

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

April 11, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

Zoom

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93757784892?pwd=TjBCSUNqY2kxS2xJUmYwZ0E5VmtFUT09>

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Reimer (105).

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - Chair Mallick: We will be seeing a presentation from the Graduate College today. Also, officers will be contacting all of you about your attendance records to discuss and resolve any discrepancies.
- Vice Chair:
 - Senator Ferraro (120). Please fill out your committee attendance forms for this general meeting.
- Secretary:
 - Senator Israel (81): Nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs:
 - Senator Nabhan (44): We selected our awardees for the Outstanding Graduate Assistant awards.
- Development & Philanthropy:
 - Senator Tennell (37): Nothing to report.
- External Affairs:
 - Senator Chen (112): We have completed data collection for our ongoing survey. The results will be released at our next general meeting.
- Human Diversity:
 - Senator Hakizimana (3): We will be having our planning session for the next roundtable discussion later this week.
- Internal Affairs:
 - Senator Delafield (111): We will be holding officer election at the end of today's meeting. Our committee will also be presenting two bills tonight.
- Public Relations:
 - Senator Schwartz (117): Nothing to report.
- Sustainability:
 - Senator Donahue (12): Nothing to report.
- Ways and Means:
 - Senator Shpeer (22): Nothing to report.

Special Orders:

- Graduate College - gradSERU (Graduate Student Experience in the Research University) Survey
 - The Graduate College encourages members of the body to share the gradSERU survey with within their academic units and with the graduate student body. The survey can be accessed here: link.ou.edu/seru.
 - Period for questions.

- Senator (108): Is there a mechanism to inform us about how our departments are performing with the survey?
- Sherri Irvin: We will be reviewing the results of the survey this summer. We encourage all academic units to participate. We will be contacting individual units to direct them to the survey and to encourage participation among the graduate students within the units.
- Senator (93): Will there be any follow-up action? What is the timeline for this project?
- Sherri Irvin: We will be getting our comparison date from the other institutions this September but our data will be available for review this summer. We will be seeing where things are going well and where there are hotspots. Then we will begin communicating with the academic units to obtain more information and detail, to contextualize those results.
- Chair: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Move into Old Business
- Seconded by Senator Ferraro (120).

*Returned to Special Orders by Motion

- Graduate Student Senate Officer Elections
 - Senator Delafield (111):
 - For Chair of the Graduate Student Senate, the nominee is Senator Burch (54).
 - For Vice Chair of the Graduate Student Senate, the nominee is Senator Ferraro (120).
 - For Secretary, there are no nominations.
 - Candidate Addresses:
 - Senator Delafield (111): Senator Burch, you shall have five minutes to address the body of the Graduate Student Senate. Your time may not be extended.
 - Senator Burch (54): I am a first-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography. I have been a senator for two years. I believe GSS has a lot of potential. With several of our ongoing initiatives, I would like to continue supporting these initiatives and taking on new projects to advance GSS. I would love the opportunity to represent you all and to build awareness about GSS.
 - Yields time for questions.
 - Senator Delafield (111): The body shall now have five minutes to ask any questions of the candidate. This time may be extended.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Delafield (111): We shall now move to roll call vote. A vote of “yes” shall approve the candidate, Senator Burch, to office as Chair of the Graduate Student Senate. A vote of “no” shall fail the candidate for such office. A vote of abstention is also permitted.
 - Roll Call: 33-0-11
 - Candidate approved. Senator Burch (54) is elected to office as Chair of the Graduate Student Senate.
 - Senator Delafield (111): Senator Ferraro, you shall have five minutes to address the body of the Graduate Student Senate. Your time may not be extended.
 - Senator Ferraro (120): I have served as secretary since February 2019. Been serving as VC for the past few weeks. GSS is a great way to stand up for ourselves and amplify our voices throughout the university committee. We have become more respected as a body over the years, and I would like to continue that growth. Been a senator for three years.

- Senator Delafield (111): The body shall now have five minutes to ask any questions of the candidate. This time may be extended.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Delafield (111): We shall now move to roll call vote. A vote of “yes” shall approve the candidate, Senator Ferraro, to office as Vice Chair of the Graduate Student Senate. A vote of “no” shall fail the candidate for such office. A vote of abstention is also permitted.
 - Roll Call: 34-0-8
 - Candidate approved. Senator Ferraro (120) is elected to office as Vice Chair of the Graduate Student Senate.

