

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 19th, 2024

Dale 103

Call to Order

Opening Roll Call

SGA Mission Statement: The mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association is to support the University's advancement by prioritizing student voices at every degree level; to advocate for the holistic development of each student; and to promote civic engagement and community involvement across campus.

Congress 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 | November 12th, 2024

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

- Tracey Langford from Legal Services

Student Concerns

Items to Be Considered

- CB-112-20 "University Student Mental Health Perceptions Survey Act of 2024." (Rec of Due Pass) (H. Harris)

- CB-112-21 “Session 112 Expulsion Bill 2.” (Rec of No Rec) (C. Harris)
- CR-112-03 “National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024.” (Rec of Due Pass) (Carter/Bertotti)
- CR-112-04 “George McLaurin Day Act” (Rec of Due Pass) (Kathuria)
- CR-112-05 “Session 112 Universal Top Hat Act” (Rec of Due Pass) (Kathuria)

Follow-Up Reports

Announcements and Comments

Final Roll Call

Adjourn Sine Dine

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII

November 19, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-112-20

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Act authorizing a survey of the student body on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Congress; providing for specific questions; and providing for distribution.

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

Section 1: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “University Student Mental Health Perceptions Survey Act of 2024.”

Section 2: The purpose of this act is to establish a survey through the Student Government Association to assess undergraduate students' perceptions, knowledge, and attitudes related to mental health, as well as their help-seeking behaviors and perceived barriers to accessing mental health resources.

The SGA Undergraduate Student Congress will survey students to gather data on:

- Awareness and knowledge of mental health resources and services on campus.
- Attitudes toward mental health issues, stigma, and self-efficacy in addressing mental health needs.
- Help-seeking behaviors and experiences, including perceived barriers to seeking help.
- Insights to inform potential improvements to campus mental health policies, support services, and educational initiatives.

Section 3: The following questions shall be administered via Qualtrics, with sections including demographics, awareness and knowledge, attitudes toward mental health, help-seeking behaviors, perceived stigma, and availability of resources.

Introduction

Consent to Participate in Research - University of Oklahoma

Would you like to be involved in research at the University of Oklahoma?

I am Hudson Harris from the College of Engineering at OU, and I invite you to participate in my research titled "*University Student Mental Health Perceptions.*" You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in this research.

Please read this document and contact me to ask any questions you may have *before* agreeing to participate in my research.

What is the purpose of this research?

The purpose of this research is to understand student perceptions of mental health, including knowledge, stigma, self-efficacy, help-seeking behaviors, and barriers to seeking help. This study focuses on college students and aims to identify factors that influence mental health awareness and willingness to seek help.

How many participants will be in this research?

Approximately 300 people will participate in this research.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate, you will complete a 7–10-minute online survey.

What are the risks and benefits if I participate?

Some questions may make you feel distressed or trigger strong emotions. If you feel uncomfortable, you can skip questions or discontinue participation at any time. Additionally, resources are available to support you:

- **University Counseling Services:** Many universities offer free or low-cost counseling services. Check your institution's counseling office.
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Available 24/7 at 988 or online at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text "HELLO" to 741741 for 24/7 crisis support via text.
- **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness):** Visit [nami.org](https://www.nami.org) for support groups and educational resources.
- **Local Hotlines and Support Groups:** Search for community centers or therapy groups in your area.

Data Collection and Privacy

The organization hosting this survey (Qualtrics) has its own privacy and security policies. Note that external organizations may access or retain your data, and no assurance can be made regarding their use of the data beyond this research.

Will I be compensated for participating?

There is no compensation for completing this survey.

Who will see my information?

Research reports will not include any information that could identify you. Research records will be securely stored, with access only for approved researchers and the OU Institutional Review Board.

Do I have to participate?

No. You can choose not to participate, and there will be no penalty or loss of benefits. You may also stop participating at any time.

Will my identity be anonymous or confidential?

Your name and email address will not be linked to your responses.

What will happen to my data in the future?

Your data will not be shared or used in future research.

Who do I contact with questions or concerns?

For questions, please contact:

- **Hudson Harris:** hudson.j.harris-1@ou.edu
- **Dr. Javeed Kittur:** jkittur@ou.edu
Or the **OU-NC IRB** at 405-325-8110 or irb@ou.edu.

Please print this document for your records. By providing information, you agree to participate in this research.

Are you 18 years of age or older?

- Yes
- No (If no - cannot participate)

IRB 17917

IRB Approval Date: 11/08/2024

Demographics

D1. Are you over the age of 18?

- Yes

- No

D2. Year of Study

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Graduate student

D3. Field of Study

- Engineering
- Social Sciences
- Arts and Humanities
- Sciences (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Medicine/Nursing
- Business
- Other (please specify)

D4. How do you describe yourself?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary / third gender
- Prefer not to say

D5. Choose one or more races that you consider yourself to be

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- American Indian/Native American or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

- Other
- Prefer not to say

D6. What is your current living arrangement?

