

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

February 22, 2014

7:00 P.M.

SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-235

Meeting called to order at 7:01.

Motion to approve last week's minutes by Senator88, seconded by Senator 85. No one objects, and the motion passes.

The Chair reports that April 7th, GSS will host a Science Day for the children of Positive Tomorrows. Ant interested persons should contact Janessa (of Develpoment and Philanthropy) or the Chair.

The Vice Chair reports that he continues to adjust the email list – if anyone is not receiving the emails, please let him know. The Vice chair also reports something interesting from the last Graduate Council Meeting. The Knowledge Management Masters degree was deleted, as it had no students in several years. Also, Chemistry changed the way it structured its coursework, to where all required coursework before research can be taken in 3 semesters. Instead of three hour classes, there are now two hour classes that are 10 weeks long and 1 hour classes that are 5 weeks long. This allows for a greater variety of topics to be taught and with a depth corresponding to the student's interest.

The Secretary reports that she will be requesting pictures of all Senators at some point, to put up on the website.

Academic Affairs and Development and Philanthropy have nothing to report.

External Affairs report that the review GS15-09 and GS15-10 and recommended no to pass (it was later clarified that, as this legislation was about bills in the House and Senate of the

Oklahoma State Legislature, they were recommending no to pass this legislation, thus agreeing with the content of the resolutions)

Human Diversity has nothing to report.

Internal Affairs report that they have reviewed GS15-06 and recommend it to pass.

Problems and Projects and Public Relations have nothing to report.

Ways and Means report that applications for grants are due March 6th.

GS15-12 (A Resolution Regarding Diversity) is moved from Special orders to New Business by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 71. It is then moved to the floor by Senator 72, Seconded by Senator 88. The author explains that the bill needs to be tabled, as the wording needs some work.

GS15-12 is tabled by Senator 66, seconded by Senator 6. No one objects and the motion passes.

GS15-06 (Survey Codification Act) is brought to the floor by Senator 66, seconded by Senator 6. This act clarifies the process for polling the student body. When someone writes legislation requesting a survey, it shall first go to the committee deemed appropriate for the subject matter. Once it passes the committee, Congressional administration committee shall also review the survey. Surveys can be amended in committee, but not on the floor of congress. The surveys will then be approved en mass before the elections, and administered all at once. If the need is determined, surveys could be published earlier or later than three weeks to one month before the election. Elections are held on November and in March-April in the Spring.

Senator 96 asks for a summary of this process. One of the author states – if someone wishes to give out a survey on bike lanes, this would first be referred to the Transportation committee in congress. One passing the committee with some revisions possibly being made, it is then seen by the Congressional Administration Committee. Then, it is voted on in Congress, and the survey along with others that were passed can be administered to the student body via

the internet all at once. Senator 96 clarifies that this streamlines an existing process. One of the authors confirms this – administering surveys all at once would be easier for Congress.

Senator 88 asks about the wording on part (g) of the bill, as people might need to administer surveys at times other than elections. One of the authors responds that any emergency legislation would supersede this, allowing surveys to be administered at other times if needed.

GS15-06 is passed by unanimous consent by Senator 66, seconded by Senator 88. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-07 (Emergency Allocation Act #8) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 96. It allocated \$400 to the Student Association of Bangladesh. Senator 96 asks what the money was allocated for. The author states that this money was allocated for food and ballroom rental. This event already happened. Senator 72 asks what expenses were not covered by this allocation. The author responds that it was simply impossible to cover the \$5,000 requested by the organization.

GS15-07 is passed by unanimous consent by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 57. No one objects, and the motion passes. \

GS15-08 (Code Annotated Redistricting Act of 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 11, seconded by Senator 7. It redistrict for Undergraduate Student Congress – it classifies Native American Studies as a Humanity, and Sociology is classified a social science, as well as other changes.

GS15-08 is passed by unanimous consent by Senator 72, seconded by Senator 95. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-09 (Concurrent Resolution Responding to HB1380) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 11. Senator 86, seconded by Senator 88 move to move GS15-09 and GS15-10 (Concurrent Resolution Responding to SB650) as a block as their content is essentially similar. No one objects, and the motion passes.