Old Business:

- GS21-32 Affirming Language in the Code Annotated Act of 2021
 - Motion to move GS21-32 to the floor by Senator Linsey (7), seconded by Senator Woodworth (108).
 - Author, Mahak Merchant (Department of Inclusivity Director). Presented by Representative Caitlyn Harman (Human Diversity Committee Chair) and Representative Foster Hillis (Congressional Administration Committee Chair): The purpose of this legislation is to provide more inclusive language in the Code Annotated regarding the responsibilities of the Executive branch’s Department of Inclusivity.
 - Yields time for questions.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Hamilton (82): Motion to Pass by Unanimous Consent
 - Seconded by Senator Linsey (7).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.

New Business:

- GS21-29 Auxiliary Allocation 14 Act of 2020-2021
 - Motion to move GS21-29 to the floor by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Linsey (7).
 - Author, Lauren Patton (SGA Budget Committee Chair): The purpose of these pieces of legislation are to award auxiliary funding to various organizations listed within each bill.
 - Yields time for questions. This will be the last auxiliary bill.
 - No questions.
 - Senator Walton (85): Motion to Pass by Unanimous Consent
 - Seconded by Senator Tennell (37).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
- GS21-39 Auxiliary Allocation 15 Act of 2020-2021
 - No legislation presented. Item to be struck from the agenda.
- GS21-41 Senatorial Representation Clarification Act
 - Motion to move GS21-41 to the floor by Senator Hamilton (82), seconded by Senator Mayer (27).
 - Author, Dayten Israel (Graduate Student Senate Secretary): The purpose of this legislation is to amend the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate to clarify matters affecting representation, extending to: selection methods; policies and procedures for elections and appointments; and terms for senatorial representation. With the passing of our previous

legislation in this area, what is left with respect to the aforementioned is in disarray and confusion.

- Yields time for questions.
 - Senator Linsey (7): What happens if a Department does not secure representation under the current one-month deadline?
 - Author: If a Department does not have representation by the deadline, the Department will forfeit representation. We currently have a policy of rolling acceptance, which complicates how we operate. This new deadline will give structure and reliability for us, and it will help us determine which Departments have representation earlier. We believe having a structured deadline will allow us to set better timelines for our meetings.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): Would you accept a friendly amendment to amend “called within one (1) month” to “reported to the Executive Committee of the Graduate Student Senate within one (1) month” in the relevant sections?
 - Author: Yes, I would.
 - Senator Mayer (27): What happens in the spring? Will there be a new round of elections or anything?
 - Author: No. The new terms for Senators will be for one (1) academic year. However, Senators can still resign, if they need to, and their Department can appoint another to continue the remainder of that term.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): Motion to Pass by Unanimous Consent
 - Seconded by Senator Wheaton (43).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.
- GS21-42 Standing Committee Support Act
 - Motion to move GS21-42 to the floor by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Wheaton (43).
 - Author, Dayten Israel (Graduate Student Senate Secretary): The purpose of this legislation is to amend the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate to provide defined responsibilities and revised policies affecting the various standing committees.
 - Yields time for questions.
 - Senator Rocha (53): Would you accept a friendly amendment to add a new statement to the “Committee Purpose” section and a new subsection to create a subcommittee that will focus on advising issue under the Academic Affairs Committee?
 - Author: Yes, I would.
 - Senator Woodworth (108): I am a part of the Ways and Means Committee, and we have our own internal policies that do not allow people to review applications from their Department. Would this still be the same under your new rules?
 - Author: Essentially, yes. The new rules are similar to those used by the SGA Budget Committee. However, these rules are the minimum, and the Ways and Means Committee can still create whichever internal conflicts rules it believes are necessary, which would include the rules the Committee currently has.
 - Senator Rocha (53): Motion to Pass by Unanimous Consent
 - Seconded by Senator Woodworth (108).
 - No objections.
 - Motion passes.

Chair: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Return to Special Orders
Seconded by Senator Ferraro (120).*

Announcements:

- Standing Committee Chair Elections Results
 - Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Nabhan (44)
 - Development and Philanthropy Committee: No Results
 - External Affairs Committee: No Results
 - Human Diversity Committee: Senator Tomte (96)
 - Internal Affairs Committee: Senator Delafield (111)
 - Public Relations Committee: Senator Waterman (78)
 - Sustainability Committee: Senator Rocha (53)
 - Ways and Means Committee: Senator Walton (85)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Delafield (111), seconded by Senator Walton (85).

Adjournment: 8:39 p.m.