

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
January 31, 2016
7:00 P.M.
SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-235

The meeting is called to order at 7:01

The Chair welcomes everyone to the first meeting, and has nothing major to report.

The Vice Chair and the Secretary have nothing to report.

Academic Affairs reports that the award for outstanding graduate student application is now available on Orgsync.

Development and Philanthropy, External Affairs, Human Diversity, Internal Affairs, and Problems and Projects have nothing to report.

Ways and Means announce that they have made changes to the recommendation form and have instituted a new policy that no single department can receive more than 15% of the total award allotment in a given semester

Sustainability has nothing to report.

GS 16-01 (A Resolution Regarding Syrian Refugees Humanitarian Crisis) is brought to the floor by Senator 89, seconded by Senator 74. The author explains that this is a bill condemning recent remarks of Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin.

Senator 97 asks why we are sending this resolution out of state to Governors other than Mary Fallin. The author responds that the University of Oklahoma has students from a wide range of states, and the states listed are those with governors that made similar remarks.

Senator 69 asks what the benefits or consequences of this resolution are. The author responds that the consequences might mean we are contradicted by a governor, and the benefits might be that we sway a governor's opinion.

Senator 86 asks why the resolution makes mention of the word 'unconstitutional'. The author responds that the governor of a state cannot make foreign policy decisions.

Senator 66 clarifies that the governor cannot, but the president can. The author affirms this.

Senator 48 asks what we as a student bod will do if our statement is ignored. The author responds that a next step would be to talk to our state representatives.

Senator 40 asks if we need President Boren to approve this. The author responds that we do not, although he will receive a copy of this.

Senator 66 asks if a friendly amendment can be accepted where “political stances and statements” is replaced by “proposals.” The friendly amendment is accepted.

Senator 65 asks if the Governor has actually taken any action against refugees yet. The author responds that it seems to be only talk so far, and no action.

Senator 74 asks if anyone from OU Law college has gone over the resolution. The author says it has not. The Senator follows u with the remark that Mary Fallin cannot actually ban people from Syria from entering Oklahoma, and stating that someone is doing unconstitutional actions is not the same as saying that the are morally wrong.

Senator 66 asks if the author is aware hat remarks cannot be unconstitutional, only policy can. The author is aware.

Motion by Senator 74, seconded by Senator 71 for more time in the debate.

Senator 66 proposes to the author that the bill would make more sense if it used the subjunctive tense. The author says he is open to a friendly amendment to fix this.

Senator 59 asks if the author would accept a friendly amendment to strike the other governors names off the list of recipients. The author does not accept this friendly amendment.

Senator 18 asks if this is our first contact with the Governor over this issue. The author affirms that it is. The Senator responds that it seems a little confrontational for our first dialogue about this issue.

Senator 74 asks if the bill is meant to be in favor of Syrian Refugees or if it is just against Governor Mary Fallin. The author responds that the original bill had more of both of these elements, but hey were struck in Congress.

Senator 48 asks why we don't send the resolution to the mayors of towns in Oklahoma rather than governors. The author responds that he would be happy to add additional recipients to he resolution.

Senator 66 mentions that when he interned for a congressman, out of state mail would be instantly thrown away. The author responds that it should not be detrimental to send the resolution to Out of State Governors.

Senator 59 moves to make a hostile amendment striking he names of the out of state Governors from the bill. In confusing turn of events, Senator 59, seconded by Senator 74 move

to go to a placard vote, but Senator 66 objects. The vote on whether to vote on the bill without the hostile amendment is as follows:

Yeas – 21 77 76 38 83 6 57 59 69 71 20 88 87 81 34 94 16 96 11 39 75 3 53 49 61 64 42
98 63 19 68 69 66 89 56 – 35 votes

Nays – 5 72 47 97 17 55 82 14 27 86 12 40 18 85 48 52 - 16 votes

Abstentions – 74 73 90 78 – 4 votes

The yeas do not have the 2/3 majority. The motion to move to a placard vote fails.

The senate moves into debate.

Motion by Senator 71, seconded by Senator 65 for more time in the debate.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 66 seconded by Senator 87, but Senator 97 objects.

Senator 69 mentions that Mary Fallin will never read this.

Senator 48 mentions that this seems to be an ineffective use of our time.

Senator 69 says that as the Governor can't actually ban people from entering the state, this serves no purpose.

Senator 66 quotes:

“First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”

Senator 6 says that it is important for the Governor to know how we feel.

Senator 69 says that this is not the correct form to address this issue.

Senator 87 says that this statement is important to make.

Senator 74 mentions that we could support Syrian refugees rather than be negative about comments made by the Governor.

Senator 18 mentions that this is not giving Governor Mary Fallin a chance to defend her views or listen to us.

Senator 76 says that the resolution is a great idea, but it should be about the comments of Mary Fallin as there are not any policies.

Senator 72 mentions that we do not have enough students from out of state to represent a significant voice of the constituents of each of the Governors.

Senator 40 is opposed the sending it altogether, as he is opposed to the word choice and wishes to make a good impression. He asks if there is an archive of these documents. The chair responds that hard copies of all the legislation are kept. The Senator asks if there is an electronic version that is accessible. The chair responds that there is not, but one could perhaps be made.

Senator 66 mentions that he supports that instead of sending the legislation to a bunch of Governors, send it to a bunch of Mayors instead.

A friendly amendment to add the mayors is proposed and accepted.

Senator 64 is curious as to which towns we will send this resolution to. Is there some metric? Perhaps the 30 most populated towns?

Senator 74 states that letters should be sent to all mayors, and the Governor of Texas as a significant number of students in Oklahoma are from Texas.

Motion for more time made by Senator 86, seconded b Senator 57.

Motion to send the resolution to the Human Diversity Committee for rewriting made by Senator 94, seconded by Senator 59. The motion passes.

GS 16-02 (An Act Appointing SGA Directors) is brought to the floor by Senator 21, seconded by Senator 18. The author explains that application were open from Monday before before Thanksgiving break to the Friday After Thanksgiving break. There were 60 applications and 30 interviews turing the MTW of dead week. The 4 directors we see before us were appointed by committee.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 87, seconded by Senator 64. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GS16-03 (An Act Amending the Act of Procedure Approving Travel/Conference/Creative Exhibition Grant) is brought to the floor by 86, seconded by Senator 11. It fixes a typo.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 64, seconded by Senator 65. No one objects, and the motion passes.

The Chair mentions that the next meeting will be on Valentines Day.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Senator 97, seconded by Senator 73. No one objects, and the meeting is adjourned at 8:05.