

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 7:30 PM

**Zoom Conference Call**

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93772247533?pwd=sBRbHEL3MOD2aTipaH9URXpz3t1Fcr.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/sga/branches/graduate-student-senate/agendas-and-minutes>)

**Officer Reports:**

- Chair:
- Vice-Chair:
- Secretary:

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

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

**Student Concerns:**

**Special Orders:**

- **GS26-02:** “Chief of Staff Appointment Act of 2026”
- **GS26-03:** “SGA Executive Cabinet Appointment Act of 2026”

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

- **GS26-01:** “Call for Accountability, Transparency, and Academic Integrity” (Do Pass)

**Announcements:**

**Adjournment**

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXV  
January 27, 2026

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GS26  
January 29, 2026

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CB-115-03  
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GS26-02

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of legislation appointing the Chief of Staff of the Executive Branch; providing for short title, and providing for an effective date.

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

**Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “The Chief of Staff Appointment Act of 2026.”

**Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to appoint the Chief of Staff of the Martin-Nicholson administration within the Executive Branch.

**Section 3:** In accordance with the SGA Code Annotated §Title X, Chapter 5, Section 2, which delineates the appointment process for the Chief of Staff position, the following student shall thus be appointed:

- Henry Christiansen

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

Author(s): Mercer Martin, SGA President  
Josephine Nicholson, SGA Vice President

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

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXV  
January 27, 2026

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GS26  
January 29, 2026

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-115-04  
SENATE BILL GS26-03

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Procedure appointing the SGA Executive Cabinet; providing for short title, providing for codification, and providing for an effective date.

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

**Section 1:** Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “SGA Executive Cabinet Appointment Act of 2026.”

**Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to appoint the SGA Directors & Cabinet positions for the Martin-Nicholson administration.

**Section 3:** In accordance with Title III, Chapter 1, Section 5, Subsection C(i) of the SGA Code Annotated, “The members of the Executive Cabinet shall consist of the Chief of Staff, and any other coordinators, assistants, and liaisons deemed necessary by the President and appropriate by the Legislative houses through advice and consent.”

The following students shall be appointed as Director to their respective posts:

Director of External Affairs – Ava Burnett  
Director of Internal Affairs – Xander Donald  
Director of Technology – Abby Gross  
Director of Student Betterment – Jada Cannon

The following students shall be appointed to their respective positions.

Secretary of Speaker Series – Reese Walsh  
Secretary of Liberty & Representation – Kaela Theuri  
RSO Liaison – Garret Brooks  
SGA Interbranch Liaison – Alaina Jawed  
Press Secretary – Stephen Pendely  
Social Media Coordinator – Hannah Hamby  
Secretary of Student Services – Jemay Leow  
International Student Liaison – Nicolas Suarez-Antelo

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

Authors: President Mercer Martin, Student Government Association  
Vice President Josephine Nicholson, Student Government Association

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 GS26

January 29, 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION GS26-01

AS INTRODUCED

A Senatorial Resolution outlining the damages and harm caused by the University's decision to terminate a graduate teaching assistant; calling for actions to ensure accountability, transparency, and academic integrity at the University of Oklahoma; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) at the University of Oklahoma was established to represent the interests of graduate students at the University and to serve their needs.

Whereas: On December 22, 2025, following the conclusion of the Fall 2025 semester, but before final grades were due, when most students and faculty had left campus for the winter break, the University released a statement indicating that it had concluded its investigation into accusations of religious discrimination made by Samantha Fulnecky against a graduate student instructor.<sup>1</sup>

Whereas: The University's statement indicates that the University has ruled against the graduate student and that "the graduate teaching assistant will no longer have instructional duties at the University."<sup>1</sup>

Whereas: The University's decision to terminate the instructional duties of the graduate teaching assistant has caused direct harm and damage to the graduate student by depriving them of valuable teaching experience and tarnishing their professional reputation.

Whereas: The University's decision to terminate the instructional duties of the graduate teaching assistant has caused irreparable damage to the academic integrity and the reputation of the University.<sup>2,3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> University of Oklahoma (@UofOklahoma). "A statement from the University of Oklahoma." X, December 22, 2025, 3:02 p.m. <https://x.com/uofoklahoma/status/2003209457195741653?s=42>.

<sup>2</sup> Siatkowski, Abigail, Sierra Pfeifer, and Hannah France. "University of Oklahoma Students March in Support of Suspended Instructor," *KOSU*, December 5, 2025. <https://www.kosu.org/local-news/2025-12-05/university-of-oklahoma-students-march-in-support-of-suspended-instructor>.

