

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
Session C

General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 24, 2018
Devon Hall 120

Session C

Roll Call – 7:02

Flag Salute - Representative Hoefke

Approval of Minutes

OI Chair: Representative Holt wants a friendly amendment fixing the voting total from last week's minutes.

OI Fees: Is it in the opinion of the Chair that, if someone doesn't know how to make a motion, someone should help them figure out how?

Chair: Yes, but we are looking for an amendment to be offered.

Bishop: Would the Secretary accept the friendly amendment fixing the vote total?

Holt: Yes

Representative Behera seconded by Secretary Holt

Chair's Report- Hey everyone, there's going to be a Special Session next week to accommodate the primary budget. We have to have posted the primary bills for seven days before we see them in the body. To abide by the code, we're going to have a quick meeting next week to see them. This will be right before the Congress Study Party for the week before finals, so make sure to stop by afterwards! Attending this meeting will also count as your constituent service hour for the month of April, which Secretary Holt will talk more about in his report. If you are unable to attend, we need to know as soon as possible, so email the Secretary with an excuse.

OI Felkner: This is Tuesday, May 1st?

Chair: Yes

If you can't make it, let the Secretary know as soon as possible. The other thing I wanted to talk about is that there are also a lot of vacant representative seats, so we will fill those seats and appoint associates the first two weeks of the next semester. The associateships from last session are up as of right now, and new associates will be appointed again next semester during this time.

Vice Chair's Report- To incentivize coming to the next meeting, we will have the Congress Study Party afterwards, so make sure you all come and hang out! This Friday, there will also be a Thank-You lunch for the staff and advisors, so make sure you come by to thank them. It will be sometime in the middle of the day on Friday, I will send you the times tomorrow.

Secretary's Report- Hey everyone! Just to follow up on what Tom said about next week's Special Session, you will receive constituent service for this month if you attend. If you can't attend, please send me an email telling me why as soon as possible! If you are a member from Session 99, you must complete one office hour and one constituent service hour for the month of April.

Committee Reports-

- **Ways and Means:** Our committee saw both primary bills, AB-100-01 and AB-100-02, today to go over the final details, and they got recommendations of do pass. We have to wait the seven days for those bills to be posted on the agenda, and then we can see it in the Special Session meeting. I'm not going to write up a large explanation for all of the different allocations, so if there are people who want to ask questions, I won't have all of that information on hand.

Liaison Reports

Rojas: The IAC is having their new Executive elections this Friday. I would like to extend a special invitation to Chair Cassidy, Vice Chair Cordova, and Secretary Holt if they want to come. Any other members of the body are also welcome to join. It will be at 5:00pm on the Second Floor of the Conoco.

Motion by suspension of the rules to skip Special Orders and see Items to be Considered Representative Behera seconded by Representative Schneider

Special Orders

OI Chair: Special Orders are for when we want to see special types of announcements or bills that we couldn't see in committee. We need a motion to move into Committee of the Whole. We can give recommendations of do not pass, do fail, no recommendation, or do pass. Once we give it a recommendation, we move it out of Committee of the Whole and we see it again in Items to be Considered.

Motion to move into Committee of the Whole

Representative Powers seconded by Representative Del Rio

- Committee of the Whole

CB-100-09 – An Act Appointing Sooner Freshman Council Co-Chairs (Williams/Shurbaji/Hardin)

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Duechting

Williams: This bill is appointing next year's Sooner Freshman Council Co-Chairs. I am going to hand it off to the current Co-Chairs to explain the candidates that they chose to appoint. I would accept a friendly amendment to change the purpose section of the bill to remove the names of the current Co-Chairs.

Kates: Hi all, we're the current Co-Chairs of Sooner Freshman Council. Our organization has 30 members, and any current member can apply to be Co-Chair. We opened an application in a Google Form, and we asked them about ideas for SFC and what they want to improve for next year. We got 11 applications, and we interviewed 9 candidates when 2 dropped out because of other commitments.

Carpenter: We asked the same questions that were asked during last year's interviews. Vice President Hardin and the Co-Chairs from the class previous to this one were in the interviews with us. The new Co-Chairs are really excited to take on their new responsibilities.

Kates: The appointees are Justin Norris and Jacob Moser.

Holt: Would you accept a friendly amendment changing the purpose section of the bill?

Williams: Yes

Chism: Would you accept a friendly amendment adding the names of the appointees?

Williams: Yes

Motion to give this bill a recommendation of do pass

Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Hedgorth

OI Williams: The two candidates will be here later to answer questions when we see this bill in Items to be Considered.

Motion to move out of Committee of the Whole

Representative Behera seconded by Representative Blank

- Congress Awards

Rains-Saucedo: This is a tradition that we started a few years ago where, at the end of each session, we do Congress awards. We love you all, but unfortunately we couldn't give out awards to everyone,

that would take all night. A lot of the awards are jokes but there are many serious ones as well. We'll let you know which are which as we go.

Cordova: Most Likely to Have Perfect Attendance: Joseph Hedgorth

OI Rains-Saucedo: Can someone take pictures?

Bishop: Yes

Rains-Saucedo: Our next award goes to the person who knows Parliamentary-Procedure the best. We don't give these to members of Exec, those will come later. Most Orderly Award: Pranoy Behera.

This is our first joke award of the night. Most Likely to Never Know the Time of Meetings: Julio Rojas

This is our second joke award. If you aren't in the GroupMe, you won't understand this. Most Likely to Blow Up Our GroupMe for No Reason: Elaina Fees.

