

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

Meeting called to order at 7:01.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes made by Senator 85, seconded by Senator 21. No on objects, and the motion passes.

The Chair states that there will be changes made to the grant processes, so to please tell people to wait until February before turning in their grant forms.

The Vice Chair and Secretary have nothing to report.

Academic Affairs has nothing to report.

Development and Philanthropy report that they have made a toy drive registry at Target (first name Toy, Last name Drive). Fliers will be sent out later, so that people may post them.

External Affairs, Human Diversity, Internal Affairs, Problems and Projects, and Public Relations have nothing to report.

Ways and Means reports that grants are done – we will see the legislation tonight.

Sustainability reports that next week a survey about transportation will be sent out. GS15-

18 (Presidential Transition Act) is brought to the floor by Senator 57, seconded by Senator 41. It states that the President and the Vice President will assume their positions one week after the election.

Motion to pass GF15-18 by unanimous consent by Senator 72, seconded by Senator 47. No one

objects, and the motion passes.

GF15-24 (An Act of Procedure Approving Travel/Conference/Creative Exhibition Grant Awards For the 2015 Fall Semester) is brought to the floor by Senator 69, seconded by Senator 11. This year, 109 applications were received, of which 103 made it to the second round (the first round of grading checks that all sections are present and all instructions followed). Of those, 53 had a score of 175 out of 200 or greater (each application is graded by two people, each person grading out of 100). 14 of those grants were for research, 39 were for conferences. \$32,443.53 was awarded in total.

Senator 69 asks if the money distributed in grants is specifically allotted for grants. The author responds yes. A follow up question is asked about how much money is allotted each year. The author responds that \$84 thousand dollars was allotted for this year. This is consistent with the policy of keeping 20-30 thousand left in the account at the end of the academic year in case funding becomes an issue.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 99, seconded by Senator 52. No one objects, and the motion passes.

Senator 22 asks for a point of information – when will the legislation (which was not sent out and is not being projected) be made available. The Vice Chair mentions that she will send out an email containing the legislation later.

GF15-25 (An Act Appointing General Council of 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 87, seconded by Senator 77. It appoints Jordan Soto to General Council.

Senator 99 asks about the duties involved in this appointment. The author states her duties would be to serve as an advocate for students with the integrity council and to update the code annotated. Later it is clarified that this position is also the “Supreme Court” position of SGA, issuing opinions and settling disputes about interpretations of the bylaws within SGA.

Senator 86 asks how many students use the services of the integrity council. Jordan responds that about 2-3 students a week. Senator 13 asks if students are aware of the Integrity Council's services. Jordan responds yes – they are made aware of them in the email they receive when they are accused.

Senator 73 asks if this is a paid position, to which the answer is yes. Senator 69 asks how much the position is paid, to which the response is \$12 per hour.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 99, seconded by Senator 64. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GF15-17 (Senate Attendance Act of 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 42, seconded by Senator 89. It puts departments in bad standing that haven't sent senators for over a year, namely the School of Accounting and the Department of Native American Studies. Senator 69 asks if these departments were notified, to which the Chair replies yes. Senator 87 asks if each senator from each department is allowed two absences. The Chair responds yes, but these departments in particular have sent no one at all for the past year. Senator 77 asks if elections for Senators were held. As that process is internal to each department, the Chair doesn't know. Senator 69 asks if other departments will be adding to the bad standing list next semester. The Chair responds that appropriately 5 departments are in danger of being in bad standing if they do not send senators.

Senator 77 asks if graduate liaisons were the only one within a department contacted. The chair states that this is the official channel as specified by the bylaws, and so it was the only one pursued (though both calls and email were used). Senator 5 asks if this is the fault of the graduate liaison, if the department should be held accountable. The Chair responds that yes, but they can appeal to Internal Affairs. Senator 69 clarifies that departments can appeal or just re-enter good standing by sending a senator for one semester.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 11, seconded by Senator 89. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GF15-19 (Polling Fairish Act of 2015) is brought to the floor by Senator 88, seconded by Senator 91. The author is not present, so it is tabled by Senator 40, seconded by Senator 90.

GF15-20 (Subsidiary for Student Organizations) is brought to the floor by Senator 78, seconded by Senator 42. This details subsidiary funding for 117 student organizations. \$764,815.49 was requested and \$59,921.67 was allocated.

Senator 69 asks if any graduate student organizations were funded, to which the author responds yes. Senator 86 asks about the procedure for deciding how much funds to allocate to an organization. The author responds that the Bylaws dictate this. Five things are considered – 1) the degree to which this is a unique service being offered to the student body, 2) the scope (how many students are affected by this organization), 3) the percentage of funds used in the previous year, 4) the clarity and reasonableness of the budget, 5) if the budget provided can accomplish the goals of the organization.

