presentation grants: \$700.
1688 (d) Combined grants: \$600.
1689 **10. Reimbursement of funds.—** Conference grants shall be awarded as a
1690 reimbursement of funds spent, pursuant to any requirements set by SG&A
1691 Accounting.
1692 **11. Interpretation of chapter.—** The Deputy Speaker for Finance, in
1693 consultation with the Speaker and COGS Advisor, is authorized to interpret the
1694 provisions of this Chapter. Such interpretations shall be binding, unless
1695 invalidated by the Student Supreme Court.
1696

1697 **Chapter 308 Compliance and Enforcement Mechanisms**

- 1698 **308.1** Definitions.
1699 **308.2** Methods of enforcement.
1700 **308.3** Public censure.
1701 **308.4** Purpose of freezing accounts.
1702 **308.5** Effect of freezing accounts.
1703 **308.6** Freezing of accounts.
1704 **308.7** Purpose of restricting accounts.

1705 308.8 Restriction of accounts.

1706 308.9 Written notice of freeze or restriction.

1707 308.10 Frozen or restricted entity to present to Assembly.

1708 308.11 Voluntary removal of freeze or restrictions.

1709 308.12 Appeal of freeze or restrictions.

1710 308.13 Non-exclusivity of chapter.

1711 308.14 **LSC and MSC to have authority to freeze accounts under jurisdiction.—**

1712 1. **Definitions.—** For the purpose of this chapter:

1713 (a) The term “applicable rules” shall be defined as the provisions of the
1714 Florida State University Student Body Statutes, as well as the provisions
1715 of this code.

1716 (b) The term “violation” shall be defined as misfeasance, nonfeasance,
1717 or malfeasance of any responsibility under the applicable rules, or as
1718 conduct which is a violation prohibition contained within any of the rules,
1719 or as fraud or misrepresentation in interactions with COGS or SGA.

1720 2. **Methods of enforcement.—** To enforce the provisions of this Title, the
1721 Congress may freeze the accounts of, restrict the accounts of, or publicly censure
1722 non-compliant entities and organizations.

1723 3. **Public censure.—** COGS may issue a public censure for RSOs or officers who
1724 engage in conduct that is either dishonest, unethical, or a violation of this code, if
1725 the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for Finance concur.

1726 (a) The censure shall include the reason for issuance, as well as the
1727 name of the officer or RSO responsible for the action.

1728 (b) The original censure will be retained by the COGS Advisor. A copy
1729 of the censure will be sent to the officer or RSO, and to any funding board
1730 that administers the RSO.

1731 (c) A censure may only be revoked by the Speaker or by an affirmative
1732 vote of the Congress.

1733 (d) Any censure will be included read aloud in the Assembly and
1734 included, in its totality, in the minutes of the next Assembly meeting.

1735 4. **Purpose of freezing accounts.—** The purpose of freezing funds is to prohibit
1736 the RSO from spending funds, to give the RSO the opportunity to correct the
1737 problem(s), and to deter future actions that are inconsistent with the applicable
1738 rules.

1739 5. **Effect of freezing accounts.—** Upon a freeze being placed on an
1740 organization’s account, no purchase requests, allocations, or transfers involving
1741 the frozen account shall be approved or processed.

1742 6. **Freezing of accounts.—** Upon the concurrence of the Speaker and the Deputy
1743 Speaker for Finance, a freeze may be placed upon the account of any RSO within
1744 the jurisdiction of COGS for violations of applicable rules. The duration of the
1745 freeze is not to exceed fifteen (15) school days.

1746 7. **Purpose of restricting accounts.—** Restriction of accounts should be
1747 reserved for:

1748 (a) The most egregious violations of applicable rules,

1749 (b) Organizations who have failed to comply with applicable rules after
1750 a freeze,

- 1751 (c) Organizations who have violated applicable rules multiple times, or
1752 (d) Organizations that have demonstrated a lack of institutional or
1753 financial control.

1754 **8. Restriction of accounts.—** Upon the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the
1755 representatives in regular Assembly, restrictions, in the form of a bill, may be
1756 placed upon the account of any RSO within the jurisdiction of COGS for violations
1757 of applicable rules.

1758 (a) The duration of the restrictions are not to exceed the remainder of
1759 the fiscal year in force at the time the bill is enacted.

1760 (b) The bill shall make legislative findings as to the grounds for issuing
1761 the restrictions.

1762 (c) The bill shall detail the restrictions placed on the RSO's accounts.
1763 Restrictions may include, but are not limited to:

1764 (1) A ban on specific expenditures from the restricted RSOs
1765 accounts,

1766 (2) Requiring pre-authorization from the Internal Affairs
1767 Committee prior to approval of an expenditure, or

1768 (3) A complete ban on the use of funds in any or all funding
1769 categories.

1770 (d) Due to the emergency nature of the placement of restrictions and
1771 notwithstanding s. 203.3(c), COGS Code, the effect of a bill placing
1772 restrictions shall go into effect immediately upon passage by the
1773 Assembly. Should the bill be vetoed by the Vice President for Student
1774 Affairs, the restrictions shall be void.

