

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
Session C

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

Session C

Roll Call -

Flag Salute – Representative Duechting

Approval of Minutes

Representative Behara seconded by Representative Williams

Chair's Report- Hello everyone, welcome to the second to last meeting! As you know, today is our election meeting. That is why it is a little bit extra today. If you're here for the first time, we don't normally dress like this. Before we can officially have you vote, make sure you come to me to get sworn in. It takes 2 seconds. Update about something I thought was cool: something we've been working on for the past few months is cutting down costs on textbooks at our bookstore. Administration has now negotiated with new bookstores and has decided to go with a new one that will cut costs 30-35 percent in the first year. It will also now be all online and books can be shipped to houses. The new bookstore is also going to do price matching and be able to link directly to your Canvas account. I think a lot of your constituents would love to know that.

They're working on that process still, but they will talk later about how they are going to switch everything over and be inclusive to all students. They are also going to be promoting bookstore vouchers for students that can't pay immediately for them through financial aid. That will be added to the financial aid website for all students to be able to refer to. It will save money, improve service, and it's a great process. Not positive on the timeline, but they're looking to have that done maybe by next January. Make sure you tell people about that! Other news, tonight is elections and I wanted to update you on that process and give you some advice.

The process will start with Special Orders, but then I would like to suspend the rules and see the Superior Court nominees. We will then make a motion to go back in time to Special Orders, then go into Executive Session to do elections for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary in that order. Nominators will give a two-minute speech and then a candidate will go and give a five-minute speech. After that, all candidates will come down and there will be 10 minutes for questions. Each candidate has two minutes per question, no follow-up questions, and time can only be extended by suspension of the rules. After we finish questions,

OI Blank: No follow up directly after?

Chair: Correct

all non-essential personnel will need to leave the room. Those are associates, all non-members, and our OU Daily reporter. We will go over this again in the process, so don't be worried. That will give us a general time for discussion over the candidates. It will be an informal debate-like process for each candidate. After that 10-minute time, we will go to a roll call vote and you will vote based on the name of the candidate. If there are three candidates, and no majority, we will go to a run off for the top two immediately. That's what that process is, and if you have any questions, let me know. I do have a few thoughts on the election that I want

to share with you all. Our next exec will work in our 100th Session and with the new president. That's a big deal because we will talk to him once a month about how the students feel. Listen to what these people want to do for Congress and how they want to carry the body forward. All things are important, but keep an open mind. Vote how you want to vote, not how you think you should vote. It's a big year, and that is important. If you have questions, please come talk to us or use "on information". There are great candidates, so Congress will be great no matter what happens. Give thought to your questions, don't just vote based off friendships or pressure. Yes, I know there are concerns about open voting, but those won't come out until the minutes go out. Also, a vote is not the end of the world, it doesn't need to be personal. There are bigger things in life than just this election, so remember that. I'm so proud of all our new members for sticking out our last meeting! For all of you new members, please say your last name when you're asking a question.

OI Bishop: Do we have to address all candidates each time?

Chair: You can direct them, but if you do not say one person, it will be for all.

OI Blank: In terms of discussion, is that a body-wide thing?

Chair: It is a large body discussion, modelled after debate procedure but without official lists.

OI Liu: How do we vote?

Chair: Say the last name of the candidate that you want to vote for.

For new members, I know this is complicated, but you will get all the information you need at orientation. Use "on information" if you have any questions. It's been so great being your Chair! I'll be back next week for Congress awards, see you then! Love you all!

Vice Chair's Report- This is my last report, so bye! It's been great being with you guys, and I'm so excited to see how Congress progresses. Don't forget to thank Kaylee for being an amazing chair. The dedication she has given to Congress has been amazingRR, so try to thank her before the meeting is over for leaving such a great legacy. Bear with us through this elections process. Also, I'm always here to help you even if I'm not Vice Chair.

Secretary's Report- I don't have any constituent service or office hour reports for you all tonight, that's a first! Just to echo some of what both Kaylee and Sanah said, thank you so much for allowing me the chance to serve alongside you all as your Secretary this past year. While Secretary may have made it stressed and want to pull my hair out at times, this has truly been the most meaningful experience in my college time. You all are incredible people and I have loved getting to know so many of you. It's bittersweet leaving, but I can't wait to hand this role off to the next person! Thank you again for this incredible time!

Committee Reports-

- **Ways and Means:** We have been in something like 17 hours of Primary meetings in the last week or so. I've only cried twice! I'm having so much fun and I love going through 255 applications and their history. We will meet again tomorrow for 4 more hours, and that should be the end of it! I'm really excited about that. I'm going to take it to Graduate Student Senate on Sunday or the next GSS meeting. If you have questions, please don't ask them.

