

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
January 25, 2015
7:00 P.M.
SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-235

Meeting called to order at 7:01.

Call for approval of last meeting's minutes by Senator 58, seconded by Senator 96. The motion passes.

The Chair welcomes everyone back to the Senate.

There is currently no Vice chair. The Secretary has nothing to report.

Academic Affairs has nothing to report.

Development and Philanthropy report that they have been working with Positive Tomorrows recently. They were grateful for the gifts they received from GSS. They also recently held a teacher development day for the children at the school, and taught them about object based learning.

External Affairs reports that they will not send out the transportation survey – based on only talking to the transportation head, the busses now run later (until 10:00 p.m.) and there is no need for the data.

Internal affairs reports that an election for Vice Chair will be held later today. Details about how the election will be run will take place then.

Problems and Projects has nothing to report.

Public Relations reports that GSS has both a Facebook and a Twitter, with a newly designed logo. These places will be an additional way to communicate with Senators about upcoming meetings or cancellations due to inclement weather.

Ways and Means have nothing to report.

Motion to start the election for the Vice Chair is brought by Senator 46, seconded by Senator 95. Internal Affairs explains that each of the three candidates (Hunter Brunwald, Rhiannon

Griffin, and Nick Porkony) will have 5 minutes each to talk about their qualifications and desire to be Vice Chair. There will then be 10 minutes for questions. Any question that the body wishes to pose must be posed to all three candidates, and must be related to their qualifications to be Vice Chair. Afterwards, the candidates will leave the room and a vote will be taken. The vote will be decided by plurality.

The first of the three candidates to introduce themselves is Hunter Brunwald. He is in the College of International Studies. He mentions how he has been with Senate for a while, and noticed the Senate used to always pass things by unanimous consent. Last semester, things changed and we did not always approve the legislation sent to us from Undergraduate Student Congress. He likes this change in the Senate and hopes that this trend will continue. Brunwald has served on the Ways and Means Committee and helped allocate grant money to students. This is his last semester here, so the body would not need to be concerned with him sticking around forever. He also wishes to join Graduate Council, and is familiar with Roberts Rules of Order. This would enable him to run meeting or help shut them down in a timely manner so that we may all go home.

The second of the three candidates is Rhiannon Griffin. She is an Astronomy student who studies galaxy clusters. She is a 5th year student who is done with classes, and has two publications done and a third submitted. She has been involved with her department on a committee (to allot time on a telescope) and with the Lunar Sooners organization. Lunar Sooners is a new organization founded by her and two other graduate students that does outreach to local schools. She feels that she would be able to execute the duties of the Vice Chair as outlined in the bylaws.

The last of the candidates is Nick Pokorny. He is a student in the College of Educations, and works on branding and licensing. He mentions that he has served on the executive committee this past semester and previous experience in student government at his undergraduate institution, Baylor. There he worked on legislation pertaining to landscaping and a campus wide Tabaco Ban. He is familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and believes he can execute the duties of office.

Questions by the Chair are then posed to the entire body. The first question asks what duties are associated with the office of Vice Chair. Brunwald responds that a Vice Chair must take over for a chair if need be. Griffin responds that it is a Vice Chair's duty to create and post the agendas for the meetings. Pokorny responds that the other candidates have mentioned the main duties of Vice Chair and also mentions that he has presided over a meeting before using Robert's Rules of Order. The second question asks what issues they would like to address while in office. Griffin states that she would like to see more outreach to area public schools. Pokorny states that he would like to increases access to funding. Brunwald states the he has a similar

goal and as a member of the Ways and Means committee, thinks knowledge of what funds are available needs to be expanded upon as well. The third question asks what aspect of office the candidates would find the most challenging. Brunwald responds that he may have difficulty completing the required time each month (it is first phrased as community service and later corrected to hours served). Griffin mentions that she would need to learn Robert's Rules of Order. The last question asks what the candidates would like to see for GSS in the next 6 months. Brunwald says he would like to see GSS pass a bill that is originally authored in the Senate. Pokorny states that he would like the Senate to be more visible and active on campus.

The candidates leave the room, and the vote is taken –

Brunwald – 57, 93, 83, 50, 52, 88, 20, 60, 16, 78, 12, 42, 19, 47, 44, 41, 39, 66, 14, 9, 37, 92, 29, 15

Total – 25

Griffin – 65, 97, 71, 94, 6, 5, 43, 54, 72, 67, 86

Total – 11

Pokorny – 23, 49, 96, 90, 34, 27, 98, 25, 13, 89, 11, 77, 95, 21, 48, 22, 58, 53, 76

Total – 19

Brunwald wins by plurality.

Motion to adjourn is made by senator 41, seconded by Senator 96. The motion passes, and the meeting is adjourned at 7:30