1775 **9. Written notice of freeze or restriction.—** When the Speaker or Deputy
1776 Speaker for Finance initiates a freeze or the Assembly imposes restrictions, the
1777 cause and duration of the freeze/restrictions shall be identified in a written
1778 memorandum from the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Finance to the
1779 frozen/restricted organization, with copies to the Student Body Treasurer,
1780 Business Manager, and COGS Advisor. In the case of restrictions, the
1781 memorandum should include the restrictions placed by the bill.

1782 **10. Frozen or restricted entity to present to Assembly.—** Any entity whose
1783 accounts are frozen/restricted must have its Treasurer/Financial Officer (or
1784 designee) make a presentation to the COGS Assembly. This presentation shall
1785 be scheduled at the behest of the COGS Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of
1786 Finance.

1787 **11. Voluntary removal of freeze or restrictions.—** A freeze initiated by the
1788 Speaker and Deputy Speaker may be rescinded at any time by the Speaker by
1789 written notification to those required in section (97). A freeze may also be removed
1790 by majority vote of the Assembly. Restrictions may only be removed by majority
1791 vote of the Assembly in the form of a bill.

1792 **12. Appeal of freeze or restrictions.—** The decision to freeze/restrict funds
1793 may be appealed to the Student Senate Finance Committee, Student Body
1794 Treasurer, or any other officer authorized in the Student Body Statutes. An order
1795 by any such entity to lift the freeze/restrictions shall be directly and immediately
1796 applicable.

13. Non-exclusivity of chapter.— This chapter shall not prejudice the rights of any student body officers under the Florida State University Student Body Constitution or Statutes to impose sanctions on RSOs without the authorization of COGS.

14. LSC and MSC to have authority to freeze accounts under jurisdiction.— LSC and MSC shall have the authority to freeze the accounts of any organization under the jurisdiction of each council.

(a) Each council shall follow the procedures of this chapter when issuing freezes, substituting:

(1) The Assembly with the council, and

(2) The Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Finance with the Chair and Vice Chair of the council, respectively.

(b) Copies of the memorandum under subsection (9) shall also be provided to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Finance.

(c) In addition to the persons listed in subsection (12), the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Finance shall have the authority to issue an order to lift the freeze.

~~13.~~

Title IV: Specific Provisions for Select Graduate Organizations

Chapter 400 Law School Council

Chapter 401 Medical Student Council

Chapter 400 Law School Council

400.1 Creation.

400.2 Purpose.

400.3 Council composition.

400.4 Election of at-large members.

400.5 Election of chair.

400.6 Advisor to council.

400.7 Vacancies.

400.8 Vacancies of officers.

400.9 Duties of officers.

400.10 Compliance with applicable rules.

400.11 Appropriation of budgeted funds.

400.12 Emergency allocations and transfers.

400.13 Funds not to be expended until annual budget signed.

400.14 Further duties of council.

400.15 Meetings of council.

1. **Creation.**— There is created a Law School Council (LSC). LSC shall be organized and administered by COGS, and housed under the Student Bar Association as a funding board within its jurisdiction in accordance with the Florida State University Student Body Statutes.

2. **Purpose.**— The purpose of LSC is to represent Law School RSOs before all budgetary committees of SGA and COGS, to sub-allocate funds to Law School

RSOs, and to monitor and coordinate the budget activities of the various Law School RSOs.

3. **Council composition.**— LSC shall be composed of law students with the following composition:

(a) Three (3) members being appointed from the membership of the Student Bar Association through procedures set by the Student Bar Association, provided that the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the SBA shall not serve as a member of the LSC and that the elections occur no later than the final day of February in each year,

(b) The COGS Representatives for the College of Law, serving as ex officio members,

(c) Five (5) members being students elected at-large from the student body of the College of Law, and

(d) A chair elected by the student body of the College of Law.

4. **Election of at-large members.**— At-Large Elections shall take place in the Spring SBA Elections, shall be non-partisan, and shall take place under the same procedures used by SBA to elect their executive board.

(a) Candidates for the at-large positions shall declare their candidacy by the candidate declaration deadline, in accordance with SBA procedures.

(b) The at-large members shall be the five candidates who receive the most votes.

(c) The at-large candidate who receives the most votes at the Spring election shall become the Vice Chair of the LSC. The at-large candidate who receives the second-most votes at the Spring election shall become the Treasurer of the LSC.

(1) If there are not more candidates for the at-large seats than open seats at the Spring election, the Vice Chair and Treasurer of the LSC shall be elected from the at-large members at the first meeting of the new LSC board.

(d) LSC board members shall train the Members Elect. At-Large Members' terms will end at the conclusion of the final board meeting of March, at which time At-Large Members Elect and the SBA representatives shall take office.

5. **Election of chair.**— The Chair shall be elected in the same manner as the at-large members, with the candidate receiving the most votes being the winner. Candidates must have previously served on the LSC in some capacity prior to declaring their candidacy for Chair, unless no candidates with such service have declared.

6. **Advisor to council.**— An administrative or faculty representative shall serve as an advisor to the LSC Board. This representative shall assist the Board in ensuring that LSC is compliant with the COGS Code, the Florida State University Student Body Statutes, Law School Policy, and Florida State University Policies and Procedures.

