

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

February 7, 2021 6:30 P.M.

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/94328421969?pwd=OTlCRkkyRVNlQTEvU2tCQUszZUlnUT09>

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Approval of the Minutes: Senator Reynolds (98), seconded by Senator Hamilton (82)

Officer Reports:

- Chair: External affairs is going to talk about reaching out to everyone about teaching during Covid-19.
- Vice-Chair: Melissa sent you a message during the committee meetings with a link to Engage to send the committee meeting forms. If none of the committee officers are present, one of the members should fill it out.
- Secretary: nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs: nothing to report.
- Development & Philanthropy: nothing to report.
- External Affairs: We're discussing a survey to send out about if grad students that are teaching are comfortable with their situation and if they feel they are able to follow the university's social distancing protocol.
- Human Diversity: We're creating a more scholarly discussion of human diversity and finding ways to engage people on campus more. And we're building a literature review on that. If anyone has any resources or materials of interest, please feel free to email me at baileyashbaker@ou.edu
- Internal Affairs: were going to see 2 bills tonight about election bylaws and Extension of Consistency in Law Act.
- Public Relations: nothing to report.
- Sustainability: nothing to report.
- Ways and Means: nothing to report.

Special Orders:

Motion to move special orders to the floor by Senator Linsey (7) and seconded by Senator Machette (21)

- GS21-01 Big XII, BIG Responsibilities Act of 2020
 - Motion to move GS21-01 to floor by Senator Rocha (53), seconded by Senator Reynolds (98)
 - Author Savannah Patterson (Congress Chair): The purpose of this act shall be to establish the Vice Chair of Undergraduate Student Congress as the head of the OU delegation at Big XII SGA conferences.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Israel (81): Who currently oversaw these responsibilities?

- Author: Yes, the biggest thing was a misunderstanding on my part, but we do stick with our appointment of Joy Nath because of his strong understanding of the election process.
 - Senator Mallick (119): Can Joy introduce himself?
 - Joy Nath introduces himself.
 - Senator Israel (81): When were interviews conducted?
 - Author: Thursday of last week.
 - Senator Israel (81): To confirm, you said Joy was the only applicant after you opened the interviews?
 - Author: No, there were 4 applicants that we interviewed after the bill had failed. Initially we did no interviews.
 - Senator Bonine (107): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Reimer (105)
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GS21-05 Auxiliary Allocation 10 Act of 2020-2021
 - Motion to move GS21 -05 to floor by Senator Tennell (37), seconded by Senator Ashbaker (71)
 - Author Lauren Patton (SGA Budget 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, primary funding opens February 15th and closes March 5th. I'm happy to meet with any of you about this process if you are involved with an RSO.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Woodworth (108): Could you type those dates in the chat?
 - Author: Yes.
 - Senator Mallick (119): Were these applications for events before winter break or after?
 - Author: Crimson Spirit was over the break but that doesn't matter for the funding, it can happen retroactively.
 - Senator Mallick (119): So we fund during the break?
 - Author: The event is allowed to be over the break. But they applied for it before the semester ended.
 - Senator Mallick (119): Can this happen during summer?
 - Author: It's a little bit different because we start a new year during the summer.
 - Senator Mallick (119): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - Seconded by Senator Woodworth (108)
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- Request to see GS21-07 and GS21-08 in reverse order. Motion by Senator Ashbaker (71) and seconded by Senator Hamilton (82)
- GS21-08 Extension of Consistency in Law Act
 - Motion to move GS21 -08 to floor by Senator Ashbaker (71), seconded by Senator Hamilton (82)
 - Authors Melissa Maxey (GSS Chair) & Dayten Israel (Internal Affairs Chair): The purpose of this Act shall be to provide an extension to the previously passed Consistency in Law Act (GF20-24) which provided a general grant of authority for a limited time to the Internal Affairs Committee of the Graduate Student Senate, so it could establish clarity and consistency in the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Walton (85): Why April 30th?

- Senator Israel (81): From what I've seen, the grad liaison is also the grad director or registrar, and according to the way we require appointments, it requires the signature of the grad liaison so that's why we included that.
- Melissa: I communicate with the grad liaisons every semester, but not every department has one.
- Senator Linsey (7): I'd like to add a friendly amendment to include either a director or department chair.
- Senator Israel (81): I will accept a friendly amendment of all reference to grad liaison, to grad liaison, chair, or director of the department.
- Senator Waterman (78): I agree with Senator Mallick (119) to clarify that it's meant to increase participation, but I would suggest language that the personal statement and photo are optional.
- Senator Israel (81): The grad liaison is not expected to write anything, just distribute the names. We can add language clarifying that this would be submitted by the student.
- Senator Waterman (78): What's the statement going to be used for if they've already been picked by one of these options?
- Senator Linsey (81): This is just if they want to get information about their candidacy out there before they are approved. Just an explanation of what they want to do, their background, something like that. It's up to them to provide that.
- Melissa: A statement like that might also help the chair appoint them to a committee.
- Senator Wright (5): If this was passed, when would it take action?
- Senator Israel (81): It would go into effect immediately.
- Senator Wright (5): So then would it be possible to table this so we can tell our departments about this? The liaisons and fellow grad students.
- Senator Mallick (119): I agree with Senator Waterman (78) about the personal statement. That's still a lot to ask from them.
- Melissa: We've gone into debate at this point but were still in questions. Any other questions?
- Senator Israel (81): It says 150 is the max, you can write less.
- Senator Mallick (119): Can I ask if the senators can vote on the wording: Add may or may not?
- Senator Israel (81): That would be an amendment. I rejected it as a friendly amendment so it would be debate.
- Senator Mallick (119): I want to enter debate.
- Melissa: Do we need a second? George suggested to address other questions first.
- Senator Woodworth (108): For clarification, the main focus of this is to fix the error that departments send people chosen by liaisons that don't want to be here, when the depts have people that want to participate. Right?
- Senator Israel (81): That's just one helpful benefit of this. The entire purpose is to discourage our overreliance on appointments and encourage elections so grad students have more of a voice.
- Melissa: I want to say we have gone over our question period. We can have a motion to extend it. Do we have such a motion?
- Senator Linsey (7): Motion to extend question period.
- Seconded by Senator Omoumi (40)
- Senator Linsey (7): Does this apply to current senators for this semester? Do we have to get elected this semester, or is this for next semester?
- Senator Israel (81): It goes into effect immediately but not retrospectively, so it will affect elections for next semester. The only thing it will affect this semester is the special appointments option.