- On-campus
- Off-campus, living alone
- Off-campus, living with roommates
- Off-campus, living with family
- Other (please specify)

D7. Are you currently employed?

- Yes, part-time
- Yes, full-time
- No
- Prefer not to say

D8. What is your personal income?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$35,000
- \$35,000 - \$50,000
- \$50,000 - \$100,000
- Over \$100,000

D9. Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health condition?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Help-Seeking Behavior

For each statement below, indicate your level of agreement:

1. If I experienced mental health difficulties, I would seek help from my family doctor or primary care physician.
 2. I would seek help from campus mental health services if I felt stressed or anxious.
 3. I would turn to online mental health resources (e.g., apps, websites) before seeing a professional.
 4. I feel comfortable speaking with a counselor or therapist about my personal mental health issues.
 5. I would recommend mental health services to a friend in need.
 6. I believe professional help is necessary for managing mental health conditions.
 7. I would seek help from a religious or spiritual advisor for mental health support.
 8. I would prioritize seeking mental health support even during a busy academic schedule.
-

Perceived Stigma

For each statement below, indicate your level of agreement:

1. I feel that people who seek mental health services are viewed negatively by others.
 2. I believe that discussing mental health struggles makes someone seem weak.
 3. I think that disclosing a mental health condition could affect future career opportunities.
 4. I feel that students who seek mental health support are treated differently by peers.
 5. I worry about being judged if I attend mental health workshops or seminars on campus.
 6. I think professors or academic staff view students with mental health issues differently.
 7. I feel comfortable sharing mental health struggles with close friends.
-

Availability of Resources

For each statement below, indicate your level of agreement:

1. I know where to find mental health services on campus.
 2. I am aware of the online mental health resources my university provides.
 3. I feel that the mental health resources available at my university are sufficient to meet student needs.
 4. I am aware of campus hotlines or chat services for mental health support.
 5. I know how to make an appointment with a counselor or psychologist at my university.
 6. I am aware of free mental health workshops or seminars available on campus.
 7. I feel that off-campus mental health resources are accessible to students.
-

Conclusion

Thank you for participating in this survey on student mental health perceptions. Your responses are crucial in helping us understand how college students experience and perceive mental health challenges. The data we collect will be used to improve awareness and resources available to students like you.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, here are some resources that may provide support:

1. **University Counseling Services**
Many universities offer free or low-cost counseling services for students. Check your institution's health center or counseling office for more information.
2. **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
Available 24/7 at the cell number: **988** or online at suicidepreventionlifeline.org, this resource provides confidential support for individuals in distress.
3. **Crisis Text Line**
Text "HELLO" to 741741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor via text message, available 24/7.
4. **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)**
NAMI offers educational resources, support groups, and advocacy for individuals facing mental health challenges. Visit nami.org for more information.
5. **Local Hotlines and Support Groups**
Many communities have local resources and peer support groups for mental health. Consider searching for community centers, therapy groups, or online forums in your area.

Your well-being matters, and reaching out for help is a sign of strength. Please don't hesitate to use these resources if needed.

Section 4: Upon passage of this bill, the survey will be released on www.qualtrics.com, emailed through the University of Oklahoma mass mailing system through the email: kga@ou.edu, fliers will be posted in public locations and on campus housing at the University of Oklahoma Norman Campus, and advertising will take place on multiple social media platforms.

The survey shall be conducted on November 8th, 2024 through February 8th, 2025

Author(s): Hudson Harris, Engineering District Representative

Co-Author(s): Marilou Bento, Chair of External Affairs

Co-Sponsor(s):

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress

Verified by Chair: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII

November 19, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-112-21

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Act of Procedure expelling a representative from the Congressional Body; providing short title; and providing an effective date.

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 “Session 112 Expulsion Bill No. 2.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to expel members for excessive unexcused absences. Alexxia Alvarez has accrued excessive unexcused absences, the membership of the aforementioned is pending expulsion.

Section 3: In accordance with Section 3.4, subsection 2, subsection e of the SGA Undergraduate Student Congress Bylaws, “*Upon accruing a fourth absence, the Student Congress Secretary shall prepare an act of procedure to expel any member or committee officer who has accrued excessive unexcused absences.*”

Expulsion: Alexxia Alvarez

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

Author(s): Secretary Chloe Harris, Undergraduate Student Congress

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress

Verified by Chair: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII
November 17, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GFX/GSXX
November 7th, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-03
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GF24-12

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 Amendment¹ protects peaceful protest, assembly, disagreeable speech, and petition, including the use of posters, signs, flyers, in traditional public forums; and,
- Whereas: Actions which violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, such as language that is intended to produce imminent lawless action or violence and is likely to incite or produce imminent lawless action or violence and is likely to incite or produce such action, is unprotected²; 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 direct result of peaceful protest, nor can the President impermissibly restrict peaceful protest in traditional public forums on school grounds³.
- Whereas: University of Oklahoma President, Joseph Harroz Jr., released a statement stating, “The freedom to speak, inquire, and express strikes at the heart of any great institution of higher learning.”⁴

¹ “U.S. Constitution - First Amendment .” 1791. Constitution.congress.gov. Library of Congress. December 15, 1791. <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/>.