7. **Vacancies.**— Vacancies of the LSC Board shall be filled by appointment. Vacancies in the at-large positions shall be filled through two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining LSC members after a publicly noticed application and interview

period. Vacancies in the seats representing the SBA shall be filled by the procedures set by SBA.

8. Vacancies of officers.— Should the Chair become permanently vacant, the Vice Chair shall become the Chair. If there is no Vice Chair when the Chair becomes permanently vacant, the Treasurer shall become Chair. If there is no Vice Chair and no Treasurer when the Chair becomes permanently Vacant, the LSC shall elect a Chair for the remainder of their term from the remaining at-large members by majority vote of the LSC members. Vacancies in the Vice Chair or Treasurer shall be filled by the Chair appointing an at-large member to said position, subject to the confirmation of a majority of the LSC members.

9. Duties of officers.— The officers of LSC shall have the following duties:

(a) The Chair shall:

- (1) Preside over all LSC meetings.
- (2) Represent LSC in all official business and budget matters before COGS or the Student Senate.
- (3) Have the authority to call special meetings of LSC.
- (4) Be responsible for all official correspondence of LSC.
- (5) Perform any other duties as assigned by LSC or this code.
- (6) Act as liaison between law school student organizations and SGA Accounting.
- (7) Not vote on any matter before the LSC, except to break a tie vote.

(b) The Vice Chair shall:

- (1) Keep accurate minutes of all LSC meetings.
- (2) Email the minutes to the Chair at the conclusion of each LSC meeting.
- (3) Keep apprised of any changes in SGA Statutes and COGS Code that may affect the bylaws of the LSC and recommend changes to the Council if needed to comply with SGA Statutes and COGS Code.
- (4) Serve as presiding officer of the LSC in the absence of the Chair, during which time the Vice Chair shall not vote, except as to break tie votes.
- (5) Perform any other duties as assigned by the LSC Chair or this Code.

(c) The Treasurer shall:

- (1) Keep an accurate and up-to-date budget.
- (2) Perform any other duties as assigned by the LSC Chair or this code.
- (3) Attend any budgetary meetings as an LSC representative.
- (4) Work with the Deputy Speaker of Finance in order to perform any requested external audits in compliance with this Code.
- (5) Be listed as an officer of each member RSO in NoleCentral, or its successor platform, to maintain oversight of member RSO accounts.

10. **Compliance with applicable rules.**— LSC shall sub-allocate its ordained funds to its member RSOs consistent with the Florida State University Student Body Constitution, Statutes, and A&S Fee Guidelines, as well as this code and any other applicable rules and regulations. LSC shall only sub-allocate funds to law school organizations which have been registered, in accordance with COGS and SGA guidelines.

11. **Appropriation of budgeted funds.**— LSC shall allocate those funds granted to it by COGS to the Recognized Student Organizations at the Law School in a fiscally responsible manner, keeping in mind the purpose of the allocation, which is to provide activities and services for the benefit of the maximum number of students.

(a) LSC shall submit a proposed semesterly budget on behalf of all Law School RSOs to COGS in compliance with all requirements of the Annual Budget process. COGS shall make all budget allocations to the LSC in the Expense category.

(b) The LSC Chair and Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring that members and member RSOs are properly informed about the budgetary process, its timelines, and the total budget allocated to the LSC by COGS.

(c) The LSC Chair, at the above-mentioned meeting and through email to the members and member RSOs, shall announce the dates that:

(1) The Budget Request Form opens,

(2) The Budget Request Form closes,

(3) The LSC will hold hearings on budget requests,

(4) The LSC will deliberate on the final LSC budget.

(d) The Budget Request Form shall be created by the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair, the LSC, and SG&A Accounting. If at all possible, the Form need not be overhauled every year.

(e) The procedures for budgetary hearings and deliberations shall be determined under the LSC bylaws.

(f) Any member representing the SBA who sits on their executive board shall abstain from voting or debating on the SBA line item, as required by Student Body Statutes. Likewise, any LSC member who sits on an RSO executive board shall abstain from voting or debating on their RSO's line item.

(1) The LSC Chair may also determine whether a member has a conflict of interest and may bar them from voting or debating on the conflicted line item.

(2) Any such determination by the Chair may be appealed to the Board and overturned by majority vote.

(g) The LSC Budget shall contain an "Unallocated" line item, which shall be used to fund requests by RSOs made outside the annual semesterly budget cycle. It shall also contain an "LSC Expense" line item, which may be drawn upon by the Chair, with the agreement of the Treasurer, in support of the mission of the LSC.

(h) The Chair shall make every effort to complete the budgetary process prior to the start of the semester that the budget is being made for.

1978 (i) A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the LSC is required for final passage of the
1979 budget.
1980 (j) Upon passage of the budget by LSC, the allocations shall be submitted
1981 to the COGS Assembly, in the form of a bill, for final approval.

1982 **12. Emergency allocations and transfers.—** All LSC allocations and transfers
1983 made outside of the semesterly budget shall require the signature of either the
1984 Speaker of COGS, or the Deputy Speaker for Finance. The Speaker or Deputy
1985 Speaker may deny any allocation or amendment deemed excessive or
1986 irresponsible. If an allocation or transfer is denied, the LSC Chair may, within
1987 seventy-two (72) hours of being notified of the denial, appeal the denial to the
1988 Congress, where it shall be debated and voted on during the “Funding Requests”
1989 agenda item. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of COGS members present and voting is
1990 required to approve the allocation or denial, notwithstanding the Speaker or
1991 Deputy Speaker’s denial.

