

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2014
5:30 P.M.
Graduate Student Life, Conference room

Meeting called to order at 5:33.

The motion to approve last week's minutes is called by Senator 11, and seconded by Senator 34. No one objects, and the motion passes.

The Chair reports that Dean Lee Williams will give a 10-15 minute presentation about what resources OU makes available to graduate students.

It is also reported that three departments are in bad standing. They were notified of this last semester, and continue to send no senators. They are: Meteorology, Bio Engineering, and Educational Psychology. They received more than 1 notification – they were notified about each meeting, and the Graduate liaisons of each department were contacted (messages were left, and they did not call back).

New departments seem to have been created since the last iteration of the sign in sheet. We may be receiving new senators in the future from these departments.

A note is given to External Affairs – a survey about Transportation for graduate students needs to be prepared, so that data will be available for a meeting the chair will have in three weeks. This survey should be constructed during the committee meeting of this Sunday.

The Vice Chair reports that we may have some new departments joining us in Graduate Student Senate. The most recent list of Graduate Liaisons has some departments/programs not represented in GSS. He will draft a letter to these people - it will possibly be done Monday. He is also continuing to work with Shayne to clean up GSS bylaws. It seems that in the past, when people amended the bylaws, these changes were not saved in the complete copy of the bylaws that is available to the public. The updated bylaws will possibly be presented at next Sunday's meeting.

The Secretary and Academic Affairs have nothing to report.

Development & Philanthropy reports that they plan to set up a table at the union or on one of the lawns to help fundraise for Positive Tomorrows, and organization that helps homeless kids. It has helped over two thousand kids already. The cost of this table will be approximately \$35.

External Affairs has nothing to report.

Human Diversity states that they wish to fund a speaker with the Women’s Outreach Center. For legal reasons, they are not allowed to say who this speaker is. They are a transgendered person, and they will talk about issues pertaining to that. The cost of bringing in such a speaker would be expensive, at around \$20,000. Human diversity hope to use some funds from GSS to help with this. It is brought up that the OU Foundation would also be a reasonable place to ask for money for this event.

The Vice Chair asks is we could donate Budget money to Positive Tomorrows. The Chair responds that we could.

Internal Affairs and Problems & Projects have nothing to report.

Public Relations mentions that they will make a new twitter account, as the old twitter account seems impossible to recover (the old tag was @OUGSS).

Ways and Means reports that the grant proposals are due Friday. Normally the number of applications receives is around 100.

The Vice Chair mentions that the Graduate Student Life twitter may be another useful means of communication with Grad Students. It is noted that their webpage is pretty active.

A note is given to the Secretary to post the list of current Senators to the webpage, so that people may know who their representative is.

GF14-14 is brought to the floor by Senator 75, seconded by Senator 72. This is the act recommending that a chain is put around the new school seal on the Stewart Landing. Senator 75 and 86 recommend that we send this to the floor of the senate with a recommendation not to pass it. Senator 75 mentions that the seal should not have been placed in a high traffic area, and the student body should not be forced to say that we are grateful. Senator 86 does not want the official approval of the executive council attached to this act.

The recommendation is read to the Executive Council.

The chair mentions that in two separate pieces in the OU Daily, the voice of the students against the seal has already been heard. In addition, a resolution concerning the seal was made at the direction of President Boren, but the contents therein were written solely by students. Other Universities have this tradition also (for example, the University of Michigan).

Senator 86 changes his mind, and believes we should send this act to the floor of the Senate with no recommendation.

On the recommendation of not pass, the votes were as follows:

In favor	Against	Abstain
75	69	83
86	10	11
43	72	33

The chair breaks the tie, and the nays have it.

On the recommendation of no recommendation (brought by Senator 69, seconded by Senator 11), the votes were as follows:

In favor		Against
75	10	43
86	72	
69	83	
11	33	

The motion passes – the act shall be sent to the Senate with no recommendation.

GF14-15 is brought to the floor by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 33. It is an act to change the code annotated. Currently, only student organizations formed within the first four weeks may request funding. The change would allow student organizations formed one week prior to request funding. Senator 10 recommends we send this to the Senate floor with a recommendation of pass, seconded by Senator 75. As there are not objections, the motion passes.

GF14-16 is not available for review by the executive council. Three applicants will be chosen on Friday out of five for the positions available on the Supreme Court. This body sees decides on cases of plagiarism, appeals, and decides whether laws are constitutional. Experience with the laws of SGA and with SGA itself is what is being looked for.

There will be a resolution thanking President Boren and his wife for their service to OU, and congratulating them on their wedding anniversary.

The next meeting will be on the 29th of October. The motion to adjourn is brought by Senator 75, seconded by Senator 33. The motion passes, and the meeting is adjourned at 6:15.