

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 7:00 P.M.  
Sarkeys Energy Center, A202**

**Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.**

**Approval of the Minutes: Senator 93, seconded by Senator 19**

**Officer Reports:**

- Chair : hope everyone has a nice summer, thanks for a good semester. Fill our new senator forms as soon as possible for next fall. IF you are chair for a committee and want to leave notes for them, feel free to do so and send on to exec. and we can pass it along to new committee chairs. it's been a great semester
- Vice-Chair: no report
- Secretary: Thanks for attending so I have a job to do, and for reading the minutes because I know you all do that after every meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

- Academic Affairs: thank you madam chair, we discussed our outstanding grad student awards, we are proud of all 3 of them because they're committed to excellence. Sure the president of the university would be proud as well.
- Development & Philanthropy: after last meeting we dropped off supplies for Norman school districts. Committee members worked hard and did 2 drives, and donated lots of things to the kids (applause).
- External Affairs: thank you. We talked about de-briefed what we did this year and recommendations for next year.
- Human Diversity: We covered some final business and chair Nathan wanted to thank fellow committee members, worked hard this year and they got some things done. Some people are graduating and leaving, and highly encourage fellow committee members that are staying to consider chairing committee and representing this committee.
- Internal Affairs: No report.
- Public Relations: No report.
- Sustainability: No report.
- Ways and Means: No report.

## **Special Orders: Motion to move to new business by Senator 37, seconded by Senator 10**

- GS17-30: An Act Defining a Requirement of the Sustainability Chair
  - Motion to move to floor by Senator 43, seconded by Senator 18
  - Author Kyle Broadfoot explains he is chair for sustainability committee and this bill would make something concrete that they've already been doing this year. Chair of committee would attend environmental concerns meeting every month. They serve as advisory body to university, this would ensure there is grad student representation. Yield time for questions.
  - Senator 93: How would you enforce it?
  - Carrie: If they were found to not be fulfilling their duties they could be removed from their chair position
  - Senator 73: Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator 81
  - No objections
  - Motion passes

### GS17-31: An Act Regarding Salary Increases for the SGA Staff

- Motion to move to floor by Senator 34, seconded by Senator 12
  - Author Carrie Pavlowsky explains that a bond issued expired with funds for university, we have more money in account this year. Two staff for SGA would get an annual raise, including Debbie Strong and Curt Swanson. Cost of living increase.
  - Senator 73: how do you rate the performance of the two over the past academic year?
  - Carrie: I like them both, Curt handles every single reimbursement for all RSO's. he also oversees every account in SGA and in charge of all audits. HE has never messed up and is always on the ball. Answers lots of questions, sometimes can be slow for reimbursements but he is great.
  - Senator 107: quick question. Is there a particular reason that the pay increase isn't at the same rate? The first pay increase is 9% the second is 7%
  - Carrie: the two members have been here different amounts of time. University can only allow pay raises based on tenure. Linked to time worked here and 'actual' positions. Secretarial staff vs. financial.
  - Senator 93: motion to pass by unanimous consent
  - Seconded by Senator 34
  - No objections
  - Motion passes.

- GS17-32 SFC Co-Chair Appointment Act
- Motion to move to floor by Senator 1, seconded by Senator 85
  - Authors Daniel Carpenter and Lucy Cates, explain they are members of freshman council and they help freshman transition into their first year at university, and they have been selected to choose new transition team and plan next year and show new freshman their path. These two feel they are fit to fill these positions (~30) next year. They'd be happy to take questions.
  - Senator 73: What exactly it is you do at these meetings?
  - Lucy: we met each week, they have speakers (deans from colleges, director of student life, etc) people who run different student organizations, departments, study abroad, scholarship. Providing students with info about how to get more involved academically, socially, volunteer, etc. Hopefully next year they will take on Swipe to Share to donate meals to food bank

- Senator 73: What are criteria you use to select new freshman
  - Daniel: process we went through was first, an application. Asking about involvement in high school (gpa, service, etc). Looking at students that have interest in getting involved and may show that they will follow through on such opportunities.  
Interview process. Selection process
  - Senator 93: Motion to pass by unanimous consent
  - Seconded by Senator 60
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
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- GS 17-33 Office Allocation Act
  - Motion to move to floor by Senator 98, seconded by Senator 12
    - Author Carrie Pavlowsky explains number of offices in Union open to student organizations. Organizations can receive offices, SGA approves groups that move in and out. This outlines office #'s. Few big changes. All greek organizations in one office, trying to make resources more equal. Some groups are double off, depends on groups need to keep things confidential. Yield time for questions
    - Senator 73: motion to pass by unanimous consent
    - Seconded by Senator 98
    - No objections
    - Motion passes
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- GS 17-34: An Act of Procedure Approving Outstanding Graduate Student Awards for the 2016-2017 Academic Year”
  - Motion to move to the floor by Senator 67, seconded by Senator 38
    - Author Andrew Kierig explains that this occurs every year where faculty and students can nominate graduate students for a variety of awards (research, teaching, overall). This year they selected 3 very fine people for these awards. Found their submitted materials were of the highest quality. Very proud to put those forward as recipients of these awards
    - Senator 20: could you walk us through selection process
    - Andrew: we modeled it off of what previous committees have done. Nominators put in materials and Jenny collated those for us, and they broke out into sub committees chaired by Kyndra Valencia and Alex Kerr that picked winners for those awards. Each committee had 3 or 4 members and they went over all materials in extensive detail and ranked materials to decide most qualified.
    - Senator 60: motion to pass by unanimous consent
    - Seconded by Senator 5
    - No objections
    - Motion passes

**New Business:**

- **Officer Elections:** Chair of internal affairs, Matt Geras, presiding:
  - GSS Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary are open. Only received three nominations, one for each position.
  - Carrie Pavlowsky nominated to serve as chair.
  - Motion to elect by Senator 91, seconded by Senator 43
  - No objections
  - Chair is elected
  
  - Jonathan Merlini been nominated to serve as vice-chair
  - Motion to elect by Senator 43, seconded by Senator 60
  - No objections
  - Vice Chair is elected
  
  - Natalie Daugherty nominated for secretary
  - Motion to elect by Senator 95, seconded by Senator 107
  - No objections
  - Secretary is elected
- Applause all around

**Announcements:**

Carrie: Again, if you are leaving make sure someone that replaces to has new senator form, and you inform department.

Motion to adjourn by Senator 3, seconded by Senator 43.

**Adjournment: 7:35 p.m.**