

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**  
**GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**October 25, 2020 6:30 P.M.**  
**Zoom**

**Call to Order: 7:02 pm**

**Approval of the Minutes:** Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Omoumi (40)

**Officer Reports:**

- Chair: joint committee is still meeting, plan to have legislation updated soon.
- Vice-Chair: once you're done with the committee forms, please email them to Rin
- Secretary: that email is GSSsec@ou.edu

**Committee Reports:**

- Academic Affairs: nothing to report
- Development & Philanthropy: nothing to report
- External Affairs: nothing to report
- Human Diversity: nothing to report
- Internal Affairs: Tonight we're going to see GF20-23, which explains the scope of the executive committee powers. Same thing for GF20-24, it gives general grant of authority for Internal Affairs to deal with Scribner's errors, and then GF20-25 lays out the line of succession.
- Public Relations: We just wanted to reach out to you guys, if you have any announcements you want to make, let us know and we can post it on social media. And please follow and like those pages. I will post those in the chat.
- Sustainability: Next Sunday at Lake Thunderbird there's a cleanup and workshop at 1pm.
- Ways and Means: We spoke about all the applications we got and grading procedures, and the grading will be this Friday.

**Special Orders:** motion to move special orders to the floor by Senator Woodward (11) and seconded by Senator Reynolds (98).

Invited SGA President and Vice President Candidates to speak to us.

- Farzaneh and Gray
- Brown and Smail
- Holloway and Citty

Questions to candidates:

- Senator Israel (81): Can you expand more on the reforms regarding Title IX concerns?
  - Candidate Holloway: International Student Advisory Board would be similar but the idea can directly raise their concerns to us. It's not to take away from the current position, but to bring the information to SGA.
  - Candidate Farzaneh: We want the international community to feel their voices are amplified. Some of these problems could be addressed if there was an international student within cabinet and this could bring that voice into the meetings.
  - Candidate Brown: We want to build upon existing structure to bring additional representation to work towards a more equitable future.

- Senator Rusmore (17): I really appreciate the campaigns drawing focus to mental health issues, but I wanted to ask more about how can SGA can help in that?
  - Candidate Brown: Mental health services is under Student Affairs so we can work to promote these services and start awareness campaigns. And rejuvenate their website.
  - Candidate Farzaneh: We met with Dr. Scott Miller, the director of the University Counseling Center, and we want to create a counselor data base that would be well researched and under SGA. We can create this and it would be accessible. We want to make sure students have access to these resources.
  - Candidate Holloway: Given as we're all in this virtual environment, it's hard to check on people, and having a screening tool can help. We can better promote our resources.
- Senator Israel (81): For Holloway and Citty, can you elaborate why you've omitted the Senate from your campaign initiatives?
  - Candidate Holloway: Most of our direct contact in the cabinet is with CAC and Congress, but we can definitely add that communication with Senate.
  - Candidate Brown: One of our biggest themes is standing together to make a more equitable future happen, so we 100% support that inclusion. We need effective communication.
  - Candidate Farzaneh: We've served on cabinet, so because of our experience we understand the executive branch, but we know there is that miscommunication, and we want to make sure our cabinet is well informed on how all the branches work.
- Senator Israel (81): motion to extend the question period by 5 minutes.
- Senator Israel (81): the counseling center has just redone their website. How would you redo anything?
  - Farzaneh: We've met with University Counseling Center director and they're well aware of the influx of students needing resources and counseling, so first they are provided an online resource, and then a life coach, and then if necessary they would go to counseling. So this is the university's attempt to deal with how the demand is more than supply. And because they have recently revamped everything we would work in collaboration with them.
  - Candidate Brown: We also talked to Dr. Miller. Something that came to my mind, maybe we could find some third party funding for that lower level of triage that could include vouchers. Dr. Miller said there's a board that evaluates waivers for evaluations. And I'd like to bring this up so more students could potentially access third party resources.
- Senator Israel (81): Motion to extend by 4 minutes, seconded by Senator Williams (63)
  - Candidate Holloway: We'll focus on keeping that direct line of communication, and create a list of local resources to help with that large amount of influx, so those that are able to and want to seek outside resources are able to.
- Senator Israel (81): Recognizing most grad students are uncertain about their relationship with the executive branch, have you thought about how you will directly work to represent grad students?
  - Candidate Brown: Weekly round tables can be a great way to increase representation, and a great avenue to increase representation. And include grad level RSOs, not just senate in this representation.
  - Holloway: One of the first things I talked about was that newsletter, which is a great direct line of communication, and an open forum to express concerns. The liaison position would also be incredibly important.
  - Farzaneh: This would be fully collaborative, and we really want to communicate and make sure our cabinet knows how GSS works. Want to be truly representative of the entire student body, not just undergrads.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** Motion to move new business to the floor by Senator Israel (81) and seconded by Senator Schwartz (117).

