

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
March 27, 2021 6:30 P.M.**

Zoom

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93757784892?pwd=TjBCSUNqY2kxS2xJUmYwZ0E5VmtFUT09>

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: Senator Walton (85), seconded by Senator Linsey (7).

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - Chair Mallick. Our previous chair has resigned, so our rules of succession have been triggered. I sent out a parliamentary motion guide before this meeting to help everyone, so please use that guide. Additionally, we have no nomination for Secretary. We need a nomination by end of this general meeting to submit a nomination for a Senator to one of our elected offices. Elected officers are paid a monthly stipend and participate in various meetings representing the interests of graduate students. We will also be hearing from the University Libraries Committee.
- Vice Chair:
 - Senator Ferraro (120). Nothing to report.
- Secretary:
 - Senator Israel (81). I'm new to this position, so please bear with me as I take notes this evening. I am not as proficient as our illustrious former Secretary, Senator Ferraro. I ask that you please be sure to say your Senator number before asking a question, so I can keep a record. Also, please have your notes to your standing committee chairs no later than April 4, 2021, of your intent to run as chair of your respective committee.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs:
 - Senator Hunter (70). Applications are out for Outstanding Graduate Assistant, Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant. Applications will close March 31, which will be decided on April 10.
- Development & Philanthropy:
 - Senator Tennell (37). We discussed the Big Event, and we have shared the link to participate with the body.
 - Senator Satalkar (18): Point of information: Can the Secretary send a record of the members of this committee and their Senator numbers to the body?
 - Secretary: Yes, I can provide that information.
- External Affairs:
 - Senator Chen (112). We have passed out a survey regarding Covid-19, and we ask the body to help spread awareness about the survey.
- Human Diversity:
 - Senator Hakizimana (3). We are planning to meeting April 2 to have more discussion about our roundtable discussions about diversity in our degree programs.
- Internal Affairs:
 - Senator Delafield (111). We have a few bills before the body tonight, and discussed the status of our scrivener's errors resolution process.

- Public Relations:
 - Senator Schwartz (117). Nothing to report.
- Sustainability:
 - Senator Donahue (12). Nothing to report.
- Ways and Means:
 - Senator Shpeer (22). Applications for conference and research grants were received and reviewed. Spring grant awards will be awarded in the legislation seen today.

Special Orders:

- University Libraries Committee - Scholarly Communication Taskforce
 - The report and recorded presentation can be reviewed here:
<https://libraries.ou.edu/content/ulc-sctf-report-presentation-and-slide-deck>

Old Business:

New Business:

- **GS21-23 Auxiliary Allocation 12 Act of 2020-2021**
 - Motion to move GS21-23 GS21-28 to the floor as a block by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Linsey (7).
 - Author, Lauren Patton (SGA Budget Committee Chair): The purpose of these pieces of legislation are to award auxiliary funding to various organizations listed within each bill.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions. Legislation for primary funding will be published for an entire week before seen by either legislative body, so please review that published document if you have questions. They will likely be published on Monday, April 5, 2021. We are closing auxiliary applications on March 30, 2020.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Hamilton (82): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Woodworth (108).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
- **GS21-28 Auxiliary Allocation 13 Act of 2020-2021**
 - Moved to the floor as a block.
- **GS21-29 Auxiliary Allocation 14 Act of 2020-2021**
 - Not seen. Legislation not available. Removed from the body without prejudice.
- **GS21-24 Oklahoma Data Privacy Resolution of 2021**
 - Motion to move GS21-24 to the floor by Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Woodworth (108).
 - Author, Drew G. Brown (Undergraduate Student Congress Associate): The purpose of this legislation is to affirm that the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association supports the passage of Oklahoma House Bill 1602 in furtherance of the protection of individuals' data privacy. Data rights are human rights. States such as Oklahoma have taken steps to hold corporations for their violations of the International Bill of Human Rights.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Tennell (37): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.

