

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
September 7th, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93638222663?pwd=dFpKQUZOK2Q1U1oxV0lMUy9FUkRZUT09>

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Reading and the Approval of the Minutes: (minutes from previous meeting:

<https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/GSS/minutes/2023/GSS4-20-23Minutes.pdf>)

- Senator Gupta (67), seconded by Senator Chiareli (119)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - Welcome to all of our new senators and welcome back to those of you who are returning! I am looking forward to getting to work with you all this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Executive Officers if there is anything we can do for you at any point during the year.
 - A few items to go through:
 - You are the representative for your department in the realm of graduate student concerns. While the Senate does not typically involve itself in department-specific issues, we encourage you to serve as advocates for your peers if difficult conversations need to happen. If you find that things are not getting solved at the department level, please come to us so that we can have a conversation about how to help. We want to make sure that graduate students feel like they are being heard, and you as a Senator are a huge part of making that happen.
 - With that being said, if your peers ever have questions about anything the Senate does or would like to see a bill or resolution presented, they should work with you to do so. For example, if your peers have any questions about the upcoming GSS grants, they should reach out to you first and you can then direct questions to our Ways and Means chair Bella. You are the first point of communication for your department for all Senate-related items.
 - Last year, our External Affairs committee distributed a survey to gauge the financial situation for graduate students on campus. I'm hoping that we can expand on this effort this year to compile a report to share with administrators which addresses many of the concerns graduate students face here on campus. Other universities have compiled similar reports or online documents, and I'm hoping to gather a few examples for us to work from. I think this will be an incredibly valuable precedent to create in the Senate, to hopefully work to compile this type of material more regularly and keep it updated.
 - As we prepare to enter the SEC in Fall of 2024, I'm really excited to share that our Senate leadership has been actively communicating with graduate student leadership at other SEC schools. Two years ago, Texas A&M graduate student leadership formed the SEC Graduate Leader Coalition, of which we have been a member of since its formation. For the past year, I have helped to lead the organization of our meetings, which typically happen every other month, and I look forward to sharing the data I gather from this group of leaders as we think of ways to continue to advocate for graduate students at OU. I've also been actively involved in a new Coalition that had formed to support the GRAD Caucus in the U.S. House of

Representatives. Our Senate has historically not been very active in political advocacy, so this Coalition along with our collaboration with the SEC leaders offers an opportunity for our body to think about how we might begin to become more civically engaged as an organization.

- Lastly, and most importantly, I wanted to emphasize that you need to conduct yourself with decorum in these meetings. You are not only representing your department here but the entire graduate student body, so you should not take this opportunity lightly. These meetings are open to the public, and everything that is said goes in our minutes on the record. Please treat your fellow Senators and any guests with respect. If you have questions about legislation or disagree with the contents, we welcome open discussion, but in a way that respects all parties involved. Our authors have worked hard to bring forth the legislation they present here, and we want to be sure we recognize their effort and their point of view. Each and every senator comes to the Senate with a different set of life experiences, and that is what makes this Senate such a fantastic body. It is so important that we are kind to one another in all aspects of our operations.
- I shared the link for the new senator orientation in my e-mail yesterday evening, and it is also posted on the website. I encourage you to give it a watch if you're new to the Senate or would like a refresher. And again, if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out. We are all here to serve you, and you, in return, are here to serve your peers!
- Vice-Chair:
 - Nothing new to report. Happy fall!
- Secretary:
 - Nothing new to report. Committee reports are important!

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs:
 - Senator Aboukelia (15): Senator Aboukelia (15) will serve as the chair.
 - Senator Sukumaran (64) will serve as the vice chair.
 - Senator Clementz (57) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.
- Development & Philanthropy:
 - Senator Morrison (122): Senator Morrison (122) will serve as the chair.
 - Senator Horton (6) will serve as the vice chair.
 - Senator Nelson (11) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.
- External Affairs:
 - Senator Beaty (21): Senator Beaty (21) will serve as the chair.
 - Senator White (89) will serve as vice chair.
 - Senator Eschbach (78) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.
 - The external affairs committee made introductions, reviewed what the committee accomplished last year, laid out groundwork for next steps, decided when to meet, as well as decided on a chair, vice-chair, and secretary for the committee.
- Internal Affairs:
 - Senator Delafield (111): Senator Delafield (111) will serve as the chair.
 - Senator Dyke (13) will serve as the vice chair.
 - Secretary Fogg (81) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.

- International Student Affairs:
 - Senator Gupta (67): Senator Gupta (67) will serve as the chair.
 - Senator Ononeme (54) will serve as the vice chair.
 - Senator Owens (74) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.
- Public Relations:
 - Senator Kirkpatrick (86): Senator Kirkpatrick (86) will serve as chair.
 - Senator De La Garza (25) will serve as vice chair.
 - Senator Besharati Kivi (116) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.
- Sustainability:
 - Senator Taylor (99): Senator Taylor (99) will serve as the chair.
 - Senator Cabot (108) will serve as vice chair.
 - Senator Smith (10) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.
 - We spoke on the state of our e-waste bill to present previous but ongoing work to the new members of the committee. This will be the first focus of the committee for this semester.
- Ways and Means:
 - Senator Chiareli (119): Senator Chiareli (119) will serve as chair.
 - Senator Anderson (121) will serve as the vice chair.
 - Senator Lander (18) will serve as the secretary.
 - Committee meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. before general assembly meetings.

Special Orders:

- GF23-01 Honoring the 2023 OU Softball Team
- GF23-02 Honoring the 2023 OU Gymnastics Team
- GF23-03 Auxiliary Allocation 1 Act of 2023-2024

Old Business:

New Business:

Motion to move GF23-01, GF23-02, and GF23-03 to new business as a block by senator Gupta (67), seconded by senator Dyke (13).

- GF23-01 Honoring the 2023 OU Softball Team and GF23-02 Honoring the 2023 OU Gymnastics Team (both No recommendation) as a block
 - Author Shrey Kathuria, Congress Representative: The purpose of these resolutions is to congratulate the 2023 OU Softball team and OU Gymnastics team for winning the national championships and demonstrating excellence.
 - Motion to move GF23-01 and GF23-02 to the floor as a block by senator Delafield (111), seconded by senator Beaty (21)
 - Author: Bill was created to honor the OU women's softball and gymnastics teams. They were inspirational to women everywhere.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Fogg (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GF23-03 Auxiliary Allocation 1 Act of 2023-2024 (No recommendation)

- Author Izza Shiraj, Chair, SGA Budgetary Committee: The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.
 - Motion to move GF23-03 to floor by Senator Delafield (111), seconded by Senator Fulton (94)
 - Author: women in STEM removed their funding request but everything stands as is.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Beaty (21): Where are forms for funding requests located?
 - Author: within each RSO's financial tab on Engage
- Senator Taylor (99): How are funding allocations determined?
 - RSO primary funding was approved in the spring and auxiliary funding is evaluated and approved on a biweekly basis.
- Senator Fogg (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
- No objections
- Motion passes

Announcements:

- Senator Chiareli (119): If questions come up about GSS grants, the ways and means committee is working on uploading the grants currently and it will be live soon. We will have more information to share shortly
- Senator Beaty (21): Follow up question about GSS grants. Do we know what the deadline date will be?
 - Senator Chiareli (119): More than likely toward the middle or end of October but the official deadline is not set yet because the grants have not been uploaded yet.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Delafield (111), seconded by Senator Chiareli (119).

Adjournment:

Time: 7:27 PM