Liaison Reports

Thompson: 7:00am-2:00pm on Friday is the Botany Club Plant Sale. So many plants, so affordable. This is at the greenhouses by the bus loop!

McClintic: The Economics Department is hosting a talk about empirical work on social justice and discrimination data. It's going to be Thursday from 6:00pm-7:30pm in Dale 122.

Special Orders

Motion to skip to Items to Be Considered

Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Schneider

- Executive Session

Chair: Are there any questions?

- Elections

- Chair

OI Begovic: Can you explain what knocking the gavel means?

Chair: I will knock at half-way, 30 seconds, and then count down from 10 seconds.

Motion to extend time for questions to the end of the list by suspension of the rules

**Representative Quick seconded by Representative Duechting
Objection – Chism**

OI Powers: How many names are on the list?

Chair: 11 names

OI Liu: How many questions until my name?

Chair: 6 questions

OI Blank: Is it possible to extend time for questions?

Chair: Yes, by suspension of the rules, if this motion fails.

OI Bishop: Is it still limited to 2 minutes for answers for each candidate?

Chair: Yes

OI Fees: What are we doing?

Chair: We are voting on a motion to extend time for questions to the end of the list.

It will call for the creation of the question list.

OI Hedgcorth: Can we suspend the rules to add more names after this closes?

Chair: We have not done that in my time here.

OI Chism: If we don't close the list, does that mean we could extend time for questions and still ask more?

Chair: Yes

Motion passes by a majority hand vote

OI Holt: How many names are on the list?

Chair: 17 names

OI Hedgcorth: Does anyone want time for more questions?

Body: No

OI Begovic: Is the body aware that we should make our speeches short?

Chair: Yes

▪ Vice Chair

OI Powers: How many names are on the list?

Chair: 11 names. I'll read the list.

OI Fees: Was the motion to close the list?

Chair: It's kind of implied.

OI Behara: How many questions are left now?

Chair: Two!

▪ Secretary

Motion by suspension of the rules to elect Representative Holt by acclamation

Representative Williams seconded by Representative Liu

Student Concerns

Rojas: You all know about the SafeRide app, and that it only has two SafeRides per weekend, but it used to have little passes with three per weekend. Why the drop from three to two?

George: The vouchers were for students who couldn't come to campus regularly so that they could give the vouchers to other students. We didn't want to place the burden on students to have to come to the SGA office for those vouchers.

Fees: I spoke with a student who was concerned about a professor who wasn't allowing her to use her DRC accommodations to take a test. I was thinking we could have the University Policy Committee send out an email to say that they are breaking university policy.

Chair: Because we don't have a University Policy Committee right now, I'll refer that to the Executive Committee.

Chism: I wasn't able to print some things out today because I couldn't find a printer, we need to have one open after the IT Store closes.

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

CR-100-01 – A Resolution Requesting the University of Oklahoma to Eliminate Criminal Background

Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Powers

Scimeca: Here at OU, especially because of events that have occurred in the past few years on and off campus, we claim and strive to be a diverse and inclusive student body. One thing I think is left out of this discussion is criminal history. For many people that little box that asks about felony convictions is a mountainous barrier to future success. By requiring applicants to disclose their criminal history, universities impose a barrier to education. This process reduces the applicant to the mere moment, often years or even decades ago, when they incurred a criminal record rather than seeing the full person with all their interests, skills and experiences. The University of Oklahoma does ask that applicants respond to this question, as well as the Common App, and along with pending felony charges. Studies show that checking this box greatly lowers your chance of acceptance or proceeding onto the next step of the application process. This history of this policy is not rooted in empirical data. Schools that do not have the box are equally as safe as those that do. Most crimes committed on campus are by first-time offenders with no criminal history. The national prison recidivism rate is 76 percent, and this decreases to 5.6 percent for those who obtain bachelor's degrees. The box denies people a chance to follow a trajectory that takes them away from their previous circumstances. College administrators are not trained criminal justice professionals. This State and Country already have a criminal justice system in place. Moreover, this policy disproportionately affects applicants of color, due to mass incarceration primarily affecting people of color. The box is extremely discouraging to many applicants. One study showed 60 percent of people who checked the box ended up not completing the application because they were intimidated by their chances of getting in simply because they checked it. Education is transformative to the person and to the community. Education lowers poverty and progresses public safety. Competing in today's economy is more and more difficult without a college degree. Everyone wishes to increase their opportunities and be gainfully employed upon graduation. That same opportunity should not be deprived to persons who have already paid their debt. We must open our institutional doors, not create barriers. So, that is why I believe the University of Oklahoma should not ask questions about criminal convictions in the initial applications process. I do think it is appropriate, however, that if an offer of admission is made that questions be asked in order to assess participation on campus and counselling services that may be needed. This issue particularly affects Oklahoma since 1 in 12 Oklahomans are convicted felons, the highest rate in the country. Governor Fallin signed an order requiring state agencies to remove these types of questions. Educational institutions have also been encouraged to remove these questions. Crimes are not all created equal, which is something to be taken into account.