- Seconded by Senator Woodworth (108).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
- **GS21-25 Mask up 2.0 Resolution**
 - Motion to move GS21-25 to the floor by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Linsey (7).
 - Author, Graeson Lynskey (University Policy Committee Chair): The purpose of this legislation is to encourage members of the University of Oklahoma community to continue recommended Covid-19 safety precautions, to urge individuals to receive vaccinations, as they are able, and to encourage the University administration to maintain its current precautionary policies, as well as install new policies. This is a standard re-commitment to our previous statements and policies regarding this matter.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Wheaton (43).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
- **GS21-26 Fail HB 2215 Resolution of 2021**
 - Motion to move GS21-26 to the floor by Senator Wheaton (43), seconded by Senator Bonine (107).
 - Author, Katie Beltz (Communications Representative) and Becca Yanez (Undergraduate Student Congress Associate): The purpose of this legislation is to affirm the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association's stance with respect to preservation of life and due process, as well as to urge the Oklahoma State Legislature to fail House Bill 2215. The bill we wish to fail belongs to a group of bills that would have a chilling effect on first amendment freedoms and values. We do not wish for an expansion of legal protections for those who harm individuals expressing their rights.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - Senator Waterman (78): What is the chilling effect you mentioned?
 - Author: The bill itself would essentially allow individuals to harm protesters and later claim such protests were riots. There are already statutes available to protect rights of self-defense, and this legislation merely adds unnecessary protections that would really only harm individuals exercising their first amendment rights.
 - Senator Hamilton (82): The current bill reads differently than your interpretation. My understanding is that protections extend for those who unintentionally harm others due to a reasonable fear of harm caused by a riot. What is your impression based on this particular reading?
 - Author: In Undergraduate Student Congress, we discussed that there are pre-existing legal protections for self-defense. We do not wish to expand these protections, because it could harm first amendment rights in effect.
 - Senator Hamilton (82): Motion to vote by roll call vote.
 - Seconded by Senator Waterman (78).
 - Roll Call: 15-9-15
 - Motion passes.
- **GS21-27 An Act Appointing Spring 2021 Election Commission Staff Member**
 - Motion to move GS21-27 to the floor by Senator Woodward (11), seconded by Senator Waterman (78).

- Author, Joy Nath (Election Commissioner), presented by Cricket Kaya (SGA Chief of Staff): The purpose of this legislation is appoint a new member to the Election Commission. On behalf of Commissioner Nath: I apologize for my absence. We conducted an application and interview process. We graded candidates on a scale of 1-5. Of the seven application, four appeared for an interview. Ashley Marshall was the strongest applicant.
 - Ashley Marshall (Candidate): I am available for questions.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Tennell (37): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Woodworth (108).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
- **GS21-30 Love is Anti-Violence Resolution of 2021**
 - Motion to move GS21-30 to the floor by Senator (7), seconded by Senator (18).
 - Author, Becca Yanez (Associate) and Emily Tucker (Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Congress): The purpose of this legislation is to reaffirm the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association's commitment to fighting for the physical and mental wellness of LGBTQ+ students, as well as urge the Oklahoma State Legislature to implement laws that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and reject laws that continue violence against the LGBTQ+ community.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Tennell (37): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Griffith (27).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
 - **GS21-31 Fight on Norman High Resolution of 2021**
 - Motion to move GS21-31 to the floor by Senator Woodward (11), seconded by Senator Tennell (37).
 - Author, Katie Beltz (Communications District Representative) and Rebecca Yanez (Associate): The purpose of this legislation is to issue support to the Norman High girls' basketball team's evocation of their first amendment right to protest, as well as congratulate them on their back-to-back state championships. This legislation also condemns Matt Rowan's racist remarks about the Norman High basketball team, and it calls on Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication to reaffirm and prioritize its commitment to fostering future generations of news media professionals who advocate on behalf of the marginalized and who will always speak up against bigotry if perpetuated by their colleagues.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - Senator Hamilton (82): Would you accept a friendly amendment to add me as a co-sponsor?
 - Author: Yes.
 - Senator Waterman (78): I would like to offer a friendly amendment to remove reference to kneeling during the anthem.
 - Author: I do not accept.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): I would like to thank the author for presenting this bill to us. I appreciate that you explained the situation to this body.
 - Chair Mallick: Would you accept a friendly amendment to add the following senators as co-sponsors?
 - Chair Mallick

- Senator Tennell (37)
 - Senator Faz (115)
 - Senator Satakar (18)
 - Senator Hunter (70)
 - Senator Woodward (11)
 - Senator Wheaton (43)
 - Senator Machette (21)
 - Senator Rocha (53)
 - Senator Nabhan (44)
 - Senator Dawson (86)
 - Senator Donahue (12)
 - Senator Glidewell (10)
 - Senator Rusmore (17)
 - Senator Alpert (34)
 - Senator Xu (49)
 - Senator Israel (81)
 - Senator Thomas (94)
 - Senator Delafield (111)
 - Senator Hakizimana (3)
 - Senator Jarvis (39)
 - Senator Woods (20)
 - Senator Tomte (96)
 - Senator Linsey (7)
 - Senator Ghorbani Renani (68)
- Author: Yes.
 - Senator Waterman (78): I would like to move to offer a hostile amendment to remove the kneeling references.
 - Senator Shpeer (22): Seconded.
 - Body enters a question period on the offered amendment to ask questions of the author of the amendment.
 - Author: This is a highly controversial issue that many oppose while others agree with. This is not the place for personal expression. I fully support the remainder of the bill.
 - Question to the author of the amendment:
 - Senator Rusmore (17): The Senator offers a good point in general, but the specific action that has incited this legislation requires context. Therefore, I believe the reference to kneeling should remain.
 - Senator Hunter (70): Regardless of how you feel about kneeling during the anthem, it is factually what happened.
 - Senator Hamilton (82): The right to kneel during the anthem is protected by the first amendment.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): I'm not finding this reference in the bill. (Vice Chair directed Senator Woodworth (108) to specific reference within the bill.)
 - Author: When something is written, it becomes a record of what we as a body support. Within the context of this bill, our reference to

