

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
Session CIII

General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 31st, 2020
<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/583838005>

Roll Call

Mission Statement

Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes

Chair's Report -

Vice Chair's Report -

Secretary's Report -

Committee Reports-

- Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:
- Congressional Administration:
- External Affairs:
- Human Diversity:
- Sustainability:
- University Policy:
- Ways and Means:

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

Student Concerns

Old Business

CR-103-03 Black History Month Resolution

CR-103-04 Black Emergency Response Team Support Resolution

CR-103-05 Women's History Month Acknowledgement Resolution of 2020

CR-103-06 Get OUt the Vote

CR-103-07 OUr Voice

Items to Be Considered

Follow-Up Reports

Items for Future Agenda

Announcements and Comments

Final Roll Call

Adjourn

Chair: Emma DeAngeli

Vice Chair: Mahak Merchant

Secretary: Savanah Patterson

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CIII

March 3rd, 2020

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

SENATE SESSION GS20

March 29, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-103-03

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GS20-15

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution reflecting on the importance
of Black History Month; and providing for
distribution.

- Whereas: The month of February is nationally recognized as Black History Month;
- Whereas: The United States, as well as the State of Oklahoma, has a long history of marginalizing Black individuals on the basis of racist, bigoted, and supremacist ideals;
- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma has harbored individuals who are ignorant of, and inflammatory towards, race relations on campus in an environment that is increasingly obstinate to the ability of Black students to attain a quality education.
- Whereas: The United States, Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma have struggled with the legacy of this nation's original sin, individuals such as Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and George W. McLaurin, who fought for the right of Black students to higher education, see their goal and legacy being continued by modern groups such as the Black Emergency Response Team and the Black Student Association;
- Whereas: In the last year the University of Oklahoma has experienced several disgusting acts of overt racism including incidences of Blackface and the use of racial slurs against Black students;
- Whereas: In the first weeks of 2020, the University of Oklahoma has suffered two professors carelessly using racial slurs in class, causing trauma to both their own students and the Black community at large;
- Whereas: Few of these incidences are publicized but Black students at this university face similar issues each and every day;

- Whereas: A study from the Pew Research Center in 2019 found that 81% of Blacks with “Some college or more” have experienced discrimination, making them more likely to experience discrimination than Blacks who are educated to the level of “High school or less”;¹
- Whereas: The same study found that only 54% of non-Hispanic White Americans believe that racial discrimination is a major obstacle for Black Americans;²
- Whereas: Furthermore, the same study found that non-Hispanic White Americans believe that being Black leads to family instability and a lack of good role models at a higher rate than Blacks believe the same ideas;³
- Whereas: A bachelor’s degree earns a White American \$10,000 more per year than the same degree earns a Black American;
- Whereas: Despite systemic racism and overt disadvantage, Black Americans have left an indelible mark on American society, the State of Oklahoma, and the University of Oklahoma;
- Whereas: In spite of the circumstances surrounding Black Americans in this country, individuals like Langston Hughes, Barack and Michelle Obama, Venus and Serena Williams, Maya Angelou, Shirley Chisholm, Sojourner Truth, Stevie Wonder, Morgan Freeman, Muhammed Ali, Ruth Carter, Crispus Attucks, Arna Bontemps, Edward Brooke, Senator Kamala Harris, George Washington Carver, Jada Pinkett Smith, Thurgood Marshall, Viola Davis, Jackie Robinson, Louis Armstrong, Toni Morrison, Ella Baker, Meghan Markle, Emmitt Till, Jesse Jackson, Anita Hill, Beyonce Knowles-Carter, Clara Luper, Will Smith, Ava DuVernay, Carol Moseley Braun, Simone Biles, W.E.B Du Bois, Malcom X, Ralph Waldo Ellison, Dr. Ben Carson, George Henderson, and many more, have found success; and
- Whereas: Black Americans hold this month dear, in which we all reflect on the obstacles intentionally placed in front of the Black community throughout history and look up to the Black Americans who have not only overcome those obstacles but have also found ways to remove them in order for their own communities to continue succeeding;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS AND THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE, CONCURRING THEREIN THAT:

¹ Anderson, Monica. “For black Americans, experiences of racial discrimination vary by education level, gender.” [pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org), 2019.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/02/for-black-americans-experiences-of-racial-discrimination-vary-by-education-level-gender/>

² Anderson, “For black Americans.”