1992 **13. Funds not to be expended until annual budget signed.—** The allocation
1993 to LSC shall not be obligated or expended until the COGS annual Budget has
1994 been approved by the COGS Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for Finance, and
1995 the University President, or their designee.

1996 **14. Further duties of council.—** LSC shall have the following powers and
1997 duties under this code and shall be subject to all other applicable Florida State
1998 University Student Body Statutes in the exercise of its powers and duties:

1999 (a) LSC shall hold budgetary hearings at which member RSOs present
2000 their requests. In the event that a member of an RSO that submitted a
2001 request is unable to attend, the LSC Chair may present the RSO’s request
2002 on their behalf.

2003 (b) LSC shall then represent its member RSOs at all budgetary hearings
2004 and procedures of COGS.

2005 (c) LSC shall report to the Internal Affairs Committee of COGS as
2006 requested by the Internal Affairs Committee, with a minimum fifteen (15)
2007 school days’ notice.

2008 (d) LSC may pass Resolutions on behalf of the Law School Student
2009 Body.

2010 (e) LSC may remove any non-ex officio council member for
2011 nonfeasance by an affirmative, majority vote of all those board members
2012 not being considered for removal in the instant controversy.

2013 (f) LSC may, by a majority vote, recommend any member for
2014 impeachment for misfeasance or malfeasance in accordance with Chapter
2015 114 of this Code.

2016 (g) LSC shall adopt bylaws at the second meeting of the LSC following
2017 the annual installation of new at-large board members by a majority vote
2018 of the total membership of the LSC.

2019 **15. Meetings of council.—** LSC shall hold open meetings, in compliance with
2020 Chapter 203, Student Body Statutes, on a twice-monthly basis and shall send
2021 copies of the minutes of such meetings to all Law School RSOs and COGS.

- 2022 (a) A special meeting of LSC may be called by the LSC Chair or by
2023 petition of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Presidents of the Law School
2024 RSOs.
- 2025 (b) Quorum shall be a majority of the total membership of LSC. A
2026 quorum must be present for LSC to conduct business.
- 2027 (c) All LSC action must be approved by a majority vote of those LSC
2028 members present and voting.
- 2029 (d) LSC shall announce and provide notice of its meetings and
2030 procedures to Law School RSOs. It shall provide notice at least five (5)
2031 school days before any forms, requests, or petitions are due for the
2032 meeting.
- 2033 (e) Attendance at monthly meetings is mandatory for all LSC board
2034 members. If a member must be absent from a monthly meeting, they must
2035 provide adequate notice to the LSC Chair. If a member is absent from
2036 more than two monthly meetings, that member will be considered for
2037 removal by members of the board. All board members, except for the
2038 member at issue, will vote on the removal of the board member. A majority
2039 vote will effectively remove the member from the board. The vacancy will
2040 then be filled in accordance to the procedures outlined above.
- 2041 (f) Within three (3) business days of any LSC meeting the minutes must
2042 be submitted to the COGS Speaker for review before the allocations are
2043 formally authorized.

2044 **Chapter 401 Medical Student Council (MSC)**

2045 401.1 Creation.

2046 401.2 Purpose.

2047 401.3 Composition.

2048 401.4 Advisor to the council.

2049 401.5 Vacancies.

2050 401.6 Duties of executive board members.

2051 401.7 Powers and duties of the council.

2052 401.8 Meetings of the executive board.

2053 401.9 Meetings of the general board.

2054 1. **Creation.**— There shall be created a Medical Student Council

2055 2. **Purpose.**— The purpose of the Medical Student Council is to represent
2056 Medical School RSOs before all budgetary committees of COGS, to sub-
2057 appropriate funds to MSC RSOs, enhance medical education at Florida State
2058 University by promoting a variety of speakers, conferences, and academic
2059 projects, express the will of the Medical School Student Body through Resolutions,
2060 and to monitor and coordinate the budget activities of the various Medical School
2061 RSOs.

2062 3. **Composition.**— MSC shall be composed of an Executive Board and a General
2063 Board.

2064 (a) The MSC Executive Board shall be composed of a President, Vice
2065 President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a representative from each degree
2066 program track in the College of Medicine hereafter referred to as "program
2067 representatives." Two additional members of the board shall be the MSC

Representatives to COGS. Elections shall take place every Fall semester. Members' terms will end on the last day of the Fall semester, at which time Members Elect shall take office.

(b) The MSC General Board shall be composed of the President from each of the MSC RSOs and one representative for all regional campuses.

4. **Advisor to the council.**— An Administrative Representative appointed by the Dean of the College of Medicine shall be an advisory member to the MSC Board. This Representative shall assist the Board in ensuring that the MSC follows the guidelines established by this code and the Student Government Finance Code.

5. **Vacancies.**— Vacancies of the MSC Executive Board shall be filled in accordance with the procedures outlined in the MSC Constitution and Bylaws. Vacancies of the MSC General Board shall be filled pursuant to the RSO's constitution.