<sup>3</sup> Kallner, Abigail. "OU-AAUP Calls for University to Honor Transparency, Academic Freedom After Removal of Instructor," *OU Daily*, December 9, 2025. [https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-aaup-academic-freedom-graduate-instructor-bible-based-essay/article\\_e76fb193-9899-4d03-84ed-a74334036f9a.html](https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-aaup-academic-freedom-graduate-instructor-bible-based-essay/article_e76fb193-9899-4d03-84ed-a74334036f9a.html).

Whereas: The University’s decision to terminate the instructional duties of the graduate teaching assistant over this particular assignment and case has drawn sharp criticism from students, faculty, and diverse organizations representing a broad range of political interests.<sup>3,4</sup>

Whereas: In an interview with Oklahoma News 9<sup>5</sup>, Samantha Fulnecky was unable to correctly identify the main idea and conclusions of the article assigned in this case.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, Ms. Fulnecky admitted that, rather than reading the article carefully and thoughtfully completing the assigned work as is expected of an OU student, she “wrote it in maybe, like, 30 minutes” as she rushed off to see a play.<sup>5</sup>

Whereas: The University has now created an opportunity for appeals and lawsuits alleging:

1. Failure “to examine whether the student [Ms. Fulnecky] may have had an ulterior motive in pursuing such a complaint.”<sup>7</sup>
2. That the University “continued to issue public statements regarding the investigation, despite confidentiality rules that kept [the graduate teaching assistant] from being able to discuss any details of the situation, while the student [Ms. Fulnecky] was going on a circuit of local and national television interviews.”<sup>7</sup>
3. Potential participation in “a political movement that seeks to silence and/or oust LGBTQ people from academia.”<sup>7</sup>

Whereas: It is unclear what, *if any*, official policies the University followed as it conducted its investigation into this case given:

1. The University’s statement indicates that “At the same time of the investigation, the Provost—the University’s highest ranking academic officer—and the academic Dean reviewed the full facts of the matter. Based on an examination of the graduate teaching assistant’s prior grading standards and patterns, as well as the graduate teaching assistant’s own statements related to this matter, it was determined that the graduate teaching assistant was arbitrary in the grading of this specific paper. The graduate teaching assistant will no longer have instructional duties at the university.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Burger, Jason. “Groups Made Up of OU Professors, College Republicans Reject Student’s Religious Discrimination Claim,” *KOCO News 5*, December 8, 2025. <https://www.koco.com/article/oklahoma-ou-samantha-fulnecky-college-republicans-professors-essay/69665742>.

<sup>5</sup> Fulnecky, Samantha. “University of Oklahoma Student Essay Controversy | OU Junior Samantha Fulnecky Full Interview.” Interview by Matt McCabe, *Oklahoma News 9*, December 11, 2025. <https://youtu.be/WMU7RCVlixo?si=SseAEG63PQTIDShz>.

<sup>6</sup> Jewell, Jennifer A., and Christia Spears Brown, “Relations Among Gender Typicality, Peer Relations, and Mental Health During Early Adolescence,” *Social Development* 23, no. 1 (2014): 137-156.

<sup>7</sup> Greco, Jonathan. “Former OU Graduate Instructor Files Appeal, Says She’s Become the ‘Target of a Political Movement’,” *KOCO News 5*, December 30, 2025. <https://www.koco.com/article/samantha-fulnecky-oklahoma-graduate-instructor-statement-no-longer-teaching-ou/69888222>.

2. According to the Dodge Family College of Arts and Science's policy for an Academic Grade Appeal<sup>8</sup>, neither the Provost nor the academic Dean are involved in grade appeals within the college in which the allegations of Ms. Fulnecky occurred.
3. According to the University's non-discrimination policy<sup>9</sup> and the University's published Investigative Process for Internal Complaints Under the Non-Discrimination Policy<sup>10</sup>, the Institutional Equity Office is responsible for investigating all claims of discrimination in a process that does not involve the Provost or academic Dean.

Therefore, it is unclear why either of these individuals should have been involved in the investigation of the graduate teaching assistant's grading. Additionally, it is unclear that the University followed official policies when making a final decision in this case.

Whereas: The University has not taken any public action regarding a previous Senate Resolution (*Call to Action Regarding the University's Responsibilities to Students in Investigations*, Senate Resolution GF25-21) **and** a petition from the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors<sup>11, 12</sup> calling for greater transparency, increased action to protect academic freedom and academic integrity at the university, greater protections for the campus community against harassment, and greater protections for OU instructors.

