

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
March 19th, 2017 7:00 P.M.  
Sarkeys Energy Center, A235**

**Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.**

**Approval of the Minutes: Senator 122, and Senator 5**

**Officer Reports:**

- Chair: No report. Hope you all had a good break.
- Vice-Chair: Sorry about email thing, hopefully you will all be receiving emails from now on.
- Secretary: No report.

**Committee Reports:**

- Academic Affairs: Thank you Madam Chair. Discussed revision of graduate assistant roles, made slight changes to that. Slight changes to that, due 7<sup>th</sup> of April to GSS office in Union. We wish our Vice Chair Brian a very happy birthday. (Applause)
- Development & Philanthropy: Hello guys. Our committee is working on supply drive for local students in Norman. We have deadline, flyer will be sent to Carrie, if GSS members could please post those flyers in departments that would be amazing. This would provide help for Norman students. If you can contribute, even a little, \$3 or \$4 of supplies, would be amazing.
  - Carrie: Watch for a flyer in the next week about what we need, and contribute if you can.
  - Question: Can we send that to department liaisons?
  - Carrie: We can send out on OUMM. Please send out to your department liaisons.
- External Affairs: No report.
- Human Diversity: No report.
- Internal Affairs: No report.
- Public Relations: No report
- Sustainability: You probably got emails already, but Earth day is April 20<sup>th</sup> and OU is hosting Earth Month in April 2017. Month full of awesome talks about social justice issues and cool events like panel discussions and movies. Encouraged to participate.
- Ways and Means: No report

**Special Orders:** Motion to move to New Business: Motion by Senator 93, seconded by Senator 34

- Tracey Langford, OU Student Legal Services
  - George: I am not Tracey Langford, but I will introduce her. During Pae/Leader administration, one of their ideas was to start student legal services and opened office last year on 2 year trial basis. First hired attorney has made her round to student

Congress and is now here to tell GSS about student legal services office and their services for students at OU.

- Tracey Langford: Powerpoint presentation. She started here last November and her job was to bring vision of SGA's SLS program to life. Former VP Michael Leader discovered that OU was one of only public universities in Big 12 that doesn't have SLS program, so work began to start one. They secured funding, now here she is for 2 year pilot program. SLS program here is 1 of 150, the model here at OU is the advise and consultation program. They hope to grow, but for now are in the baby steps model. They provide limited scope legal consultation. Forms/guidance that can enable students to help themselves. Most attorneys don't recommend self help, but there are some areas within law that you don't need to pay thousands of dollars for an attorney and with help filling out forms you can be taken care of. Limited scope is a way for her to provide best and most services to everyone because as you can imagine there are some cases (criminal/family) that she could easily spend 40 hours on most simple trial. For her, as a part time employee and only employee, one student could easily take up all of her time IF they provided litigation services, so they don't provide those. However, students utilizing SLS can still have attorney client privileges. So far they've helped a student with a name change, an expungement, so there is real value with this program. They are helping save these students money with legal advice, and this SLS is an invaluable service. Some other legal reps will provide free consultation, but not without pressure of sale. SLS here at OU won't have that pressure. She will be able to help student with agreed divorce, landlord/tenant issue, and goal is to help every student as much as possible. They have referral network of attorneys in the area that have agreed to help students. Limitations are that she cannot assist one OU student against another, or students against faculty/staff, or against University. Other than that, come see her!  
[sls@ou.edu](mailto:sls@ou.edu)
- Senator 74: Could you expand on the differences between this program and the OU Legal clinic? What are the main differences?
  - Tracey: Legal clinic have license legal interns, equivalent of resident doctor. They take cases with litigation (go to court), so their students can learn. She cannot get involved once the case gets to the courthouse. OU Legal clinic have limited resources as well, they have more people trying to use their services than they have resources to provide. She can refer student to the OU legal clinic, so maybe some overlap.
- Senator 37: She knows that Walker Tower room 235 west is near student conduct hallway. How might connection there be a deterrent or in a coalition?
  - Tracey: They are on same floor, not same hallway. They are west North, they are west south. They are not in same area, she is around housing and food. No risk of anyone being seen or something like that. She does not work with student conduct
- Senator 97: If there is a student of this university facing criminal investigation/charges, and they've retained a public defender, could they still seek out your services?
  - Tracey: Sure, but if they are already involved with counsel, there are some ethical restraints. She could certainly talk them through some things.
- Senator 82: Is this something you're looking to open up for law students to do pro bono work?

