

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXII
General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024
Dale 103

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 | October 15th, 2024

Officer Reports -

- o Chair's Report:
- O Vice Chair's Report:
- Secretary's Report:

Committee Reports-

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

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

• The Presidential Forum

Student Concerns

Items to Be Considered

- CR-112-02 "Voting Day and Voting Rights Resolution of 2024." (Bento/Samuel/Sherer) (Rec of Due Pass
- CR-112-03 "National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024." (Carter/Bertotti) (Rec of Due Pass)
- CB-112-13 "Establishing the Public Relations Committee Act." (Houston) (Rec of Due Pass)
- AB-112-05 "Auxiliary Allocation 5 Act of 2024-2025" (Schonfield) (Rec of Due Pass)

Follow-Up Reports

Announcements and Comments Final Roll Call Adjourn

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII October 22, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-02

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional to encourage the University of Oklahoma to suggest to its staff and faculty to provide an excused absence to students on Election Day; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The mission of the University of Oklahoma 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."

Whereas: Students at the University of Oklahoma are on track to become well rounded,

engaged citizens due to the institution's academic excellence, and an essential

component of civic engagement is the practice of voting; and

Research shows that voting is habit-forming, and universities play a key role in Whereas:

introducing students to the voting process, particularly during formative years of

civic development; and¹

Whereas: The mission statement of the University of Oklahoma is "to provide the best

possible educational experience for our students through excellence in teaching,

research and creative activity, and service to the state and society."²

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma's President Joseph Harroz Jr. has emphasized the

> importance of educating students about democracy, stating, "One of the things that we know a university stands for is not just giving individuals the opportunities they

otherwise wouldn't have in helping create a great workforce but to teach students

¹ Wood, Wendy, and John Aldrich. "How Voting Becomes a Habit." The Hill, August 10, 2019. https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit/.

² ou.edu. "About," n.d. https://ou.edu/about.

about democracy," at a recent Norman city council meeting; and³

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma is a Voter Friendly Campus, as recognized by the

NASPA and Campus Vote Project and is committed to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Presidential Commitment, promoting active voter participation through resources for registration, sample ballots, candidate

information, and poll worker opportunities; and ⁴

Whereas: Despite these efforts, Election Day has not been federally recognized as a holiday,

nor has it been recognized as a holiday on campus, and Oklahoma's voting hours of

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. conflict with most students' academic and work schedules; and⁵

Whereas: A full-time student must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours per week, and many

students work an additional 20 hours per week on campus or longer off-campus,

leaving limited time for voting or to travel to go vote; and ⁶

Whereas: Only 59% of University of Oklahoma students voted in person during the 2022

elections, contributing to Oklahoma's status as the state with the lowest youth voter turnout at just 15%, and one of the lowest overall voter turnout rates in the nation at

50.4%; and^{7 8}

Whereas: The trend of declining voter turnout continues, with lower participation reported in

³ Anusha Fathepure. "Messages Show OU Students Were Offered Pay to Attend Council Meeting on Entertainment District Vote." OU Daily, October 2, 2024. https://www.oudaily.com/news/entertainment-district-norman-ou-oklahoma-snapchat-university-north-park-arena-tif-students/article_476e7992-804f-11ef-b95f-ebc27abf8bae.html.

⁴ "Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Campus Action Plan," 2022. https://allinchallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/University-of-Oklahoma-Action-Plan-2022-June.pdf.

Oklahoma State Election Board (0270). "Dates and Deadlines," 2024. https://oklahoma.gov/elections/elections-results/dates-and-deadlines.html.

 $^{^6}$ Ou.edu. "Employment," 2023. https://www.ou.edu/cis/iss/students/employment.

Oklahoma Policy Institute. "The 2022 Midterms Reveal Our Democracy Is Still Inaccessible to Many Oklahoma Voters," March 4, 2023. https://okpolicy.org/the-2022-midterms-reveal-our-democracy-is-still-inaccessible-to-many-oklahoma-voters/.

