

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

November 16th, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93638222663?pwd=dFpKQUZOK2Q1U1oxV0lMUy9FUkRZUT09>

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Mission Statement: Graduate Students at the University of Oklahoma have a number of unique concerns and interests requiring a voice separate from the usual instruments that express the will of the faculty and of undergraduates. For this reason, the Graduate Student Senate of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association was established in 1987 to represent all Graduate Students and to serve their needs.

Reading and the Approval of the Minutes: (minutes from previous meeting:

<https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/GSS/agendas/2023/9-7-23AgendaGSS.pdf>)

- Senator Delafield (111), seconded by Senator Bennett (68)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - Second to last meeting. Wanted to make a note that I will be stepping down at the end of the spring, so if you are interested in serving as chair you should have a conversation with me or Rin.
- Vice-Chair:
 - Nothing new to report.
- Secretary:
 - Please submit your committee reports, if you have not already.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs:
 - Senator Aboukelia (15):
 - Nothing new to report
- Development & Philanthropy:
 - Senator Morrison (122):
 - The food drive is complete and we had substantial donations that actually overflowed the shelves in the graduate college. There is a food pantry in the graduate college, if you were unaware, and we will send out information about the food pantry and the location for it later.
 - Last night several members met with the owners of Equity brewing company to host a major fundraising event that will financially benefit our graduate grant pool. The date for that is hopefully March 29th (last Friday of the month).
 - The committee is working to set up a graduate student happy hour at the last Friday night of every month with Equity brewing company where funds will benefit our grant financial pool. The first will be January 26th.
- External Affairs:
 - Senator Beaty (21):
 - Nothing new to report.
- Internal Affairs:
 - Senator Delafield (111):

- Discussed the Textbooks Resolution
- International Student Affairs:
 - Senator Gupta (67):
 - Nothing new to report.
- Public Relations:
 - Senator Kirkpatrick (89):
 - Discussed the upcoming legislation, reviewing last week's questions and the Only One Textbooks and Tuition All Inclusive Act. Went over the changes regarding the act and any further questions that we may have. Determined a few social media posts we will create for fall break, dead week, and finals week.
- Sustainability:
 - Senator Taylor (99):
 - We are preparing for a meeting with the SGA sustainability committee. In this, we will be presenting our current research and working through the creation of a survey that will be submitted soon and presented to the entire student body. This survey is based on recycling on campus, people's thoughts on the current recycling situation on campus, and how it can be better. In today's meeting, we brainstormed many ideas for questions on this survey and how to make current questions better.
- Ways and Means:
 - Senator Chiareli (119):
 - Grading is done. The General Assembly will see the funds bill in this meeting, and we are currently working on drafting emails to be sent out to all applications letting them know the funding decision and general feedback on why they lost funding or why they were not funded.
 - Beginning of next week/early next week the emails will go out.
 - Working with Development and philanthropy on ways to raise funds to support the funding pool.

Student Concerns:

- Senator Taylor (99): Students are concerned about the biweekly pay and how it will affect them financially.

Special Orders:

- Transition to biweekly payroll.
- Prospective changes have a deadline in the middle of the month. The goal of this is to reduce payroll errors (often ~900 per year on the Norman campus).
 - Those over summer – the last monthly pay check will be issued on June 30th and the first biweekly paycheck will be July 26th
 - There will be a 12-month loan option for up to the amount of one full, monthly paycheck with no interest to cover expenses offered through the OU federal credit union. More info will be sent out in the Spring 2024.
 - Allowed for both international and brand-new graduate students
 - Graduate college is also working to update their language for incoming students.
 - There was also a GA raise program announced and will be effective in the summer.

Old Business:

New Business:

- GF23-25 Removal of the Student Environmental Coalition Act (Do Pass)
- GF23-26 Only One Textbooks and Tuition All Inclusive Act (Do Pass)
- GF23-27 The Salute to Veterans Beyond Veterans Day Resolution (Do Pass)
- GF23-28 Native American Heritage Month Recognition Resolution of 2023 (Do Pass)
- GF23-29 Auxiliary Allocation 9 Act of 2023-2024 (Rec of No Rec)
- GF23-30 An Act of Procedure Approving Fall 2023 Conference/Research & Creative Exhibition Grant Awards (Rec of No Rec)

GF23-25 Removal of the Student Environmental Coalition Act (Do Pass)

- Motion to move GF23-25 to the floor by Senator Young (61), seconded by Senator Aboukelia (15):
- Author Rylee Houston, Chair of Congress Sustainability: The goal is to remove the Student Environmental Coalition and to shift all responsibilities to the congress sustainability committee, which is has recently been cared for by the sustainability committee.
- Yields time for questions.
- Senator Young (61): Motion to approve via unanimous consent.
- No objections.
- Motion passes.