³ Anderson, “For black Americans.”

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “Black History Month Resolution of 2020”

Section 2: The Undergraduate Student Congress and the Graduate Student Senate recognize and celebrate the month of February as Black History Month and encourages the student body to use this month as a time to reflect on how we as a University can remove barriers to Black success on this campus.

Section 3: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Interim President Joseph Harroz
- Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Dr. Belinda Hyppolite
- The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents
- Governor Kevin Stitt
- The OU Daily
- The OU Nightly
- The OU Forum
- Gaylord Diversity Committee
- History Department Committee

Author(s): Representative Hennessey Chism, International Studies
Representative Mark Mayes, Finance and Accounting

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Harman seconded by Representative Carson
Action taken by Congress: 30-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by: Senator Vijay objected by Senator Israel
Action taken by Senate: Passed by placard vote: 41-2-9

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CIII

March 3rd, 2020

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

SENATE SESSION GS20

March 29, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-103-04

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GS20-17

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution supporting the efforts of the Black
Emergency Response Team; and providing for
distribution.

- Whereas: There have been egregious incidents of explicit racism at the University of Oklahoma, both over the years and in the very recent past.
- Whereas: Such incidents include the racist “Little Red” mascot in the 1950’s, incidents of blackface in 2019, and usage of racial pejoratives by professors in 2020.
- Whereas: Substantive change and accountability must occur to facilitate an inclusive environment for all students of color on campus.
- Whereas: The Black Emergency Response Team led a well-publicized multi-day sit-in and hunger strike at Evans Hall with the goal of forcing the University of Oklahoma to take action against racism in the OU community.
- Whereas: The Black Emergency Response Team released a list of demands that the University needed to meet in order for the sit-in and hunger strike to end.
- Whereas: Lack of consequences in the face of blatant structural and explicit racism enables racist behavior and makes complicit those who stay silent.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT CONGRESS AND THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE, CONCURRING
THEREIN THAT:

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “Black Emergency Response Team Support Resolution.”

Section 2: The Student Government Association supports and commends the efforts and dedication of the Black Emergency Response Team, as well as the administration, staff, faculty, and students who have given their support.

Section 3: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- University of Oklahoma President Joseph Harroz
- Provost Kyle Harper
- Dr. David Surratt, Dean of Students
- Dr. Belinda Higgs-Hyppolite, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- The Black Emergency Response Team
- OU Daily
- OU Nightly

Author(s): Crispin South, Engineering Representative
Hennessey Chism, International Studies Representative

Co-Authors(s): The Executive Committee of the Undergraduate Student Congress
Nate Buxton, Humanities Representative

Co-Sponsor(s): Emily Tucker, Humanities Representative
Nishit Garg, Life Sciences Representative
Hunter McCans, Associate Justice, SGA Superior Court
Audrey Heuser, University Policy Committee Chair
August vonHartzsch, University College Representative
Max Murdock, Social Sciences Representative
Mahak Merchant, Vice Chair
Lauren Patton, Budget Chair
Caitlin Schneider, Humanities Representative
Caitlyn Harman, University College Representative
Lucy Alpert, Physical Science Representative
Jada Carson, University College Representative
Ismael Carmona, Business Representatives
Adia Sertovic, Social Science Representatives
Jordan Grebe, University College Representative
Joseph Ivester, Associate
Blake Compton, Associate
Jessica Dobson, Associate
Sephra Kolker, Associate

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Tucker seconded by Representative Carmona

Action taken by Congress: 28-1-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by: Senator Israel seconded by Senator Linsey
Action taken by Senate: Passed by Placard Vote: 42-4-7

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CIII
March 9th 2020

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS20
March 29th, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-103-05
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GS20-18

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance
Women's History Month.