6. **Duties of executive board members.**— The members of the Executive Board shall have the following duties:

(a) The MSC President shall:

(1) Preside over all meetings of the Board according to Robert's Rules of Order.

(2) Act as a spokesperson for the Board.

(3) Chair the Executive Committee on all administrative matters.

(4) Determine the MSC General and Executive Meeting Schedule.

(5) Act in accordance with the Treasurer of MSC and the finance rules of Student Government on all financial matters.

(6) Have the power to appoint Ad-hoc committees and their chairmen as deemed necessary with approval from the MSC General Board.

(b) The MSC Vice President shall:

(1) Assume the duties of President when necessary.

(2) Coordinate all public relations efforts of the Board.

(3) Coordinate a monthly calendar of events.

(4) Work with each student organization and review all constitutions to insure compliance with student body law.

(5) Chair the Executive Committee for financial special requests.

(c) The MSC Treasurer shall:

(1) Chair the Executive Committee on all financial matters excluding special requests.

(2) Coordinate all financial matters of the MSC.

(3) Keep an accurate record of the MSC budget.

(4) Request and compile budget proposals from all MSC RSOs before budgetary hearings every fiscal year.

(5) Submit the MSC Executive Meeting minutes to the COGS Speaker within three (3) business days of any Executive Board meeting before the allocations are formally authorized.

(d) The MSC Secretary shall:

(1) Keep accurate minutes of all meetings.

- 2114 (2) Keep voting records of all meetings.
2115 (3) Keep accurate records of attendance and report any
2116 violation(s) of the attendance policy.
2117 (4) Attend to all correspondence of the Board.
2118 (5) Maintain a current list of all MSC RSOs, organizational
2119 boards, and organizational constitutions on file.
2120 (e) The Program Representatives shall:
2121 (1) Represent the needs of the students in their respective
2122 degree programs.
2123 (2) Act as liaisons between the students in their respective
2124 degree programs and the MSC.
2125 (f) The MSC Representatives to SGA and COGS shall:
2126 (1) Keep the MSC Board updated on all events pertaining to SGA
2127 and COGS.
2128 (2) Keep SGA and COGS updated on the activities of the MSC.
2129 (3) Represent the MSC in front of all student government entities
2130 when the MSC President is not present.
2131 (4) Coordinate with the MSC President and formulate a long-term
2132 political strategy for the MSC and its role within Student
2133 Government.
2134 (5) Present requests, information, bills, and other necessary
2135 items to the student government on behalf of the MSC.
2136 (6) Fulfill any obligations as required by the Florida State Student
2137 Government Association or the Congress of Graduate Students.

2138 **7. Powers and duties of the council.—** The MSC shall have the following
2139 powers and duties under this code and shall also be subject to all other applicable
2140 Florida State University Student Body Statutes:

- 2141 (a) The MSC shall represent member RSOs at all budgetary hearings
2142 and procedures of COGS.
2143 (b) The MSC shall allocate its obtained funds to member RSOs
2144 consistent with this code, the Florida State University Student Body
2145 Constitution, Statutes, and A&S Fee Guidelines, as well as any other
2146 applicable rules and regulations.
2147 (c) MSC shall only allocate funds to recognized medical school
2148 organizations in accordance with FSU Student Affairs guidelines, for a
2149 minimum of eight weeks, and which have a minimum of 10 student
2150 members.
2151 (d) The allocation to MSC shall not be obligated or expended until the
2152 budget has been approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs. MSC
2153 may set up an MSC unallocated account.
2154 (e) The MSC shall monitor the expenditures of sub-allocated funds to
2155 ensure that they are spent as budgeted and in accordance with this code,
2156 the Florida State University Student Body Constitution, Statutes, and A&S
2157 Fee Guidelines, as well as any other applicable rules and regulations.

(f) MSC shall report to the Internal Affairs Committee, at a Committee meeting as requested by the Committee with a minimum fifteen (15) school days' notice.

(g) MSC RSOs shall process budget revisions and transfers on the forms prescribed by the appropriate authority with all the requisite approvals prior to implementation.

(1) After the fact amendments to allocations which are greater than \$100 shall require majority approval of the MSC board prior to being sent to COGS leadership for signature.

(h) MSC shall promulgate such other rules as deemed appropriate, which shall be kept on file for public record in the DSE Accounting Office, the Office of Information Services, and the College of Medicine Student Organization Office.

(i) The MSC shall pass Resolutions on behalf of the College of Medicine Student Body.

8. Meetings of the executive board.— The MSC shall hold an Executive Board Meeting on at least a monthly basis and post an electronic copy of the minutes on CivicPlus, or its successor platform.

(a) The MSC Executive Board shall also make recommendations at this meeting for all new business, which shall be discussed at the General Meeting.

(b) Quorum shall be a majority of the Executive Board Members of the MSC. A quorum is necessary for business to be conducted at the MSC Executive Board Meeting.

9. Meetings of the general board.— The MSC shall hold a General Meeting, composed of both the MSC Executive Board and the MSC General Board, on a monthly basis and shall post an electronic copy of the minutes on CivicPlus, or its successor platform.

(a) The MSC President shall determine the agenda of the General Meeting and shall present its recommendations to the MSC General Board.