This is for our most outspoken member. This is not a bad thing! This member is the most likely to speak up, ask good questions, and move the body forward. Most Outspoken: Amer Begović.

This is another joke award. This is a very involved member who most of you probably know, and he responds to almost any name. Most Nicknames: Richard Holt.

Lalani: This is an award for someone who shows a lot of effort, but is sometimes lazy. Most Likely to Wear a Jersey to Interviews: Adam Khan

Rains-Saucedo: This member did an incredible job this past year, is an amazing friend, and an amazing representative. Most Likely to Nerd Out Over the Budget: Hennessey Chism

Now, we want to recognize the most outstanding members from each committee!

Chen: Most Outstanding Human Diversity Committee Member: Pedro Manuel

Thompson: Most Outstanding Problems and Projects Committee Member: Braden Keefer

Chism: Most Outstanding Ways and Means Committee Member: Taylor Wilson

Kuketz: Most Outstanding Sustainability Committee Member: Joey Scimeca

Bonić: Most Outstanding University Policy Committee Member: Trey Bridwell

McClintic: Most Outstanding External Affairs Committee Member: Jill Mencke

Cassidy: Most Outstanding Congressional Administration Member: Caitlin Schneider

Rains-Saucedo: Now, we're going back to the more general Congress awards. This member has written a lot of great legislation, has spoken a lot during meetings, and has attended and planned many Congress events. Most Involved Member: Alex McClintic

This is the Best Legislation Award for legislation that had great research, writing, and debate on the floor. Best Legislation: Ban The Box (Joey Scimeca)

This is the Best Liaison Award. This goes to the person who gave us the best updates on their organizations, and they did the most to represent their organizations in the body. Best Liaison: Shihui Liu

Lalani: This award is for the best associate. Although the requirements for associates are low, this associate is always attending meetings, interacting with exec, and staying involved. Best Associate: Hunter McCanns

Rains-Saucedo: This is one of the highest awards that we give out. This person comes to the Conoco and talks to us about the agendas and the legislation every week before meetings. They are always following up with constituents and being an active voice for the people they represent. Best Representative: Dan Williams

Cordova: This award is for the most valuable committee chair. They've put in a bunch of time, stayed on top of logistics, and communicated well with exec.

Rains-Saucedo: They got to know everyone on their committees and reached out to exec and made sure we could plan larger events on campus. They took the time to let us know about their members and kept us updated constantly on what their committee members were doing.

Lalani: One of the most underappreciated things in Congress is the ability to grow over time, and that's something we really saw with this member. This person is very deserving of this award.

Cordova: Best Committee Chair: Tim Kuketz

Rains-Saucedo: This is our last award of the night. This is a very serious award that is reflective of someone who has been extremely involved in Student Government Association. This person is not

afraid to speak their mind, they are insightful, they have great ideas, and they are always willing to help out. When you need support, they are there for you. They're a great friend and a great leader. Lalani: Growth is so important to focus on in Congress. Not just in Congress, but the way they've grown as a person and had new ideas and passions, all this shows how deserving they are of this award.

Cordova: This is someone who I really look up to in Congress. They always help me with legislation and anything else I'm having trouble with.

Rains-Saucedo: This is a person who has had a huge impact throughout Student Government Association and someone who is typically an outgoing senior. The Rod Jaromi Award: Kimberley Bishop

That's all we have for tonight. We only give out a certain amount each semester, but I encourage you all to stay involved, and you will all be here someday. Thanks for a great session!

Student Concerns

Duechting: People I know in Dunham College have been complaining about the small plates initiative from the Executive Branch. They wrote me a letter to express their displeasure. The letter reads:

Dear Student Government Association,

We the Students of Dunham Residential College hereby declare our dissent and dissatisfaction with the recent small plate initiative in our dining hall. The objective of this initiative is being advertised as cutting down on food waste, but the reality is that most students are taking a similar quantity of food as before but are using more plates resulting in more dishes being cleaned. Many students are also outright ignoring the small plates in order to obtain large plates in the readily accessible dining hall of Headington Residential College which is connected to Dunham. Some food items, such as personal pan pizzas, will not even fit on the small plates resulting in the necessary use of large plates anyways.

To state that we are dissatisfied is an understatement. It feels that SGA has provided us with slightly oversized dessert plates to enjoy our full meals on while simultaneously disregarding our opinions and concerns. Students are annoyed, kitchen staff have rolled their eyes, and faculty guests and visitors are quick to point out that the small plates are an odd tan color that do not go with any of our décor. Some of us have even lightheartedly joked that SGA should consider investing in a Fisher Price kitchen playset to see how you all enjoy miniature plates.

In all seriousness though, we the Students of Dunham Residential College demand that the small plates trial program be brought to an immediate end. We are paying customers of our dining hall, and we do not need governmental oversight on our portions and food consumption. We respectfully request that SGA keep its hands off our dining hall.

As disclaimer, this statement is not endorsed by the elected Dunham College Council, but it does indeed reflect the sentiment of many students at Dunham Residential College.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
Your Displeased Constituents Who Vote

Chair: That's an Executive Branch initiative, but I'll also refer it to Sustainability so that they can work with the Executive Branch on that.

Fees: I also have a friend in the Dunham Kitchen who expresses how much extra work the plates have been for them to deal with.

Williams: Some students contacted me about the gas leak situation on campus. They want to know if University property is safe?

Chair: I'll send that to Problems and Projects.

