

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA  
March 29, 2020 6:30 P.M.  
Zoom 491 196 780**

**Call to Order: 7:08 pm**

**Approval of the Minutes:** Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Woodworth (108)

**Officer Reports:**

- Chair:
  - In the top right corner, you will see three dots. If you click on these, you can change your name to your senator number so you don't have to hold up any signs, hopefully.
  - Also in the top right corner, you might want to choose the gallery view instead of speaker view.
  - If you mouse toward the bottom of the window, a menu should pop up. Click on "chat" and "participants" which should bring up two windows on the right side of the window. The participants window will give you options including raising your hand.
  - Please keep yourself muted until you are called upon, then mute yourself after speaking.
  - We'll all have to have patience with each other to keep the meeting running as smoothly as possible.
  - Please use the raise your hand feature if you want to ask a question or make a motion. When we are seeing legislation, I will ask if there are any questions, then ask for motions when there are no questions.
  - After the reports, the CAC chair candidates will join us to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes each so we know more about them before the SGA elections on April 7 & 8. We can allow up to 3 minutes each for questions after, if needed.
  - After the candidates speak, we will ensure we have a quorum before we proceed to see legislation. If you will please complete the attendance poll, that will log your attendance and ensure we have quorum.
- Vice-Chair: ill be taking attendance with the poll. Ill be manually doing it too just to make sure.
- Secretary: Hope everyone and their families are doing okay.

**Committee Reports:**

- Academic Affairs: Thank you Melissa and Rafia for doing this on zoom. We have opened the graduate student awards and we've already gotten 10 applications. We still have 2 weeks before we close it. Already 2 completed, and planning on sending another mass email to remind people to apply. And we've already worked out the point system for grading.
  - Melissa: thank you. Everyone, let your departments know about this award.
- Development & Philanthropy: just a reminder the t-shirt poll's still going. There's an email and it's open until the 31<sup>st</sup>, but we could keep it open longer. Might delay placing the t-shirt order. Then it'll be a unique task to give everyone their shirts staying 6 feet apart. Vice chair was working with Salvation Army about trying to do community service, might have to adjust stuff, but still trying to stay positively involved in the community.
  - Melissa: thank you. We're not going to be able to have the end of semester celebration, which the committee worked really hard.
- External Affairs: nothing to report
- Human Diversity: nothing to report
- Internal Affairs: nothing to report

- Melissa: if I remember correctly, I thought you guys were changing leadership. We need to speak to you about our GSS elections.
  - In the chat from Senator Israel (81) Weird. I thought it went through. Are you still cool with me taking over?
- Public Relations: nothing to report
- Sustainability: green week has been canceled, so no volunteer events.
- Ways and Means: we have a lot changing due to everything shutting down right as we started grading the applications. Separating the ones that (the conference or research) have already occurred, or research that doesn't require person to person. Then we have a maybe pile and we've sent emails for them to give us more info (if they need refunds, if something was canceled, or needs to be adjusted) by the 6<sup>th</sup> about if it's still feasible. Then well still grade the stuff that can still go through.
  - Melissa: yeah, I know it's already challenging, but now having to do it from a distance
  - WAM: we scanned them all in, so now we'll send them out and see where it goes
  - Melissa: you and academic affairs have a tough time ahead of you

### **Announcements:**

CAC chair candidates talk for up to 5 minutes. Louisa Lee and Lafonzo Spigner  
3 minutes to ask questions per candidate

- Senators asked about the process and the candidates' contact info
- Hennessey Chism: can both candidates restate their websites and emails

Lafonzo Spigner: lafonzo4cac.com Email: [lafonzospigner@ou.edu](mailto:lafonzospigner@ou.edu)

Louisa Lee: [www.louisalee4cac.wixsite.com/cacin3d](http://www.louisalee4cac.wixsite.com/cacin3d) Email: [louisaklee@ou.edu](mailto:louisaklee@ou.edu)

