

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

November 7th, 7:00 PM

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/92662526832?pwd=VGuKxz94KVUMqS1bCSpaC4a7Waq9ha.1>

Call to Order

Mission Statement: Graduate Students at the University of Oklahoma have a number of unique concerns and interests requiring a voice separate from the usual instruments that express the will of the faculty and of undergraduates. For this reason, the Graduate Student Senate of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association was established in 1987 to represent all Graduate Students and to serve their needs.

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

<https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/GSS/agendas/2024/10-24-24-GSS-Agenda.pdf>)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
- Vice-Chair:
- Secretary:

Committee Reports: (submit your meeting minutes [here](#))

- Academic Affairs:
- Development & Philanthropy:
- External & Legislative Affairs:
- Internal Affairs:
- International Student Affairs:
- Public Relations:
- Sustainability:
- Ways and Means:

Student Concerns:

Special Orders:

Old Business:

New Business:

- GF24-10 Disassembling the PAE Act (Do Pass)
- GF24-12 National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024 (Rec of No Rec)
- GF24-13 Fall 2024 Departmental Status Act (Do Pass)

Announcements:

Adjournment

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII
October 8, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF24
November 7th, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-112-11
SENATE BILL GF24-10

AS INTRODUCED

An Act amending the SGA Code Annotated to dissolve
the SGA Partnership for Athletic Environmentalism.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS:

Section 1: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Disassembling the PAE Act.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to modify the SGA Code annotated to remove the Partnership for Athletic Environmentalism as a committee in the SGA Code annotated.

Section 3: AMENDATORY: The Code Annotated Chapter IX-4 will be amended as follows, with ~~strikethrough~~ indicating a removed section, and underline indicating added sections:

- ~~1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the Partnership for Athletic Environmentalism is to assist in the communication between OU Athletics Recycling Energy and Sustainability Services and the Student Government Association. The Partnership will meet with the intention of expanding recycling facilities at OU Athletic events.~~
- ~~2. **Membership.**
 - ~~1. The Chair of the Partnership shall be the Congress Sustainability Committee Chair~~
 - ~~2. Membership for the PAE shall be as follows:
 - ~~1. The Chair of the Partnership~~
 - ~~2. A member of the Congress Sustainability Committee assigned by the Chair of the Partnership~~
 - ~~3. The Director of the Interior for the Executive Cabinet~~
 - ~~4. The Director of OU's Energy and Sustainability Services or their assigned proxy.~~
 - ~~5. The Supervisor of Refuse and Recycling or their assigned proxy.~~
 - ~~6. The OU Athletics Director of Event Management or their assigned proxy.~~~~
 - ~~3. **Meetings.** Meetings of the PAE shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act. The Partnership shall meet at least once per month throughout the academic year. Meeting dates and times shall be decided upon by a consensus of the Partnership's members.~~~~

Section 4: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Chair Aaron Gilson-Bond, Undergraduate Student Congress Sustainability Committee

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a Motion by:
Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____
Action taken by Senate:

Approved by SGA President _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII

October 22, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF24

November 7th, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-03
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GF24-12

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing and protecting Free
Speech and National Freedom of Speech Week; and
providing for distribution.

- Whereas: The United States has federally protected the right to free speech through the First Amendment under the Bill of Rights, ratified December 15, 1791; and,
- Whereas: The First Amendment¹ protects peaceful protest, assembly, hate speech, and petition, including the use of posters, signs, flyers, and chalking in permissible spaces set by the university; and,
- Whereas: Actions which violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, such as property damage, trespassing, violence, and illegal harassment, in addition to language that aims to incite or threaten violence, is unprotected²; and,
- Whereas: Public universities, such as the University of Oklahoma, are subject to the First Amendment, and cannot withhold awarding students a degree as a result of peaceful protest, nor can the President call the police on peaceful protest³.
- Whereas: University of Oklahoma President, Joseph Harroz Jr., released a statement stating, “The freedom to speak, inquire, and express strikes at the heart of any great institution of higher learning.”⁴
- Whereas: From October 7, 2023, to May 30, 2024, the Crowd Counting Consortium, logged over 3,700 days of protest activity across 525 colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and school district offices across 317 cities in the United States; and,
- Whereas: Nearly 2,200 days of protest activity occurred after April 17, 2024, most remaining

¹ “U.S. Constitution - First Amendment .” 1791. Constitution.congress.gov. Library of Congress. December 15, 1791. <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/>.

²United States Courts. 2023. “What Does Free Speech Mean?” United States Courts. 2023. <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/what-does>.

³Forum, By Freedom. 2024. “Protesting on College Campuses: Laws, FAQs and More.” Freedom Forum. May 1, 2024. <https://www.freedomforum.org/protesting-on-college-campuses/>.

⁴Harroz, Joseph “President Harroz Free Speech Week Remarks” The University of Oklahoma Office of the President. October 11, 2023. <https://www.ou.edu/president/messages-and-statements/2023/free-speech-week>

entirely non-violent, and

Whereas: Protests at many other Universities were met with “immediate and aggressive hostility” by police and University officials, with 3,645 arrests occurring since October 7, 2023⁵

Whereas: We recognize that temporarily occupying educational spaces may be a necessary means to incentivizing change, which is permissible, as it helps the campus community in the long term⁵; and,

Whereas: Having solidified free speech rights encourages a higher degree of expression and advocacy within the University of Oklahoma community, urging a modern environment that consistently works to benefit all those involved; and,

Whereas: Historically, the University of Oklahoma’s administration has allowed students the right to protest, which has encouraged student involvement and leadership⁶; and,

Whereas: The continuation of this allowance not only upholds a fundamental constitutional freedom, but demonstrates an environment of diversity, social evolution, civil service, tolerance, and academic freedom.

