

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
August 24, 2014
7:00 P.M.
SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-235

Vice Chair calls meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Vice Chair reads descriptions of committees available in Graduate Student Bylaws (<http://www.ou.edu/dam/sga/common/GSS/GSS%20Bylaws.pdf> pages 12-3).

Next week, committees will be solidified

Call for approval of last meeting's minutes by Senator 20, seconded by Senator 86. The motion passes.

The Chair is absent.

There is nothing to report from the Vice Chair, the Secretary, Academic Affairs, Development & Philanthropy, External Affairs, Human Diversity, Internal Affairs, Problems and Projects, and Public Relations.

The Ways and Means committee reports that more information about grant writing and revision will be up next week on the GSS website.

SENATE BILL NO. GF14-01 (The Academic Appeals Committee Appointment Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 52. It is a bill appointing an academic appeals committee, nominated by each department's academic liaisons. The motion to pass by unanimous consent is brought forth by Senator 86 and seconded by senator 52. No one opposes, and the motion passes.

SENATE BILL NO. GF14-02 (Smarter Departments Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 87, seconded by senator 86. It is described as a bill to eliminate, add, and update departments of the SGA Executive Branch – for example, the position of internal and external directors have been combined into one position of director. The Office of City, State, and Federal Legislative Relations and Research, Office of Exchange Programs and Office of International Activism are eliminated. The Office of International Affairs is renamed as the Office of Special Communities, and its duties are expanded to include addressing the issues of graduate students, student veterans,

students with disabilities, as well as gender and sexual minority issues and multicultural issues.

Senator 88 asks for clarification (perhaps in the form of a flow chart) as to what positions will be held within the undergraduate student congress, as it seems a bit confusing. The author clarifies that this is somewhat difficult to do – people need to be appointed to these positions, and whether (or not) this happens will depend on the current interests of the congress, which vary from year to year. The author emphasizes that the only major changes in this bill are departmental titles.

The motion to pass by unanimous consent is brought forth by Senator 86 and seconded by senator 20. No one opposes, and the motion passes.

SENATE BILL NO. GF14-04 (High Office Clarification Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 10, seconded by Senator 2. The purpose of the bill is to change and clarify which offices count as high offices and preclude other SGA involvement, in particular the Campus Activities Council. Previously, the rules exclude someone from holding two offices at once, and this bill rewords the rules to be that a person cannot hold two high offices at once, as the responsibility of some offices is small.

Senator 20 asks how the threshold is decided for when responsibility is that of a high office. The author responds with examples, such as assistants and those who serve on the C.A.C (with the exception of the chair) are considered to not have the responsibility of a high office. This will allow students to do more things, and whether a student has too much responsibility can then be decided on a case by case basis before appointment.

The motion to pass by unanimous consent is brought forth by Senator 86 and seconded by senator 52. No one opposes, and the motion passes.

SENATE BILL NO. GF14-05 (Salary Adjustment Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 87, seconded by senator 86. It adjusts the salary of a recently vacated position to be lower, as the previous occupant had worked for many years to receive the raises she got. The SGA Budget and Account Representative II would now receive \$16.50 per hour instead of \$17.48. The motion to pass by unanimous consent is brought forth by Senator 86 and seconded by senator 88. No one opposes, and the motion passes.

SENATE BILL NO. GF14-03 (Graphic Designer Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 33, seconded by senator 2. The bill aims to adjust the duties of the webmaster of GSA post to include graphic design, as the duties of the webmaster are not too strenuous.

The chair asks why this was not already done. The author responds that it was his understanding that legislation needed to be passed first, although he learned that he could (and did) adjust the job description on the Human Resources website. He hopes the position will be filled soon, and has already received applications.

The Secretary asks why this bill is necessary. The author responds that graphic design is used in a multitude of ways, such as making graphics for events put on by the SGA. The author has been doing the graphic design himself for the past three years and has found the work taxing.

Senator 10 asks why the work is not given in individual projects to students in the art department, as the salary of \$10 per hour might not be sufficient enough to attract quality work. The author responds that the \$10 per hour might be meager to a professional, but it is a reasonable salary for a student job.

The Secretary asks if finding person with both skill sets is a reasonable endeavor. The author says it is, and that the Webmaster skills are easily taught. The secretary asks if the webmaster skills can be learned quickly enough, and the author responds with yes – in a matter of hours, and in a website training session that takes place on Wednesday.

The motion to pass by unanimous consent is brought forth by Senator 20 and seconded by senator 33. No one opposes, and the motion passes.

Senator 88 raises the point that SENATE BILL NO. GF14-05 has the salary for the new webmaster/graphical designer listed as \$9 per hour, even though it was stated in the meeting as \$10. It is clarified that it is, in fact, a slight typo, and the hourly rate for the new position is in fact \$10 per hour.

There is no old business, or new business. The next meeting is announced to be Sunday, September 7th in Sarkey's Energy Complex, room A235. People are reminded that is important to show up for their departments. The senators are thanked b the Chair for their attendance.

The motion to adjourn by is brought forth by Senator 10 and seconded by senator 86. The meeting is adjourned at 7:45 p.m.