- GF20-23 Executive Committee Empowerment Act
  - Motion to move GF20-23 to floor by Senator Omoumi (40), seconded by Senator Williams (63)
  - Author Dayten Israel (Internal Affairs Chair): The purpose of this Act shall be to amend the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate to clarify and broaden the scope of the powers of the Executive Committee
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Schwartz (117): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Hill (61)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GF20-24 Consistency in Law Act
  - Motion to move GF20-24 to floor by Senator Williams (63), seconded by Senator Chesbro (60)
  - Author Dayten Israel (Internal Affairs Chair): The purpose of this Act shall be to provide a general grant of authority for a limited time to the Internal Affairs Committee of the Graduate Student Senate, so it may establish clarity and consistency in the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate.
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Mallick (119): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Wheaton (43)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GF20-25 Order of Succession Act
  - Motion to move GF20-25 to floor by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Schwartz (117)
  - Author Dayten Israel (Internal Affairs Chair): The purpose of this Act shall be to amend the bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate to provide a revised order of succession among the chairs of the standing committees of the Graduate Student Senate
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Bonine (107): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Omoumi (40)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GF20-26 Pass/No Pass Policy Recommendation of 2020
  - Motion to move GF20-26 to floor by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Bussell (83)
  - Author Crispin South (University Policy Committee Chair): The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends that the University of Oklahoma adopt a Pass/No Pass grading policy for the Fall 2020 semester
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Waterman (78): How was the C decided as the breakoff?
    - Author: We met with the Faculty Senate over the course of writing this, and professors had a major concern with allowing a D as a passing grade, arguing it doesn't indicate being ready to move to the next level. The concern is that allowing a D would be overall more detrimental to their overall academic career. For example, getting a D in Calc II and then not being prepared for the coursework for Calc III. Previous

standard for last semester was a D grade was considered passing. This new threshold is also based on UC Irvine's policy.

- Senator Michael (93): Is there a strategic reason why you guys aren't pushing for a mandatory pass/no pass system? I believe that would sidestep problems for scholarships or grad school apps.
  - Author: It's hopeful to think it would sidestep those kind of problems, but I'm in the ROTC and a "Pass" grade won't always be accepted for that. They made an exception for last semester, but they would otherwise consider a pass a D. And for most pass/fail classes, they just won't pay for them.
- Senator Woodward (11): for major specific requirements a D isn't passing, but for otherwise a D is. So why is there one cut off for both types of classes?
  - Author: that's really an issue of practicality as well as communication. There's concern if the decision is brought down to the dean level and down to discretion, there's just not sufficient infrastructure for communicating that and for that to be successful.
- Senator Bussell (83): How does the wording differ from the one for last semester? And how will this info be passed to students?
  - Author: This is almost the same as last semester, the only difference is that for the undergrad level a passing grade must be a C or above, compared to previously a D. But this is by no means what the administration will adopt, but this is what we are advocating for. And hopefully it will be communicated in a more effective manner. And maybe this communication can include a centralized page on the policy on the university website.
- Senator Dawson (86): Did the document that was shared for the students to get their signatures, did it state how these passes can affect their GPA?
  - Author: I think it's fairly widely known that taking a pass or no pass has a neutral effect on GPA for transcript purposes. There's a link to the petition in the chat.
- Senator Hamilton (82): Statistically, there's about 25,000 students at OU, what's the percentage of those doing online school?
  - Author: I'm not entirely sure of that figure, but all of us will be online after thanksgiving break, so we will all have at least a small experience of it. I know from last semester there was about 9,000 students that opted into some pass/no pass decision.
- Senator Israel (81): Motion to extend question period by 4 minutes, seconded Senator Omoumi (40)
- Senator Woodward (11): What is the time period for this decision? How will you communicate to students that they need to get at least a C?
  - Author: We'll need to coordinate a lot with the Provost and OU Communication. Maybe an OUMM and coverage in the OU Daily. Professors can announce it in class. At the moment were advocating that students can opt for pass/no pass once they've seen their final grade in the class, and the threshold can be denoted on the same page that you opt in to that. We don't have a lot of control over how the Provost office will role this out, but hopefully they'll lay it out clearly, but we can promote it and clearly communicate the requirements.
- Senator Israel (81) Motion to extend 4 more minutes, seconded by Senator Woodward (11).
- Senator Woodworth (108) objects to extension request.
- Melissa: Parliamentarian, do we have to vote on that?
- Senator Israel (81): It can be overridden with a 2/3 vote.
- Rules further explained by Malachi Bouch.
- George: If there's been an objection, you can go to vote.
- Melissa: show of hands, who votes in favor of extending time?
  - Senators Walton (85), Williams (63), Hill (61), Woodward (11), Omoumi (40), Schwartz (117), Waterman (78), Rusmore (17), Linsey (7), Dawson (86), Bussell (83),