Whereas: On August 4th, 1981 the 97th United States Congress jointly resolved in Public Law 97-28 to establish the week of March 7th, 1982 as Women's History Week⁴; and

Whereas: President Ronald Reagan issued Presidential Proclamation 4903 on February 26th 1982 which states; "*Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as Women's History*

Week. Recognizing that the many contributions of American women have at times been overlooked in the annals of American history, I encourage all citizens to observe this important week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities planned by individuals, governmental agencies, and private institutions and associations throughout the country⁵;" and

Whereas: In 1987 the National Women's History Project successfully lobbied the 100th United States Congress to issue Public Law 100-9 on March 12th 1987 to declare the month of March Women's History Month⁶; and

Whereas: President Ronald Reagan issued Presidential Proclamation 5619 on March 16th 1987 which states; "*Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 1987 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to mark this month with appropriate observances to honor the*

⁴ govinfo, § (1981). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-95/pdf/STATUTE-95-Pg148.pdf>.

⁵ "Proclamation 4903-Women's History Week, 1982." Proclamation 4903-Women's History Week, 1982 | The American Presidency Project, February 26, 1982.

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-4903-womens-history-week-1982>.

⁶ govinfo, (1987). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-101/pdf/STATUTE-101-Pg99.pdf>.

achievements of American women⁷;" and

Whereas: Women of every race, class, and culture helped found the Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways as servants, slaves, nuns, homemakers, industrial workers, teachers, reformers, medical professionals, scientists, lawyers, politicians, soldiers, and pioneers¹; and

Whereas: Women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of our Nation's life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force¹; and

Whereas: Women have played a unique role throughout our history by providing the majority of the Nation's volunteer labor force and have been particularly important in the establishment of early charitable philanthropic and cultural institutions in the country¹; and

Whereas: Women of every race, class, and cultural background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement, not only to secure their own right of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor union movement, and the civil rights movement; and ¹

Whereas: Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history¹; therefore

Whereas: Women serve in numerous positions throughout the Nation including service, leadership, STEM, philanthropy, and additional spaces. In doing so, women continue to push barriers and create new marks in American history; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the "Women's History Month Acknowledgement Resolution of 2020"

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association acknowledges the historic work of women as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement, not only to secure their own right of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the

⁷ "Proclamation 5619-Women's History Month, 1987." Proclamation 5619-Women's History Month, 1987 | The American Presidency Project, March 16, 1987.

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-5619-womens-history-month-1987>.

industrial labor union movement, and the civil rights movement

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association seeks to empower women as leaders both on and off campus and ensure they have access to any and all resources necessary to succeed.

Section 4: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Joseph Harroz, Interim President of The University of Oklahoma
- Dr. Belinda Higgs Hyppolite Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion for The University of Oklahoma
- Dr. David Surratt Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- Quy Nguyen, Director of Student Life
- Erin Simpson, Director of the Gender and Equality Center
- Professor Elyssa Faison Interim Chair of Women’s and Gender

Author(s): Taylor Broadbent, Chair of External Affairs
Rebecca Yanez, Member of Executive Cabinet Diversity and Inclusion

Co-Sponsor(s): Caitlin Schneider, Humanities Representative
Mahak Merchant, Vice Chair
Caitlyn Harman, University College Representative
Audrey Heuser, University Policy Committee Chair
Alexis Marvin, Campus Outreach Safety and Concerns Vice Chair
Tess McGee, University College Representative
Aspen Bell, Physical Sciences Representative
August vonHartzsch, University College
Adia Sertovic, Social Science Representative
Emily Tucker, Humanities Representative
Lucy Alpert, Physical Science Representative
Lauren Patton, Budget Chair
Jada Carson, University College Representative
Sephra Kolker, Associate
Britney Powell, Finance and Accounting Representative
Savanah Patterson, Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Congress

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Tucker seconded by Representative Sertovic

Action taken by Congress: 29-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by: Senator Grover seconded by Senator Reynolds

Action taken by Senate: Passed by unanimous consent

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CIII
March 10th, 2020

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS20
March 29th, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-103-06
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GS20-19

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution calling on the University of
Oklahoma to make election day a school holiday.