Fees: There was a student I spoke to whose professor did not give them their exam accommodations. Is there any way for Human Diversity to follow up on this? I know that there is a letter being sent to the Faculty Senate, but it's been a consistent problem for several students.

Chair: I'll send that to Human Diversity

Old Business

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

Motion to see bill numbers CR-100-02, CR-100-03, CR-100-04, CR-100-05, CR-100-06 and CR-100-08 as a block with 10 minutes for authors' explanations

Representative Behera seconded by Representative Duechting

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

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

Items to Be Considered

CR-100-05 – A Resolution Thanking the SGA Advisor George Ahmadi (Rains-Saucedo) (Exec – rec of do pass)

CR-100-06 – A Resolution Thanking the Outgoing Seniors (Rains-Saucedo/Lalani/Cordova) (Exec – rec of do pass)

CR-100-08 – A Resolution Thanking Outgoing Committee Chairs (Rains-Saucedo/Lalani/Cordova) (Exec – rec of do pass)

Rains-Saucedo: These are all resolutions to thank the people that helped us with Congress this year. We could not do what we do without them. CR-100-02 is a resolution to thank our *OU Daily* reporters. Grace, you've done an amazing job this past semester. Grace is a freshman and she keeps up really well with all Student Government initiatives. I would accept a friendly to add Nick Hazelrigg's name to this legislation in the appropriate places, as he was our reporter during the first semester. CR-100-03 is a resolution thanking our office staff members Debbie and Curt. Debbie handles all of our letters that we send out to many, many people when we pass these resolutions. Curt handles all of our purchase orders and budget questions, which is a lot of work. Be sure to thank them when you see them around the office! CR-100-04 is a resolution thanking the SGA Webmaster, Kimberley Bishop. She does so much to update our website, make all of our graphics, and much more. She does a ton of behind the scenes work, and we should be sure to recognize her! CR-100-06 is our resolution to thank all of our Student Government Association seniors, current and former. Those seniors are

J.D. Baker, Former SGA President,

Cameron Burleson, Former SGA Vice President,

Chris Carter, Engineering Representative, Director of the Department of Interior,

Kimberley Bishop, Academic Affairs Committee Chair Emeritus, Former Director of the Department of Exterior, Humanities Representative,

Madison Hoefke, Communications Representative,

Joey Scimeca, Engineering Representative,

Joseph Hedgecorth, Earth & Energy Representative,

Heather Mishket, Former Social Sciences Associate,

Colin Baker, Former Engineering Representative,

Dylan Rodolf, Former SGA Chief of Staff, and

Eric Nichols, Former Director of the Department of Academic Affairs.

CR-100-08 is a resolution to thank our committee chairs from this past session. If you could look at the actual resolution... I've been a part of SGA for a long time, but I've never seen an exec as productive and kind as this one. I want to thank them for re-writing the entire bylaws, making Sustainability amazing and productive, encouraging our members to understand the budget, hosting TIF panels, and so much more. They've put in so much time and dedication, and they do so much to make Congress run as well as it does. I want to recognize...

Richard Holt, Former Communications Chair,

Thomas Cassidy, Former Congressional Administration Chair,

Alex McClintic, Former External Affairs Chair,

Julie Chen, Former Human Diversity Chair,
Gabi Thompson, Former Problems and Projects Chair,
Timothy Kuketz, Former Sustainability Chair,
Karla Bonić, Former University Policy Chair, and
Hennessey Chism, Former Ways and Means Chair.

CR-100-05 is the resolution to thank our incredible advisor George Ahmadi. George is a former Congress Chair and Election Chair. He's been a personal mentor to me and many others in SGA during his time here. He has taught me so much about what it means to be a leader. I met him as a sophomore, and he has been a mentor to me ever since. We want to thank him for all the work he does for us and for always being in his office to help us with any questions or connect us with members of the administration. This was a difficult year to be Chair, and I relied on George all the time. He was always able to help me out. He's an incredible person to have on your side, and I want to speak on behalf of all of the members of the body to thank him. That's everything!

Cassidy: On CR-100-02, would you accept a friendly adding Nick Hazelrigg's name to the appropriate sections?

Rains-Saucedo: Yes

Bills Passed by unanimous consent

CB-100-04 – An Act Allocating Conoco Space for 2018-2019 (Williams/Rains-Saucedo/Armer/Hardin/Pavlovsky/Shurbaji) (Exec – rec of no rec)

Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Behera

Rains-Saucedo: Student Government Association is in charge of the Conoco-Philips Student Leadership Center, so every year we allocate the offices in the Conoco and the storage spaces in the bottom of the Union. We don't usually make any changes to these without an important reason. We moved Black Student Association to the Second Floor because Habitat for Humanity didn't reapply for their space. We also moved five organizations to new offices. We reached out to these organizations to make sure that they were okay with this in advance. We took on one new organization. We had an opening from One Emergency Medical Services and gave it to the Iranian Student Association. We gave 11 new organizations storage spaces due to spaces being open or unused this past year. We switched Black Student Association and Big Event because Black Student Association had a huge locker that was underutilized, and The Big Event had a lot of supplies and needed a bigger space.

Motion to suspend the rules and extend time for author's explanation by 3 minutes

Representative Rojas seconded by Representative Behera

Hardin: We added the storage space descriptions because organizations with a lot of stuff had to rent off-campus space. We didn't think that was fair, and that's the thinking behind those 11 organizations.

Cordova: Would you accept a friendly moving Pan into the office with IGC, and IFC into the office with MGC?