### **Special Orders:** move to the floor Senator Woodworth (108) and Senator Jenkin (71)

- GS20-15 Black History Month Resolution of 2020
  - Motion to move GS20-15 to floor by Senator Soto (98), seconded by Senator Linsey (7)
  - Authors: Hennessey Chism (Congress Rep) and Mark Mayes (Congress Rep): To recognize the importance of Black History Month
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Vijay (116): I really appreciate the resolution and I really respect you. You state that you want to celebrate February as Black History month. What do you plan to do?
  - Author: Well now it's March and were online. In congress, we read the bios of famous black individuals at the end of each meeting
  - Senator Israel (81): in whereas clause 3, is it fair to say that the university has harbored the individuals?
  - Author: I see what you're saying, but we just need to read it as it is. I don't think it's pointing blame on the university, it's more just about inaction
    - Senator Finkelstein (61): in 6<sup>th</sup> whereas clause, you describe the usage of racial slurs as "carelessly". Why did you use this word and was it both the same incidents?
  - Author: I would say the 2<sup>nd</sup> case was using it carelessly. I would consider the 1<sup>st</sup> one to be probably careless, to not understand why we don't use this word. These instances weren't violent, but careless as they caused harm without meaning to
  - Senator Israel (81): whereas clause 5, and then 8-11, can you provide direct sources to those claims, evidence of support in the bill?
  - Author: in the 8<sup>th</sup> whereas clause, it doesn't specifically cite, but it says a PEW research center, but I'm open to add those sources.
  - Melissa: do you have a friendly amendment?
  - Senator Israel (81): Yeah
  - Melissa: okay, please right it in the chat
    - In chat from Senator Israel (81): Please amend GS20-15 to include direct sources for the claims asserted in whereas clauses 8-11 at the base of the legislation.

- Author: I can email you the citation
- Senator Jenkins (78): I'm a grad student in Gaylord, and looking at who they are sent to, might want to send it to the Gaylord Diversity committee.
- Author: yeah I'd be open to a friendly amendment for that. Along with a comparable committee in the History department.
- Melissa: Morgan (78), do you want that to be a friendly amendment? If so, please type it in the chat.
  - In chat from Senator Morgan Jenkins (78): In section 3, an amendment to send a copy of the resolution to Gaylord College Diversity Committee
- Rafia: Do we need seconds for friendly amendment?
- George: no if its approved by author
- Senator Vijay (116): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
- Senator Israel (81) objects
- Melissa: So now we go to a roll call vote.
- Passed 41-2-9
- Due to technical issues we do not have senator numbers for who voted for what.
- GS20-16 CAC Candidate Requirements Amendment
  - Motion to move GS20-16 to floor by Senator Israel (81), seconded by Senator Linsey (7)
  - Author Jody Farmer (Congress Associate): The purpose of this act shall be to correct the language so that the CAC Chair candidates are only required to acquire signatures equivalent to 20% of the last CAC chair election or 500 signatures, whichever is fewer, and candidates for the SGA Presidential election are required to acquire signatures equivalent to 20% of the last SGA Presidential election or 500 signatures, whichever is fewer.
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Vijay (116): How do we make sure they are members of SGA
  - Author: all students on campus are members of SGA. And they have to write down their student ID.
  - Senator Israel (81): What's the significance of adding "contested" in front of election?
  - Author: If it's not contested, you don't need signatures, because there's no election.
  - Senator Vijay (116): I ran last year and I had this from a lot of students. Can I add a friendly amendment to specify "signatures of OU students" instead of members of SGA?
  - Author: I guess that's kind of redundant. I'll leave it up to Jody.
  - Jody: it says SGA in the whole document.
  - Senator Vijay (116): I understand, but I faced this question and there was a lot of confusion. Majority of students don't even know [they are considered members of SGA].
  - Author: It would have to be in the whole document, and it's how it's in the Code Annotated. It would have to be a separate piece of legislation if you want to write it.
  - Melissa: I think that's an excellent point as well, Vivek (116). And maybe someone in GSS would like to take that change on.
  - Senator Israel (81): Given the change, what was the previous standard?
  - Author: to get the same number of signatures as SGA presidential election, but we think it's unfair because less people vote for CAC
  - Senator Israel (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Cooley (5)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GS20-17 Black Emergency Response Team Support Resolution
  - Motion to move GS20-17 to floor by Senator Woodward (11), seconded by Senator Linsey (7)
  - Authors Crispin South (Congress Representative) and Hennessey Chism (Congress Representative): To support the efforts of the Black Emergency Response Team

