

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
Session C

General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Devon Hall 120

Session C

Roll Call -

Flag Salute

Approval of Minutes

Chair's Report-

Vice Chair's Report-

Secretary's Report-

Committee Reports-

- Ways and Means

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

- Executive Session

- Elections

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary

Student Concerns

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

CR-100-01 – A Resolution Requesting the University of Oklahoma to Eliminate Criminal Background Questions on Admissions Applications (Scimeca/Bishop) (Exec – rec of do pass)

CR-100-02 – A Resolution Thanking our OU Daily Reporter (Rains-Saucedo/Lalani/Cordova) (Exec – rec of do pass)

CR-100-03 – A Resolution Thanking Our OU SGA Office Staff (Rains-Saucedo/Lalani/Cordova) (Exec – rec of do pass)

CR-100-04 – A Resolution Thanking Our OU SGA Webmaster (Rains-Saucedo/Lalani/Cordova) (Exec – rec of do pass)

CB-100-02 – An Act Regarding Public Office Hours for the SGA President and Vice-President (Williams) (Exec – rec of do pass)

CB-100-03 – An Act Appoint Superior Court Justices (Williams) (Exec – rec of no rec)

New Business

Follow-Up Reports

Items for Future Agenda

Announcements and Comments
Final Roll Call

Chair: Kaylee Rains-Saucedo
Vice Chair: Sanah Lalani
Secretary: Mackenzie Cordova

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION C

April 17, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION NO. CR-100-01

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution requesting the University of Oklahoma to eliminate criminal background questions on admissions applications; and providing for distribution.

- Whereas: Higher education plays a critical role in developing good citizenship, creating economic and social opportunities, and enhancing public safety by reducing the recidivism of individuals with criminal records; and
- Whereas: It is the public policy of this State to promote the admission of individuals previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses to higher education institutions to allow such individuals to fully participate in all aspects of higher education; and
- Whereas: In May of 2016, the U.S. Department of Education urged all higher education institutions to voluntarily remove criminal history questions from their applications¹; and
- Whereas: The New York State Bar Association called for the removal of criminal history questions on college applications, citing the lack of evidence for its value in predicting illegal conduct on campuses and the burden of providing supplementary materials²; and
- Whereas: Questions about criminal history can act as a form of race-based discrimination, since people of color are disproportionately impacted by these policies²; and
- Whereas: Crimes committed on campuses of a higher education institutions are often committed by students with no prior criminal history²; and
- Whereas: A gut reaction exists that claims people with criminal history records would be a greater risk, but research does not support this opinion³; and
- Whereas: Research suggests the practice of inquiring into applicants' criminal background, school judicial background, and military discharge information are not effective in mitigating campus crime³; and
- Whereas: One in 12 Oklahomans is a convicted felon, and more than 55,000 people are currently in prison or under supervision of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, a majority of which are nonviolent offenders⁴; and

¹ <https://www.ed.gov/category/keyword/criminal-history>

² <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/04/ban-the-box-comes-to-campus/480195/>

³ <https://search.proquest.com/docview/304764792>

⁴ <http://newsok.com/article/5480920>

Whereas: The national prison recidivism rate is 76 percent, but reduces to 5.6 percent for people who obtain a bachelor's degree⁵; and

Whereas: In February of 2016, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin signed an executive order requiring state agencies to eliminate questions about felony convictions from employment applications⁴; and

Whereas: Access to higher education will decrease reliance on public assistance, increases employment rates, improves physical and mental health, elevates the quality of life for children, and strengthen communities within Norman and the State of Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:

Section 1: This Resolution shall be known as "The Ban the Box Resolution of 2018".

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma should not make any inquiry or consider information about an individual's past criminal history or convictions at any time during the application and admissions decision-making process, if said convictions are not related to stalking, rape, sexual assault, or murder.

Section 3: The Undergraduate Student Congress supports efforts to make higher education as fair and accessible as possible.

Section 4: The Undergraduate Student Congress believes after a student has been accepted for admission, The University of Oklahoma may consider information relative to their criminal conviction history for the following purposes:

1. Offering supportive counseling and services.
2. Making decisions relative to a student's participation in campus life and determining if the institution will limit such participation.

Section 5: The Undergraduate Student Congress believes after a student has been granted admission, The University of Oklahoma may consider information relative to the student's criminal conviction history for the purpose of offering supportive counseling services, but shall not rescind based on such history, an offer of admission.

Section 6: The Undergraduate Student Congress believes that if The University of Oklahoma elects to consider an admitted student's criminal record for the purpose of assessing a student's participation in campus life and determining if The University of Oklahoma shall limit such participation, the institution shall consider the following:

1. The nature and gravity of the criminal conduct and whether it bears a direct relationship to a particular aspect of a student's participation in campus life, including but not limited to campus residency,
2. The time that has elapsed since the occurrence of the criminal conduct,
3. The age of the student at the time of the conduct underlying the criminal conviction.
4. Any evidence of rehabilitation produced by the student.

⁵ <https://biomedicalodyssey.blogs.hopkinsmedicine.org/2017/10/ban-the-box-on-college-applications/>

- Section 7:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
- David L. Boren, University of Oklahoma President
 - Jim Gallogly, University of Oklahoma President Designate
 - Jeff Blahnik, Executive Director of Admissions & Recruitment
 - Chris Walker, Associate Provost for Faculty and Student Affairs
 - Kenneth Chapman, Director of Diversity and Inclusion
 - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
 - *The OU Daily*
 - *Norman Transcript*

Author(s): Joey Scimeca, Engineering District Representative Emeritus

Co-Author(s): Kimberley Bishop, Humanities District Representative

Co-Sponsor(s): Sanah Lalani, Congress Vice Chair Emeritus

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION C

April 17, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION NO. CR-100-02

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution thanking Grace Mitchell for her service; and
providing for distribution.