Fees: Are you aware that this resolution may allow individuals to gain access to affordable housing because there are restrictions on funding for those with criminal convictions?

Scimeca: Yes

OI McClintic: Can we table additional legislation?

Chair: The body can do so if it chooses.

OI Hedgorth: Is the body aware that there are celebratory bills?

OI Rains-Saucedo: Next week are celebratory bills as well—they are usually seen all together.

Hoefke: There can be more information given to the University about the criminal histories, right?

Bishop: There is the opportunity to solicit more information from you. Some information can be suppressed, and information can be filed after the fact. We can foresee that situation happening, but we don't necessarily want it to.

Hoefke: In terms of delaying housing, you want to provide education but not all of the perks of education like on-campus housing for freshman?

Bishop: No, but to ensure campus safety and people living in close quarters are safe, we want to keep that in mind. This language is modeled after similar Louisiana legislation to help make the students and University aware of the situation.

Schneider: Not all crimes are created equal, but how will you judge which are more important to consider?

Scimeca: Crimes relating to sexual assault are important, especially on college campuses. The University administration could look into other exceptions.

Bishop: There are some crimes that should be made exceptions like murder, and not those like tax evasion. That's what we meant and these exceptions are the most dangerous to students on campus.

Hedgcorth: The Common Application has these questions, is there any way for OU to ignore or avoid them?

Scimeca: They do have the ability to suppress information.

Bishop: Universities have the ability to determine which information they will use.

Hedgcorth: There is the problem of being discouraged from applying if you have to check this box, can the University address this?

Scimeca: The University is not required to consider the Common Application; schools that do may look at that question.

Bishop: If you went through the OU-specific application, that is information they could make known.

Abernathy: As the roommate of a former felon with a criminal background that I was unaware of, does OU have a policy of alerting roommates of their criminal backgrounds?

Scimeca: No, that would be important. I did speak with Jeff Blahnik about this to have him look into it.

McClintic: The sources and Whereas clauses are good, but what's the inspiration for this bill?

Scimeca: I have siblings who attend a school which had a story like this develop. I looked into it, and there's really no data that supports having a question like this.

**Motion to extend time for questions to the end of the list
Representative Blank seconded by Representative Begovic**

Williams: Are you accepting co-sponsors?

Bishop: Yes

Passed by a roll call vote of 19-6-1

**Motion to table remaining bills until next week
Representative Fees seconded by Representative McClintic
Objection**

Motion carries by a hand vote of 16-7

OI Begovic: Is the Chair aware that this has officially been the longest meeting ever?

Chair: Unfortunately, yes.

**Motion to skip everything else and adjourn
Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Schneider
Objection**

Motion carries by a hand vote of 17-5

Questions on Admissions Applications (Scimeca/Bishop) (Exec – rec of do pass)

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Hedgorth seconded by Representative Chism

Williams: For the final time, thank you, Madame Chair, please direct my questions to the body. This is the Superior Court nomination bill, and we have three candidates here. This will be filling vacant spots

Shurbaji: The first thing is that these three are experienced over all other applicants. They are all 1L's and have a deep understanding of the law. For Superior Court duties, it is important to understand whether people filing appeals have a reason to do so. This principle of standing was something that the Chief Justice stressed the candidates understand, and many undergraduate applicants couldn't understand that. These people also had a knowledge of the Student Government Association and knew that Superior Court deals with Elections a lot. Time is important during elections, and they also understood that. As someone who is a sophomore, I look up to all of these people. When these people came into the interview, we were so impressed. These three stood out easily among the rest.

Rains-Saucedo: Can each of you introduce yourselves?

Downs: I'm a 1L and I graduated from the University of Oklahoma last year. I applied for this because I want to be a judge in the future and this seemed like a great way to get experience.

Marr: I graduated from here last year. I applied because I had a lot of SGA involvement during my undergraduate time here, and this seemed like a good way to continue that service. I'll be able to combine old knowledge and new knowledge.

Oliver: I'm a 1L and I graduated from OU. I started graduate school in the Botany Department. I have been with the Food & Drug Administration as an investigator, and I really enjoy applying statutes.

Duechting: I was told that no one from the Legislative Branch was present during interviews. Can you explain that?

Rains-Saucedo: I was not present because it was the day that I hurt my leg and I'd been running around a lot. I feel three times that day as well because I was in too much pain. I did read the applications and talked to the Executive Branch about my opinions, and when they selected these three, they asked my final opinion. I promise you, I would have redone these if I disagreed with the choices.