- Yields time for question
- Senator Israel (81): given that there's significant tension about BERT's list of demands, friendly amendment to strike whereas clause 5 to retain the sentiments found in 1-4 and 6.
- Author: honestly I would rather not. It's more just a statement of facts, and leaving it out would be negligent to the situation as a whole.
- Senator Woodworth (108): Point of information for grad students that don't get out of the lab. What are the demands? What led to the sit in?
- Author: after the 2<sup>nd</sup> incident of racist language this semester, BERT, which is branch of BSU, responsible for responding for black students, led a sit in lasting 2.5 days in Evans Hall. Demands included multicultural center and diversity education. Not all were met. Dr. Hippolyte is referring to them as solutions not demands. They sat down with admin to find solutions.
- Author: The incidents were pretty well publicized in OU community. Both included racist language, white professors using the n-word on campus, specifically in class. Regardless of situations surrounding, it's pretty inappropriate behavior. This has been status quo at the university for a while. Black students feel not a whole lot has been done to address these problems on campus. It wasn't just these incidents, it's been boiling a while. The straw that broke the camel's back.
- Author: There's an article in the group chat for a quick summary
- Author: This bill is not written to support the list of demands, but rather the sentiments of BERT and the students on campus to make campus more equitable
- Senator Israel (81): whereas clause 5, the list of demands is no longer ongoing.
- Author: to my knowledge, the strike is no longer ongoing
- Senator Israel (81): The verb tense needs to be altered.
- Author: okay could that be considered a Scribner's error?
- George yeah
- Melissa: thank you
- Author: also if you see the resolve section, section 2 is the meat of it, commends the efforts. The rest is mostly background.
- Senator Pickens (93): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
- Seconded by Senator Donahue (12)
- Objection by Senator Israel (81), can I call for a debate?
- Melissa: sure, George?
- George: sure.
- Senator Woodworth (108): I know Oklahoma has a history of racism, but I don't think these 2 incidents should be the ones we are hanging our hats on. I don't think it's up to undergrads to decide what should or not be heard in class, especially if there's a trigger warning. It should be up to the professor to decide what's appropriate in class. The second incident, maybe it wasn't good, but we shouldn't eliminate a debate on this. If there was a more overt incident I would be more open.
- Senator Grover (51) it's the straw that broke the camel's back. This is a bill that shows our support. There's no action. So we should pass this. It's not hard to not say this word. And professors that say it need to be held to task, and we as senators should hold them to it.
- Rafia: I feel like it's a support, and we should support black students. This is the least we can do, not using these words. It's a support bill for minority students.
- Senator Reynolds (98): that's what I was gonna say. Our job is to be behind students. And were voting on supporting our students.
- Senator Israel (81): just the reason that I wanted a discussion. When BERT first released the demands online, it had a lot of bad reactions, then they took it off. It had bad attention and didn't have good attention from the admin. We got a lukewarm response. There should be better language that articulates an outcome. And how it turns into solutions rather than demands.

- Author: Woodworth (108) mentioned these may not be the ones to hang our hats on, but it's not just about them. This triggered a massive sit in. It's more than important to mention that. We can't justify using the n-word is not racist, it's not difficult to just not say it. The bill isn't about the incidents but the build-up that's happened that makes us this frustrated. Clarification, the original list was posted, taken down, and redone. There were flaws that made it seem not serious, which is why it was changed. We together, not only condemning racism, but actively supporting those who are fighting against it
- Move it to roll call Senator Israel (81), seconded by Senator Linsey (7)
- Roll call results: yes 80%, no 8%, abstain 12%.
- Pass 41-4-7
- Due to technical issues we do not have senator numbers for who voted for what.
- GS20-18 Women's History Month Acknowledgement Resolution of 2020
  - Motion to move GS20-18 to floor by Senator Israel (81), seconded by Senator Pickens (93)
  - Authors Taylor Broadbent (Congress External Affairs Chair) and Rebecca Yanez (Executive Cabinet Diversity and Inclusion Member): To recognize the importance of Women's History Month
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Israel (81): friendly amendment to omit clause 6, repeated in whereas 11. Or move it and delete whereas clause 11
  - Author: yea I'll accept a friendly amendment.
  - Senator Grover (51): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Reynolds (98)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GS20-19 Get OUt the Vote
  - Motion to move GS20-19 to floor by Senator Israel (81) seconded by Senator Adams (10)
  - Author Nathaniel Buxton (Congress Representative): Concurrent Resolution calling on the University of Oklahoma to make Election Day a school holiday.
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Israel (81): friendly amendment to strike exceptional from whereas clause 4.
  - Author: no I would like to keep it I think it's exceptional.
  - Senator Woodworth (108): has voter turnout for students been less than national average? Especially the states mentioned?
  - Senator Israel (81): friendly amendment to document claim that it's exceptional. We have an electoral college.
  - Me: Can you make the font of the footnotes consistent with the rest of the document?
  - Author: Yes, Scribner's error.
  - Senator Israel (81): hostile amendment to strike the word exceptional.
  - Author: need debate
  - Senator Israel (81) okay move to debate. I'd like to remove the term exceptional. There's a lot of flaws with our process. History of excluding minorities, still modern day poll taxes. Exceptional's probably not the accurate word. Say duty to American democratic process would be more than sufficient.
  - Melissa: I don't know if I can call on Lauren if she's not a senator.
  - George: as long as there's no objections. Was Dayten's (81) amendment seconded because the author didn't approve it?
  - Melissa: Dayten (81) would you like to move the amendment for hostile. Any seconds?
  - Senator Cone (13) seconds.
  - George: now Dayten (81) is the author of the amendment and he gives an explanation, which he did. Now we open up time to ask Dayten questions for his amendment.
  - Melissa: Dayten do you have anything to add?

