

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

April 6th, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/94712902920?pwd=VHBoM2tMUGJON1k5VE1EWTVRTkNUZz09>

Passcode: 44657953

Call to Order: 7:02 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 Approval of the Minutes (minutes from previous meeting:

<https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/GSS/minutes/2023/GSS3-23-23Minutes.pdf>)

Motion to approve by Senator Gupta (67), seconded by Senator Hamilton (82)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - Thanks to everyone who filled out the apparel survey. Please do so if you are interested in purchasing (does not tie anyone to purchasing).
 - Graduate student leader lunch was successful. Thanks to everyone who identified leaders in their departments to invite to the lunch. We plan to host these regularly and want to continue to represent all leadership across campus.
- Vice-Chair:
 - SGA has cords for graduation, anyone graduating is welcome to one. Just email Rin.
- Secretary: Nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Affairs: Graduate student award nominations are in. 60 nominees total, 28 for overall, 17 for teaching, and 15 for research. Academic Affairs will meet this week to grade them and will have results before the next meeting.
- Development & Philanthropy: Nothing new to report
- External Affairs: Preliminary results for the funding survey. A total of 381 students responded from 59 different departments. External Affairs will formally present results at the next meeting. Highlights from the survey included 1.) most apparent hardship was the unexpected increase in cost of living and software costs, 2.) most students rely on personal savings to support themselves, and 3.) most are dissatisfied with their current level of financial aid.
- Internal Affairs: Nothing new to report.
- International Student Affairs: Preliminary results for the funding survey. A total of 45 students responded. Received enough responses to address questions we had about current international student experiences. Saw 6/7 new problems to highlight and address but the most prominent issue was income and expenses. Most complained that the income was stagnant and the cost of living has become higher.
- Public Relations: Nothing new to report.
- Sustainability: Nothing new to report.

- Ways and Means: Sent out all emails letting awardees know about funding. Currently planning application changes (e.g., formatting changes) for next year. Call for constructive feedback to help improve applications/application process. Feedback can come from either senators or from members of individual departments.

Student Concerns:

Special Orders:

Old Business:

New Business:

- GS23-22 SGA General Application Codification Act of 2023 (Rec of Do Pass)
 - Motion to move GS23-22 to floor by Senator ? (75), seconded by Senator Chiareli (119)
 - Authors Representative Tucker Dunn, Finance and Accounting District & Chair Abby Halsey-Kraus, Undergraduate Student Congress: The purpose of this act shall be to codify the SGA General Application as the primary application for leadership opportunities within the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the Student Government Association.
 - Yields time for question
 - Senator Walton (85): Mentioned that bill was not passed last year, why was that?
 - Author: Yes, because there were concerns about separation of power. It placed too much power in the hands of congress over election proceedings. Now, as long as the chair does not possess sole power to open elections that it would constitution sufficient separation of power.
 - Senator Hamilton (82): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes
- GS23-23 Auxiliary Allocation 11 Act of 2022-2023 (Rec of Do Pass)
 - Motion to move GS23-23 to floor by Senator ? (75), seconded by Senator Beaty (21)
 - Authors Demetri Papahronis, Chair, SGA Budget Committee & Brandon Chenevey, Vice 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 Cox (77): Motion to pass by unanimous consent.
 - No objections
 - Motion passes

Announcements:

Senator Smith (10) brought forward a concern about limited socialization/intermingling of graduate students from other departments. Most common suggestion from members of Senator Smith's department was a winter formal or end-of-year dance to facilitate interdepartmental socialization. The first step would be to generate an ad hoc committee to help plan social events. The first task would be to acquire funding in the form of an early proposal for auxiliary funding.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Karami (7), seconded by Senator Donner (30).

Adjournment:

Time: 7:20 PM