

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

May 3, 2020 6:30 P.M.

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/98893082840?pwd=c25Ud3p6Ui9IUksrcFc2NzZYbzg4Zz09>

Password 534738

Call to Order: 7:08 pm

Approval of the Minutes: Senator Walton (94), seconded by Senator Israel (81)

Officer Reports:

- Chair: It's the last meeting of the semester! To those of you graduating, congratulations and good luck on the next step in your journey! For those continuing on with your program (or a new degree), good luck to you as well. We hope to see you on GSS next year. I have spoken with several grad students who were concerned that potential budget cuts due to the pandemic might threaten the stability of the GA funding they had been promised when they were accepted into their programs. Many of us have received conflicting answers when we have discussed these concerns with administrators. I wanted to let you all know that I contacted Provost Harper to advocate for assurance of the stability of GA funding. In the meantime, Rafia, Rin, and I crafted a resolution requesting assurance of the university's commitment to continue our funding, just in case we needed to go that route. I heard back from the Provost, however, before we needed to continue with the resolution. He has assured me that the university will be honoring all current commitments, suspending any new commitments for the time being. This means ALL written commitments of graduate assistantship funding issued prior to March 23, 2020 will be honored. This includes those contained in offer letters students received upon admission. Any NEW commitments are on hold, but the hope is that will change once the budgetary effects of the pandemic are clarified. Thus, we have withdrawn our resolution, since we have achieved the assurance we sought with it.
- Vice-Chair: ty for serving this year, it was amazing working with you
- Secretary: ditto

Melissa: We want you to have time to look over your attendance record for the semester, so we will email you once that record is available, so you have time to check the department standing before the bill is passed the beginning of the next semester

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs: nothing to report
- Development & Philanthropy: thanks to everyone who purchased shirts, we sent an email about how we can give you your shirt, if you live nearby, we can meet up and I can throw it to you from 6 ft away. I'm sorry we didn't have a party today.
- External Affairs: nothing to report
- Human Diversity: nothing to report
- Internal Affairs: nothing to report
- Public Relations: nothing to report
- Sustainability: nothing to report
- Ways and Means: nothing to report

Special Orders:

Old Business:

New Business:

- GS20-26 Sooner Freshman Council Co- Chair Appointment Act of 2020
 - Motion to move GS20-26 to floor by Senator Israel (81), seconded by Senator Adams (10)
 - Authors Logan Rust (Co-Chair of SFC) and Bianca Mitranca (Co-Chair of SFC): The purpose of this act shall be to appoint SFC Co-Chairs so that they may officially serve in the positions to which they have been elected.
 - Appointing Co-Chairs: Luke Hammock and Reagan Brannon
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Israel (81): Can both of you elaborate on specific initiatives you'd like to see in the next year?
 - Reagan: I'd like to see SFC work more closely with SGA. I think this past year, we saw a glimpse of it, but it's my personal goal to increase this. And to make sure students know about all of the resources the university has to offer.
 - Luke: right now, were in the transition stage and were getting transition documents from the current chairs, so well know more about this once we are more familiar with our roles, but just connecting people.
 - Senator Israel (81): In what ways do you feel SFC failed to connect you to other parts of SGA?
 - Reagan: the speakers they brought in were from other orgs, which is important, but could use more interactions with SGA. And strengthening office hours so we can get to know more about the people in SGA and what they do.
 - Luke: to add on to that, I agree that we want to incorporate more lessons about SGA. Especially inviting current congress members to our meetings to explain how it works, and lessons on what they do and what they're in charge of. Not only go to their office hours, but bring them to the students
 - Senator Israel (81): for Dalton Gau, I saw congress voted 19-12-0. Could you elaborate why there was some contention in the vote?
 - Gau: around the appointment process, I guess not all the rules were followed, and a lot of those issues could have been addressed during the congress meeting, but during the zoom meeting, there may have been more discussion through texts and group me instead of discussing them in the meeting, which led them to vote no.
 - Senator Israel (81): can you elaborate on some of those issue
 - Gau: the interview process usually has more collaboration, I was left out of a few of the meetings. I still fully endorse these candidates. A lot of this is really due to the coronavirus and coordinating through zoom, made general functioning through SGA. And like they said about SFC being a bit more detached from SGA, so their interview process may not have been done the way I would've liked. But I fully support them in this position
 - Senator Israel (81): I have a motion to vote for roll call.
 - George: you need a second
 - Seconded by Senator Penagos Dordevic (77)
 - Roll call:
 - Pass (should appoint them): Senator Mallick (119), Senator Israel (81), Senator Hunter (70), Senator Linsey (7), Senator Hakizimana (3), Senator Finkelstein (61), Senator Walton (94), Senator Wildes (69), Senator Cilali (67), Senator Cooley (5),

Senator Woodward (11), Senator Woodle (110), Senator DuBose (9), Senator Gaskins (89), Senator Jenkin (72), Senator Cone (13), Senator Adams (10), Senator Reynolds (98), Senator Luthman (6), Senator Bennett (29), Senator Stelter (53), Senator Norwood (34), Senator Danser (90), Senator Donwerth (62), Senator Testa (64), Senator Machette (21), Senator Ferraro (120), Senator Ghorbani Renani (68), Senator Grover (51), Senator Omoumi (40), Senator Donahue (12), Senator Shpeer (22), Senator Ogbonnaya (103), Senator Jenkins (78), Senator Chen (112), Senator Burch (54), Senator Faiz (39), Senator Morgan (57), Senator Penagos Dordevic (77), Senator Rusmore (17), Senator McNair (109)