Rains-Saucedo: Yes

Swearingin: Could you explain whether we charge these organizations for the spaces, or do we pay for it?

Rains-Saucedo: We pay for them.

OI Felkner: Why did we make the change offered in the friendly amendment?

George: Fraternity and sorority student life want the flexibility to assign their own rooms to their groups.

OI Blank: What do the acronyms for those organizations stand for?

George: They are the Independent Greek Council (IGC), the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), and the Panhellenic Association (Pan).

Passed by unanimous consent

CB-100-06 – An Act Appointing the Election Board Chair (Williams/Shurbaji/Hardin/Cassidy/Pavlovsky/Rabb) (Exec - rec of no rec)

Representative Behera seconded by Representative Schneider

Williams: Hey everyone, we are presenting Brandon Swearingin to you as the appointee for position of Election Board Chair. There was an election process that had applications and interviews with Big Exec.

Pavlovsky: There were 8 questions in the interview and we asked them those questions and allowed them to ask us follow-up questions for things that we didn't touch on or for other ideas that they had. We thought Brandon was the best candidate.

Chism: If you could change one thing about elections, what would it be?

Swearingin: I would do what you all did which would be to reform elections through legislation. The grievance system needed to be changed to make sure there is a waiting system in place. It would be difficult to do worse than the past Election Board and Chair. We need to be enforcing the election rules as well as publicizing the elections better for the student body. The voter turnout is poor, and I want to improve it as much as possible. On the South Oval, for example, people see that there are signs for candidates that show that there is an election, but we need neutral markers for the election specifically. We could have big banners, more voting booths, and a candidate's drive to increase the number of candidates in the running, thereby improving the quality of the candidates. I would set up booths with the Board that we chose and sit down with them to make sure we are reaching all students who want to be involved in Student Government Association. We also need to make sure that there is transparency in elections. We often never saw the board members working in the Conoco. I want to make sure that my board interacts with the legislative body more often. To sum up my three main points, we need to work on the enforcement of election rules, improving voter turnout, and improving election transparency.

McClintic: Are you familiar with the election reform legislation that we passed, and if so, what is your opinion on it?

Swearingin: I am familiar with the changes. Those changes are very important to me. I know that I spoke to Dan Williams and that he wanted to make a few changes. I would even offer a few changes myself. One of these changes would be to close the loophole regarding candidates using flags. It was interesting that candidates were exploiting this loophole last election, and I know some grievances came up about those that were dropped. I'm overall very pleased with the new grievance points system, and it's important to be objective when enforcing those grievances to make sure that the defendant gets to present their side of the case. I will be a stickler for the rules and regulations, but I will be fair.

Kuketz: What specific qualities for Election Board members are you looking for?

OI Bishop: Isn't it true that the Election Chair no longer chooses the Election Board members?

Swearingin: Yes, but what I would be looking for are members who are going to enforce the rules. You have taken the power from the Election Board Chair to choose their own board and invested it in the President, but I assume they will consult the Election Board Chair during that process.

Fees: Can you explain the application process for this selection?

Williams: There are seven points for the application and interviewing process. We published the application, had it posted for two weeks, had an open interview process...

Motion to extend time for questions to the end of the list

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Blank Objection

Motion passes by majority hand vote

Williams: Notifications about the interviews were also sent out twice.

Fees: What were the questions that you asked in the application?

Pavlovsky: We asked about their interest in the position, their interest in upholding the responsibilities of the board, whether they were familiar with Title VI, and what their thoughts were on how the Election Board Chair should be interacting with the Student Government Association leadership, among other things.

Chism: Do you believe it's more important to be consistent or correct in your decisions as a board?

Swearingin: Consistency is most important. Looking at past precedent, I have seen the Election Board grant a 72-hour extension to respond to a grievance to one candidate, and then do things differently with a different candidate. That cannot continue happen. If I am appointed by this body, I will focus on consistency within my board. I may have my own opinions as Chair, but I also have the Board that I will consult and have

debates with about the different issues. There should be lively discussion and debate regarding the different grievances to make sure we come to the right outcome.

Chism: Is there any part of the election reform which we passed that you don't agree with?

Swearengin: The legislative body decided on this reform, so my job is simply to enforce it. There are some things I may recommend to Congressional Administration to change in the future, and there are a few things I might like to see tweaked, but for now my job is to enforce.

Hedgcorth: On April 10th there was an amendment offered by a member of this body to put a cap on grievance points. Would you have agreed with that amendment?

Swearengin: I will answer cautiously, because it is not my purview. If I were a member of this body, I would have voted for it, but I am not a member and did not take the time to fully consider the amendment.

Bishop: What is your experience reaching out to underrepresented communities on campus, and how will you attempt to reach out to them?

Swearengin: My objective is to let people on this campus know that there is an election happening. Based on my research, a voter is more likely to vote if they are aware of an election. I want to meet the student body half-way. I want to make signs, make banners, work with the *OU Daily*, have a candidate drive, and make sure students know that there are elections happening. Perhaps we could even work with the Vice Chair of Congress to use the liaison program to tell students that there are elections and that they should run in them or vote in them.

Fees: What is your experience that makes you feel qualified for this position?

Swearengin: I have spent a year in Congress and am familiar with the Code Annotated and what it states. I also have gotten to know your legislative leadership and executive leadership well, and I will be working with them a lot. I have management experience that is needed on the Election Board. Without a good Chair managing the Board, the Board will be ineffective. I have experience in Registered Student Organizations and in the private sectors managing teams and individuals, and I will use that experience to make sure that the Board is running through things well and efficiently.

