

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
January 29th, 2016 7:00 P.M.  
Sarkeys Energy Center, A235**

**Call to Order by Chair at 7:00 p.m.**

**Approval of the Minutes:** Senator 91, seconded by Senator 11

**Officer Reports:**

- Chair : Welcome back. If someone has resigned please talk to department about filling seat, just let us know at GSS. Sign in on the sign in sheet, we're updating departments.
- Vice-Chair: since it's a new semester, reminder to get legislation to him Wednesday before meeting or we won't see on Sunday. gssvicechair@ou.edu
- Secretary: Please sign in on the sign in sheet, we are getting new placards and trying to make sure the department names are all up to date.

**Committee Reports:**

- Academic Affairs: thank you, madam chair. Today they discussed GS 17 02 and thought of questions about legislation.
- Development & Philanthropy: we donated \$500 worth of toys to toy drive. (applause). We brainstormed ideas for spring, food drive, etc. let them know if you have ideas.
- External Affairs: no report
- Human Diversity : no report
- Internal Affairs: no report
- Public Relations: follow twitter for weather related issues. @ou\_gradsenate . follow for follow. (laughter)
- Sustainability no report
- Ways and Means : no report

**Special Orders:**

Motion to move special orders (GS17-01, GS17-02) to New Business. Motion by Senator 35, seconded by Senator 100.

- GS17-01 SGA Cabinet Directors Appointment Act
  - Motion to move to floor. Senator 78, Seconded by Senator 98
  - JD Baker, SGA President, will present.
    - I am JD Baker, SGA president. This bill basically appoints directors of each cabinet. Candidates are as follow:
      - Riley is not here.
      - Eric is here. Up for Director of Department of Academic Affairs
      - Austin: Director of Department of Interior
      - Annie: Director of Department of Communication
      - Vanessa. Director of Department of Inclusivity
    - JD Baker continues, all candidates are qualified. Sophomores and juniors all with cabinet experience. Involved and well rounded.
    - Yields rest of time for questions
      - Senator 72: slightly confused on order of things. Don't we need to approve GS 17-02 before we appoint Director? Withdraws question.

- Senator 59: Can each candidate say something about your academic programs, where you're from, etc.
  - Eric Nichols: Academic Affairs: Junior accounting with constitution studies minor
  - Austin: Sophomore, on cabinet last year. Studying economics and letters. From Austin, TX.
  - Vanessa: sophomore constitutional studies and political science. Has cabinet experience.
  - Annie: sophomore with industrial and systems engineering.
- Senator 10. Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
- Seconded by Senator 97.
- Objections: Senator 59.
- Objection seconded by Senator 90.
- Question by Senator 59, Mr. Nichols: what do you see for your role in dept. of academic affairs?
  - Eric Nichols: Open as possible, every student at OU experiences academics. Wants to hear concerns and problems and tackle those issues.
- Senator 59, motion to pass by unanimous consent
- Motion Seconded by Senator 18
- No objections.
- Motion passes.
- GS17-02 Act Establishing the Academic Affairs Department.
  - Motion to move to floor by Senator 60, seconded by Senator 40.
  - JD Baker presenting. Bill focuses on establishing new department of academic affairs. Some of those issues now fall under dept. of interior but he felt it would be better separated. Interior will now focus on social issues and now academic affairs will operate for academics, will help be more efficient and delegate better. Tackle different things like fill advisory boards and creating advisory board for board of regents. Very effective department to have.
  - Yield rest of time for questions.
  - Senator 48 motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator 66.
  - No objections.
  - Motion passes.

**Announcements:** We need 3 members for General Council. First 3 to apply to Carrie at [gss.ou.edu](mailto:gss.ou.edu) General council meetings help craft policy aimed at graduate students. Meetings are once a month on Wednesdays. Again, please contact Carrie to apply.

**Motion to adjourn.**

Senator 11, seconded by Senator 20.

**Adjournment : 7:10 p.m.**