Whereas: Grace Mitchell has served as the SGA reporter for Session 99 & 100; and

Whereas: While reporting on SGA, Grace attended every meeting of the Undergraduate Student Congress and spent additional hours outside of our meetings interviewing authors and learning our process; and

Whereas: Grace has done a great service to the student body of the University of Oklahoma by reporting to them on the actions of their Student Government and striving to increase awareness of the Student Government Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:

Section 1: We thank Grace for her willingness to attend our meetings in their entirety and inform the student body of everything that happens in Congress so that we may be more accountable to our constituents.

Section 2: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Nick Jungman, Director of Student Media
- Kelli Stacy, Editor in Chief *OU Daily*
- Grace Mitchell, SGA Beat Reporter *OU Daily*
- *OU Daily*

Authors: Kaylee Rains-Saucedo, Undergraduate Student Congress Chair Emeritus
Sanah Lalani, Undergraduate Student Congress Vice Chair Emeritus
Mackenzie Cordova, Undergraduate Student Congress Secretary Emeritus

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION C

April 17, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION NO. CR-100-03

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution thanking the SGA office staff for their service; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: Curt Swanson & Debbie Strong have served in their positions as SGA Accountant and SGA Executive Assistant, respectably, for years; and

Whereas: Each member of our Office Staff works with students both inside and outside of the Student Government Association to ensure that our projects and our responsibilities are fulfilled; and

Whereas: Curt and Debbie both work in open office spaces and are constantly answering students' questions; and

Whereas: They serve as dedicated mentors to all student members of the Student Government Association without pay or official recognition for this additional job requirement they willingly accepted; and

Whereas: Curt and Debbie deserve and are owed endless thanks and gratitude from the entire SGA, and the Undergraduate Student Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:

Section 1: We give profuse thanks to Curt and Debbie for their countless hours worked in the service and assistance of all members of SGA and are looking forward to continued collaboration.

Section 2: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- David L. Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma
- Clarke Stroud, Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs
- George Ahmadi, SGA Advisor
- Curt Swanson, SGA Account and Budget Representative
- Debbie Strong, SGA Staff Assistant

Authors: Kaylee Rains-Saucedo, Undergraduate Student Congress Chair Emeritus
Sanah Lalani, Undergraduate Student Congress Vice Chair Emeritus
Mackenzie Cordova, Undergraduate Student Congress Secretary Emeritus

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION C

April 17, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION NO. CR-100-04

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution thanking Kimberley Bishop for her service;
and providing for distribution.

Whereas: Kimberley Bishop has served as the SGA Webmaster and Graphic Designer for this school year; and

Whereas: Kim's services are vital to the efficiency of meetings and the public relations effort of SGA and of the Undergraduate Student Congress.

Whereas: Without Kim's experience, we would not be able to hold our meetings in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act, even working on holidays to make sure we meet that goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:

Section 1: We thank Kimberley for her service and work ethic this school year while she performed her duties and obligations, including the creation of hundreds of graphics for SGA events, and updating the SGA website, including completely redoing the Congress section.

Section 2: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Yaseen Shurbaji, SGA President
- Kimberley Bishop, SGA Webmaster
- *OU Daily*
- *The OU Nightly*

Authors: Kaylee Rains, Undergraduate Student Congress Chair Emeritus
Sanah Lalani, Undergraduate Student Congress Vice Chair Emeritus
Mackenzie Cordova, Undergraduate Student Congress Secretary Emeritus

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION C
April 17, 2018

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS-18
April 22, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL BILL NO. CB-100-02
SENATE BILL NO. GS18-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Act requiring a public office hour for the SGA President and Vice President, providing for a short title, providing for codification, and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

Section 1: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Public Office Hour Act of 2018"

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to promote accessibility to the SGA President and Vice-President through a public office hour.

Section 3: For the purposes of this Act, all additions shall be marked with an underline, and all deletions shall be marked with a ~~striketrough~~.

Section 4: Title XII of the Code Annotated shall be amended as follows:

Chapter 5- Salaries and Stipends

31.

Stipends are reflective of the weekly office hour requirement for each position. The President and Vice-President shall each be obligated to hold no less than one office hour per week in prominent campus locations not including the Conoco Student Leadership Center. These office hours must be held in three different locations each month.

Section 5: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Daniel Williams, Legislative Assistant
Yaseen Shurbaji, Student Government Association President

Co-Author(s):

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION C

April 17, 2018

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS-18

April 22, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL BILL NO. CB-100-03

SENATE BILL NO. GS18-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An act appointing SGA Superior Court members;
providing for a short title, providing for codification, and
providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

Section 1: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “SGA Superior Court Appointment Act of 2018”

Section 2: The purpose of this act shall be to fill vacancy and appoint student member to the SGA Superior Court.

Section 3: In accordance with Title IV, Chapter 2, section 7, which delineates the appointment process for students on the court, the following underlined students shall thus be appointed:

- Amy Oliver
- Jacob Downs
- Nick Marr

Section 4: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Dan Williams, Legislative Assistant
Yaseen Shurbaji, SGA President

Co-Author(s):

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____