•GF23-26 Only One Textbooks and Tuition All Inclusive Act (Do Pass)

- Motion to move GF23-26 to the floor by Senator Young (61), seconded by Senator Tabak (85):
- Author, Michael Reynolds: Lumping tuition and textbooks together. Once you sign up for classes, the textbook is sent out. It benefits the university and the students, who will receive textbooks more quickly. Students may opt out of the textbook program. Students will receive a refund prorated by the drop date. We will be the first R1/D1 school in the nation to have this model.
- Yields time for questions.
- Questions:
 - Senator De La Garza (25): As far as opting out, will there be language in there that allows students to choose to opt out, for example “I don’t want my books early”?
 - Author: We will work this out during the logistics stage.
 - Senator Cabot (108): Many students will not buy the textbook unless they need it for homework and will instead opt for a free PDF. Will there be options?
 - Author: Yes, this will be up to the professor.
 - Senator De La Garza (25): It says that it will be included with tuition, does that mean tuition waivers will apply?
 - Author: Yes, tuition waivers will apply, and this program will help serve those who cannot often afford tuition or books.
 - Senator Taylor (99): As we have many students that come out of state, what will the affect be on those students.
 - Author: All tuition waivers should apply equally.
 - Senator (58): What will opting out look like? Does that count for multiple semesters or will they be able to do so each semester?
 - Author: Yes, they will be able to change whether they opt in each semester.
 - Senator Beck (93): What are the logistics for graduate students?
 - Author: Everything will be lumped in all together.
- Senator Young (61): Motion to approve via unanimous consent.
- No objections.
- Motion passes.

GF23-27 The Salute to Veterans Beyond Veterans Day Resolution (Do Pass)

- Motion to move GF23-27 to the floor by Senator Young (61), seconded by Senator Smith (10):

- Author Michael Reynolds: Eisenhower signed a bill that declared November 11th as veterans' day. We have it on our calendar but we have a full week of events for veterans and we want to be able to announce those through formal channels to make veterans on campus aware.
- Yields time for questions.
- No questions.
- Senator Clements (57): Motion to approve via unanimous consent.
- No objections.
- Motion passes.

GF23-28 Native American Heritage Month Recognition Resolution of 2023 (Do Pass)

- Motion to move GF23-28 to the floor by Senator Triemstra (9), seconded by Senator Clements (57):
- Author, Rylee Houston: Celebrating Native American Heritage month. This bill amplifies Native American voices in order to celebrate Native American culture and history.
- Yields time for questions.
- No questions
- Senator Kaiser (97): Motion to approve via unanimous consent.
- No objections.
- Motion passes.

GF23-29 Auxiliary Allocation 9 Act of 2023-2024 (Rec of No Rec)

- Motion to move GF23-29 to the floor by Senator Young (61), seconded by Senator Fogg (81):
- Author, Izza Shiraj, Chair of the Budgetary Committee: Standard auxiliary bill.
- Yields time for questions.
- No questions.
- Senator Young (61): Motion to approve via unanimous consent.
- No objections.
- Motion passes.

GF23-30 An Act of Procedure Approving Fall 2023 Conference/Research & Creative Exhibition Grant Awards (Rec of No Rec)

- Motion to move GF23-30 to the floor by Senator Young (61), seconded by Senator Triemstra (9):
- Author, Meagan Evans: Total conference grants, 77 with 107 grants reviewed. Total research grants were 21 of 31 grants awarded. We were able to fund grants with a grade of 80% or higher. If any constituents have questions, please collect them and send them to WAM
- Yields time for questions.
- No questions.
- Senator Young (61): Motion to approve via unanimous consent.
- No objections.
- Motion passes.

Announcements:

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Young (61), seconded by Senator Clements (57).

Adjournment:

Time: 7:50 pm