Scimeca: You talked about increasing voter turnout, candidate quality, and numbers of candidates. Can you elaborate?

Swearengin: I touched on advertising, but there are other ways to reach out through the *OU Daily* and in managing debates to reach out to the student body. I would like to have a spring debate to further engage students during the Spring Semester. I would increase the number of voting booths to accommodate students in Dale. I would also like to accommodate freshmen by putting a booth in the Caf, which seems like a good idea.

Passed by a roll call vote of 25-3-2

**Motion to move back in time to Special Orders by suspension of the rules
Representative Chism seconded by Representative Felkner**

CB-100-08 – An Act Appointing Committee Chairs (Cassidy/Cordova/Holt) (Exec – rec of do pass)

Representative Behera seconded by Representative Khan

OI Bishop: Are the candidates all here?

Chair: Two are not yet but they will be here very soon.

Cordova: These are our potential Session 100 Committee Chairs. We had an application and interview process. There were applications open until Saturday night and then interviews for 5 hours on Sunday. We were looking for good leaders who were comfortable with delegation, had good past experience, and would communicate well with others in their committees or on Exec. These candidates will be great, and we highly recommend them.

Blank: Can each of you tell us which committee you'll be chairing?

Begović: Communications

Schneider: Congressional Administration

Hutchinson: External Affairs

Kuketz: Problems and Projects

DeAngeli: Sustainability

Bonić: University Policy

Cordova: Also, Pedro Manuel will be the Human Diversity chair

Bishop: Can you each give us brief introductions and tell us why you applied?

Begovic: I was on the Congressional Administration Committee and was also an assistant to the former Communications Chair. I realized I had a lot of ideas for Communications, and I got to learn a lot from Richard. I got to know what he did well and also what I could improve.

Bonic: I want to be University Policy Chair again because I want to see our unfinished projects through. I want to solidify University Policy in the future as a strong and successful committee.

DeAngeli: Sustainability is why I joined Congress, and I have a lot of ideas for new things that we can do and how we can continue to build on the success of last semester.

Schneider: Congressional Administration helped me grow a lot this past session, and I have a lot of ideas I want to enact because I'm passionate about legislation.

Kuketz: I really enjoyed the parts of being Sustainability Chair that lent themselves to fixing problems on campus, so I think this is a great way for me to continue to do that.

Hutchinson: I've been an associate for two semesters, hopefully I'll be a representative soon. I really liked working with Alex last year and I'm passionate about getting students involved in the Norman community.

Manuel: I'm passionate about getting to know new people, and I know a lot of people who come from very different backgrounds than myself. I want to help Congress become more diversified and I want to make sure that everyone's opinions are heard. I want to make sure that I can incorporate lots of new ideas into Human Diversity.

Williams: Candidate Schneider, you are a relatively new member of Congress. Do you feel confident taking on any of the roles of exec, seeing as the Congressional Administration Chair is the next in the line of succession?

Schneider: Yes, I took that into consideration when I applied, and I'm comfortable being able to fill in any of those roles. Hopefully, our exec doesn't go anywhere, but I could do it.

Williams: Candidate Manuel, during your representative campaign you talked about focusing on getting the international community involved in Congress. Will that be your priority as Human Diversity Chair?

Motion to extend time for questions to the end of the list Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Del Rio

Manuel: It would not be my only focus. There is a lot of work to do to bring more international students into Congress, and to bring Congress to them, but diversity on our campus is more than racial diversity. It is about gender diversity as well, among other things. There are many issues that we can address about the different ways that we act. I want to learn more about different types of diversity on our campus. One example would be gender diversity. I can't be a successful advocate for all of these groups unless I learn more, but it is not just about the international students.

Williams: Candidate Hutchinson, would you like to continue focusing on panel discussions as a priority of External Affairs?

Hutchinson: I think that was a great thing that Alex did as Chair, and I would love to work with him on continuing that. I think they are very important and useful.

Williams: Candidate Begović, you did a great job improving the Congress Instagram last semester, what is going to be your social media strategy for the upcoming year.

Begović: We did a really good job with the Instagram, and with more assistance, I can focus more on the other platforms as well. I will try to have four assistants instead of two, and each will be assigned to a different platform. We could then put a similar focus on each platform and make them more successful.

Williams: Candidate Kuketz, we had a great Problems and Projects Chair this past year. How will you continue to build on that success?

Kuketz: Gabi did an amazing job, and she's left me with big shoes to fill. I want to continue working on the Suggestion Box and continue to work with Communications on that. I want to be able to expand the avenues for students to get us their concerns. I also want to get the members of my committee more involved.

Bishop: Candidate Bonić, you are the only incumbent Chair. What can you improve on from last semester?

Bonić: We had very little time to spend on the legislation that we were sending out last semester. Next semester, I will focus on devoting more time to the legislative part of what we do to make sure that the quality of the research is reflected in the writing. I am also hoping to implement a legislative writing workshop.

Rains-Saucedo: Authors, why did you all choose each candidate?