- Senator Rocha (53): Did you get any more input from the liaisons? You said you saw the need from internal observations, but did you get input from them?
- Senator Israel (81): No, the grad student voices are what really matters. I don't see how this adds any undue burden to them beyond putting some names in an email.
- Senator Waterman (78): This is internally observed to be a problem, but there haven't been external comments. So, this would be changing their routine?
- Senator Israel (81): These are the bylaws of the GSS, it's up to us to determine how our members are selected. We want to put more interest on the elections.
- Senator Waterman (78): So whose concern is this? There's probably a level of passion for involvement, but that may not be matched in every department.
- Senator Israel (81): This is for GSS, I do not care about what every administrative person thinks about this, I care about every grad student having a voice.
- Melissa: so now Senator Mallick (119) can suggest her amendment.
- Senator Mallick (119): I'd like to add the wording "may or may not".
- Senator Israel (81): Can I counter with this language: Where it says may be accompanied by, Updated language is as follows: "The Senator Elect/Senator Appoint must provide their name and may choose to provide a photographic image of the Senator Elect/Senator Appoint and a personal statement of no more than 150 words." This should be provided at all reference of the photographic image and personal statement language, as according to use of "Senator Elect" and "Senator Appoint."
- Senator Mallick (119): Once we put that language in there, the departments will feel like the students should have to follow it. It's already hard to get students to participate, and adding this layer may make it more difficult.
- Senator Israel (81): I do not understand the concern. The language is permissive. This is consistent with other branches.
- Senator Woodworth (108): I agree with Senator Mallick (119), I know exactly how my advisor would read this. Departments that don't study the law may read this different. They're going to read "may" as "should".
- Senator Israel (81): may is not legalese.
- Senator Rusmore (17): Could I suggest language "candidates may choose to provide"? Then the choice is explicit.
- Senator Israel (81): The senator elect may choose to provide ...
- Senator Woodworth (108): Yeah, I would like to suggest that friendly amendment.
- Motion to end debate by Senator Mallick (119), seconded by Senator Ferraro (120)
- Senator Israel (81): Motion to table this so we have time to talk to our department.
- Seconded by Senator Waterman (78)
- Objection: Chesbro (60)
- Now we vote (yes, means I want to table)
 - Yes: Senator Tennell (37), Senator Woodward (11), Senator Reimer (105), Senator Wright (5), Senator Burch (54), Senator Woodworth (108), Senator Dawson (86), Senator Glidewell (10), Senator Rocha (53), Senator Linsey (7), Senator Walton (85), Senator Schwartz (117), Senator Bonine (107), Senator Jones (6), Senator Xu (49), Senator Waterman (78), Senator Shpeer (22), Senator Michael (93), Senator Cone (13), Senator Gilbertson (97), Senator Machette (21), Senator Hamilton (82), Senator Ashbaker (71), Senator Donahue (12), Senator Reynolds (98), and Senator Nihad (74).
 - No: Senator Chesbro (60), Senator Jarvis (39), Senator Wheaton (43), Senator Israel (81), Senator Rusmore (17), Senator Delafield (111), Senator Omoumi (40), and Senator Childers (121).
 - Abstain: Senator Ferraro (120), Senator Mallick (119), Senator Milburn (64)

- 26 yes, 8 no, 3 abstain
- Vote to table.
- **Old Business:**
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- **New Business:**

Announcements:

- Senator Linsey (7): Can we take the actual bill to the grad liaison and show them if it hasn't been passed?
- Melissa: It can, it's posted on the website so it's public. These bylaws are for GSS, they are to help us run our organization. So it's not super helpful to get a lot of feedback from people that aren't involved in our organization.
- Senator Woodworth (108): If a grad student in our department has some feedback, do you want me to talk to you before the meeting?
- Senator Israel (81): Yeah. But no edits can be made outside the meeting.
- Senator Linsey (7): I just wanted to thank the author and all the leaders that put time into this.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Woodworth (108), seconded by Senator Omoumi (40).

Adjournment:

Time: 8:36 pm