⁸ Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. "State-By-State Youth Voter Turnout Data and the Impact of Election Laws in 2022," April 6, 2023. https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/state-state-youth-voter-turnout-data-and-impact-election-laws-2022.

the 2024 primary elections; and 9

Whereas: According to the Regents' Policy Manual for the University of Oklahoma

"Undergraduate Student Congress and Graduate Student Senate shall have authority to recommend to the President one unscheduled school holiday in the Fall semester of each academic year with the understanding the recommendation of a holiday must be made to the President at least two weeks before the recommended date in order

to allow time for adjusting teaching schedules and the like.", and 10

Whereas: This recommendation has historically been allocated to the Red River Holiday,

blocking the ability to recognize Election Day as a holiday; and 11

Whereas: Previous efforts to secure an additional unscheduled holiday for Election Day have

been rejected, leaving students without formal protections for their right to vote. 12

Whereas: Despite efforts from the University of Oklahoma Student Congress to protect

students' right to vote, previous requests to designate Election Day as a holiday have

not resulted in changes to university policy, and 13

Whereas: The lack of flexibility in students' schedules—due to class attendance requirements and work

commitments—creates significant barriers to voter participation, and14

Whereas: The continued low voter turnout, both at the university and statewide, demonstrates

the urgent need for additional accommodations to ensure that students are not

DeLeon, Tanner . "Voter Turnout in Oklahoma Continues to Decline." KFOR.com Oklahoma City, March 7, 2024. https://kfor.com/news/local/voter-turnout-in-oklahoma-continues-to-decline/.

¹⁰ "REGENTS' POLICY MANUAL for the UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA ." Accessed October 16, 2024. https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/regents/docs/CurrentPolicyManual.pdf.

¹¹ Glasscock, Caden, Cyrus Mortazavi, Abby Halsey-Kraus, Claire Burch, and Catherine Tramel. CR-111-08 "Red River Holiday Act of 2024," Session 111 § (2024). https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/USG/Minutes/session-111/4-9-24-Congress-Minutes.pdf.

¹² Wolthuis, Ellie. CR-111-09 "The Protection of Student Voting Rights Resolution.," Session 111 § (2024). https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/USG/Minutes/session-111/4-9-24-Congress-Minutes.pdf.

¹³ "REGENTS' POLICY MANUAL for the UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA ." Accessed October 16, 2024. https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/regents/docs/CurrentPolicyManual.pdf.

¹⁴ Ou.edu. "Full Time Enrollment & Credit Hour Limits," 2023. https://www.ou.edu/registrar/enrollment-services/limits.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:

- **Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the "Voting Day and Voting Rights Resolution of 2024."
- Section 2: The Undergraduate Student Congress urges professors to provide an excused absence on November 5, 2024, allowing students to vote without academic penalty. Professors are encouraged to make class materials digitally accessible for that day.
- **Section 3:** Students should not face academic strain or punishment for exercising their right to vote.
- **Sections 4:** The Undergraduate Student Congress asks the Deans of the respective colleges to encourage their faculty to support this request.
- **Section 5:** The implementation of excused absences shall be left to the discretion of each professor.
- **Section 6:** Recognizing that other solutions, such as designating Election Day as a university holiday, have not been possible, this resolution represents a last-resort effort to protect students' voting rights.
- **Section 7:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
 - President Joseph Harroz Jr., University of Oklahoma
 - David Surratt, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
 - John Antonio, Dean of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy.
 - Hans Butzer, Dean of the Gibbs College of Architecture.
 - Jonathan Stalling, Interim Dean of the Boren College of International Studies.
 - Mark Morvant, Interim Dean of the College of Professional and Continuing Studies.
 - Anna Carpenter, Dean of the College of Law.
 - Michael Markham, Dean of the Honors College.
 - Randall Hewes, Dean of the Graduate College and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - Mary Margaret Holt, Dean of the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts.
 - Andrea Miller, Dean of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication.
 - John Klier, Dean of the Gallogly College of Engineering.
 - Berrien Moore III, Dean of the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences.