(b) The MSC General Board shall pass any recommended proposals, pass new proposals, or alter the agenda by a majority vote of those present and voting. In the event of a tie, the MSC President will cast the deciding vote.

(c) Quorum shall be a majority of the RSO Representatives. A quorum is necessary for business to be conducted at the MSC General Meeting.



33rd Congress of Graduate Students Legislation Cover Sheet

COGS Resolution #: 12

Sponsor(s): Representative Fermin and Deputy Speaker Stokes

Short Title: A Resolution Adopting the 2025-2028 COGS Strategic Plan.

Summary of Legislation:

The resolution adopts the Congress's Strategic Plan for 2025 through 2028, pursuant to COGS Code. The resolution also provides for the printing of the Plan.

Background Information:

Bill #52 of the Thirty-Second Congress of Graduate Students created the Strategic Planning Committee and Strategic Planning process so the Congress could begin to plan for the long-term. Over the course of the Spring 2025 semester, the Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Representative Fermin, met several times. In these meetings, the committee discussed the work of COGS and where COGS can go in the future. Mission and Vision statements were drafted by the committee and pillars were laid out, culminating in the theme of "COGS Supports Garnet & Gold GROWTH." These pillars are:

- G: Graduate Student Support
- R: Research & Academic Excellence
- O: Opportunities for Professional Development
- W: Welcome: COGS on Campus
- T: Transparency & Lateral Collaboration
- H: Helping Foster the Graduate Student Voice

Each pillar includes two to four initiatives that further the pillar's goals.

Effect of Proposed Legislation:

Adoption of the resolution adopts the Strategic Plan. Floor amendments may be made to the Strategic Plan, as with any other resolution.

Attachment(s):

- Attachment #1: Proposed Resolution
- Attachment #2: Proposed Strategic Plan





COGS Resolution #: 12

Sponsor(s): Representative Fermin and Deputy Speaker Stokes

A RESOLUTION

Adopting the 2025-2028 COGS Strategic Plan

1 **WHEREAS**, Bill #52 of the Thirty-Second Congress of Graduate Students created the Strategic
2 Planning Committee and Strategic Planning process; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The Strategic Planning Committee met several times over the course of the Spring 2025
4 semester; and

5 **WHEREAS**, The committee workshopped and agreed upon a mission and vision statement, a list of
6 pillars, and detailed initiatives under each pillar; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The work of the committee has now been turned into a document that is ready for review
8 and adoption by the Congress;

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 33rd Congress of Graduate Students at Florida**
10 **State University that:** the Congress adopts the document in Exhibit A as the Congress of
11 Graduate Students' 2025-2028 Strategic Plan; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:** The Executive Committee shall have the Strategic Plan printed in
13 booklet form, which shall be presented to all Representatives and relevant university officials.

DONE AND ADOPTED by the 33rd Congress of Graduate Students at Florida State University this DAY
of MONTH, YEAR.

FLOOR VOTE: Deputy Speaker to Add Vote Count

By: _____
Jack Rowan
Speaker, 33rd COGS

Date: _____

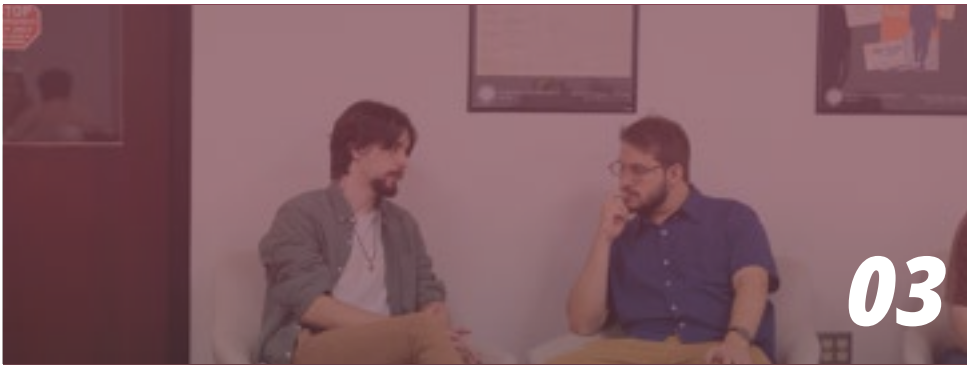
By: _____
Tanner McKinley
COGS Advisor

Date: _____

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025 ————— 2028





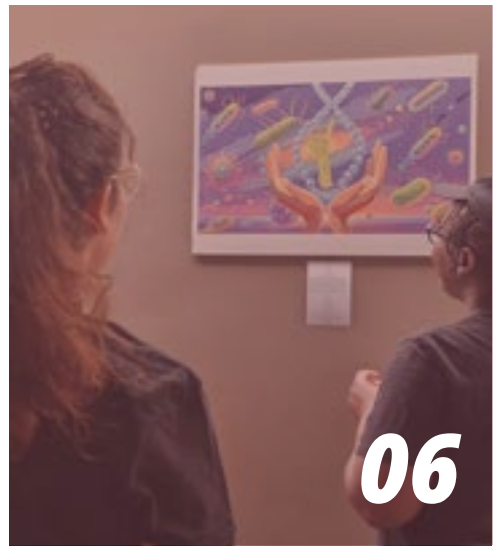
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Adopted by the 33rd Congress of Graduate Students on XXXX, 2025





A New Era in Graduate Education

Florida State University has, for the last decade, put forward a renewed emphasis of strengthening graduate education in Tallahassee. Cemented by the 2023 Quality Enhancement Plan, FSU's promise to continue building up our graduate programs has been key to our rise in the rankings. Twenty-one graduate programs are in the top twenty-five nationwide; our College of Medicine is expanding at a breakneck pace; and our College of Law is now tied for the title of top law school in Florida.

