

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
Session C

General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, May 1, 2018
Devon Hall 120

Session C

Roll Call – 7:02

Flag Salute – Representative Vanderford

Approval of Minutes

OI Williams: How close are we to quorum?

Chair: We're good for now, and we have more representatives coming.

Representative Rojas seconded by Representative Blank

Chair's Report- Thanks for making it to the special session to pass the primary budget. This is one of the most important things that we do all year, so please take this very seriously when you're considering the legislation. Another note, watch out for the weather tomorrow, it's supposed to be pretty bad. Look out for OU alerts about this and stay safe!

OI Liu: There are tunnels and tornado shelters under the buildings on the engineering quad.

OI Rojas: Except Sarkey's Energy Center, that building does not have one.

Vice Chair's Report- The Study Party is after this meeting, and that is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 depending on how soon we get out of this meeting. Everyone here is invited! A note on parliamentary procedure, make sure to maintain decorum and speak only when you are supposed to. We want to keep the meeting flowing so just make sure that we aren't speaking out of turn.

Secretary's Report- This meeting will count as constituent service for everyone here! Congrats on that, I will update the attendance record. Other than that, I will let you all know next year about your attendance requirements.

Committee Reports-

- **Ways and Means** – We did not meet this week, but last week we saw both primary bills and gave them recommendations of do pass, which is what we'll be seeing tonight.
We are going to have a budget presentation tonight, pay attention to that please!

Liaison Reports

Williams: Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature had a very successful conference last week where we won Best Delegation, Best Senate Delegation, Best Senate Delegate, Best House Delegate, and many other awards. We also have students in the new leadership positions like Governor, Secretary of State, and Lieutenant Governor. There is also only one Oklahoma, which should be reflected in the minutes.

Bishop: Our very own Representative Williams was elected Lieutenant Governor of the entire Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature by a very wide margin.

Special Orders

- Budget Presentation

Chism: This is the budget! The background for this is that student organizations need to be registered with Student Life for a year, fill out the funding application, and then we can look at the applications so that we can give those organizations money. To make an application good, organizations should put in as much information as possible regarding how many students you affect, what events you put on for the University, etc. Some organizations did not get any money for reasons like not being registered with Student Life, not filling out the appropriate form, asking for things that we couldn't fund, and asking to be disregarded after filling out the application. The reasons that we have all of these rules is to make sure that your group isn't just an idea. We want to make sure that the events that your organizations are talking about are actually going to happen, and we need to know the details of the events to know what we actually need to fund. It's super important that we have this information. Groups frequently ask why they didn't get funded during Primary Funding. We can't do anything about the organizations that didn't get funded now, and we can't take late applications because it's not fair to the organizations that did everything correctly. Auxiliary Funding starts in the Fall, and all of these organizations can apply for Auxiliary when that starts, so let your organizations know about that as well. We had \$777,853.44 to allocate this year from Student Activity Fees, and we allocated those funds accordingly. You can see how the money gets split between the Governmental Organizations and the regular Student Organizations. There you can see the split of what governmental organizations get including Congress, Campus Activities Council, Executive Cabinet, and Graduate Student Senate. This year the Student Activities Fees allocation was about \$17,000 less than we got last year. We also got a lot more applications from Registered Student Organizations this year, and we funded 231 organizations this year as opposed to 192 last year. When my committee and I looked at these applications, we kept in mind that we want to prioritize Student Organizations over Governmental Organizations because we want to serve the students first. We cut all of the Government Organizations first because we believe they can make up for it in the Fall with Auxiliary Funding, and you can see an example of that with Congress's budget. The Registered Student Organizations have always gotten more of an increase than they got this year, and the maximum increase that an organization got this year was 15%, and that was only with perfect fiscal history. This was difficult to do, but it came out of a combination of having more organizations to fund as well as more applications for Auxiliary Funding. While these organizations did not get as much as they might have in the past, we're hoping that they make up for it in Auxiliary Funding because we still want them to be able to serve the students next year. All of these organizations can see how much they were funded on this legislation or in their treasury tab on their OrgSync pages. Tell your students organizations to check the website and potentially reach out to the Budget Chair if necessary.

Begović: How many hours did your committee spend on Primary Funding?

Chism: About 22 hours together as a committee, but I spent a lot more time on it by myself.

Behera: Is Auxiliary Funding three times a semester for funding, or are organizations only allowed three attempts at the same request?

Chism: Organizations are allowed to make requests for funding three times.

Rojas: For the organizations that didn't fill out the form for Primary Funding, can they get that funding later?

Chism: Yes, through Auxiliary Funding.

Scimeca: Do you know how much was allocated to organizations that were first time applicants for Primary Funding with no fiscal history?

Chism: It's different for different organizations. Some organizations were small and didn't ask for much money, but there was no formula for how much each organization gets funded.

Lobaugh: Do you know how much there will be available for Auxiliary Funding next year?

Chism: No, Auxiliary Funding comes from what's left over from Primary Funding, which there is none this year. It also comes from reversions, which we won't know until next year.

Murrain: Has there been Primary Funding leftover in the past, or is this unprecedented?

Chism: I believe there usually is.

George: There was last year, it just depends on the year's funding.

Burleson: How do you decide which branches or organizations will get less money than last year? Is it based on their fiscal history, the current budget, the need, externalities, or a combination of all of those?

Chism: We look at the past four years of their fiscal history and how much money they had last year left over. We then look at what they're asking for specifically and how much they used in previous years. We then look at the whole budget and how much we can afford to allocate to all of the organizations. If an organization doesn't spend all of their money from the previous year, that would look bad to the committee.

