

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
February 8, 2015
7:00 P.M.
SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-235

Meeting is called to order at 7:00.

Motion to approve last week's minutes is brought by Senator 58, seconded by Senator 5. No one objects, and the motion passes.

The Chair reports that she is excited by the work the Committees of the Senate have been doing. She also reports the Kunal, the SGA president, will issue an apology to the Senate over recent events. She reminds the Senate to be respectful during this time.

The Vice chair reports that if people did not receive the email about the meeting today, to please let him know after the meeting so that Senators will receive all future correspondence.

The Secretary has nothing to report.

Academic Affairs has nothing to report.

Development & Philanthropy report that they are working on a Science Day for Positive Tomorrows. They also introduce the head of Positive Tomorrows, as she is in attendance tonight.

External Affairs has nothing to report.

Human Diversity reports that they are working to organize a panel in light of the recent anti-LGBT legislation that is in Committee in the Oklahoma State House. Also, they report that Sooner Alley will have a training session on Wednesday, February 18th, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Internal Affairs and Problems & Projects have nothing to report

Public Relations reports that Senators should like the GSS Facebook page and follow GSS on Twitter.

Ways and Means has nothing to report.

Kunal Naik addresses the Senate. He is a Petroleum Engineering 3rd year. On December 27th, he was arrested for Public Intoxication. He feels these actions don't reflect SGA or himself, but they cast a bad light on him and his administration. He is dealing with the consequences of his actions with SGA and the law. Senator 95 asks what the charges were. Kunal responds that he was only charged with Public Intoxication.

GS15-01 (Emergency Allocation #7) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 33. The author of the bill also mentions that there will be a budget workshop on the 3rd floor of the Conoco Student Leadership Wing. The bill allots \$400 to the Powerlifting Club and \$250 to the Filipino Student Association. Senator 96 asks about what the Power lifting Clubs funds were allotted for. The author responds that they were allotted for registration fees at events. Senator 96 then asks why funds cannot be spending on registration fees at academic events (to her knowledge). George Ahmadi responds that no RSO has requested funds to attend an academic event to his knowledge, but SGA does support these activities.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent brought by Senator 69, seconded by Senator 33. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-02 (Campaign Reform Act) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 71. This bill changes the spending cap elections to be \$500 instead of \$2000. This is meant to make it easier for those not in a Sorority or Fraternity (who generally fund their candidates) to run a campaign and not be "priced out." This policy is modeled after a similar policy at TCU.

Senator 69 asks how much people usually spend on an election. The author responds that for the last contested election, the full \$2000 was spent by both parties. A follow up question is asked as to what the money is spent on. The author responds that the money is spent on websites, graphic design, chalk, flyers, and occasionally t-shirts.

Senator 95 asks if this limits all spending or just the amount the university spends on the campaign. The author responds that no money is spent by the university, and that this bill would limit all spending. Senator 69 asks how this policy is enforced. The author responds that candidates are required to submit a preliminary spending report, a final spending report, and reports must be confirmed 24 hours after the election. Normally there is email correspondence between the preliminary and the final spending report. Senator 59 asks about spending in an uncontested election. The author, using experience from her own campaign, mentions that she spent \$120 on her campaign. This is why she thought a contested election could reasonably be run on a budget of \$500. Senator 50 asks if the candidates are responsible for money spent on their election by someone else. The author responds that they are responsible.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent brought by Senator 72, seconded by Senator 93. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-03 (Department of Diversity Act of 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 96. This act changes the name of The Department of Special Communities to the Department of Diversity. It also gets rid of the Office of International Students, as it has not functioned for some time (and other better recourses exist for international students). The name change is to reflect that these students are among us and not separate – they a part of the fabric of OU.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent brought by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 76. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-04 (A Resolution responding to HB 1598) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 86. It is a resolution condemning House Bill 1598, which would allow parents to place their child in conversion therapy without the state of Oklahoma interfering. This bill violates Oklahoma Statute 43a as it infringes upon the rights of minors to choose their own therapy. In addition, conversion therapy is ineffective and often inhumane.

Senator 33 asks why we as the University of Oklahoma are commenting on this matter. The author responds that this bill would affect families of current Sooners as well as future Sooners. Senator 58 similarly asks why we would, in response, issue a resolution. The author responds that as a representative body of the University of Oklahoma, we have a duty and right to voice our concern about legislation that could affect us.

Senator 87 asks what stage the bill is in in the House. The author responds that the bill is in committee. The Senator asks if the bill has been heard on the house floor. The author responds that this will be sent to the committee as well, and wished to proactive, not reactive. Senator 95 asks if enrolled student could be affected by this bill. The author responds yes, which is why the bill was written, and why it is within our purview.

A motion to extend the time for debate is made by Senator 58, seconded by Senator 72. The motion passes.

Senator 33 asks if the student body was polled as to how they view the bill. The author responds that Congress reached out to its constituents and received positive feedback on the bill. In addition, Congress is a representative body of the University of Oklahoma, and thus can speak for the student body as a whole. Senator 9 asks if there is a president to responding to legislation in the Oklahoma Congress. The author responds that yes – in the past we have issued a resolution regarding a bill about student's immigration status last year.

Senator 87 asks if there is any other bill Congress wishes to respond to. The author responds that a resolution will probably be drafted to House Bill 1162. Senator 87 asks if it would make more sense to respond to these bills simultaneously. The author responds that it does not – if we respond early, we will be able to send this resolution to the committee before it ever reaches the floor. Senator 33 asks about House bill 1162. The author responds that it is a bill to standardize the application process to all Oklahoma institutions of higher learning (the resolution would be in favor of this bill). Senator 88 asks if we are the only university speaking up. The author know of no other institution, but in not absolutely certain. Senator 69 asks if conversion therapy is practiced in the state of Oklahoma. The author responds that it is, and right now the state of Oklahoma has the right to intervene. At the age of 16 in Oklahoma, a minor has a right to control their mental health, and this bill would interfere with that.

Motion to placard vote is made by Senator 69, seconded by Senator 6. The votes are as follows:

Yea -59 72 97 49 94 23 96 85 90 57 71 93 5 98 27 6 25 76 20 43 50 60 55 78 69 52 14 42
11 77 19 95 21 48 54 39 17 73 38 9 75 92 91 56 86

Total: 45 votes

Nay – 34 33 47 58

Total: 4 votes

Abstentions: 87 88 16 12 22 46 41 15

Total : 8 votes

The motion passes.

GS15-05 (SGA Directors Appointment Act) is brought to the floor by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 54. It appoints Tory Looney, Michael Lutter, Aspen Real, Kendall Burchard, BerThaddeus M.P. Bailey and Tyler Smith as the respective heads of the Department of Communications, Department of Development, Department of the Exterior, Department of the Interior, Department of the Special Communities, and Department of Student Organizations. Present at the meeting are Michael Lutter and Kendall Burchard. All students are very involved at OU and have been selected as the best by the SGA President and Vice President.

Senator 59 asks where the other students are. The author responds that they all had conflicts during this time.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent brought by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 88. No one objects, and the motion passes.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 22. Motion to adjourn is brought by Senator 87, seconded by Senator 97. The meeting is adjourned at 7:34 .