

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
November 23, 2014
7:00 P.M.
SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-235

Meeting called to order at 7:00.

Call for approval of last meeting's minutes by Senator 87, seconded by Senator 59. The motion passes.

The Chair reports that she met with the head of transportation at OU. According to what she was told, parking permits now start at 3:15 so that GAs can park and attend classes at 3:30. Senator 88 asks if this is available publicly, or written down. The chair responds that she is unsure if this is a written law at the moment, and it will hopefully be written next semester. Also, the last meeting will be on the 7th of December. There will be food, and it is meant to be an "end of the year" party.

The Vice chair announces that he will be resigning at the end of the semester. He will be doing post graduate work abroad. He also mentions that someone will also need to take over his position on the Graduate Council. Nomination forms will be accepted from the 7th of December until the first meeting next semester. It is asked how long the term of the new Vice Chair would be. The Vice Chair responds that it will be until the end of the Spring semester.

The Secretary and Academic Affairs have nothing to report.

Development and Philanthropy report that they request (on behalf of Positive Tomorrows) that senators bring a gift or make a donation at the last meeting this year. they have emailed out a list of appropriate gifts.

External Affairs has nothing to report.

Human Diversity reports that they have drafted a bill to survey the student body about what panels they would like to see.

Internal affairs reports that a bill updating the bylaws has been reviewed by their committee. They recommend that the body pass the bill.

Problems and Projects and Public Relations have nothing to report.

Ways and Means report that they are drafting a letter to Graduate Liaisons to clarify ambiguity in the grant process. Senator 76 asks if the Senate could receive a copy of this email.

The committee responds that once the email is approved, then yes.

GF14-30 (Resolution regarding sportsmanship) is brought to the floor by senator 58, seconded by Senator 56. The author states that the football game between OU and Baylor was shameful, as OU booed their own team. The resolution states that this is unsportsmanlike behavior, and that this behavior is not condoned by SGA.

Senator 65 states that the spectators of a game have a right to freedom of expression. The author responds that the spectators are paying to see the game and should be courteous while in the stadium. Also, this is a resolution, and does not impede free speech. The dissatisfaction of the spectators was not wrong, but the resolution states that there are better ways of expressing dissatisfaction at a game. This resolution is not about free speech, but about the reputation of OU.

Senator 14 asks why this legislation was brought before the body, as we cannot control if spectators boo. The author responds that this is a statement as SGA, and it is important to make a statement. Senator 95 asks why we should suspend the rights of other students to boo, and if this resolution requires other students from other schools not to boo our team. The author responds that this resolution requests that the OU student body not boo the OU team, and the resolution does nothing to suspend their rights.

Motion to placard vote by Senator 59, seconded by Senator 69.

Yea

33 2 49 75 (4 total)

Nay

97 93 83 94 34 57 65 6 5 27 65 85 98 25 14 87 50 55 52 16 60 1 19 95 21 48 44 42 77 76 7 37 56
(33 total)

Abstain

72 71 90 59 69 89 11 58 92 29 86 88 78 (13 total)

The Nays have it and the bill does not pass.

GF14-27 (Fall 2014 Special Election Act) is brought to floor by Senator 58, seconded by Senator 86. The author states that 7,000 students were unable to vote for their representative due to a computer error. The reopens elections for those students.

Senator 14 asks how long the voting period will be. The author responds that the voting period will be from 9-6 tomorrow, and that the students are aware of this. Senator 59 asks if students will receive a reminder about this voting period before the election, to which the author responds in the affirmative.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent Senator 59, seconded by Senator 69. No one objects, and the bill passes.

GF14-23 (Compendious GSS By-Laws Amendment Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 97. The author explains the bill as a general housekeeping bill -

clearing up inconsistencies and making some changes (i.e. grants are awarded based on the quality of the application, not the quality of the research as it is hard to judge this without knowledge of the field). The Internal Affairs committee recommends to the body that they pass the bill.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent Senator 59, seconded by Senator 76. No one objects, and the bill passes.

GF14-25 (Fixing Salary Terms Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 58, seconded by Senator 95. The author explains that this bill changes when officers in SGA (paid positions) receive money - previously half of a month's pay was allotted to August and May. This will change that to where a position is fully paid for August, and not paid for May. The total amount allotted for the position would not change.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent Senator 58, seconded by Senator 59. No one objects, and the bill passes.