The Graduate Student Body is strong, but we are not resting on our laurels. Graduate students want to reach new heights and the Congress of Graduate Students wants to support them.

To better support graduate students, the Congress has created this 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, the first such plan the Congress has adopted, to guide our work for the coming years. In doing so, we hope to leave a legacy that every one of us can be proud of.

Go Noles,

JACK ROWAN

SPEAKER, 32ND & 33RD COGS



Message from the Chair

by Diego Fermin

I am beyond proud and honored to have served as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee for this inaugural Plan. This committee, the Congress' leadership, and the valuable feedback from stakeholders, administration, and students across this university will make this Plan transformative, impactful, and a lasting tradition to ensure that graduate students will continue to support each other in the ways that matter today to make for a better tomorrow for all of us.

Thank you to the our Executive Committee and to the Congress for their support in developing and promulgating this plan. Additionally, thanks to our University's administrative and executive leadership teams for their continued support.





This is the first Strategic Plan adopted by COGS and the first such plan in FSU SGA.

COGS supports Garnet & Gold “GROWTH”

Mission

The Congress of Graduate Students works to support the graduate student population in their academic, professional, and social needs.

Vision

The Congress of Graduate Students shall continue to provide new opportunities for graduate students to engage with each other, learn from their peers, facilitate graduate leadership on campus, and enhance the university community.

- G** Graduate Student Support
- R** Research & Academic Excellence
- O** Opportunities for Professional Development
- W** Welcome: COGS on Campus
- T** Transparency & Lateral Collaboration
- H** Helping Foster the Graduate Student Voice



Graduate Student Support



OBJECTIVE

Through various means of communication and engagement, COGS will provide accurate, meaningful, and current information regarding important topics to graduate student health and success to incoming and current students.



KEEPING STUDENTS “HAPI”

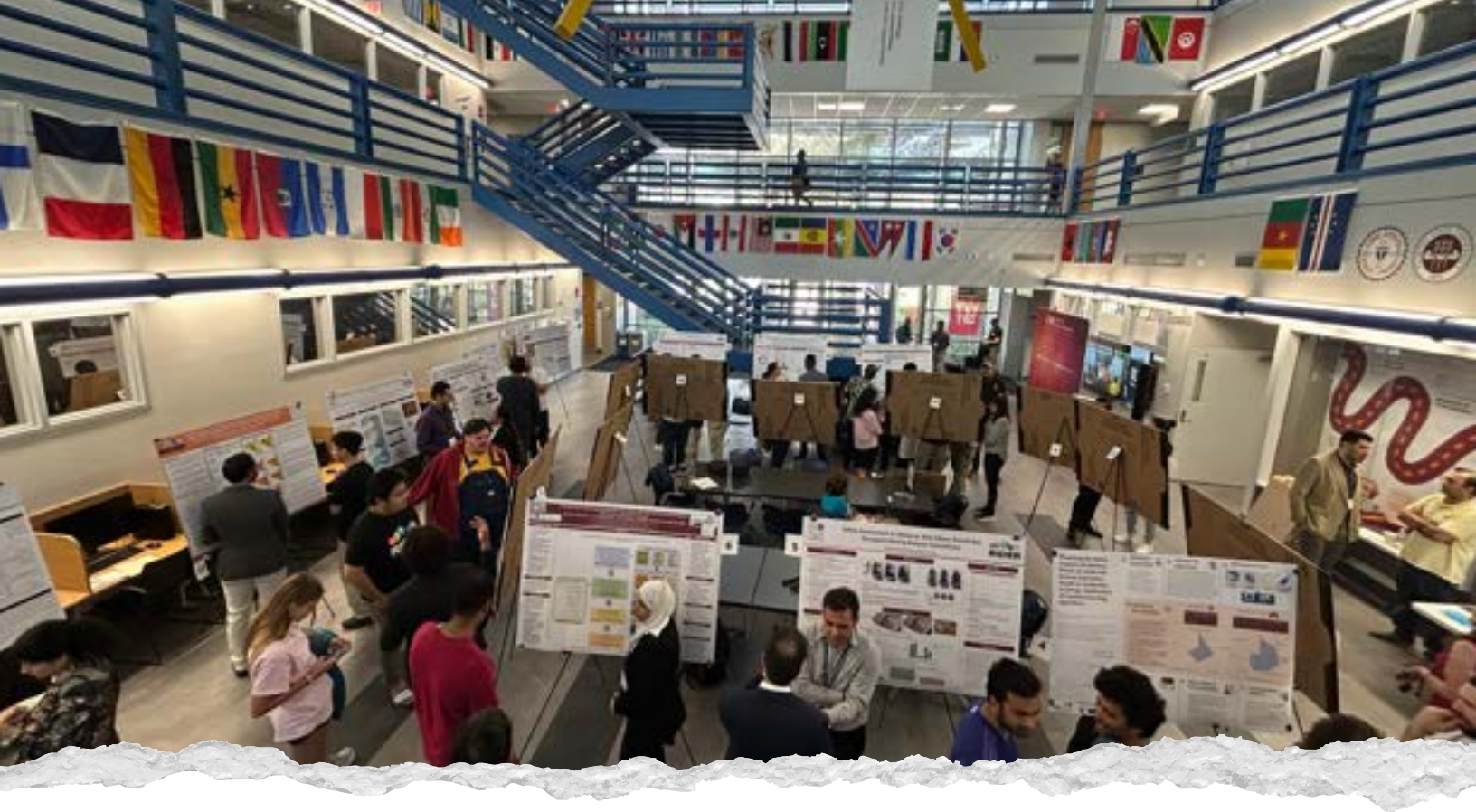
The Congress will focus on efforts to keep students “HAPI,” addressing issues in four key areas:



