

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

**November 7th, 2024 7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Conference Call**

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

**Call to Order: 7:04 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/2024/10-24-24-GSS-Agenda.pdf>)

- Senator Smith (10), seconded by Senator Bain (111)

**Officer Reports:**

- Chair:
- Vice-Chair:
  - Nothing new to report.
- Secretary:
  - Please submit your committee reports, if you have not already.

**Committee Reports:**

- Academic Affairs:
  - Senator Sukumaran (64): made some changes to the application process and we are moving forwards with awards process.
- Development & Philanthropy:
  - Senator Edwards (11): Let your department know about the happy hours and let me know if your bin is full so we can collect the contents!
- External & Legislative Affairs:
  - Senator Ryan (98): we recommend to have discussion over the free speech bill and intend to motion for a roll call vote on that bill
- Internal Affairs:
  - Senator Brickwell (37): We should have a date soon for the
- International Student Affairs:
  - Senator Shodunke (58): We had a successful event so thank you all who showed up or shared the event!
- Public Relations:
  - Senator Merchant (81): We are working on recognizing outstanding graduate students

- Sustainability:
  - Senator Smith (10): Nothing new to report.
- Ways and Means:
  - Senator Chiareli (119): Nothing new to report.

### **Student Concerns:**

### **Special Orders:**

- Senator Bain (111) move GF24-14 Auxiliary Allocation 6 Act of 2024-2025 to new business
  - seconded by Senator Smith (10)

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

- **GF24-10 Disassembling the PAE Act (Do Pass)**
  - Motion to move GS24-10 to floor by Senator Triemstra (9), seconded by Senator Smith (10)
  - Author, Aaron Gilson-Bond, Chair of Undergraduate Student Congress Sustainability Committee: The purpose of this act shall be to modify the SGA Code annotated to remove the Partnership for Athletic Environmentalism as a committee in the SGA Code annotated
  - Author yields time for questions.
  - Senator Bain (111): Motion to pass via unanimous consent.
  - No objections.
  - Motion passes.

### **GF24-14 Auxiliary Allocation 6 Act of 2024-2025**

- Motion to move GS24-14 to floor by Senator Rodriguez (61), seconded by Senator Triemstra (9)
  - Author, Jacob Schonfield, Chair, SGA Budgetary Committee: The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.
  - Author yields time for questions.
  - Senator Mendoza (118): Motion to pass via unanimous consent.
  - No objections.
  - Motion passes.
- **GF24-12 National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024 (Rec of No Rec)**
    - Motion to move GS24-12 to floor by Senator Bain (111), seconded by Senator Triemstra (9)
    - Author Marilou Bento, Chair of the External Affairs Committee: The purpose of this act shall be to make a resolution to talk recognize free speech week with a different approach where we discuss the ongoing protests on campus. We want to

recognize that the university of Oklahoma has worked to protect the right to protest and mention why the right to protest should be observed.

- Author yields time for questions.
- Question:
  - Senator Zazubec (117): my committee has concerns about the wording of the second whereas clause and because of that we want to make a motion to discuss this bill
    - Author: in the exec meeting on Monday we mentioned an amendment to change the word Hate speech to Disagreeable speech and I would accept a friendly amendment to that effect?
  - Senator Zazubec (57): I recognize that it is a recognized term under the first amendment but think something less inflammatory would be
    - Author: the term disagreeable speech would encompass the aspects that the term hate speech
  - Senator Hernandez (117): what is the need to say hate speech instead of just speech
    - Author: we wanted to recognize the types of speech OU has historically allowed.
  - Senator Hensley (82): I am the law school graduate that brought up these concerns but I feel my concerns are being misrepresented. OU has expansive power to limit free speech. Permissible spaces are all spaces so this bill
  - Senator Merchant (81): what sources and people did you consult for the bill
    - Author: I listed the sources in the footnotes and they have easy links
      - Senator Merchant (81): do you have specific sources within the first amendment that you are referencing
        - Author: the first section cites the first amendment directly, the second cites the court cases, and the third cites the laws regarding campus protests
  - Senator Mahmoud (112): why did you mention those organizations specifically?
    - Author: Those groups were active in protests in the past year so we wanted to especially recognize
  - Senator Merchant (81): motion to table until the end of new business
    - seconded by Senator Bain (111)
  - Senator Merchant (81): would the author accept a friendly amendment to make the changes presented in the three images in the Zoom chat.
    - Author: I disagree with the amendment to section 6. I feel the call to action is mostly in 4 and 5 so I feel the changes to section 6 are redundant
      - Senator Merchant (81): I change my motion to be just the other sections
        - Seconded by Senator Smith (10)
          - Author: Yes I accept

- Senator Mahmoud (112): motion to make a friendly amendment to the second whereas clause changing “hate” to “disagreeable”
  - Senator Bain (111): seconded
    - Author: I accept
  - Senator Hernandez (117): Motion to pass via unanimous consent.
  - No objections.
  - Motion passes.
- **GF24-13 Fall 2024 Departmental Status Act (Do Pass)**
  - Motion to move GS24-13 to floor by Senator Bain (111), seconded by Senator Mahmoud (112)
  - Author, Cooper Delafield, GSS Secretary: To update Graduate Student Senate Department status for the full academic year 2024-2025.
  - Author yields time for questions.
  - Senator Bain (111): Motion to pass via unanimous consent.
  - No objections.
  - Motion passes.

**Announcements:**

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Mendoza (118), seconded by Senator Smith (10).

**Adjournment:**

Time: 7:46 PM