- Don't pass (should not appoint them): none
- Abstain: none
- Bill passes

- GS20-27 Crimson Leadership Association Name Change Act
 - Motion to move GS20-27 to floor by Senator Norwood (34), seconded by Senator Reynolds (98)
 - Authors Reagan Brannon (SFC Co-Chair) and Luke Hammock (SFC Co-Chair): The purpose of this act shall be to eliminate all mentions of the mentions of the organization named "Sooner Freshman Council" and replace it with "Crimson Leadership Association"
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Israel (81): what exactly is the significance of this rebrand? Why is SFC no longer an appropriate name?
 - Author: this is in accordance with the general rebranding of all of SGA. I know CAC has gotten rid of the word "Sooner" from their stuff, there has been a major shift from the student body to rebrand some of the names and words that we use on campus. This is more a means to unify our organization.
 - Senator Israel (81): have those handles for social media already been reserved, and what are you going to do if they're not?
 - Author: if they're unable to be secured, we'll find something else. Earlier, SGA passed legislation that SFC's name would change, so this is more of a follow up.
 - Senator Israel (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Mallick (119)
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GS20-31 Red River Holiday Act
 - Motion to move GS20-31 to floor by Senator Hakizimana (3), seconded by Senator Jenkin (72)
 - Authors Justin Norris (SGA President), Dalton Gau (SGA Vice President), Melissa Maxey (GSS Chair), Jema Esparza (CAC Chair Emeritus), and Emma DeAngeli (Congress Chair): The purpose of this act is to officially submit an Unscheduled Holiday to the University President for Approval per the University of Oklahoma Regents' Policy Manual Section 5.15.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Israel (81): were there any surveys or other ways to measure student and faculty support for this date?
 - Author: many other student leaders were contacted when discussing this holiday. Other recommendations have asked for additional holidays, but this has historically been the favorite
 - Melissa: I know there have been attempts in the past to change the date that have gone to vote and have not passed
 - Senator Israel (81): so individual students were not contacted? just student leaders?

- Gau: there have been previous surveys that have showed overwhelming support. And with the pandemic this survey was not really feasible. For this individual year it was just student leaders that were contacted
- Senator DuBose (9): if school does get pushed online in the fall, would there be an effort to have a survey if other dates work for the next year?
- Author: yeah, we've heard other suggestions that were open to looking into. Another recommendation I've heard about is adding an additional one, a popular one is to get Election Day as a holiday. But Red River holiday is liked but we'd like to incorporate more.
- Senator Israel (81): in what year was the last school wide survey?
- Author: I don't have the info on me now but I could email you about that.
- Senator Israel (81): how do you define student leaders?
- Author: Student government student leadership's weekly meeting.
- Senator Walton (94): have faculty or staff been asked about this? Have they been formally asked to weigh in on this?
- Author: a lot of professors like this holiday and they like the consistency of it. Also Congress approved it, so additional student leaders have approved of this.
- Senator Cone (13): with the pandemic, if football schedule is pushed back, and that game happens later would this be readdressed?
- Author: yeah, definitely, and we would reach out to you guys. Or if all football is cancelled, we could recommend something entirely different, like Election Day. And I think this body would have the best input. Currently, we only get to recommend one.
- Senator Linsey (7): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
- Seconded by Senator DuBose (9)
- No objections
- Motion passes
- GS20-32 Primary Funding Act of 2020
 - Motion to move GS20-32 to floor by Senator Omoumi (40), seconded by Senator Woodward(11)
 - Author Lauren Patton (SGA Budget Chair): The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.
- GS20-33 Primary Funding Act of 2020 for Government Organizations
 - GS20-33: Author Lauren Patton (SGA Budget Chair): The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Israel (81): the funding that was not used at the end of this semester because of coronavirus, was any of that consolidated in this?
 - Author: no, this is allotted by student affairs each year, so that will be rolled over to next period.
 - Woodward (11): if the organizations couldn't use the funds because of covid-19, is there any punishment?
 - Author: normally, yes, but we saw legislation that negative fiscal this year will not penalize them.
 - Senator Ghorbani Renani (68): what's the deadline for auxiliary for orgs that didn't get primary?
 - Author: it opens the beginning of fall semester, and stays open till spring.
 - Senator Israel (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Mallick (119)
 - No objections
 - Motion passes

- GS20-28 An Act of Procedure Approving Outstanding Graduate Student Awards for the 2019-2020 Academic Year
 - Motion to move GS20-28 to floor by Senator Chen (112), seconded by Senator Luthman (6)
 - Authors Vivek Vijay (GSS Academic Affairs Chair), Derek Donwerth (GSS Academic Affairs Vice Chair), Maria Schutte (Senator), Emmanuel Hakisimana (Senator): The purpose is to approve the Outstanding Graduate Student Awards for the 2019-2020 academic year and to provide for distribution.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Israel (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Cooley (5)
 - No objections
 - Motion passes

Announcements:

Melissa: Thank you all for your hard work and diligence this year. I feel so privileged to know each of you and to have been able to work with you this year. I look forward to another productive year for GSS.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Hakizimana (3)

Adjournment:

Time: 7:51 pm