- Nataniel Buxton: would you agree exceptional doesn't necessarily mean a good thing? Could be unusual or typical.
- Senator Israel (81): I would disagree, common vernacular usually good not just an outlier.
- Senator Woodworth (108): Dayten can you give an example of a democratic system that hasn't had issues with a majority not picking on a minority?
- Senator Israel (81): I don't understand the significance of that. America's isn't exceptional for people who can't access the system.
- Senator Penagos Dordevic (77): I agree with Dayten.
- Senator Jenkin (71): is unique acceptable as a word?
- Senator Mondal (4): fairly exceptional?
- I would agree with Buxton to use
- Senator Danser(90): there's structural issues with the system. Exceptional indicates there has been progress made. It's not saying it's perfect but it has done work before and that should be recognized.
- Senator Israel (81): I don't think the word includes that. I think this is an easy change, and exceptional is not the word. Many people don't feel voting is open to them or that their voice will be heard. Words like unique or atypical would work, otherwise I would like to strike it
- Senator Vijay (116): I would like to agree with Dayten. It's not exceptional. Authors may have to read through exceptional cases of democratic systems. This is a normal and must to civic duty.
- Melissa: we had friendly amendment for unique. Do you accept it?
- Buxton: this has already seen a lot of changes in congress. I would like to get this bill moving so we can start acting on it.
- Melissa: I take exception to you saying this is not an actual meeting... [interrupted]
- No I mean online. Not GSS...[muted]
- Melissa: I would like to finish speaking. This is approved by the open meeting act. I suspect that this body is not receptive to being told to just pass it. I'd love to give you the opportunity to rephrase those arguments.
- Author I meant in person
- Melissa: can we go to any motion?
- George it sounds like dayten wanted to strike it but then accepted a friendly amendment to use work unique.
- Senator Israel (81): I will accept the American democratic process. And this will be seen on Tuesday.
- Buxton: will this have the turnover to see it on Tuesday
- Melissa: we would have to pass it with a friendly amendment
- George yeah everything's just going like normal. If it passes tonight looking different than when passed in congress, it has to go to Congress with the amendment.
- George: he accepted friendly to use word American. Now you either go to debate or vote the amendment
- Senator Vijay (116) I'd like roll call for friendly amendment
- Senator Grover (51) seconds
- George: if it was seconded and no one calls debate, we vote on amendment.
- Melissa: launch poll for amendment to change to American democratic process.
- Hostile amendment votes: Pass: 37-8-7
- Hostile amendment passes.
- George: now legislation has been amended so we go back to debate.
- Senator Israel (81): I'd like to move out of debate into roll call vote.
- Senator Grover (51) seconds.
- No objections
- Vote: poll for actual amendment. Pass 43-4-5