Consent

Passed by unanimous consent

Motion to go back in time to Special Orders by suspension of the rules

Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Rojas

New Business

Follow-Up Reports

Items for Future Agenda

Announcements and Comments

Final Roll Call

Chair: Thomas Cassidy

Vice Chair: Mackenzie Cordova

Secretary: Richard Holt

Session 100	General 4/17	Final
Begovic, Amer	x	
Behara, Pranoy	x	
Bell, Aspen	x	
Bishop, Kimberly	x	
Blank, Faith	x	
Bonic, Karla	x	
Bray, Matthew	x	
Bridwell, Trey	x	
Cassidy, Thomas	x	
Chism, Hennessey	x	
Cordova, Mackenzie	x	
DeAngeli, Emma	x	
Del Rio, Paulina	x	
Duechting, Donald	x	
Fees, Elaina	x	
Felkner, Katy	x	
Hedgcorth, Joseph	x	
Hodzic, Uzeir	x	
Hobson, Sarah	x	
Hoefke, Madeleine	x	
Holt, Richard	x	
Kalvacherla, Vinay	x	
Khan, Adam	x	
Liu, Shihui	x	
Lobaugh, Rachel	x	
McClintic, Alexander	x	
Monohar, Kanjan	abs	
Powers, Shayla	x	
Quick, Samuel	x	

Rojas, Julio	x	
Schneider, Caitlin	x	
Smith, Kaitlyn	x	
Thompson, Gabi	x	
Vanderford, Elliott	x	
Waddell, Turner	x	
Walton, Jonathan	x	
Williams, Dan	x	
Wilson, Taylor	x	
Present	36	0
Absent	1	0
Excused	0	0

Session 100	CB-100-01
Begovic, Amer	
Behara, Pranoy	
Bell, Aspen	
Bishop, Kimberely	
Blank, Faith	
Bonic, Karla	
Bray, Matthew	
Bridwell, Trey	
Cassidy, Thomas	
Chism, Hennessey	
Cordova, Mackenzie	
DeAngeli, Emma	
Del Rio, Paulina	
Duechting, Donald	
Fees, Elaina	
Felkner, Katy	
Hedgorth, Joseph	
Hodzic, Uzeir	
Hobson, Sarah	
Hoefke, Madeleine	
Holt, Richard	
Kalvacherla, Vinay	
Khan, Adam	
Liu, Shihui	
Lobaugh, Rachel	
Lynn, Grady	
McClintic, Alexander	
Monohar, Kanjan	
Powers, Shayla	
Quick, Samuel	

Rojas, Julio	
Schneider, Caitlin	
Smith, Kaitlyn	
Thompson, Gabi	
Vanderford, Elliott	
Waddell, Turner	
Walton, Jonathan	
Williams, Dan	
Wilson, Taylor	
Yes	0
No	0
Abstain	0

Session 100	Chair	Vice Chair	VC Runoff	Secretary
Begovic, Amer	m	t	a	
Behara, Pranoy	c	t	t	
Bell, Aspen	c	t	t	
Bishop, Kimberley	c	t	t	
Blank, Faith	m	t	t	
Bonic, Karla	c	c	c	
Bray, Matthew	c	k	c	
Bridwell, Trey	c	c	c	
Cassidy, Thomas	c	a	a	
Chism, Hennessey	m	t	t	
Cordova, Mackenzie	c	c	c	
DeAngeli, Emma	c	k	c	
Del Rio, Paulina	c	c	c	
Duechting, Donald	c	c	c	
Fees, Elaina	c	t	t	
Felkner, Katy	m	c	c	
Hedgcorth, Joseph	c	t	c	
Hodzic, Uzeir	c			
Hobson, Sarah	m	t	t	
Hoefke, Madeleine	c	c	c	
Holt, Richard	c	c	c	
Kalvacherla, Vinay	m	t	t	
Khan, Adam	c	c	c	
Liu, Shihui	c	c	c	
Lobaugh, Rachel	m	t	t	
McClintic, Alexander	c	t	t	
Monohar, Kanjan				
Powers, Shayla	c	c	c	
Quick, Samuel	m			
Rojas, Julio	c	c	c	

Schneider, Caitlin	m	c	c	
Smith, Kaitlyn	c	c	c	
Thompson, Gabi	c	t	t	
Vanderford, Elliott	m	c	c	
Waddell, Turner	m	t	t	
Walton, Jonathan	c	t	t	
Williams, Dan	c	c	c	
Wilson, Taylor	c	c	c	
	11	17	20	0
	26	15	13	
		2		
Abstain	0	1	2	0