Cordova: Amer had communications experience from the past semester, and he helped a lot with the Instagram and different events. He also had really good, well-thought-out ideas on how to improve where Communications was lacking, and also where it was successful. Karla was University Policy Chair before, and she did a great job. She was a great leader and she also had many ideas about how to improve the committee, like with the legislative workshop. Emma was the Vice Chair of the Sustainability Committee this past year. She helped Tim with many of the things that Sustainability did last semester. She had great ideas on how to get us involved with other organizations on campus and get the committee's name out there. Caitlin has been really involved in Congressional Administration, rewriting some of the bylaws, for example. She has great parliamentary procedure knowledge and has a lot of enthusiasm for the position. Tim showed great leadership and dedication as Sustainability Chair, and he has great programming experience and ideas. We want to see Problems and Projects do more suggestion-based events, and Tim can do that well. Drew has great ideas about ways to involve the committee in civic engagement, voting on OU-related issues, and government issues that affect the campus. Pedro has great experience with the international community, and he can engage that group really well. He has great ideas about how to do that. He also touched on the fact that diversity is not one-dimensional, which is important for this body. He also expressed a willingness to learn from other members, which is extremely important in a Human Diversity Chair.

Del Rio: Candidates, how will you help your new members feel involved?

Begović: My committee being so small, I get to become really close with my assistants and have a personal experience with them. Communications also gives me the opportunity to give each of them many specific roles and help them feel that they have important jobs within Communications.

Bonić: These projects are long term, so it's extremely important that my members are invested in their project. This worked generally for me last semester, so I will continue with my strategies moving forward.

DeAngeli: It's important that each member is doing something that they're interested in, so as Chair, I want to make sure I know what they care about and how they can pursue that.

Schneider: I am a relatively new member still myself, so I will be focusing on how to make sure all the members feel engaged so that they can feel included and so that Congress is a meaningful experience for them.

Kuketz: I want to get to know all of my members very personally and be able to reach out to them often. I will use the beginning part of the semester to accomplish this before we get deep into our projects.

Hutchinson: I think all of us are all relatively new members, so we can empathize with our new members and makes sure they know how to use parliamentary procedure, know that there is a place for them on the committee, and develop close personal relationships as well.

Manuel: They all touched on many of the important points. Something that I will do is make sure that the members of my committee get to know different groups on campus so that they can get their own experiences with those groups. It's easy to hear about what's happening from Congress meetings, but it's important to get a personal experience as well. I really want my members to go out a create a personal connection with these groups. I will also make sure that people have a sense of ownership to know that what we do is important for SGA, but also for the whole student body. We don't want people to feel like they don't fit in or don't belong, and that's something I'll address.

Bishop: Candidate Hutchinson, this is an important election year for the state. How will you promote voting within the student body?

Hutchinson: There is a group on campus in the Carl Albert Center who want to get people on board with voting through voter registration drives and other means. I know they want to do something with the whole Big 12, but it's important to get everyone on campus and in SGA engaged, not just members of the External Affairs Committee.

Williams: Candidate DeAngeli, the last Sustainability Chair did a great job with the committee. What best practices will you be carrying on from their term?

DeAngeli: I really liked the trash walks we did and also the openness of the committee and everyone being able to voice their opinions. I also want to continue working with other groups on campus who work on environmental issues as well.

Williams: Candidate Bonić, my constituents are concerned about the lack of paid internships for Political Science and other Social Science majors at the University. Is that something you might want to take on in University Policy?

Bonić: There are a lot of ideas that people have brought to me that I want my members to work on, and that's something I'd love to take on as well. I would probably want to work with Candidate Hutchinson and the External Affairs Committee on that as well.

Swearengin: Candidate Manuel, how will you specifically reach out to minority groups on campus to engage them in Student Government Association?

Manuel: As I mentioned, I want to engage myself with different minority groups so that I can get to know them, they can get to know me, and we can establish trust. I want these groups to be able to come to Congress and see what it is actually like. We all have preconceptions and prejudices that we can overcome when we interact with each other. I want to bring these groups together to make sure these minority groups don't feel ignored. I want to get to know what the issue is, whether that's SGA not engaging, or those groups shying away from involvement. I have heard many people talk about not hearing about things that SGA publishes, and I want to make sure that that problem gets solved.

Fees: Candidate Manuel, I know you said you aren't super familiar with Congress-specific parts of being a Chair. How comfortable are you with the legislative process and parliamentary procedure, and how will you work through that?

Manuel: That is probably my weakest point, which I conveyed to exec during my interview. I will always be looking for help from them and from other members of Congress, but I think I can learn a lot.

Fees: Candidate Manuel, people have mentioned doing LGBTQ+ Ally training for Human Diversity committee members. Is that something you'd be interested in implementing?

Manuel: I have never been to a Queer Student Association meeting, but I have been trying to go, and that's something I'd be very interested in doing.

Fees: Candidate Kuketz, there can be a lot of down-time in Problems and Projects. How will you make that time productive in the future?

Kuketz: I want to break down some of those bigger, long-term projects into more specific, measureable goals to make sure that members always have something to work on. I would also ask them for reports to make sure that there has been progress on those projects week-to-week.

Blank: Candidate Hutchinson, I'm not from Oklahoma, and it's confusing for me to figure out absentee voting and my state's elections. How would you help people from out-of-state remain civically engaged in their hometowns?

Hutchinson: That's something we haven't addressed in the past, and we'd have to do more thinking about that because I haven't considered that. We can definitely talk about that in the future, because that's very important.

Scimeca: Candidates, if there were a few of you that wanted to take on a similar project, how would you handle that collaboration?

Begović: Last semester, Communications worked on the IAC/SGA Mixer with the Human Diversity Committee, and next semester we would pass that off onto Human Diversity specifically. That's how we would handle an event like that to maintain the separation of roles.