- Due to technical issues we do not have senator numbers for who voted for what.
- GS20-20 Election Holiday
  - Motion to move GS20-20 to floor by Senator Israel (81), seconded by Senator Jenkin (71)
  - Author Nathaniel Buxton (Congress Representative): Concurrent Resolution calling on our respective levels of Government to make election day a holiday
  - Senator Israel (81) yeah I'd like to make a friendly amendment for exceptional in whereas 4.
  - Author: yeah.
  - Senator Israel (81): friendly amendment to alter then name of bill. Ill refer it to Buxton
  - Buxton: I don't have one
  - Melissa: anyone want to recommend?
  - Senator Woodworth (108): OUr Voice Day.
  - Author: I'll accept that.
  - Senator Mallick (119): friendly amendment for the OU in the name to be capital?
  - Author, yeah we got that.
  - Senator Pickens (93): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
  - Seconded by Senator Cooley (5)
  - No objections
  - Motion passes
- GS20-21 Auxiliary Allocation 18 Act of 2019-2020
  - Motion to move GS20-21 to floor by Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Adams (10)
  - Author Lauren Patton (SGA Budget Committee Chair): The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.
  - Also there will be some legislation to account for the fact that everything's been messed up this semester and don't want it to mess up fiscal history
  - Senator Vijay (116): what did the Miracle Mindset Leadership and Empowerment Conference need the money for?
  - Author: it was for food for a summit with speakers.
  - Senator Vijay (116) follow-up, have they given an amount of people to justify 1500 dollars?
  - Yes, 125 people union catering for sit down meal. Have per person price
  - Yields time for question
    - Senator Israel (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
    - Seconded by Senator Linsey (7)
    - No objections
    - Motion passes

### **Old Business:**

- GS20-08 It's on Us Chair Appointment Act
  - Motion to move GS20-08 to floor by Senator Israel (81), seconded by Senator Linsey (7)
  - Authors: Justin Norris (SGA President), Dalton Gau (SGA Vice President), Renata Emini (SGA Chief of Staff): To appoint a Chair to the SGA It's On Us Taskforce.
  - Yields time for question
  - Senator Grover (51): now that campus is online, what's the plan for sexual assault awareness week
  - Author: great question. Moving toward more social media in order to get that same amount of awareness
  - Senator Israel (81): how long will they hold this position?
  - Author: she's a senior, so she is graduating this semester, and she'll appoint someone from her committee to take her place next semester which is more just planning after she graduates.

- Senator Israel (81): follow-up, what's the point of appointing her if she's just gonna appoint someone else?
- Author: we didn't realize she was a senior but she's the best fit. The event's in April so she'll do it. and then applications reopen in November.
- Rafia: will we be seeing legislation next semester about this? Is this every semester?
- Author: It's On Us week is April, and there's smaller events in fall semester.
- Senator Israel (81): is it not possible to move the application up to allow for person being appointed to reapply?
- Author: that's a great point we should look into that and would make the transition easier.
- Senator Vijay (116) hostile amendment to turn down this bill. There's no point doing it. Then go for debate
- Melissa: Debates open.
- Senator Vijay (116) we probably won't have any activities on campus this semester, so why appoint her if she's graduating this semester and won't do anything at all. If we appoint someone else, they can continue next semester.
- George: nonsenators can debate or ask questions unless a senator objects.
- Renata: I just want to address Vivek's (116) point. The event's in April and it will still happen even if not on campus. We're going to do something on social media so she should be able to still organize that.
- Senator Burch (54) I want to respectfully disagree with Senator Vijay (116). Even though its social media, that may be the best way to do it and we still need a chair to have a successful campaign. Just because it's not on campus doesn't mean it's any less important to have someone running it. Makes perfect sense.
- Senator Cone (13): I also respectfully disagree with Senator Vijay (116). Were on online campus now, and this person is still a student the rest of the semester. All school is online so there could be harassment in an online setting that could also be addressed online.
- Rafia: this was supposed to be seen in January so she's been working on this stuff and you can't take her off of it a few days before April.
- Senator Woodworth (108): yeah you don't need to see people in person to harass them. Cyber harassment still needs awareness.
- Senator Vijay (116) I would like to close my debate.
- Melissa: let's see if Dayten (81) has something to say.
- Senator Israel (81): yeah I agree with everyone else. She's already done all the work. This is just confirming it. The point Renata made about moving the application up in the fall resolves my problem. And I assume Micayla's doing a good job at all this.
- Renata: yeah thanks for voicing your concerns. And sorry were not seeing it until now. Yeah the work has already been started.
- Senator Israel (81): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
- Seconded by Senator Pickens (93)
- No objections
- Motion passes

#### **Announcements:**

Senator Cone (13): if anyone's having internet problems, west side of Lloyd Noble lot has good internet

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Grover (51), seconded by Senator Israel (81)

#### **Adjournment:**

Time: 9:17 pm