Whereas: The University's actions in this case directly contradict the values of and directly hinder the pillars of the University's strategic plan, *Lead On, University*.<sup>13</sup>

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
THAT:

**Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the "Call for Accountability, Transparency, and Academic Integrity."

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<sup>8</sup> The University of Oklahoma Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences. "Police and Procedures." Electronic document, <https://www.ou.edu/cas/students/policies-and-forms>, Accessed January 23, 2026.

<sup>9</sup> The University of Oklahoma Institutional Equity Office. "Policies & Procedures." Electronic document, <https://www.ou.edu/eoo/policies-and-procedures>, accessed January 23, 2026.

<sup>10</sup>The University of Oklahoma Institutional Equity Office. "Institutional Equity Office Investigative Procedures." Electronic document, <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/eoo/documents/nondiscrimination-policy-procedures-updated.pdf>, accessed January 23, 2026.

<sup>11</sup> University of Oklahoma AAUP. "Defend OU Instructors and Academic Freedom." Electronic petition, <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/defend-ou-instructors>, accessed December 22, 2025.

<sup>12</sup> American Association of University Professors. 2026. "AAUP Condemns OU Suspension, Political Interference." Electronic document, <https://www.aaup.org/news/aaup-condemns-ou-suspension-political-interference>, accessed January 23, 2026.

<sup>13</sup> The University of Oklahoma. "Lead On, University: The Next Phase." Electronic document, <https://www.ou.edu/leadon/strategic-plan>. Accessed January 20, 2026.

**Section 2:** GSS maintains that the University's decision to terminate the instructional duties of the graduate teaching assistant in this case has damaged academic integrity and the institutional reputation of the University of Oklahoma.

**Section 3:** GSS maintains that the negative effects of the University's actions are the direct result of the University administration's failure to take a stand to defend their instructors and the University's academic integrity. Such a failure and its associated, disastrous results indicate that the current University administration is potentially unfit to lead the University.

**Section 4:** Given the facts, assertions, and concerns above, GSS calls for the following:

1. For the University administration to hold a meeting with the leadership of the Graduate Student Senate and Faculty Senate to discuss actions to increase transparency, accountability, and academic integrity following this case.
2. The reinstatement of the graduate teaching assistant to their instructional duties.
3. An independent audit into the University's decision in this case to determine:
  - a. If University policies were properly followed in the course of the University's investigation,
  - b. If Ms. Fulnecky or any other party made any false or misleading statements in the course of the University's investigation that affected the University's decision to terminate the graduate teaching assistant, and
  - c. If there was improper prejudice or coordinated action against LGBTQ+ individuals in the course of the University's investigation.
4. Immediate action by the University to address the requests in *Call to Action Regarding the University's Responsibilities to Students in Investigations* (Senate Resolution GF25-21) and the OU-AAUP's petition<sup>11</sup>, including:
  - a. Initiate a process with GSS, the AAUP, and other faculty and student organizations to develop a specific Harassment Response and Prevention Plan that provides clear guidelines for the campus community for responding to political attacks<sup>11</sup>,
  - b. Provide a public condemnation of bullying and harassment directed toward any member of the OU campus community,
  - c. Within the bounds of the law, release full details on the policies and processes that resulted in the graduate teaching assistant being placed on administrative leave and subsequently terminated from their teaching duties. If the law prevents the disclosure of any of this information, the University should provide a written explanation detailing which law prevents the disclosure.
  - d. Provide a public statement “[reaffirming] the right of OU faculty and instructors to teach, grade, and research free from political interference, unlawful mandates, or pressures that inhibit authentic engagement.”<sup>11</sup>

**Section 5:** GSS maintains that *only* by heeding the calls detailed in Section 4 of this resolution can the University begin to repair the damage it has done to its students, its faculty, its staff, its alumni, and the broader OU campus community.

**Section 6:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Joseph Harroz, Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma
- André-Denis Wright, Senior Vice President and Provost of the University of Oklahoma
- David Surratt, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the University of Oklahoma
- Michael Markham, Dean of the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma
- Randall Hewes, Dean of the Graduate College at the University of Oklahoma
- Lara Mayeux, Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma
- All members of the OU Faculty Senate
- Michael Givel, President of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Association of University Professors
- *OU Daily*
- *OU Nightly*
- *The Oklahoman*
- *KFOR*
- *KOCO*
- *The Norman Transcript*
- *NBC News*
- *The New York Times*
- *Inside Higher Ed*

Authors: Sam Jensen, Graduate Student Senate Ways and Means Chair  
Dana Mahmoud, Graduate Student Senate Vice Chair

Sponsor: Libby Ryan, Graduate Student Senate Secretary

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_