²United 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>.

³Forum, By Freedom. 2024. “Protesting on College Campuses: Laws, FAQs and More.” Freedom Forum. May 1, 2024. <https://www.freedomforum.org/protesting-on-college-campuses/>.

⁴Harroz, 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>

Whereas: From October 7, 2023, to May 30, 2024, the Crowd Counting Consortium, logged over school 3,700 days of protest activity across 525 colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and 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 term⁵; 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 leadership⁶; 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

⁵ 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/>.

⁶ “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, Paighen 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

teach students what to think. We should teach students how to think.”⁷

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 Week⁸ 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 express their beliefs and protest with the aim of helping the campus community, through peaceful means in public forums.
- Section 4:** While universities may implement content neutral restrictions and apply those restrictions in a content neutral way, the Undergraduate Student Congress, asks that the University of Oklahoma uphold this resolution and the First Amendment in all policy, allowing for true freedom of speech to be maintained.
- Section 5:** We urge the University of Oklahoma to ensure that students’ right to free speech is not undermined by staying attentive to potential faculty or staff negatively targeting student protesters in a content specific way and to take prompt and decisive action should such incidents arise.
- 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

⁷ 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.

⁸CreationDepot. n.d. “Home.” Free Speech Week. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.freespeechweek.org/>.

- OU Turning Point USA
- OU Daily
- OU Nightly

Author(s): Lauren Carter, Fine Arts District Representative
Hayden Bertotti, University College District Representative

Co-Author(s): Marilou Bento, Chair of the External Affairs Committee

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 CXII
November 19, 2024

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

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-04
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing October 14th as
George McLaurin Day and providing for distribution.

- Whereas: On October 14th, 1948⁹, George McLaurin became the first black student and first student of color to attend the University of Oklahoma and;
- Whereas: George McLaurin was originally denied admission into the University of Oklahoma until a federal court ruled on September 29th, 1948 that denying his admission into college was unconstitutional¹; and
- Whereas: George McLaurin was entirely segregated from the other students being forced to sit away from white students while attending class, dined at separate tables, and studied at a different table¹; and
- Whereas: In 1948, George McLaurin was the only black student attending the University of Oklahoma out of 12,173 total students¹; and
- Whereas: Until 1950, administrators could be fined up to \$100 dollars by the state of Oklahoma government for fostering a desegregated learning environment and be charged with a separate crime each day for allowing the situation to continue¹; and
- Whereas: Until 1950, instructors and students faced a \$50 and a \$20 dollar fine by the state, respectively, alongside being charged with a separate crime each day for allowing a desegregated learning environment to continue¹; and
- Whereas: George McLaurin was a pioneer for countless people of color to attend the University of Oklahoma by being an advocate for ending segregation within Oklahoma's higher education institutions which led to a Supreme Court decision in 1950 declaring that the constraints of segregation governing McLaurin deprive him from his personal and present right to the equal protections of the laws¹; and

⁹ <https://projects.oudaily.com/mclaurin/>

Whereas: After George McLaurin left the University of Oklahoma in 1950, his story as the first black student at the University of Oklahoma has remained lost to history in many ways only appearing in the graduate student pages from the 1949 and 1950 school years¹; and

Whereas: George McLaurin’s Supreme Court victory helped lay the foundation for the Supreme Court to strike down institutional segregation in education as unconstitutional in 1954 with its *Brown v. Board of Education* decision¹; and

Whereas: Thanks to George McLaurin’s hardwork and dedication, the University of Oklahoma today has become a more diverse campus as approximately 37.2% of the student body population are either Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, or Indigenous according to the University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus Enrollment Analysis Report¹⁰; and

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 “George McLaurin Day”

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recognizes October 14th as George McLaurin Day starting in 2025.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association strongly encourages for University of Oklahoma administrators and Board of Regents to recognize October 14th as George McLaurin Day starting in 2025.

Section 4: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association strongly encourages the Norman City Council to recognize October 14th as George McLaurin Day starting in 2025.

Section 5: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association strongly encourages the Oklahoma State Government to recognize October 14th as George McLaurin Day starting in 2025.

Section 6: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association strongly encourages all Registered Student Organizations to recognize October 14th as George McLaurin Day starting in 2025.

