

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2014
5:30 P.M.
Graduate Student Life, Conference room

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

The chair reports a transportation official at OU will present legislation pertaining to to busses at OU, and attempting to make them more popular. There is also an ongoing attempt to clean up the SGA bylaws – to make them consistent, remove all references to UOSA, etc. The senate will most likely see legislation pertaining to that.

The Vice Chair reports that the GSS bylaws also need to be fixed. The chair mentions that Mrs. Boren (wife of President Boren) has found a lot of the inconsistencies in the laws as a leisure activity, and we can obtain her findings. The Vice chair also reports that we need two more people to serve on the Graduate Council who are not in the College of Arts and Sciences or in the College of Engineering.

The Secretary reports that she is having fun.

Academic Affairs has nothing to report.

Development and Philanthropy is considering setting up a table on campus and holding a fundraiser. The exact charity for which the funds will be raised has yet to be determined.

External Affairs wishes to investigate how parking permits are rationed to various departments. The chair mentions that this information should be public access, and that some parking policy is probably internal to each department.

Human Diversity is considering setting up a panel. The topic has yet to be decided.

Internal Affairs reports that they will also work on the ongoing attempt to make the bylaws consistent.

Problems and Projects mentions that they are working with the student organization SAFE (Students Against a Factory-Farming Economy). Their goal is to get OU to commit to more safe food practices, and have 20% of their food obtained from organic, sustainable or local resources by 2020. The Senate might see resolution in relation to this.

Public Relations has nothing to report.

Ways and Means reports that they are currently waiting on applications for travel and research grants.

GF14-13 (Emergency Allocation act #3) is discussed. It is noticed that the amounts being requested by each organization is quite high. (the smallest amount being \$486 and the largest \$662).

Although funds have specified uses which must be accounted for by receipts, the body is concerned by how high these amounts are.

GF14-14 (a Senate resolution) is also discussed. This is a resolution to place a chain around the seal on Scholars walk alongside the South Oval. The chair reports that there will be a friendly amendment to place a weather resistant, yet attractive rope around the seal instead of a chain.

The main points of this discussion are that other safety concerns are not addressed by this resolution – for instance lighting at night would be helpful when avoiding walking on the seal at night. Also, other options exist to protect the seal, such as putting it under flat glass, or using a glass pyramid or dome.

Another point of discussion is the wording of the resolution. It says “The Undergraduate Student Congress, the Graduate Student Senate, and the whole student body are very grateful for the gift of the seal”. The wording seems to separate the student body from those elected to represent them. Other wording is suggested, and a friendly amendment is made by the Vice Chair. A vote is taken, and the body elects not to change the wording of the resolution. It is mentioned that one could see the wording as representative of the role of the Congress, Senate, and Student body President, elected by the whole student body, in this process.

GF14-13 (Emergency Allocation act #3) is discussed again. The body decides it shall be sent to the Senate with no recommendation, as there are some questions that need to be asked.

A friendly amendment is made by Josh Mills and the Vice Chair to add concerns about lights to GF14-14. Given the weight of the concern, the body decides to table the bill so that it can be discussed in the Student Congress at more length. The bill is tabled by Shayne Cairns and the Vice chair.

The meeting is adjourned at 6:02 by the Vice chair and Yolany M. Hyde.