kneeling during the anthem would serve as an approval of such actions and as a recognition by this body that such actions are a right.

- Senator Cone (13): At what point would you cutoff protected rights like that included in the whereas clause? Is there a line you are drawing that you would share with us?
- Author: I am not drawing a line. By putting it into writing, this body will be agreeing that kneeling is permissible.
- Senator Woodward (11): Giving the factual information is necessary to provide context to this bill.
- Author: What I am suggesting is merely part of the legislative function of this body, to not, as a body, recognize such actions as protected rights. We represent the entire graduate student population, and this issue is divisive.
- Senator Burch (54): Motion to move the previous question (to vote on the offered amendment).
- Seconded by Senator Tennell (37).
- No objections.
 - Roll Call: 4-37-0
- Motion to amend the bill fails.
- Body is in line for debate.
- Senator Rusmore (17): Motion to vote by roll call vote (to vote on the bill itself).
- Seconded by Senator Satalkar (18).
 - Roll Call: 37-0-3
- Motion passes.
- **GS21-32 Affirming Language in the Code Annotated Act of 2021**
 - Not seen. Author not present Bill removed from the body without prejudice.
- **GS21-33 International Committee Construction Act**
 - Motion to move GS21-33 to the floor by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Hunter (70).
 - Author, Dayten Israel (Graduate Student Senate Secretary) and Cooper Delafield (Internal Affairs Committee Chair): The purpose of this legislation is to amend the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate to establish a new standing committee that will focus exclusively on all matters concerning international Graduate Students.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Rocha (53).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
- **GS21-34 Ad Hoc & Joint Committee Procedures Act**
 - Motion to move GS21-34 to the floor by Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Walton (85).
 - Author, Dayten Israel (Graduate Student Senate Secretary): The purpose of this legislation is to amend the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate to provide revised policies and procedures for the creation of ad hoc and joint committees.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.

- Seconded by Senator Rocha (53).
- No objections.
- Motion passes.

- **GS21-35 Bylaws Revised Rules Act**
 - Motion to move GS21-35 to the floor by Senator Tennell (37), seconded by Senator Woodworth (108).
 - Author, Dayten Israel (Graduate Student Senate Secretary): The purpose of this legislation is to amend the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate to provide clarity regarding amendments and challenges to these Bylaws and to the SGA Constitution and SGA Code Annotated.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Walton (85): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Faz (115).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.

- **GS21-36 An Act of Procedure approving Virtual Conference/Research & Creative Exhibition Grant Awards for the 2021 Spring Semester**
 - Motion to move GS21-36 to the floor by Senator Walton (85), seconded by Senator Hunter (70).
 - Author, 2020-2021 GSS Ways and Means Committee, presented by Senator Shpeer (Ways and Means Committee Chair): The purpose of this legislation is to allot Virtual Conference/Research & Creative Exhibition Grants awards for the 2021 spring semester. We received 36 applications total, 17 of which were for research and 19 for virtual conferences. One application was disqualified because it was missing a letter of recommendation. The total requested funds were 14,367.14. We awarded a total of 14,234.80. Applicants were scored on a scale of 1-100.
 - Author yields remaining time for questions.
 - Senator Faz (115): Can you repeat those numbers again.
 - Author: Yes, we received 36 applications total, 17 of which were for research and 19 for virtual conferences. The total requested funds were 14,367.14. We awarded a total of 14,234.80
 - Senator Faz (115): When will applicants be notified?
 - Author: Sometime the week of March 29, 2021.
 - Senator Dawson (86): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Faz (115).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.

Announcements:

- George Ahmadi: All grant awardees must be processed through a scholarship form. We are directly paying the students that received an award.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Walton (85), seconded by Senator Tennell (37).

Adjournment: 8:46 p.m.