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma Administration has remained steadfast in its commitment to protecting free speech and peaceful protest, while maintaining a neutral stance by ensuring all groups, regardless of viewpoint, are afforded equal opportunities to exercise their right to protest.

Whereas: President Joseph Harroz Jr. recently stated in relation to the protests, “We shouldn’t teach students what to think. We should teach students how to think.”⁷

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024.”

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recognizes the third week of October as Free Speech Week⁸ and supports the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and safe protests within the University of Oklahoma campus.

⁵ Ulfelder, Jay. 2024. “Crowd Counting Consortium: An Empirical Overview of Recent Pro-Palestine Protests at U.S. Schools.” Ash Center. May 30, 2024. <https://ash.harvard.edu/articles/crowd-counting-blog-an-empirical-overview-of-recent-pro-palestine-protests-at-u-s-schools/>.

⁶ “Students protest possible Iraq invasion” OU Daily. October 25, 2002. https://www.oudaily.com/students-protest-possible-iraq-invasion/article_f84d4e33-0571-52f4-84c9-454da3819b64.html; Harkins, Paighen et al. “OU students and administrators join together in protest” OU Daily. March 10, 2015. https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-students-and-administrators-join-together-in-protest/article_3f7a7914-c6b6-11e4-8e82-af8054f903a9.html

⁷ Pablo, Thomas, and Abby Young. “A Year Later: OU Students Walk out in Support of Palestine, Criticize Lack of University Action.” OU Daily, October 9, 2024. https://www.oudaily.com/news/a-year-later-ou-students-walk-out-in-support-of-palestine-criticize-lack-of-university/article_604d87d6-8695-11ef-a597-cbbc7947e737.html.

⁸ CreationDepot. n.d. “Home.” Free Speech Week. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.freespeechweek.org/>.

Section 3 In accordance with the First Amendment, the Undergraduate Student Congress defines, 'free speech,' as the right of the public to share their beliefs and protest with the aim of helping the campus community, through peaceful means in public spaces.

Section 4: While universities may restrict protest access to non-students and impose unbiased limitations on the setting and noise level of a protest, the Undergraduate Student Congress, asks that the University of Oklahoma uphold this resolution and the First Amendment in all policy, allowing for freedom of speech to be maintained.

Section 5: We urge the University of Oklahoma to stay attentive to any potential harassment of student protesters by faculty or staff and to take prompt and decisive action should such incidents arise, ensuring that students' right to free speech is not undermined.

Section 6: The Undergraduate Student Congress thanks the University of Oklahoma for allowing peaceful protests to occur on campus, no matter the background or views of the organization. We commend the University of Oklahoma's commitment to letting student voices be heard.

Section 7: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- President Joseph Harroz Jr. of the University of Oklahoma
- David Surratt, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- OU Students for Justice in Palestine
- Kasi Shelton, Executive Director of OU Hillels
- OU Turning Point USA
- OU Daily
- OU Nightly

Author(s): Lauren Carter, Fine Arts District Representative
Hayden Bertotti, University College District Representative

Co-Author(s): Marilou Bento, Chair of the External Affairs Committee

Co-Sponsor(s):

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF24
November 7th, 2024

SENATE BILL NO. GF24-13

AS INTRODUCED

An Act to declare certain Departments as in ‘Bad Standing’
and on ‘Probation’.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE:

- Section 1:** This act may be known and cited as the “Fall 2024 Departmental Status Act.”
- Section 2:** Purpose: To update Graduate Student Senate Department status for the full academic year 2024-2025.
- Section 3:** AMENDATORY: For the purpose of this Act, Departments now in ‘Bad Standing’ will be found under the ‘Bad Standing’ column; Departments now on ‘probation’ will be found under the ‘Probation’ column; and Departments now in ‘Good Standing’ will be found under the ‘Good Standing’ column.
- Section 5:** Departments with status changes:

Department Status Changes		
Good Standing	Probation	Bad Standing
Anthropology	Aerospace and Mech. Eng.*	Accounting
Architecture	Business Administration*	Engineering Physics
Biological Sciences	Civil Eng. & Environmental Science*	Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
Biomedical Engineering	Educational Lead. & Policy Studies*	General Engineering
Chemical Biological & Material Eng.	Modern Languages, Lit. & Linguistics*	Human Relations
Chemistry and Biochemistry	Native American Studies*	Management Information Systems
Communication	Physics & Astronomy and Engineering Physics*	
Computer Science	Public Administration*	
Construction Science		
Dance		
Data Science and Analytics		
Economics		
Educational Psychology		
Electrical and Computer Engineering		
English		

Finance*		
Geography & Environmental Sustainability		
Geology and GeoPhysics		
Health and Exercise Science		
History of Science, Technology & Medicine		
History*		
Industrial & Systems Engineering		
Instructional Lead. & Acad. Curriculum		
Interior Design		
International and Area Studies		
Journalism and Mass Communication		
Landscape Architecture		
Law		
Library & Information Studies		
Mathematics		
Meteorology		
Music		
Petroleum & Geological Engineering		
Petroleum & Geological Engineering		
Philosophy		
Political Science		
Psychology		
Regional & City Planning		
Social Work*		
Sociology		
Visual Arts		
Women & Gender Studies*		

Note. * indicates the department changed status this semester.

Section 5: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Jordan Norris, GSS Chair
 Rin Ferraro, GSS Vice Chair
 Cooper Delafield, GSS Secretary

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____