

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
October 2, 2015 7:00 P.M.
SARKEY'S ENERGY COMPLEX A-23

Meeting called to order at 7:00.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes made by Senator 85, seconded by Senator 100.

The Chair is sick, and thus is absent.

The Vice Chair and Secretary have nothing to report.

Academic Affairs and Development and Philanthropy have nothing to report.

External Affairs reports that they will begin investigating high student fees and what they go towards.

Human Diversity reports that they worked with Student Congress on a resolution about Columbus day that we will see later tonight.

Internal Affairs, Problem and Projects, and Public relations have nothing to report.

Ways and Means reports that Grant applications are due on October 16th. The forms will be updated to reflect this soon.

Sustainability has nothing to report.

GF15-09 (Emergency Allocation Act 2) is brought to the floor by Senator 11-seconded by Senator 34. Oklahoma Library and Information is granted \$100, Students Against Factory Farming is granted \$300, Oklahoma Golf Club is granted \$350, and Society of American Archivists is granted \$75.

Motion to approve by Unanimous consent is made by Senator 97, seconded by Senator 87. None oppose, and the motion passes.

GS15-07 (A Joint Resolution relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day; declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day at the University of Oklahoma; encouraging other institutions to recognize the Day; and reaffirming the University's commitment to promote the well-being and growth of The University of Oklahoma's American Indian and Indigenous community) is brought to the floor by Senator 47, seconded by Senator 21. Sydney Grey presents the proposal that the 12th of October, which is traditionally Columbus day (unrecognized by the University) be celebrated as Indigenous Peoples day, and recognized by the University. The hope I that this will encourage more native people

to apply to OU (recent years have indicated a declining trend in native enrollment). The groups involved in writing this resolution will ask for funding and have event on the South Oval on October 12th.

Senator 72 asks what events have been planned. One of the authors responds that CAC and SGA will be working together on this event, and they plan to showcase native food (precolonial), have representations of their dances and culture, as well as more modern artist to show how Native American culture still exists and continues to evolve today. The event will hopefully be part of a healing process for native students on campus.

Senator 11 asks if they plan on doing this event regardless of whether the University recognizes it or not. While this I acknowledged as true, the point is made that it would be helpful if the University recognized this as an event. This would help the healing process for native students as well as be helpful when inviting others to the event.

Emily Sample of student Congress adds that this resolution, while being effective this year, will have more impact in future years when there will be more time to plan.

Senator 64 asks if there is president for this kind of event at other universities. It is unknown at this time, but it is known that there are efforts to have Columbus Day be Indigenous Peoples day in OKC. These efforts have been met with positive responses. It is later clarified by Senator 6 that University of Denver, University of Texas, University of Michigan, Yale, Brown and Columbia have all done events like this which were met with positive responses. Senator 6 was present for the event at Columbia and mentions that it went well.

Senator 62 asks if this event ha the support of tribes in the area. It is indicated that there are 160 letters from tribe elders, faculty, and students all in support of this event and from man different nations. There is no official consensus but all responses to this event have been positive. It is also indicated that one should cal these groups nations, not tribes.

Senator 89 asks if, in the future, the events on the South Oval will include discussions about native issues. The response is yes, although it I mentioned that conversation also naturally arises around food, dance, dress, etc. These experiences will make room for and initiate conversations about native issues

Motion to approve by unanimous consent is made by Senator 52, seconded by Senator 20. None oppose, and the motion passes.

GS15-07 (Election Reform Act) is brought to the floor by Senator 99, seconded by Senator 21. The author explain that several issues arose with respect to the elections last year, and this legislation is an attempt to fix those issues. Some of the things addressed by this legislation are:

- Mass unsolicited texts were made on the day of the election last year. In the future, rulings as to weather these constitute a rules violation will be at the discretion of the election chair.
- Campaigning is allowed in the OU Law school
- SGA policy supersedes all policies

- Whenever a grievance is reported, the person who make the grievance will remain confidential
- On the day of the election, people associated with the campaign cannot wear anything associated with the campaign or influence people with language to vote for a particular candidate
- A roster of everyone associated with the campaign is to be available to the election chair at any time
- Voting will now cease at 8:00 instead of 5:00.

Senator 99 asked if outside funding is restricted by the budget. The response is yes – it is included in the \$500 that campaigns are allowed to spend. Senator 64 asks about Section 5d, iv)

Unless explicitly allowed by the Election Chair, candidates shall not campaign or post candidate information or advertising on any website hosted or operated by OU IT other than the official candidates' statements.

and to whether this pertained to create.ou.edu. The author mention that this section was not updated in this bill, but she will look into it. Mostly this is at the discretion of the election chair.

Motion to approve by Unanimous consent is made by Senator 99, seconded by Senator 11. None oppose, and the motion passes.

Motion to adjourn mad by Senator 18, seconded by Senator 39. None oppose, and the motion passes. The meeting is adjourned at 7:21.