- Whereas: The average voter turnout for the US since 2000 is 54.96%⁸; and
- Whereas: The turnout for the 2018 midterm elections was 50.3%⁹; and
- Whereas: Youth involvement in American politics is increasing with innovations in media and youth outreach programs from campaigns; and
- Whereas: Students should not have to decide between academic success and fulfilling their civic duty to our American democratic process; and
- Whereas: Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico have declared Election Day a civic holiday. Along with other states giving workers parts of the day off for voting.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, CONCURRING
THEREIN THAT:

Section 1: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Get OUt the Vote”

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association encourages The University of Oklahoma to make Federal Election day a school holiday as a matter of

⁸ Sanders Institute. “Why Don't Americans Vote?: The Sanders Institute.” Why Don't Americans Vote? | The. Accessed March 11, 2020.
<https://www.sandersinstitute.com/blog/why-dont-americans-vote>.

⁹ Sutter, John D. “Election Day Should Be a Federal Holiday.” CNN. Cable News Network, November 12, 2012. <http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/12/opinion/ctl-election-holiday/>.

policy, outside of the unscheduled school holiday allowed by the University of Oklahoma Regents policy manual section 5.15.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association encourages students of our University to fulfill their civic obligation to register and vote in their nations State and Local elections.

Section 4: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association encourages residents of Oklahoma, in places of civic engagement, to consider the importance of a highly educated voter base from our country to local community.

Section 5: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- President Joseph Harroz Jr.
- Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Surratt
- OK Votes
- The Norman Transcript
- The OU Daily
- The OU Nightly
- KOCO 5

Author(s): Representative Nathaniel Buxton, Vice-Chair of External Affairs

Co-Author(s): Representative Taylor Broadbent, Chair of External Affairs
Representative Crispin South, Vice Chair of University Policy

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Marvin seconded by Representative Grebe
Action taken by Congress: 29-0-0
Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by: Senator Israel seconded by Senator Grover
Action taken by Senate: Passed by roll call vote: 43-4-5
Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CIII
March 10th, 2020

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS20
March 29th, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-103-07
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GS20-20

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution calling on our respective
levels of Government to make election day a holiday.

Whereas: The average voter turnout for the US since 2000 is 54.96%¹⁰; and

Whereas: The turnout for the 2018 midterm elections was 50.3%¹¹; and

Whereas: Youth involvement in American Politics is increasing with innovations in media and youth outreach programs from campaigns; and

Whereas: Americans should not have to decide between academic success and fulfilling their civic duty to our Americandemocratic process; and

Whereas: Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico have declared Election Day a civic holiday. Along with other states giving workers parts of the day off for voting; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, CONCURRING
THEREIN THAT:

Section 1: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “OUr Voice”

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association encourages our federal, state and local legislators to make Federal Election Day a federal/state holiday.

¹⁰ Sanders Institute. “Why Don't Americans Vote?: The Sanders Institute.” Why Don't Americans Vote? | The. Accessed March 11, 2020.
<https://www.sandersinstitute.com/blog/why-dont-americans-vote>.

¹¹ Sutter, John D. “Election Day Should Be a Federal Holiday.” CNN. Cable News Network, November 12, 2012. <http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/12/opinion/ctl-election-holiday/>.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association encourages students of our University to fulfill their civic duty to register and vote in their nations State and Local elections.

Section 4: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association encourages all Americans, in places of civic engagement, to consider the importance of a highly populated and highly educated voter base from our country to local community.

Section 5: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- President Donald J. Trump
- Governor Kevin Stitt
- Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
- Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
- Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
- Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
- Representative Tom Cole
- Senator Jim Inhofe
- Senator James Lankford
- Speaker Charles McCall
- President Pro Tempore Greg Treat
- Minority Leader Emily Virgin
- Senator Rob Standridge
- Senator Mary Boren
- Representative Merleyn Bell
- Representative Jacob Rosencrats
- OK Votes
- The Oklahoman
- The Norman Transcript
- The OU Daily
- The OU Nightly
- KOCO 5

Author(s): Representative Nathaniel Buxton, Vice-Chair of External Affairs

Co-Author(s): Representative Taylor Broadbent, Chair of External Affairs

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Tucker seconded by Representative May
Action taken by Congress: 29-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by: Senator Pickens seconded by Senator Cooley

Action taken by Senate: Passed by unanimous consent

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____