Schneider: We will have to work with Communications on applications for representative seats and associate positions. We would focus on the interviewing portion, and they would focus on the advertising of the applications. It would be a collaborative thing that we would have to look at situationally to make sure that there isn't overlap.

Manuel: We will all have different ideas about how to solve certain issues and how we interact with people who are not members of our committee. We will want to collaborate, and we can hand issues over to one committee or another, but we still need to communicate with each other to make sure there is a dynamic and

an exchange of opinions. I don't think it's wrong to have just one committee take care of something, but there can be communication between several.

Begović: There are also Pan-SGA types of meetings where we would work with other committees like Congressional Administration to make sure that they are effective.

Kuketz: We would work with Communications to promote our events if we ever did Suggestion Box-type events on the South Oval as we have in the past.

Hutchinson: We would also work with Communications to promote our events, of which we have many.

Bishop: Candidate Schneider, you mentioned that you are new, so with that in mind, how would you handle the interview process for new representatives and associates?

Schneider: I have only been through the process once, when I was interviewed. I would ask other people for their experiences and their help. I would also look at the things we consider during applications and interviews and try to adjust those accordingly to make sure it is not just based on past experiences.

Passed by unanimous consent

CB-100-09 – An Act Appointing Sooner Freshman Council Co-Chairs (Williams/Shurbaji/Hardin)
(Committee of the Whole – rec of do pass)

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Powers

Williams: This is the bill that we just saw during Committee of the Whole, and the candidates are here. Feel free to ask them questions.

Blank: Why did you apply for this position, and what will make you the most effective Co-Chairs?

Norris: Being a part of Sooner Freshman Council gave me the opportunity to grow as a leader and make a lot of friends. I want to be able to provide that to incoming freshmen and give them these opportunities as well.

Moser: I'm also very grateful for SFC, and I want to make that experience possible for the next group of SFC members as well. I think I'm qualified because I can share my experiences with them and help them succeed.

Fees: Can you talk about implementing the new changes to SFC that we passed in this body?

Norris: We're asking our members to shadow the different branches of SGA, and I think this will be a good thing. I personally latched onto Campus Activities Council this year, and I think that increasing the connection between SFC and SGA will allow those members to become engaged in these great opportunities as well.

Moser: The whole purpose behind SFC is to get freshmen involved on campus and make them future leaders, which is a great reason to get them involved with the different leaders and leadership opportunities in SGA.

Fees: Will you change anything personally with how you run week-to-week meetings?

Moser: There was a very specific type of leadership given opportunities to speak at SFC this year. Personally, I am a STEM major, and a lot of the guest speakers were based in Student Life, so I want to see those speakers be as diverse as possible to accommodate all types of students.

Norris: I like to work personally with others, so I want to be able to improve the SFC Mentor Program to ensure that we're building connections between the SFC members and their mentors.

Fees: The Co-Chairs are supposed to come give reports to Congress every month, will you make sure this happens?

Norris: We will do our best!

Hobson: Are you interested in expanding SFC beyond the 30 accepted members?

Norris: We saw a small-scale expansion this year as a result of having so many great applicants. I think the small size makes SFC very intimate and personal, and I know that PLC and PCS do larger sizes, but I do like the way that that gives SFC members a better experience.

Moser: I agree, and it's tough to have to turn people away, but I really want to work with Justin to make sure that that special, personal aspect is maintained for future classes.

Motion to extend time for questions to the end of the list **Representative Duechting seconded by Representative Khan**

Blank: How will you maintain outreach to get a more diverse group of applicants from the freshman class?

Norris: During Student Orientation Weekend, we will make sure that we have our table set up but also try to work on some “House Calls” to make sure that we’re engaging with as many students as possible to get as great of a group as possible.

Moser: We definitely want to engage as many freshmen who may not know about SFC involved as possible. We will have freshmen who do know about the organization reach out to other freshmen though GroupMe’s and other means.

Passed by unanimous consent

Follow-Up Reports

Bishop: The Sooner Freshman Council Reform and Election Reform bills passed unanimously in Graduate Student Senate!

Items for Future Agenda

CB-100-11 – An Act Requiring SFC Co-Chair Updates (Begović) → Congressional Administration

CB-100-10 – An Act Appointing the Ways and Means Chair (Cassidy/Cordova/Holt)