- Tracey: Yes absolutely. That is one of her hopes. One of neatest parts is finding about SLS/NLADA, which is a national program for attorneys in her position that are serving student bodies. She is now a member of that group and it's beneficial because she can compare and contrast this program vs. other universities and how they help/what they avoid, and see how they grow. She has been able to make contacts with other services (including Texas) and she has ideas about room to grow.
    - Carrie: Any other questions? (No) Thank you! (Applause)
- GS17-14 Molly Shi Boren Resolution
  - Motion to move to floor by Senator 67, seconded by Senator 115.
  - Author Carlos Rubio, on undergraduate student congress.
    - He passed resolution thanking President Boren for his service, and got the idea to thank Molly Shi Boren as well. She has had 53 years of service, making this thank you overdue. Yield rest of time for questions.
  - Senator 73, motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Senator 17 seconded.
  - No objections.
  - Motion passes.
- GS17-15 GSS By-Laws Senator Attendance and Departmental Standing Amendment Act of 2017
  - Motion to move to the floor by Senator 82.
  - Seconded by Senator 38.
  - Author Jenny Russell presenting:
    - This amendment to bylaws is to make definitions more consistent, and to add more specific language related to departments sending one or two senators. Currently, the by-laws state that if any senator from the department misses too many meetings, the whole department goes into bad standing. However, these amendments state that as long as one senator from the department attends, the whole department will remain in good standing. Additionally, there was no definition about departments being on probation, although a probationary period is mentioned. Therefore, we have added a definition about the probationary period. Departments on probation are still eligible for grants. The reason for these changes are to clarify what GSS is already doing regarding attendance and good standing, and we want to be inclusive as possible while also having standards. The good and bad standing for departments are just so Ways and Means knows who is eligible for grant money, and it is important to clarify since we gave out \$40,000 in grants last Fall 2016. Yield the rest of my time for questions.
    - Senator 6: Can you clarify what happens when a proxy is sent?
    - Jenny: If you send a proxy, it does not count as an absence.
    - Question: What if you find a proxy late and can't get the proxy form in before the meeting?
    - Jenny: We are pretty lenient on this.. so if you submit the proxy form in a reasonable time we will accept it.
  - Senator 73: Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator 111
  - No objections.
  - Motion passes.

- GS17-16 Auxiliary Funding #10. Motion to move to floor by Senator 93, seconded by Senator 82
  - Celeste, SGA Ways and Means committee member, presiding.
  - Russian Club, \$620 for food and promotion
  - The United World, \$1800 for rentals
  - Club Golf, \$800 for fees and supplies
  - Total legislative allocation = \$3,220.00
  - This leaves \$100,000 left in account
  - Senator 107, Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator 79
  - No objections
  - Motion passes

**Old Business:** Motion to move to floor by Senator 25, seconded by Senator 9

- GS17-13 A Concurrent Resolution Condemning Further Cuts in State Support to Higher Education
  - Author Andrew Kierig: Good evening. You all remember we passed this 3 weeks ago. It went to Congress, our distinguished former president made some excellent suggestions/modifications. Only significant addition was last where as clause highlighting every dollar invested in OK higher ed generates ~\$4. Added Senator John Sparks and added titles of some other recipients.
  - Senator 107: How was \$4.72 return on investment determined?
  - Andrew: Taken out by study contracted by State Regents for Higher Ed that brought in consulting group (accounting firm). He can send link
  - Senator 107: Based over several years?
  - Andrew: Average return over past 20 years. 2014 ... 1993 – 2013.
  - Carrie: Any other questions? Motions?
  - Senator 93 motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator 61.
  - No objections
  - Motion passes.

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Senator 12, seconded by Senator 74

**7:29 p.m. adjournment**