

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CVIII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 8th, 2022

Gaylord 2020

Call to Order

Opening Roll Call

Mission Statement: The mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Undergraduate Student Congress is to represent the interests of undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic and individual achievement. The Undergraduate Student Congress is committed to building a strong campus community, promoting civic engagement, and enhancing the quality of the undergraduate experience at the University of Oklahoma.

Moment of Silence: 20 Second Moment of Silence to allow an opportunity for reflection.

Approval of Minutes

Officer Reports -

- 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

- NCHA Survey & Presentation
- Friendsgiving Volunteer QR

Student Concern Link

Items to Be Considered

-CR-108-18 "Salute to Veterans Parking Act" (Reynolds/Kathuria) (U-Pol, Rec of Do Pass)

-CR-108-19 "Voicing Our Thoughts Electorally/V.O.T.E Act" (Lewis/Lissau/Griffin) (EA, Rec of Do Pass)

-CR-108-20 "Workforce Action and Gainful Employment (WAGE) Act of 2022" (Mullins/Dodd/Halsey-Kraus) (U-Pol, Rec of Do Pass)

Follow-Up Reports
Items for Future Agenda
Announcements and Comments
Final Roll Call
Adjourn

Chair: Lacey Lewis

Vice-Chair: Bailey Trautman

Secretary: Amelia Landry

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION 108
November 8th, 2022

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX
Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-108-18
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recommending OU parking services to increase the number of veteran parking spaces on campus; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: As of today, there are only 4 total parking spaces available for students who are veterans; and

Whereas: Veterans deserve to be treated with the utmost respect for the services they have provided to our country and the community; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “Salute to Veterans Parking Act.”

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends that OU parking services do the following:

1. Increase the number of designated parking spaces to thirteen spots to represent the thirteen stripes of the American flag.
 - a. Designated parking spots should be placed in any parking garage or parking space on campus.
2. Have a designated commuter parking tag for each qualified student veteran on campus.

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

- OU Daily
- OU Parking Services
- OU Veteran Services
- Kris Glenn Director of Parking Services

Author(s): Michael T. Reynolds Sr., College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences School of Aviation Studies, Shrey Kathuria, University College Representative

Co-Author(s):

Co-Sponsor(s): Lacey Lewis, Chair of the USC

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 CVIII
November 8th, 2022

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF22
November XX, 2022

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-108-19
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution to encourage the University of Oklahoma to recognize voting exemptions for students; and providing for distribution.

- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma’s Strategic plan makes frequent references to the promotion of civic participation and engagement to create a more democratic society¹; Therefore
- Whereas: It is important that the University of Oklahoma and the Student Government Association partner together to encourage civic engagement amongst students; and
- Whereas: Students historically have made up a very small percentage when compared to the number of eligible voters who actively participate in voting²; and
- Whereas: We have the unique opportunity to make a significant change and allow students to have a voice in the 2022 midterm elections; and
- Whereas: The University has recognized the importance for Staff to vote by granting them two-hour voting exemptions from work³; and
- Whereas: Administration should recognize the same rights for students; and

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

¹ <https://www.ou.edu/leadon/pillars/pillar2>

The University of Oklahoma’s Second Pillar serves to, “Prepare Students for a Life of Success, Meaning, Service, and Positive Impact.” This pillar closely relates to the promotion of Civic Engagement. Under the strategies used to preserve Oklahoma’s Second Pillar strategy 4, tactic reads:

“**Tactic 3:** Set clear service learning, volunteerism, and leadership expectations in the student experience for everyone¹.” Voting is the most basic leadership and service expectation that one can fulfill as a student.

² <https://www.campusvoteproject.org/why-student-voters-matter>

³ <https://apps.hr.ou.edu/staffhandbook#3.10.4>

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “Voicing Our Thoughts Electorally Act.”

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association strongly encourages the creation of Voting Exemptions for students for future elections. Voting exemptions are needed for a multitude of reasons that include:

1. Forty-four percent of students are non-residents, and 5,669 of these students who vote in Texas.⁴
2. Casting a ballot may take hours because of long poll lines.⁵
3. Many students prefer to vote in person.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association suggests creating new university policy, modeled on Section 3.15.2 of the Faculty Handbook, to permanently protect the civic responsibilities of students from adverse academic consequences, to be added as section 3.15.3 of the faculty handbook as follows:

"It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from civic participation, such as voting and participation in jury duty, and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on days of civic duty."

Section 4: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association also recommends leaving any requirement regarding presenting proof of voting to the discretion of the faculty member.

Section 5: Student employees should be entitled to a similar exemption as enumerated below in the Staff Handbook:

“Every employee shall be allowed two hours of time during the period when an election is open in which to vote. If an employee lives at such a distance from his or her voting precinct that more than two hours are required to attend the election, then the employee shall be allowed sufficient time to cast a ballot. Employees shall only be provided this time to vote upon oral or written notification to a supervisor on the day preceding the election. Upon proof of voting, no employee shall lose compensation or otherwise be penalized for the absence.”⁶

Section 6: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association urges the Faculty Senate to create a resolution of support for the adoption of voting exemptions for students.

⁴ https://ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/Fact%20Book/fact-book-2020/20_2_35_USmap.pdf

⁵ <https://oklahomawatch.org/2020/11/03/election-2020-live-updates-will-these-precincts-look-the-same-this-time/>

⁶ <https://apps.hr.ou.edu/staffhandbook#3.10.4>

Section 7: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- The OU Daily
- The OU Nightly
- Governor Stitt
- Faculty Senate Chair
- Staff Senate Chair
- President Harroz
- Vice President David Surratt
- Provost Wright

Author(s): Lacey Lewis, Chairwoman of the USC

Co-Author(s): Weslie Griffin, Chair of the External Affairs Committee
Zack Lissau, SGA President

Co-Sponsor(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 CVIII
November 8th, 2022

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX
Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-108-20
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recommending the raise of student wages across University employment; and providing for distribution.

- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma student wages are currently between \$7.25 - \$10 depending on the area of employment⁷;
- Whereas: According to Living Wage Calculator from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the livable wage for a single adult in the State of Oklahoma is \$15.75⁸;
- Whereas: According to the 2021 Census, 16.9% of the Norman population is below the poverty line;
- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma is the largest employer in the City of Norman⁹;
- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma has struggled to maintain consistent numbers of student employees throughout the 2021-2022 Academic Year;
- Whereas: Universities such as University of Maryland, University of Notre Dame, and Johns Hopkins University have raised student wages to reflect a more sustainable living wage;
- Whereas: According to Pew Research, two-thirds of Americans (67%) support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour¹⁰;
- Whereas: The University of Maryland raised the student wage from \$12.50 to \$15, with 30,000 students enrolled and average tuition of \$38,000¹¹;

⁷ <https://ou.taleo.net/careersection/stu/jobsearch.ftl?lang=en>

⁸ <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/40>

⁹ (<https://www.selectnorman.com/existing-industry/major-employers/>).

¹⁰ https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/06/PP_2019.06.19_Political-Discourse_TOPLINE.pdf

¹¹ (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/09/03/university-of-maryland-minimum-wage/>)

Whereas: The University of Notre Dame raised the student wage from \$11 to \$15, with 9,000 students enrolled and average tuition being \$58,000¹²;

Whereas: John Hopkins University raising the student wage to \$15, with 23,000 students enrolled and average tuition being \$58,000¹³;

Whereas: According to the Federal Reserve Economic Data, the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant for the past twelve years¹⁴;

Whereas: The minimum wage in the State of Oklahoma has maintained a consistent minimum wage of \$7.25 since 2009;

Whereas: According to The Hill, most students believe a \$15 minimum wage would “improve standards, increase financial freedom, increase the ability to save, easier student loans payoff, and affording better food¹⁵,”

Whereas: The number of student employees has significantly dropped, with 4,275 student employees working in 2017¹⁶;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 3,758 student employees in 2018¹⁷;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 3,500 student employees in 2019¹⁸;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 2,569 student employees in 2020¹⁹;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 2,812 student employees in 2021²⁰;

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 “Workforce Action and Gainful Employment (WAGE) Act of 2022.”

¹² (<https://ndsmcobserver.com/2022/08/university-wage-increase-takes-effect/#:~:text=Notre%20Dame%20implemented%20a%20new,starting%20rate%20for%20student%20employees.>)

¹³ <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/newsroom/news-releases/johns-hopkins-university-and-johns-hopkins-health-system-to-adopt-15-minimum-wage-florida-and-maryland-employees-will-receive-wage-increases-years-ahead-of-statewide-requirements>

¹⁴ <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/FEDMINNFRWG#>

¹⁵ <https://thehill.com/changing-america/enrichment/education/568078-college-students-believe-they-will-benefit-the-most/>

¹⁶ <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202017.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202018.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202019.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202020.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202021.pdf>

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends the raising of student wages to \$15 across all OU campuses.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma should follow other universities across the nation with similar student populations and increase the minimum wages for student employees.

Section 4: The Student Government Association encourages the adoption of similar resolutions' from Faculty and Staff Senates.

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

- Joseph Harroz, University of Oklahoma President
- Dr. David Surratt, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- Dr. Andre-Dennis Wright, Senior Vice President & Provost
- Quy Nguyen, Director of Student Life & Assistant Dean of Students
- Youssef Kamel, Director of International Student Programs Coordinator
- Nima Zecavati, Interim Director of International Student Services
- Kristen Partridge, Associate Vice President & Associate Dean of Students
- Azra Fific, International Advisory Committee President
- Dr. Jaime Hough, Director of Graduate Student & Postdoc Retention and Support
- Sean Burrage, Vice President of Executive Affairs
- Christopher Firch, SGA President-Elect
- Zach Lissau, SGA President
- OU Board of Regents
- OU Staff Senate
- OU Faculty Senate
- OU Housing & Food
- Frank Henry, Director of Food Services
- Mike McKee, Director of Housing Operations
- Dorothy Anderson, Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer
- Stewart Berkinshaw, Associate Vice President & Chief Budget Officer
- The OU Daily

Author(s): Chair Annie Mullins, University Policy Committee
Representative Aiden Dodd, University College
Parliamentarian Abby Halsey-Kraus, Congressional Administration Committee

Co-Sponsor(s): Chair Lacey Lewis, Undergraduate Student Congress
Chair Carolyn Berggern, Human Diversity Committee

Chair Hudson Haskins, Campus Outreach and Safety Committee
Secretary Amelia Landry, Undergraduate Student Congress
Vice Chair Bailey Trautman, Undergraduate Student Congress
Chair Weslie Griffin, External Affairs Committee
Superior Court Justice Crispin South
Representative Emeritus Eileah Hale, Social Science District
Associate Caleb Robinson
Associate Michael Marah
Associate Isabel York
Representative Nathanael Reese, Engineering District
Associate Nick Divirgilio
Representative Michael Reynolds, Atmospheric and Geographic Science District
Representative Razann Ghazal, Social Science District
Associate Aaron Lopez
Representative Shrey Kathuria, University College District

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: _____