- Wright (5), Woods (20) Thomas (94), Cone (13), Shpeer (22), Mallick (119), Hamilton (82), Wheaton (43), and Norwood (34).
- Voting against extension:
  - Senators Woodworth (108), Hunter (70), Glidewell (10), Reimer (105), Jarvis (39) [another Senator identified as 39], Burch (54), Bonine (107), Rocha (53), and Chesbro (60).
- Accounting for senators that are abstaining, that is not 2/3 so it does not pass. So we will not extend.
- Senator Waterman (78): Motion to table this bill to next session. Seconded by Senator Mallick (119).
- Any objections to tabling? Senator Hunter (70)
- Need to go to a vote.
  - In favor of tabling bill to next session: Senators Woodworth (108), Walton (85), Hill (61), [a Senator identified as 89], Bussell (83), Reimer (105), Waterman (78), Faz (115), Bonine (107) Glidewell (10), Mayberry (33), Strand (9), Woodward (11), Michael (93), Wright (5), Tennell (37), Machette (21), Ashbaker (73), Shpeer (22), Donahue (12), Childers (121), Mallick (119), and Akoneto (84).
  - Against tabling: Senators Rusmore (17), Hunter (70), Chesbro (60), Burch (54), Delafield (111), Jarvis (39), Milburn (64), Linsey (7), Williams (63), Schwartz (117), Rocha (53), Thomas (94), Hamilton (82), and Wheaton (43).
- The motion to table the bill has passed.
- Senator Israel (7): Point of information, I understand it's a sensitive piece of legislation. Will tabling it thwart any of its efforts?
- Melissa: I would assume 2 weeks would not be a hindrance, but let's hear from the authors.
- Author: I'd like to give it to the Provost before we go online after Thanksgiving, preferably sooner to give the plan enough time.
- Senator Linsey (7): I'd like to make a motion to take it back from the table.
- Melissa: is that allowed?
- Senator Israel (81): We could do so by making a motion to suspend the rules.
- Melissa: So Senator Linsey (7) made that motion. And Senator Hunter (70) is seconding it. Any objections?
  - Senator Woodworth (108) objects.
- Roll call vote:
  - In favor of suspending rules to reconsider the tabling: Senators Woodward (11), Williams (63), Michael (93), Hunter (70), Walton (85), Jarvis (39), Cilali (67), Delafield (111), Burch (54), Schwartz (117), Dawson (86), Cone (13), Thomas (94), Chesbro (60), Machette (21), Wright (5), Bonine (107), Israel (81), Shpeer (22), Mayberry (33), Williams (63), Rusmore (17), Woodward (11), Woods (20), Rocha (53), Linsey (7), Ogbonnaya (104), Milburn (64), Donahue (12), Hamilton (82), Reynolds (98), Mallick (119), and Wheaton (43).
  - Votes against: Senators Woodworth (108), Hill (61), Reimer (105), and Omoumi (40).
- Motion to extend time by Senator Hunter (70) and seconded by Senator Israel (81).
- Senator Hamilton (82) Inquires about sending it to OU Daily and OU Nightly.
  - Author: They're going to get a copy of it anyway. There's always a reporter at Congress meetings and sometimes GSS. They're usually part of distribution for most legislation.
- Senator Bussell (83): You mentioned other universities have some hesitation to enact something like this. Why, and should we be aware of those concerns?
  - Author: At the Big 12 SGA conference, many said their administration was concerned other schools weren't doing it and accreditation concerns. We know that accreditation won't be a problem after talking to Faculty Senate. It's really just