These resolutions wish to replace the AP US history class and exam with a different exam written by the State of Oklahoma. From an economic standpoint, students would need to pay for a far more expensive class to receive college credit than a far cheaper (estimated \$90) exam. In addition, the fact that the legislation states that this exam and curriculum would need to be ready by next year is very rushed.

Senator 15 asks how many students at OU are Not from Oklahoma. The author estimates around 50%. Senator 15 then states that .7% of high school students in Oklahoma take the AP US History exam. He then asks why we should comment on a bill that affects so little. The author responds that it affects not only future students of this university, but Oklahomans as a whole (as they may choose to attend other institutions). Senator 15 asks, as Oklahoma is ranked 48th in education, why we should not change the AP US History course. The author responds that as Oklahoma ranks 48th in education, the legislature is not qualified to do so.

Senator 75 asks whom this bill affects. The author responds that undergraduates at this institution have taken the AP US History exam and received college credit, as she did. This bill would put students from the state of Oklahoma at a disadvantage.

Senator 50 asks what some of the objections the legislators of Oklahoma were making about AP US History. The author states that they say that AP US History is a part of the Common Core (which it is not). The other objection lawmakers made it that it does not teach American Exceptionalism, and does not have a list of documents which must be taught. The response to the latter is that, in the newly designed AP, more leeway is given so that teachers may focus on regional issues, and having a comprehensive list of documents which must be taught limits that freedom.

A motion to extend time for debate is made by senator 95, seconded by Senator 92.

Senator 34 asks if the author is aware that Dan Fisher withdrew his bill this morning, and plans to rewrite it. The author responds that that could change, and as Senate only meets every two weeks, she thought it best to make a statement now just in case.

Senator 96 asks if the student body was polled about how it felt about this resolution. The author responds that as congress is a representative body, she feels that SGA has the right to comment on these matters on behalf of the student body.

Senator 95 asks if this legislation (in Oklahoma) were to be approved, students would be forced to pay full price for this course. The author confirms this. The author clarifies that this course would be offered in lieu of AP US History, and the new course would not be for college credit. Senator 94 ask why the authors chose an economic argument rather than an academic freedom argument. The author responds that it was decided that the economic argument was one that demonstrated a more measurable impact on the student body.

Senator 58 asks if any alternative exists for students other than the AP US History exam. The author mentions that there is International Bachelorette which is a curriculum, but only two schools in Oklahoma offer courses in this program. The other option is concurrent enrollment, which is still much more expensive than the AP Us History Test. Although you do not need to take the class to take the test, high schools would not be offering the test if this legislation is passed.

Senator 15 asks if this would put Oklahoma students at a disadvantage, as the University of Oklahoma should accept this standard. The author disagrees with this, and mentions that Oklahoma students often go out of state, and these students would suffer a disadvantage.

Senator 71, Seconded by Senator 59, move that the bills be brought to a placard vote.

Yeas - 59 72 96 93 94 49 23 57 90 6 5 97 83 98 85 71 27 33 50 78 43 52 67 12 73 75 11 95 19 77
22 21 69 4 44 58 13 41 14 76 17 54 39 66 7 92 86 38 56 91

Total - 50

No Nay Votes

Abstentions - 34 88 55 60 47 15

Total - 6

The motion Passes.

GS15-11 (Emergency Allocation Act #9) is Brought to the floor by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 95. It allocated \$350 to the United World Organization and \$400 to Sooner Dance Company. UWO will spend their money on food and SDC will use their funds to rent a theater. Senator 58 asks why, based on the sizes of the events, SAB did not receive more Monday, The author points out the \$9000 remain in funding, and more could not be reasonably allocated.

GS15-11 is passed by unanimous consent by Senator 96, seconded by Senator 11. No one objects, and the motion passes.

The next meeting is announced as March 8th. Motion to adjourn is made by Senator 41, seconded by 98. No one opposes, and the meeting is adjourned at 7:46.