

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
March 29, 2015  
7:00 P.M.  
SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-235

Meeting called to order at 7:00.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes made by Senator 5, seconded by Senator 85. No on objects, and the motion passes.

The Chair reminds everyone about the Science day that will take place on April 7<sup>th</sup>. She needs to know what departments will be involved and which tables will need electricity. Volunteers need to be confirmed, and food will be provided at the event.

The Vice Chair reaffirms that the Positive Tomorrows day is for the children. He also mentions that in Graduate Council a coursework only master's option is being discussed. If it is approved, it will be available on a department by department basis, and then on a case by case basis. There have been no official changes, but this discussion is ongoing. Nominations for Vice Chair are needed, and someone will need to serve on Graduate Council.

The Secretary announces that she is gathering pictures of Senators. Failure to turn in a picture will result in a picture of Cthulhu being used instead.

Academic Affairs mentions that the deadline for nominations for the Outstanding Graduate Student Awards are due Friday at noon.

Development and Philanthropy and External Affairs have nothing to report.

Human Diversity reports that the SGA will have a workshop on being an ally (to LGBTQ) persons.

Internal Affairs announces that the elections will be opened up next meetings, and nomination

forms will be due on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The nominees will need to be interviewed by the executive committee and the election can be held the next meeting.

Problems and Projects and Public Relations have nothing to report.

Ways and Means reports that the first round of grant grading is done.

GS15-12 (A Resolution Regarding Diversity) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 76. It is mentioned that it is almost identical to the original on that was passed with very few adjustments (it takes out references to OU Unheard, and removes the clause that it is “each student's individual responsibility”).

Senator 71 suggests a friendly amendment that the phrase “age, color, disability, gender identity or expression” be added to the second Whereas clause. The friendly amendment is denied.

Senator 71 motions for a formal amendment to be made, seconded by Senator 97.

A motion to vote on the formal amendment is made by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 6.

Yea – 72, 49, 65, 93, 34, 57, 90, 83, 97, 6, 5, 71, 85, 98, 27, 25, 88, 78, 20, 50, 55, 43, 52, 60, 69, 16, 94, 89, 11, 19, 77, 73, 22, 21, 47, 58, 41, 42, 76, 39, 14, 66, 7, 8, 37, 86, 9, 92, 91, 45, 15. (52 votes total)

No Nay votes.

Abstentions – 12, 59.

The amendment passes.

Motion to pass GS15-12 by unanimous consent by Senator 91, seconded by Senator 69. No one objects and the motion passes.

GS15-17 (Emergency Allocation #11) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 98. It allocates \$160.00 to the Bolivian International Student Association. There is now just under \$7000 left in the emergency fund.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 69, seconded by Senator 6. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-18 (Polling Location Act of Spring 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 96. It makes Polling Locations for the upcoming elections – namely the Oklahoma Memorial Union Food Court, Couch Restaurants, Bizzell Memorial Library, and the University of Oklahoma Law School. Voting will also be available online.

Senator 59 asks if Graduate students will be able to vote. The author responds that they will be, and they will also be able to respond to the attached survey. Senator 69 asks if the link will be made available through OUMM. The author confirms this.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 86, seconded by Senator 88. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-19 (Uncontested Elections Act of 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 59, seconded by Senator 86. The act clarifies that even if a candidate is running in an uncontested election, their name must appear on the ballot.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 58, seconded by Senator 20. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-20 (Congress Keeps You Charged) is brought to the floor by Senator 59, seconded by Senator 6. It allocates Money for 20 chargers at the Bizzell Library for laptops. The would be available for checkout on the first floor of Bizzell for 3 hours at a time.

Senator 58 ask who will profit off of the money charged for rental (the wording of the bill say that a person can rent a charger). The author clarifies that this will be a free service. Senator 58 asks if they wording of the bill should be changed. The author mentions that this wording was used by the library, and finds it unnecessary.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 78, seconded by Senator 92. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS15-21 (We'll Buy it Ourselves Act of 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 6, seconded by Senator 52. This is an act authorization the purchase in installation of a chain around the Seal on the Stewart landing. It would be paid for by Student Congress with their contingency funds.

Senator 65 ask is \$1,712 is a reasonable cost for the chain. The author responds that that was the price quoted by facilities management. Senator 14 ask if the materials will match that of the seal. The author confirms this. Senator 8 asks how much of the walkway would be cut off by the chains? The author responds that the perimeter of the ballads would be cut off.

Senator 73 asks what the cos of the Seal was. The author responds that it was ninety thousand dollars. Senator 11 asks if other measures have been taken to protect the seal. The author is unsure. The seal is most likely made of wear-resistant material, but the concern being addressed by this bill is that pedestrian traffic could lower the life of the seal by upto 10 years. The author reminds the Senate that President Boren paid for the seal.

Motion to extend time made b Senator 86, seconded by Senator 43. No one objects, and the motion passes.

Senator 88 asks if there is any evidence of Section 4 ("This act has the approval and blessing of President Boren"). The author states that there are emails between himself an President Boren where these sentiments were made clear.

Senator 69 asks what the life of the seal is projected to be. The author does not know. Senator 91 asks if safety concerns have been considered. The author sates that it is tough to speculate, although the lighting in the area is good, and the chain will b a three tier chain (to hopefully prevent tripping).

Senator 18 asks if any other means of protecting the seal has been discussed. The author doesn't know, but assumes that this is the case.

Senator 11 asks what things are paid for with this fund. The author states that it has been used to

find the laptop chargers that we saw earlier today. It is a fund controlled by Congress, and it started out with \$5,000.

Senator 15 asks if the seal is near a fire exit, and the author states that it is not.

Senator 11 questions why we wish to spend twice as much on a chain as we wish to spend on chargers. The author mentions that since the installation of the chain was quoted by Facilities Management, the price was not negotiable. Senator 43 asks why other quotes were not sought. The author responds that the work must be done through Facilities Management as it is being paid for by Congress.

Senator 27 asks if such chains are commonplace. The author responds that although he has seen roped/chained of seals inside high schools, in general he does not know. He reminds the Senate that the last bill we saw about this subject was vague, but this one specifies the cost of the chain and who would pay for it.

Motion to a placard vote made by Senator 41, seconded by Senator 52.

The votes are as follows -

Yea – 49, 34, 97, 5, 85, 27, 89, 19, 22, 47, 58, 41, 57, 42, 14, 91, 45

Total – 17 votes

Nay – 95, 93, 57, 90, 83, 6, 98, 25, 88, 20, 50, 55, 52, 60, 12, 94, 11, 77, 73, 21, 76, 39, 17, 66, 18, 9, 37, 86, 92, 15

Total – 30

Abstentions – 59, 72, 85, 71, 43, 69, 16

Total – 7

The Nays have it.

The body is told that the bill will now head to a Conference Committee.

The Chair reminds the body that the next meeting will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April.

Motion to adjourn by Senator 86, seconded by 6. No one objects, and the meeting is adjourned at 7:37.