- everyone waiting for someone else to make the first move. So this is an opportunity to be a leader in the community.
  - Senator Mallick (119): friendly amendment, the writing doesn't explicitly say what the policy is for undergrad or grad students.
    - Author: Section 3 says it's identical to the previous policy, so it would apply to grad students. It's implicitly included but I would accept a friendly amendment to be more explicit about that.
  - Senator Linsey (7): Motion to extend question period 4 minutes. Second Senator Israel (81)
  - Senator Waterman (78): Now we're moving the bar from a D to a C. Why does this have to happen in the middle of the semester instead of next semester?
    - Author: It's an optional policy, none of this would be mandatory.
  - Senator Omoumi (40): How do you rationalize the fact if a student has 4 classes, and they say the pandemic impacts two classes but not the two others? How would that happen?
    - Author: Sometimes classes are just harder and it affects them in different ways.
  - Senator Linsey (7): What's the process now if it passes, what type of time frame are we looking at? Are there other steps this would have to happen after this passes?
    - We're still coordinating with the Faculty Senate to keep them involved during this whole process. Once it's an official policy recommendation from SGA we'll finalize our discussion with the Faculty Senate. And hopefully we can get some statement of endorsement. And then it would be for the Provost office. And that's why I want to make sure we can vote on this tonight. And we're very thankful for you guys for reconsidering.
  - Senator Linsey (7) Motion to extend questioning time, seconded by Senator Williams (63). Objection by Senator Hunter (70).
    - Melissa: We either vote to extend question or Senator Linsey (7) can withdraw his motion. Senator Linsey (7) withdraws request for extension.
  - Senator Israel (81): We can allow a point of information for procedural questions.
  - Senator Linsey (7): Point of information, if this does not pass tonight, will the Faculty Senate still move forward in the process? And would the ball still be moved forward?
    - Author: We don't know. They may be discouraged by this, or it may delay our conversations by 2 weeks.
  - Senator Woodworth (108): "Motion to pass our first thing at 8:44 PM by unanimous consent".
  - Second by Senator Linsey (7).
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GF20-27 Farewell OrgSync Act of 2020
  - Motion to move GF20-27 to floor by Senator Israel (81), seconded by Senator Rusmore (17)
  - Authors Foster Hillis (Congressional Administration Chair and University College) and Abby Halsey-Kraus (Associate Representative): The University of Oklahoma's Student Government Association over the Summer of 2020 have migrated the RSO platform management website from OrgSync to Engage and therefore the terminology in the Code Annotated must be updated.
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Israel (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Woodward (11)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GF20-28 An Act Appointing 2020-2021 SGA Election Board Members
  - Motion to move GF20-28 to floor by Senator Reimer (105) seconded by Senator Bonine (107)

- Author Peyton Nees (SGA Election Chair): The purpose of this Act shall be to appoint student members to the 2020-2021 SGA Election Board.
- Yields time for question
- Senator Israel (81): Question regarding the Title 6 amendment.
  - Appointees discuss their familiarity with the amendment and provisions.
- Senator Mallick (119): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
- Seconded by Senator Bonine (107)
- No objections
- Motion passes
- GF20-29 Auxiliary Allocation Act 6 of 2020-2021
  - Motion to move GF20-29 to floor by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Williams (63)
  - 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): What is the expenditure for?
    - Author: it's for a food fair, it's Covid friendly. So the price point for the food has raised.
    - Melissa: if you're not using refreshments that are individually wrapped or prewrapped, you have to have servers there, at priced at \$25 per worker per hour.
    - Author: And it's a multi-hour event.
  - Senator Woodworth (108): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Israel (81)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes

**Announcements:**

Senator Linsey (7): I really appreciate everyone's work on this.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Rocha (53).

**Adjournment:**

Time: 9:05 pm