¹⁵ DeLeon, Tanner . "Voter Turnout in Oklahoma Continues to Decline." KFOR.com Oklahoma City, March 7, 2024. https://kfor.com/news/local/voter-turnout-in-oklahoma-continues-to-decline/.

- Laku Chidambaram, Interim Dean of the Price College of Business.
- Stacy Reeder, Dean of the College of Education.
- Denise Stephens, Dean of University Libraries.
- Faith Martin, Oklahoma Votes

Author(s):	Marilou Bento, Chair of the External Affairs Committee
	Jasmine Samuel, Undergraduate Congress Associate
	Krislyn Sherer, President of IGNITE

Submitted on a motion by:	
Action taken by Congress:	
Verified by Chair of Congress:	Date:

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII October 22, 2024

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

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-03 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing and protecting Free Speech and National Freedom of Speech Week; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The United States has federally protected the right to free speech through the First

Amendment under the Bill of Rights, ratified December 15, 1791; and,

Whereas: The First Amendment¹⁶ protects peaceful protest, assembly, hate speech, and petition,

including the use of posters, signs, flyers, and chalking in permissible spaces set by the

university; and,

Whereas: Actions which violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, such as property damage,

trespassing, violence, and illegal harassment, in addition to language that aims to incite or

threaten violence, is unprotected¹⁷; and,

Whereas: Public universities, such as the University of Oklahoma, are subject to the First

Amendment, and cannot withhold awarding students a degree as a result of peaceful

protest, nor can the President call the police on peaceful protest¹⁸.

^{16 &}quot;U.S. Constitution - First Amendment." 1791. Constitution.congress.gov. Library of Congress. December 15, 1791. https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/.

¹⁷United States Courts. 2023. "What Does Free Speech Mean?" United States Courts. 2023. https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/what-does.

¹⁸Forum, By Freedom. 2024. "Protesting on College Campuses: Laws, FAQs and More." Freedom Forum. May 1, 2024. https://www.freedomforum.org/protesting-on-college-campuses/.

Whereas: University of Oklahoma President, Joseph Harris, released a statement stating, "The

freedom to speak, inquire, and express strikes at the heart of any great institution of higher

learning."19

Whereas: From October 7, 2023, to May 30, 2024, the Crowd Counting Consortium, logged over

3,700 days of protest activity across 525 colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and school

district offices across 317 cities in the United States; and,

Whereas: Nearly 2,200 days of protest activity occurred after April 17, 2024, most remaining

entirely non-violent, and

Whereas: Protests at many other Universities were met with "immediate and aggressive hostility"

by police and University officials, with 3,645 arrests occurring since October 7, 2023⁵

Whereas: We recognize that temporarily occupying educational spaces may be a necessary means

to incentivizing change, which is permissible, as it helps the campus community in the

long term²⁰; and,

Whereas: Having solidified free speech rights encourages a higher degree of expression and

advocacy within the University of Oklahoma community, urging a modern environment

that consistently works to benefit all those involved; and,

Whereas: Historically, the University of Oklahoma's administration has allowed students the right

to protest, which has encouraged student involvement and leadership²¹; and,

Whereas: The continuation of this allowance not only upholds a fundamental constitutional

freedom, but demonstrates an environment of diversity, social evolution, civil service,

tolerance, and academic freedom.

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma Administration has remained steadfast in its commitment to

protecting free speech and peaceful protest, while maintaining a neutral stance by ensuring all groups, regardless of viewpoint, are afforded equal opportunities to exercise their right to

protest.

Whereas: President Joseph Harroz Jr. recently stated in relation to the protests, "We shouldn't

¹⁹Harroz, Joseph "President Harroz Free Speech Week Remarks" The University of Oklahoma Office of the President. October 11, 2023. https://www.ou.edu/president/messages-and-statements/2023/free-speech-week

²⁰ Ulfelder, Jay. 2024. "Crowd Counting Consortium: An Empirical Overview of Recent Pro-Palestine Protests at U.S. Schools." Ash Center. May 30, 2024. https://ash.harvard.edu/articles/crowd-counting-blog-an-empirical-overview-of-recent-pro-palestine-protests-at-u-s-schools/.