Section 7: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association strongly urges University of Oklahoma administrators, Board of Regents, Norman City Council, and

10

https://ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/Enrollment%20Statistics/Enrollment%20Analysis/Spring/Spring_2024_NC.pdf

Oklahoma State government to uphold civil rights protections for everyone regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Section 8: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Joseph Harroz, President of the University of Oklahoma
- Dr. David Suratt, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- University of Oklahoma Board of Regents
- OU Daily
- OU Nightly
- LJ Golston, National Pan-Hellenic Council President
- Alexandria Jackson, Head Advisor for NPHC and MGC
- All Members of the Norman City Council
- University of Oklahoma Fraternity and Sorority Programs and Services
- All Registered Student Organization Leaders at the University of Oklahoma
- of other public colleges and universities in Oklahoma, including:
- Oklahoma State University
- Langston University
- Southwestern Oklahoma
- University of Central Oklahoma
- Northeastern State University
- East Central University
- Northwestern Oklahoma State University
- Rogers State University
- Cameron University
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Oklahoma Panhandle State University
- University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
- Rose State College
- Kevin Stitt, Governor of the State of Oklahoma
- Matt Pinnell, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Oklahoma
- Greg McCortney, Majority Leader of the Oklahoma Senate
- Kay Floyd, Minority Leader of the Oklahoma Senate
- Charles McCall, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
- Cyndi Munson, Minority Leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
- Kevin Matthews, Chair of the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus

Author(s): Shrey Kathuria, Arts and Sciences Representative

Co-Author(s): Michael Reynolds, Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences Representative

Co-Sponsor(s): Aniketh Koneru, Chair of the Human Diversity Committee

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 CXII
November 19, 2024

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

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-05
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recommending TopHat to be the universal clicker system used in classes which use a clicker system and providing for distribution.

- Whereas: Undergraduate Students on average spend approximately 800 dollars on course materials per academic year¹¹; and
- Whereas: Some undergraduate students at the Univeristy of Oklahoma reported having to pay for multiple clicker systems in the past; and
- Whereas: TopHat became a free resource for all OU Students starting in Spring 2024; and
- Whereas: According to the University of Oklahoma Bookstore website, the chemistry, biology, physics, computer science, and astronomy departments have classes that are still using iClicker¹²; and
- Whereas: The cost for a 6 month iClicker subscription for students is \$19.99²; and
- Whereas: Excluding financial aid and scholarships, the average estimated costs for Undergraduate Residents for tuition, fees, course materials, housing, and food ranges from \$28,816 to \$30,766¹³; and
- Whereas: Excluding financial aid and scholarships, the average estimated costs for Undergraduate non-Residents for tuition, fees, course materials, housing, and food ranges between \$46,396 to \$48,346³; and

¹¹ <https://www.ou.edu/admissions/affordability/cost#undergraduate-non-resident>

¹² <https://ou.textbookbrokers.com/products/iclicker-student-mobile-six-months-online-1-st-ed-9781498600880--edition>

¹³ <https://www.ou.edu/admissions/affordability/cost#undergraduate-non-resident>

Whereas: In a recent Student Voice survey conducted by Generation Lab in April 2024, only 25% of all respondents said that institution's net price is sufficiently affordable¹⁴; and

Whereas: In national survey conducted of more than 5000 students by the Public Interest Research Group in September 2020, approximately 65% of students reported they skipped buying certain course materials¹⁵; and

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 "Session 112 Universal Top Hat Act"

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends for TopHat to be the universal clicker for classes which use a clicker system; and

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends that any clicker or polling system used for any class must be free of charge for students; and

Section 4: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends OU Information Technology to provide TopHat workshops for faculty interested in using a clicker system and as a way to help faculty transition from other clicker systems; and

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

- Dr. Andre-Denis Wright, Provost
- Dr. John Peters, Chair of the Chemistry Department
- Dr. Jeffery Kelly, Chair of the Biology Department
- Dr. Phillip Gutierrez, Chair of the Physics Department
- Dr. Dean Hougen, Director of Computer Science Program
- Dr. Lori Jervis, Chair of the Faculty Senate
- All Members of the Faculty Senate
- Dr. Randy Hewes, Interim Dean of the Dodge College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. David Surratt, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- Quy Nguyen, Director of Student Life and Assistant Dean of Students

¹⁴ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/academic-life/2023/05/03/new-course-materials-models-who-benefits>

¹⁵ <https://pirg.org/resources/fixing-the-broken-textbook-market-third-edition-2/>

- Aaron Biggs, Associate Provost for Academic Technology
- Matt Hamilton, Special Assistant to the Provost
- Chris Kobza, Interim Chief Information Officer

Author(s): Shrey Kathuria, Arts and Sciences Representative

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: _____

