

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

September 8th, 2022 7:00 P.M.

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/96584746531?pwd=bUhSWHVvTU9SZ0RZRHA5WjdWVENHQT09>

Passcode: 78609481

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Approval of the Minutes: Senator Walton (85), seconded by Senator Hamilton (82)

Officer Reports:

- Chair: Welcome to all of our new senators and welcome back to those of you who are returning! I am looking forward to getting to work with you all this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Executive Officers if there is anything we can do for at any point during the year. A few housekeeping items to go through:
 - 1. You are the representative for your department in the realm of graduate student concerns. While the Senate does not typically involve itself in department-specific issues, we encourage you to serve as advocates for your peers if difficult conversations need to happen. If you find that things are not getting solved at the department level, please come to us so that we can have a conversation about how to help. We want to make sure that graduate students feel like they are being heard, and you as a Senator are a huge part of making that happen.
 - 2. With that being said, if your peers ever have questions about anything the Senate does or would like to see a bill or resolution presented, they should work with you to do so. For example, if your peers have any questions about the upcoming GSS grants, they should reach out to you first and you can then direct questions to our Ways and Means chair Lexi. You are the first point of communication for your department for all Senate-related items.
 - 3. I want to recognize that a big concern for many graduate students this year (and last year) is the current level of stipends compared to an ever-increasing cost of living and inflation. My hope this semester is to launch a survey of sorts to gather tangible data about the financial situation of graduate students across campus. Other graduate student bodies have found success in compiling a formal report to submit to administrators, and I am hoping I can leverage the representation of 30+ departments here to be able to do that at OU. My plan was to work with our External Affairs committee, but I am also open to the idea of creating a "task force" if our EA folks find it is too much for them, or we have multiple other folks interested in assisting!
 - 4. Lastly, and most importantly, I wanted to emphasize that you need to conduct yourself with decorum in these meetings. You are not only representing your department here but the entire graduate student body, so you should not take this opportunity lightly. These meetings are open to the public, and everything that is said goes in our minutes on the record. Please treat your fellow Senators and any guests with respect. If you have questions about legislation or disagree with the contents, we welcome open discussion, but in a way that respects all parties involved. Our authors have worked hard to bring forth the legislation they present here, and we want to be sure we recognize their effort and their point of view. Each and every senator comes to the Senate with a different set of life experiences, and that is what makes this Senate such a fantastic body. It is so important that we are kind to one another in all aspects of our operations.
 - I shared the link for the new senator orientation in my e-mail this afternoon, and it is also posted on the website. I encourage you to give it a watch if you're new to the Senate or would like a refresher. And again, if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns,

please reach out. We are all here to serve you, and you, in return, are here to serve your peers!

- Vice-Chair: nothing new to report
- Secretary: for your students in your department to be eligible for GSS grants and funding, one senator from that department must meet the attendance requirement. Having two senators is helpful because it sort of “hedges your bets” in terms of one senator being likely to have satisfactory attendance.
 - You are allowed one absence per semester, plus a single "floating absence you can use in either semester
 - You can submit a proxy form on engage if you need to miss and then you will not receive an absence

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs: Chair Sai Kiran Reddy Maryada (24), Vice Chair Hesham Aboukeila (16), Secretary Jenny Baranker (105). Meeting at original committee time, Thursdays 6:30.
- Development & Philanthropy: Chair David Morrison (122), Vice Chair Arianna Harmon (83), Secretary Catherine Donner (30). Meeting at original committee time, Thursdays 6:30.
- External Affairs: Chair Sam Mentzer (11), Vice Chair Gabriel Reichert-Blume (60), Secretary Cecilia Slane (63). Meeting at original committee time, Thursdays 6:30.
- Internal Affairs: Chair Jordan Norris (112), Vice Chair Maria Antonia Alvarado Puchulu (95), Secretary Thomas Hamilton (82). Meeting at original committee time, Thursdays 6:30.
- International Student Affairs: Chair Feyi Babayemi (73), Vice Chair Norma Lilia Ruiz Cruz (14), Secretary Alexander Buelow (59). Meeting at original committee time, Thursdays 6:30.
- Public Relations: Chair Elizabeth Cox (77), Vice Chair Libby Hillis (72), Secretary Jillienne Kirkpatrick (86). Meeting at original committee time, Thursdays 6:30.
- Sustainability: Chair Kayareh Karami (7), Vice Chair Zhina Rashidzadeh (71), Secretary Shannon Wisner (9) and Henry Wilson (115). Planning on meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30.
- Ways and Means: Chair Lexi Walton (85), Vice Chair Isabella Chiareli (119), Secretary Deniz Emre (68). Meeting at original committee time, Thursdays 6:30.

Student Concerns:

Special Orders:

- Introduction of Graduate College Deans Dr. Randy Hewes and Dr. Liz Carr and Tulsa Grad Dean, Dr. Jennifer Kisamore
 - Developing a degree nav for grad students
 - Redesigning website to have lots of important information
 - Raising base stipends is still a goal and is part of the strategic plan
 - Gradseru results are coming soon and another wave of that survey will happen this year
 - Just wanted to say hello and thank you for all your work
- Introduction of Director of GSL and Postdoc Retention and Support, Dr. Jaimalene Hough
 - Grad student life has lots of great opportunities this year
 - Book club reading “The Secret Thoughts of Successful Women: Why Capable People Suffer from the Impostor Syndrome and How to Thrive in Spite of It”
 - Free book for first 25 to sign up
 - 3 minute thesis type competition for any work you grad students are doing will be happening this year as well.

Old Business:

New Business:

- GF22-03 Auxiliary Allocation 1 Act of 2022-2023
 - Motion to move GF22-03 to floor by Senator White (89), seconded by Senator Norris (112)
 - Author Demetri Papahronis, Chair, SGA Budget Committee: (The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Norris (112): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GF22-01 Red River Holiday Act of 2022
 - Motion to move GF22-01 to floor by Senator Walton (85), seconded by Senator Fogg (81)
 - Author Zack Lissau, President of the Student Government Association: The purpose of this act shall be to officially submit an unscheduled holiday to the University President for approval pursuant to Section 5.15 of the Regents policy manual.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Hamilton (82): Would you consider adding the language you provided in your speech about how this is helpful for safety of students to the bill?
 - Author: That would likely delay this bill, but we should do that in the future.
 - Senator Bruce (91): Does this apply to all future years, or just this year?
 - Author: Just this year.
 - Senator Norris (112): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GF22-02 Honoring the 2022 OU Softball Team Resolution
 - Motion to move GF22-02 to the floor by Senator Walton (85), seconded by Senator Karami (7)
 - Author Shrey Kathuria, University College Representative: The purpose of this legislation is to the congratulate the 2022 OU Softball team for winning the national championship and demonstrating excellence.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Norris (112): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes

Announcements:

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Norris (112), seconded by Senator Monaghan (94).

Adjournment:

Time: 7:43 PM