²¹ "Students protest possible Iraq invasion" OU Daily. October 25, 2002. https://www.oudaily.com/students-protest-possible-iraq-invasion/article_f84d4e33-0571-52f4-84c9-454da3819b64.html; Harkins, Paighten et al. "OU students and administrators join together in protest" OU Daily. March 10, 2015. https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-students-and-administrators-join-together-in-protest/article_3f7a7914-c6b6-11e4-8e82-af8054f903a9.html

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 "National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024."
- Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recognizes the third week of October as Free Speech Week²³ and supports the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and safe protests within the University of Oklahoma campus.
- Section 3 In accordance with the First Amendment, the Undergraduate Student Congress defines, 'free speech,' as the right of the public to share their beliefs and protest with the aim of helping the campus community, through peaceful means in public spaces.
- Section 4: While universities may restrict protest access to non-students and impose unbiased limitations on the setting and noise level of a protest, the Undergraduate Student Congress, asks that the University of Oklahoma uphold this resolution and the First Amendment in all policy, allowing for freedom of speech to be maintained.
- **Section 5:** We urge the University of Oklahoma to stay attentive to any potential harassment of student protesters by faculty or staff and to take prompt and decisive action should such incidents arise, ensuring that students' right to free speech is not undermined.
- Section 6: The Undergraduate Student Congress thanks the University of Oklahoma for allowing peaceful protests to occur on campus, no matter the background or views of the organization. We commend the University of Oklahoma's commitment to letting student voices be heard.
- **Section 7:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
 - President Joseph Harroz Jr. of the University of Oklahoma
 - David Surratt, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
 - OU Students for Justice in Palestine
 - Kasi Shelton, Executive Director of OU Hillels
 - OU Turning Point USA
 - OU Daily

Pablo, Thomas, and Abby Young. "A Year Later: OU Students Walk out in Support of Palestine, Criticize Lack of University Action." OU Daily, October 9, 2024. https://www.oudaily.com/news/a-year-later-ou-students-walk-out-in-support-of-palestine-criticize-lack-of-university/article_604d87d6-8695-11ef-a597-cbbc7947e737.html.

²³CreationDepot. n.d. "Home." Free Speech Week. Accessed October 7, 2024. https://www.freespeechweek.org/.

Approved by SGA President: ______ Date: _____

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII October 22, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE SENATE SESSION GSXX Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-112-13 SENATE BILL GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act amending the SGA Code Annotated to establish the SGA Public Relations Committee

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

- **Section 1**: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Establishing the Public Relations Committee Act."
- **Section 2**: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to modify the SGA Code annotated to add the Public Relations Committee in the SGA Code annotated.
- **Section 3**: AMENDATORY: The Code Annotated Chapter IX will be amended as follows, with strikethrough indicating a removed section, and <u>underline</u> indicating added sections:
 - 1. Name: This board shall be called the "Public Relations Committee."
 - 2. Purpose. The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to assist in the mass media communication between the Student Government Association and general student body. The Committee will meet with the intention of establishing media plans for the Student Government Association.
 - 3. Membership.
 - 1. Membership for the PRC shall be as follows:
 - 1. The Director of Communications for the Executive Cabinet
 - 2. The Chief of Staff for the Executive Cabinet
 - 3. The Vice Chair of the Undergraduate Student Congress
 - 4. The Chair of the Public Relations Committee for the Graduate Student Senate
 - 5. The Vice Chair of Public Relations for the Crimson Leadership Association
 - 4. <u>Meetings</u>. Meetings of the PRC shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act. The Committee shall meet at least twice per month throughout the academic year. Meeting dates and times shall be decided upon by a consensus of the Committee's members.