GF14-26 (Signatory Update Act of 2014) is brought to the floor by Senator 75, seconded by Senator 86. The author explains that this extends the power of signing off on things to the Vice Chair when the Chair is absent or otherwise unavailable. Senator 59 asks for clarification which the author provides - the Vice Chairs signature will be only valid when the Chair is unavailable.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent Senator 95, seconded by Senator 33. No one objects, and the bill passes.

GF14-28 (Emergency Allocation #5) is brought to the floor by 97, seconded by Senator 5. This Act provides \$151.99 to Community Emergency Response Team and \$250 to Architectural Virtuosi.

Senator 72 asks why the money allotted for CERT was listed under office expenses. The author responds that the money was allotted for first aid equipment. Senator 88 asks if this student club is associated with Norman CERT. The authors responds that is is not.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent Senator 75, seconded by Senator 52. No one objects, and the bill passes.

GF14-29 (Emergency Allocation #6) is brought to the floor by Senator 98, seconded by Senator 72. This act allots \$4,225 dollars to the Student Bar Association.

Senator 75 asks why this allocation if for such a large amount. The author responds that the organization did not receive subsidiary funding. Senator 33 asks why they did not receive subsidiary funding. The author responds that SBA did not take the quiz that student organizations are required to take to receive funding. Senator 88 asks if they received primary funding. The author responds that they did. The confusion as to why they did not receive secondary funding was that they were told that they did not need to register as an organization

again, not realizing that this did not exempt them from the requirement of taking the quiz. Senator 59 notices that this act came from congress with a 12-8-6 vote (yeas, nays, abstentions). He asks if this was considered controversial in Congress and why. The author responds that the SBA made an error missing funding deadlines last year. Motion for more time made by Senator 75, seconded by Senator 71.

Senator 75 asks what the benefit the SBA is to organizations within the law college. (The SBA is an administrative organization within the Law College. Any student group within the Law College often applies for funds from the SBA). Senator 65 (of the Law College) mentions that the Law College and the SBA is modeled upon other Law Colleges across the country. While this can isolate the Law College from the rest of the campus, the internal system of the SBA and the Law college mimic the kinds of organizations they will see in their field (the American Bar Association, or the judiciary). Senator 75 ask how many organizations that apply to the SBA gives funding to. Senator 65 approximates at least 12 to 15 organizations are under SBA (there are organizations for different ethnicities within the Law College as well as organizations dealing with specializations in particular aspects of law). Motion for more time made by Senator 88, seconded by Senator 2.

Senator 95 asks if the SBA request a lump sum from the University or are the expenses itemized and vetted. The author responds the expenses are itemized and vetted. Senator 33 asks how much money SBA received in primary funding. The author responds that he does not have that data available right now. George proceeds to look it up. Senator 72 asks if organizations would be able to receive funding without SBA. George responds that with the Emergency Funding Act, they would be able to apply as a student organization and apply for emergency funding a week later. Senator 88 asks if the organizations can be registered with both the SBA and the University. The author responds that they cannot. Senator 83 asks why the confusion about taking the quiz existed. The author responds that they did not think they need to as they are an administrative organization. The author mentions that this will be clarified in the laws to prevent this from happening in the future. George states that the amount claimed in primary funding by SBA was \$2,200. Senator 5 asks if the SBA does not receive their funding, if it will cut off funding for other groups within the Law College. The author responds yes. Motion for more time made by Senator 59, seconded by Senator 88.

Senator 75 asks if primary funding is intended to be for the whole year. The author responds that it is. Senator 33 asks if this is the only source of income for SBA. The author doesn't know.

Motion to placard vote by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 76.

Yea

49 97 83 71 90 65 27 6 5 98 85 14 87 50 69 59 55 2 52 16 60 1 78 89 11 19 44 42 77 76 7 92 37 56 29 86 (36 total)

Nay

75 34 57 25 88 95 33 21 (8 total)

Abstain

72 93 94 48 58 (5 total)

The Yeas have it, and the bill passes.

The Motion to adjourn is made by Senator 2 and seconded by Senator 6. The meeting adjourns at 7:51.