Senator 86 follows up and asks why student organizations are told the amounts allotted before the bill is passed in the Senate. The author explains that the reason the amounts are posted is so that a student organization can protest. It is also made clear to the student organizations that this is a process – the amounts are not guaranteed until the process is complete. Senator 86 asks if graduate students have a voice on the WAM committee. The author responds that yes – Patrick M Kennedy is on the committee this year.

Senator 91 asks again how much was allocated to student organizations, and is told \$59,921.67. This includes administrative organizations. Senator 69 asks how this amount compares to years past. Approximately \$55 thousand was allotted last term and \$50 thousand the term before that.

Senator 40 asks if a preference is given to service organizations. The author responds that this is one part of the total allocations, but it is not a preference. Senator 40 then asks how the spending of each organization is tracked. The author responds that Curt (SGA accounts) keeps track of this with receipts and such.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 69, seconded by Senator 39. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GF15-21 (Subsidiary for Administrative Organizations) is brought to the floor by Senator 38, seconded by Senator 99. This allocates \$21,807.81 to Housing Center Student Association, Independent Greek Council, Student Bar Association, and the Emergency Allocation Account. Senator 99 asks what happens if not all the funds are used. The author responds that they are used in next year's funding. Senator 64 asks what happens if an organization fails when applying for primary funding and then applies for subsidiary. The author responds that their requested budget is docked by at least 50%.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 99, seconded by Senator 56. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GF15-22 (Emergency Allocation #5) is brought to the floor by Senator 78, seconded by Senator 88. It allots \$500 to Pi Beta Delta. There is now \$14,483 left in emergency funding.

Senator 71 asks how many members Pi Beta Delta has. The author responds that they have 50 members. The funds were to hold an annual banquet. Senator 5 asks why this is being seen as emergency funding (as they should have been able to predict the expenses). The author responds the organization did not secure primary funding. Senator 64 asks when primary funding is decided. The author responds the primary funding is decided the semester before. Senator 40 asks if the members pay a fee in this organization. The author believes the organization pays \$65 dues of each person to the national organization, but otherwise charges no fees. Senator 86 asks if the fact that this organization did not receive primary funding was taken into account. The author responds that it was. Senator 100 asks if emergency funding allocated to an organization is lower, to which the author responds yes. Senator 73 asks how this affects our student fees. The author and George respond that SGA as a whole gets \$660 thousand dollars from the collected student fees.

Motion to pass by unanimous consent made by Senator 78, seconded by Senator 89. No one objects, and the motion passes.

GF15-23 (A Concurrent Resolution Regarding Democracy Day) is brought to the floor by Senator 22, seconded by Senator 87. It is a resolution to declare the second Tuesday in November every two years to be Democracy Day, and make it a student holiday. As 80% of students did not participate in elections last year, perhaps this will encourage them to do so. While faculty have two hours paid leave on that day, student's do not have this protection for taking time off (on a day possibly with projects or tests). Senator 64 asks if anything additional is going to be done to raise awareness of voting. The author responds that as student holidays affect planning, he believes that this will raise a significant amount of awareness. Also, dorms can now be used as student's permanent address, and voting drive will be staged on campus leading up to the event.

Senator 88 asks if there will be any places on campus. The author responds that there will be a place to vote in the church across the street from the dorms. Senator 69 asks what percentage of students are eligible to vote. The author does not know, but mentions that most freshman are 18 by the time of the general election. Senator 72 asks why the resolution was not made for a half day. The author responds that the rest of the student's day may be occupied with work – this is to guarantee some time for those student's at the polls. Senator 5 brings up that we do give students a day off for football. Senator 48 asks if this legislation will make Democracy Day will be like the OU TX day. The author responds yes. Senator 89 asks if what year this will start taking place. The author responds that this will hopefully take place by next year if approved by Boren and the Board of Regents.

Motion to placard vote made by Senator 69, seconded by Senator 39. The votes were as follows:  
Yeas – 5, 72, 71, 6, 90, 57, 76, 78, 67, 81, 20, 45, 69, 91, 14, 17, 16, 15, 82, 12, 11, 96, 99, 40, 18, 38, 75, 87, 88, 3, 53, 61, 48, 68, 63, 64, 42, 42, 93, 98, 43, 55, 52, 89  
Total – 43  
Nays – 86, 100, 13, 21, 22  
Total – 5  
Abstain – 47, 38, 85, 56, 73  
Total – 5

The yeas have it.

The chair announces that we have our next meeting in 2 weeks.

Motion to adjourn made by Senator 11, second by Senator 45. The meeting is adjourned at 7:39.