

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
September 21st, 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 Chiareli (119), seconded by Senator Fogg (81)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - Please e-mail me if you're interested in participating in the DiversityTEA event I sent an e-mail about on the 12th.
 - Line of communication for the Senate – a reminder that you are the first line of communication for anything related to the Senate. Your peers should be coming to you first with questions or concerns, and you will bring them to the appropriate Senate individual or committee. When I get e-mails from folks asking about Senate items, I will typically direct them straight back to you. This will become super important as we move into the grant period, and I think WAM will have messaging related to this. If your peers have questions about the grant, please have them send them to you and you will send them on to our committee.
 - We had a meeting of committee officers yesterday, and it was fantastic! I'm super excited to see what you all will work on this semester.
- Vice-Chair:
 - Nothing new to report.
- Secretary:
 - Please submit your committee reports if you have not already. Nothing new to report.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs:
 - Senator Aboukelia (15):
 - Nothing new to report
- Development & Philanthropy:
 - Senator Morrison (122):
 - Planned first event: Food drive, details to come via PR.
 - Planned our first food drive. Bin pass outs will begin on October 18 at 2:00pm. The food drive will last 4 weeks, with one bin pickup halfway through. We also discussed setting up a table or booth on campus to collect food and raise awareness for the GSA. We also discussed hanging flyers on the South Research Campus and Main Campus for fundraising.

- External Affairs:
 - Senator Beaty (21):
 - The first thing we discussed was the name change from External Affairs to Internal Affairs and how we've swapped names. However, the primary focus of the meeting was discussing next steps putting together a report that can be presented to the graduate college, the Board of Regents, etc. about graduate student pay and how it measures compared to other schools within the conference. Additionally, the committee discussed how to put together a longitudinal mechanism that can be used between different areas of the university to look at issues facing graduate students and how the students are faring.
- Internal Affairs:
 - Senator Delafield (111):
 - Discussed the upcoming name change for the internal affairs committee. Soon the internal affairs committee will be the External and Legislative Affairs Committee.
 - Selected a volunteer for the Graduate Council
- International Student Affairs:
 - Senator Gupta (67):
 - Plans for academic year: addressing plans from last academic year and addressing issues faced by international students, including termination of international students.
 - The International Student Affairs committee recapped the last committee meeting, however, we had no set agenda because this was the first meeting. We want to be able to safeguard GAships so that in case of terminations. For the safeguard policy, we need reasonable time for contract termination and have an arranged fun for students who have lost GAships in the middle of the semester. We talked about improving the current LinkedIn group for international students and graduate students. We also briefly talked about a relocation fund.
- Public Relations:
 - Senator Kirkpatrick (89):
 - Discussed basic resources available to PR committee
 - Committee Google form link for PR submissions: <https://forms.gle/TyHpeRsKugWKM66A9>
 - Ensured every member present has access to the Google Drive Discussed Assignment/Sign-up sheet Went over upcoming potential projects and graphics needed Discussed our current social media accounts and resources
- Sustainability:
 - Senator Taylor (99):
 - New projects and working on a shared resource for active projects. Meeting with Rylee Houston to collaborate with the SEC and SGA sustainability committee.
 - We spoke on the possibility of continuing the E-Waste bill and will have a concrete decision by the next meeting. We also brainstormed new ideas to work on throughout the year which included campus composting and attempting to end the sale of water bottles on campus. To make things easier for everyone, we did some housekeeping to keep documents and information organized and easily accessible. This also allows us to properly divide work to ensure we have an efficient workflow and are not repeating tasks.
- Ways and Means:
 - Senator Chiareli (119):
 - Grants should be available starting tomorrow and will be due in late October with checks being dispersed in late November
 - Will reach out to PR about fliers for the grants.