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

Author(s): Vice Chair Rylee Houston, Undergraduate Student Congress

Co-Author(s): Chair Hope Rhoads, Undergraduate Student Congress

Date:
Date:
Date:
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CONGRESSIONAL BILL AB-112-05 SENATE BILL NO. GS24-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An act relating to appropriations; providing for short title; stating purpose; appropriating Auxiliary Funding for the 2024-2025 process; stating appropriation guidelines; establishing expiration deadline; directing transfer of unused funds by deadline; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

Section 1: This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Auxiliary Allocation 5 Act of 2024-2025"

Section 2: PURPOSE. The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.

Section 3: APPROPRIATION. The following amounts are hereby allocated to

Organization	Programs, Events & Activities	Capital Investments	Office and General Expenses	Total
Cru	\$50.00			\$50.00
Victim Advocacy Program	\$300.00			\$300.00
Speech Team	\$500.00			\$500.00
Queer Student Association	\$3,500.00			\$3,500.00
Linguistics Club	\$125.55			\$125.55
Oklahoma Law review	\$489.70			\$489.70
OU Fencing Club		\$500.00		\$500.00
OU Food Pantry Student Association	\$1,995.00			\$1,995.00
Housing Center Student Association	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
Psychology Graduate Student Association	\$151.00			\$151.00
SGA Undergraduate Student Congress	\$300.00			\$300.00
Crimson Leadership Association	\$200.00			\$200.00

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at the University of Oklahoma	\$400.00			\$400.00
Korean Student Association	\$350.00			\$350.00
Cooking Club	\$750.00			\$750.00
Student Socialist League	\$194.83			\$194.83
Music Outreach at The University of Oklahoma	\$900.00			\$900.00
Little Hearts Alliance	\$500.00			\$500.00
Institute of Industrial Engineers	\$278.31			\$278.31
Pakistani Student Association	\$308.11			\$308.11
Friday Accounting Meeting	\$600.00			\$600.00
Criminal Law Association	\$324.00			\$324.00
Criminal Law Association	\$219.90			\$219.90
Asian American Student Association	\$4,000.00			\$4,000.00
Big Brother Big Sisters Collegiate Board	\$728.68			\$728.68
Linguistics Club	\$49.00			\$49.00
National Medical Device Make-A- Thon	\$800.00			\$800.00
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi	\$655.00			\$655.00
Global Brigades		\$120.00		\$120.00
Animal Legal Defense Fund at The University of Oklahoma College of Law			\$75.00	\$75.00
Horror Movie Club	\$210.00			\$210.00
American Institute of Chemical Engineers			\$500.00	\$500.00
Business Law Society	\$34.72			\$34.72
World Literature Today Student Advisory Board	\$500.00			\$500.00
Sustainable Energy Society	\$500.00			\$500.00
Oklahoma Law Review	\$561.50			\$561.50

Black Creative Circle	\$400.00			\$400.00
Computer Science Interview Preparation Club	\$430.00			\$430.00
Black Creative Circle	\$150.00			\$150.00
South Asian Student Association	\$1,470.00			\$1,470.00
Mental Health Counseling Student Association	\$300.00			\$300.00
The Trumpet Studio	\$800.00			\$800.00
OU Gaming Club	\$550.00			\$550.00
OU Figure Skating Club	\$900.00			\$900.00
Pre-Law@Price	\$300.00	\$330.00		\$630.00
International Security Studies Student Association	\$300.00			\$300.00
Black Business Network	\$800.00			\$800.00
		1	TOTAL:	\$30,900.30

Section 4:	All guidelines and provisions in Title 10 of the Code Annotated shall apply to all funds appropriated in this act.
Section 5:	This fiscal year for the account listed in these sections shall end May 2, 2025.

All unspent money remaining in the accounts listed in Section 3 shall revert to the Section 6: SGA General Account after May 2, 2025, and the remaining appropriations shall be canceled.

This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Section 7: Constitution.

Author(s): Jacob Schonfield, Chair, SGA Budgetary Committee

Co-Author(s): SGA Budgetary Commit	tee
Submitted on a motion by: Action taken by Student Congress: Verified by Chair of Student Congress: _	Date:
Submitted on a motion by: Action taken by Senate: Verified by Chair of Senate:	Date:

Approved by SGA President:	Date:
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