Announcements and Comments

Rains-Saucedo: This is a tradition that happens for every Congress Chair when they leave. This is a weird feeling for me. I’ve been here for four years now. I started as an associate on Ways and Means, became Vice Chair of that committee, became Secretary of Congress, and have been Chair of Congress twice now. I’ve seen a lot happen during my time here, and this is my time to give you all advice and say my farewells. This has been one of the best experiences of my life. This organization is very special, and there is a lot that goes on that you may not always recognize. You may think sometimes that we don’t do much in Congress, but that is completely not true. There are so many resolutions and acts that have gone through this body to create things like It’s On Us, Hooked On Our Safety, and other initiatives that have saved and changed lives. A few years ago, there was a really bad incident where there was discrimination during the funding process. We responded by eliminating the interview process from funding, and that put a lot more work on our Ways and Means Committee, but it’s been a good way to combat that kind of discrimination. We’ve done this also with things like the Campus Climate Board, which addresses many problems we have seen on campus with inclusivity and advises us on how to react to them. Whenever you’re sitting in the body, feeling like what we’re doing doesn’t matter, think about these really big things. I have a lot of faith in all of you as a body and in this exec. You guys are going to bring a lot of great projects next year and it’s going to be great. Stay involved in Congress! Even though the meetings can be long and boring sometimes, keep all of that in mind when you’re working in committees with your new committee chairs. This is my fifth year here, and it makes me feel really old, but I want to thank some people who have been here with me through a lot of it. George, I’ve known you the longest, and you have done a crazy amount to help me out with everything in Congress and in life. Sanah, everything you’ve done for me as a Vice Chair and as a friend has been incredible. She always has my back and is a fierce and loyal friend. Mackenzie, you’re the best Secretary I’ve ever seen, and I’m so proud of you. Kim, thanks for being my best friend ever. Please don’t go with Joey to Boston. We met four years ago, and we’ve been best friends ever since. Thanks for all of the help and advice throughout the years. You are one of the loudest people I know, and it’s amazing how proud and brave you are. Tom, I’m so excited to see what you do next year as Congress Chair. You are going to do an amazing job, and I’m always a phone call away. To all of you in the body, you have helped me grow in every way possible and challenged me in many ways. I’ll be in Oklahoma City working with Representative Cyndi Munson, so if you ever want political experience, just let me know! I can’t mention all of you but you’ve all had a huge impact on me during my time here. I remember when Richard was a little associate walking around campus at 3:00am and thinking how weird that was. I remember meeting Maddie and Hennessey and thinking how incredible both of you are. Hennessey, you have done an incredible job as Ways and Means Chair, and even when people questioned my decision to put you there, you always proved them wrong. Dan, you have been like a little brother to me, and I remember the first time I met you, I knew you were going to be a character. How you’ve grown in the time that I’ve known you has been amazing to see. I’ll wrap it up before I start crying, but thank you all for everything.

Cordova: We had members receive awards who weren't here earlier. Most Outspoken Award: Amer Begović
Best Liaison: Shihui Liu

Chen: Also, please recognize Pedro Manuel for being my committee's outstanding member!

Felkner: There is a fundraiser tomorrow at Raising Cane's in Adams Tower from 5:00pm-9:00pm for the Alpha Sigma Kappa - Women in Technical Studies Sorority! Mention the fundraiser at the register, and they will donate 15% of their sales to us.

Williams: I just wanted to say something for Kaylee before she leaves. Kaylee is the last member of the body who was here when I joined. Kaylee, you are an incredibly strong woman. I compared my grandfather to a tree because of how strong, sturdy and dependable he was, and I see a lot of those qualities in Kaylee as well. I was intimidated by Kaylee when I first met her because of how powerful she was on the floor debating. From then on, I knew that she would be a good friend of mine. She ran uncontested for Chair the first time because people knew she was the best person for the position. She is the first two-year woman Chair of this body, and she will always be my Chair. Kaylee, I love you, I'll miss you, and you're going to kill it in Oklahoma City.

Motion to suspend the rules and skip final roll call and adjourn
Representative Behera seconded by Representative DeAngeli

Final Roll Call
Adjourn

Chair: Thomas Cassidy

Vice-Chair: Mackenzie Cordova

Secretary: Richard Holt

Session 100	General 4/24
Begović, Amer	ex
Behera, Pranoy	x
Bell, Aspen	x
Bishop, Kimberley	x
Blank, Faith	x
Bonić, Karla	x
Bray, Matthew	x
Bridwell, Trey	x
Chism, Hennessey	x
Cordova, Mackenzie	x
DeAngeli, Emma	x
Del Rio, Paulina	x
Duechting, Donald	x
Fees, Elaina	x
Felkner, Katy	x
Hedgorth, Joseph	x
Hodzic, Uzeir	ex
Hobson, Sarah	x
Hoefke, Madeleine	x
Holt, Richard	x
Kalvacherla, Vinay	x
Khan, Adam	x
Liu, Shihui	ex
McClintic, Alexander	x
Monohar, Kanjan	abs
Powers, Shayla	x
Quick, Samuel	ex
Rojas, Julio	x
Schneider, Caitlin	x
Smith, Kaitlyn	x

Thompson, Gabi	x
Vanderford, Elliott	x
Walton, Jonathan	x
Williams, Dan	x
Wilson, Taylor	x
Present	29
Absent	1
Excused	4

Session 100	CR-100- 02	CR-100- 03	CR-100- 04	CR-100- 05	CR-100- 06	CR-100- 08	CB-100- 04	CR-100- 06	CR-100- 08
Begovic, Amer									
Behera, Pranoy								y	
Bell, Aspen								y	
Bishop, Kimberley								n	
Blank, Faith								y	
Bonic, Karla								y	
Bray, Matthew								y	
Bridwell, Trey								y	
Chism, Hennessey								y	
Cordova, Mackenzie								y	
DeAngeli, Emma								y	
Del Rio, Paulina								y	
Duechting, Donald								y	
Fees, Elaina								n	
Felkner, Katy								y	
Hedgcorth, Joseph								a	
Hodzic, Uzeir									
Hobson, Sarah								y	
Hoefke, Madeleine								y	
Holt, Richard								y	
Kalvacherla, Vinay								y	
Khan, Adam								y	
Liu, Shihui									
McClintic, Alexander								y	
Monohar, Kanjan									
Powers, Shayla								a	

Quick, Samuel									
Rojas, Julio								y	
Schneider, Caitlin								y	
Smith, Kaitlyn								y	
Thompson, Gabi								n	
Vanderford, Elliott								y	
Walton, Jonathan								y	
Williams, Dan								y	
Wilson, Taylor								y	
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0
No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Abstain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0