- The WAM committee selected October 20th as the deadline to submit GSS grant applications. The online application is expected to be made publicly available on September 22nd. Grading of GSS applications will be completed either on the weekend of October 27th or November 4th. The Grading date for applications is expected to be selected by next meeting. Lastly, the committee reviewed the final versions of the research and travel electronic grant forms.

Student Concerns

Special Orders:

- Dean Hewes, Graduate College:
 - Graduate College takes care of the administrative duties for all graduate students on the OU Norman campus except the law school.
 - The Graduate College also supports and advocates for graduate students and acts as a central hub for graduate student education and student life.
 - Rolled out a welcome portal for newly admitted students
 - When students are admitted to OU, they receive an email that directs them to the portal with a video and additional information to help students navigate the process of starting at OU, including setting up email accounts, FAFSA, and obtaining a Sooner card.
 - Working towards developing an electronic system that shows degree requirements and progress made toward degrees. The system also contains the possibility for mapping degree paths that can be individualized by students and a planner for mapping out student schedules.
 - This year the Graduate College just completed a final step for graduate assistants to cut fees and cut them by \$1700 per year for graduate assistants starting this fall. Overall, fees have been cut by close to \$4000 per year. Now the graduate college is working towards increasing graduate stipends.
 - On the Graduate Survey (GradSERU), they reported excellent responses and the graduate college has excellent ideas of ways to address student concerns and improve graduate student life at OU. Of all the schools in the consortium (~14 schools) OU had the best response rates.
- GF23-10 Act Appointing the 2023-2023 Election Commissioner
 - Motion to move to GF23-10 to new business by Senator Beaty (21), seconded by Senator Chiareli (119)

Old Business:

New Business:

- GF23-04 Signature Collection Clarification Act (Do Pass)
- GF23-06 Code Annotated Revision Act (Do Pass)
- GF23-08 Recovery Month Resolution (Do Pass)
- GF23-09 Auxiliary Allocation 2 Act of 2023-2024 (Rec of No Rec)
- GF23-04 Signature Collection Clarification Act (Do Pass)
 - Motion to move GF23-04 to floor by Senator Delafield (111), seconded by Senator Jordan (91)
 - Author Shrey Kathuria, Life Sciences Representative: The signature collection clarification act was created due to a lack of clarity for the petitions for signatures, including the timeframe for signature collection (i.e., informing and providing clear guideline that signature collection is not restricted to filling week). This act increases transparency and ease of access for the process of running for SGA or CAC related positions.

- Yields time for questions.
 - Senator Young (61): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GF23-06 Code Annotated Revision Act (Do Pass) – Authors not present, bill tabled for next meeting.
- GF23-08 Recovery Month Resolution (Do Pass)
 - Motion to move GF23-09 to floor by Senator Delafield (111), seconded by Senator Nicol (105)
 - Author Ezra Koenig, Human Diversity Chair: The month of September is recovery month and we wanted to recognize recovery month. The resolution defines recovery and recognizes recovery month in an effort to stand in solidarity with OU students in recovery. The resolution includes statistics and provides a list of resources on the OU campus and in the broader Norman area.
 - Yields time for questions.
 - Senator Delafield (111): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GF23-09 Auxiliary Allocation 2 Act of 2023-2024 (No recommendation)
 - Motion to move GF23-03 to floor by Senator Fogg (81), seconded by Senator Triemstra (9)
 - Author Izza Shiraj, SGA Budgetary Chair:
 - Yields time for questions.
 - Senator Delafield (111): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GF23-10 Act Appointing the 2023-2023 Election Commissioner
 - Motion to move GF23-10 to floor by Senator Triemstra (9), seconded by Senator Clements (57)
 - Author Chris Firch, SGA President: Currently proposing the act of appointing the 2023-2024 election commissioner. Seth Phynng has passion for fairness, voter turnout, and a transparent election process.
 - Yields time for questions.
 - Senator Chiareli (119): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes

Announcements:

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Fogg (81), seconded by Senator Hertensteiner (27).

Adjournment:

Time: 7:36 pm