COMMUNICATION

The Congress will continue to explore new methods of communicating these focus areas to prospective and admitted students





Research & Academic Excellence

Objective: The Congress will continue to support research & professional development by expanding opportunities for students to conduct and showcase their work.

Access to research funding for student travel grants will continue to be expanded, and the Congress will continue to work to ensure the grants are accessible to all students and provide meaningful support to student research.

The Congress will continue its work with the Office of Graduate Fellowships & Awards to support programming and services that improve the research and academic competitiveness of graduate students.

The Congress will further strengthen its relationship with the Graduate Student Resource Center to better direct graduate students towards the resources that support their research and academic excellence.

The Congress will develop a Graduate Student Recognition Plan to identify and honor graduate students that excel in their research and academic endeavors.

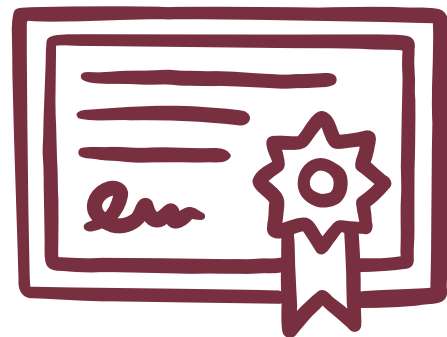


Opportunities for Professional Development

Objective: The Congress shall support the professional development of graduate students to ensure that graduate students are prepared for the post-grad world.

The Congress will seek to work with the Center for the Advancement of Teaching to increase and promote opportunities for graduate students to be better prepared to teach in the classroom and lab.

The Congress, though creating opportunities within and partnering with campus partners like the Center for Leadership & Service and the Center for Global Engagement, will seek to provide additional leadership opportunities for graduate students as they prepare to assume leadership roles in their program, profession, and community.



Implementation & Review of the Strategic Plan

The Congress will implement this Strategic Plan through the work of its three standing committees: Internal Affairs, Outreach, and Advocacy.

COGS Administrative Code authorizes the Congress to amend this Strategic Plan by two-thirds vote. The Plan will be constantly reviewed to ensure they reflect the priorities of the Congress and that graduate student body.





Welcome: COGS on Campus

Objective: COGS will work to ensure that graduate students are aware of the Congress, the conference grants it offers, and the opportunities to serve within it.

The Congress will seek to achieve this objective through building a recognizable brand in the Congress's social media, advertisements, and publications.

Further, the Congress will work with university departments and the Graduate School to increase the number of orientations at which members of the Congress present information about COGS and its conference grants.

*Find us on
Instagram!
@COGSFSU*



Transparency & Lateral Collaboration

Objective: The Congress will increase transparency regarding its work and seek to create pathways for lateral communication between the different governing bodies of FSU.



The Congress will hold more events that inform graduate students about the advocacy work of the Congress and seek feedback from graduate students as to the important issues of the day.



The Congress will deepen its ties to the Law School Council and Medical Student Council as we promote transparent funding processes, ensure fiscal responsibility, and encourage sustainable growth in extracurricular life at the Colleges of Law and Medicine.



The Congress will continue to strengthen its ties with the Student Senate and SGA Executive Branch to ensure that decisions and policies impacting graduate students have strong input from graduate students.



The Congress will build on its relationship with University administration by promoting partnership with the University, while ensuring that the interests of graduate students are protected and prioritized.



Helping Foster the Graduate Student Voice



OBJECTIVE

The Congress will seek to foster the Graduate Student Voice through partnerships inside and outside of FSU.



The Congress will continue its longstanding partnership with UFF-Graduate Assistants United to further the wellbeing of graduate assistants.

The Congress will seek to partner with the Office of Governmental Affairs to advocate for graduate student priorities, including those priorities set forth in this Plan, on the local and state level.

The Congress will continue to build relationships with graduate student governing bodies within the State University System of Florida and the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students in order to advocate for graduate student priorities on the state and federal level.





New Student Union 3251



SGA.FSU.EDU/COGS



[@COGSFSU](https://www.instagram.com/COGSFSU)



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