Student Concerns

Elwick: Hey everyone, I've been the Campus Activities Council Treasurer for the past two years. Before we get started, we'd like to thank Hennessey and the Ways and Means Committee for all the time you've put into this. Please forgive us if we get a little passionate, we really respect that this is a difficult job to do and that the process is not black and white. We are by no means suggesting that this all be scrapped or that we want money from other Registered Student Organizations to be given to Campus Activities Council. We solely want to take advantage of the opportunity to express why we feel Campus Activities Council is such a vital part of campus.

Campus Activities Council has been dedicated to serving OU students since 1971. We are continuously evolving our selection processes, our event planning processes, and our student outreach processes for the better. We have taken campus criticism and turned it into tangible resolutions in an effort to make Campus Activities Council and the general climate on campus better each day. Campus Activities Council is not perfect by any standard, but we pride ourselves on always taking steps to accomplish more, reach more, and collaborate more.

This year, Campus Activities Council has made substantial changes to many events in order to better serve the OU community. Following feedback from events, we transitioned the campus outreach and diversity positions within Campus Activities Council from an oversight level to a position on each executive committee, allowing each event to have someone on their team specifically working for diversity and inclusion in the context of that specific event. University Sing and Sooner Scandals have greatly increased their outreach and improved the involvement of students beyond the Greek community, as both have hosted informational sessions for organizations wanting to get involved and auditioned their first participating all-female group in recent history. For Homecoming, a new group liaison program was introduced to ensure fair treatment of individual groups within Homecoming pairings and provide staff oversight for collaborative efforts. Every single one of Campus Activities Council's events has made concerted efforts within the past year to accommodate more students and expand our outreach.

To program these events and continue to create this atmosphere on campus, we are requesting \$178,750 from the Student Government Association Student Activities Fund for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Last year, we were allocated \$160,000. Broken down, that is \$80,000 for Speaker's Bureau, \$42,500 for Concert Series, and \$16,500 for Film Series, - leaving just \$21,000 for our ten other events that rely on Student Government Association funding. Combined, Campus Activities Council events need an estimated \$240,750 to operate, meaning that Campus Activities Council has to find sponsorship for the remaining \$80,750. Every single dollar Student Government Association allocates to Campus Activities Council is used; any money that remains at the end of an event is the direct product of hard work on sponsorship committees. Additionally, Campus Activities Council is easily one of the most fiscally responsible organizations that receive Student Government Association funding. We do not regularly get food for meetings, we encourage collaborations with other student organizations, and we make sure that the majority of our expenditures are put back into University resources (facilities rentals, union catering, university printing, etc.).

At the end of the day, the Ways and Means committee allocates Campus Activities Council a large sum of money, and we are appreciative of that. We realize that the University as a whole has been pressured to make cuts, and that Campus Activities Council is not exempt from this. We agree with the Ways and Means Committee that during times like these, it is the responsibility of Student Government Association leadership to lead by example and tighten our own budgets before cutting from other student groups. What we're concerned about, however, is being excluded from that decision-making process, as well as not being asked about the impact such a cut would have on our ability to operate. Already, the amount we ask for is only a small portion of what is needed to fund our events. The rest relies on the hard work of sponsorship – which is becoming harder and harder for our events to find. Now I will turn it over to some of our chairs to speak on that experience as well as provide a little bit of context on their specific event's operations.

Murray: First of all, thanks to Kara for explaining all of that. I was the Chair of Speaker's Bureau this year, and we are given a certain amount of money to operate every year, which happens to be a huge part of Campus Activities Council as a whole. We had to raise about \$17,000 on our own to make this past year work, which gave us an operating budget of about \$98,000 as a whole this past year. We serve a substantial amount of students each year, and although we use a lot more money than most of the other events in Campus Activities Council, we need that money to operate the way that we do every year. I know that what Hennessey has to do is difficult—we have to take the money that we get and divide it up between the different speakers for Student Organizations—so we don't want to have to operate at a lower level than we normally do. We have a number of different tiers of student groups and students who are affected by Speaker's Bureau who we want to be able to serve as well as possible, and although we want to be able to take on that burden as a branch of Student Government Association, we want to be able to serve our students as well as possible.

Quick: How much money goes to Speaker's Bureau in total?

Murray: \$80,000 of the normal \$160,000 Campus Activities Council, but we're not sure about what that would be with the new budget.

Rabb: I just wanted to touch on Campus Activities Council's impact on the students. This year Campus Activities Council had significant involvement across 15 different events which we hosted for the student body. Every year we get about 80,000 participants that we serve and we have about 10,000 students that have participated in our campus's programming. The students who participate have GPA's of about 3.47 which is extremely high for an entire Registered Student Orientation. We provide our members with leadership skills through different campus opportunities and experiences each year. Our members have said that they felt that they have an improved knowledge of what it means to be a leader, how to communicate better with others, etc. Looking at our financial support in the past, we received \$160,000 this past year. That goes into programming, salaries for graduate assistants, our computer, and our accountant each year. My main points, looking at those numbers, is for all of you to see the positive impact that Campus Activities Council has had and to see how the participants in Campus Activities Council have contributed to the different student experiences each year. The frustration for us is not being involved in the discussion in the first place and only finding out about the allocation this morning, which is hard for us when we are planning our budget. Taking the time to have this conversation beforehand would have been valuable.

Blank: I'm glad that you're here letting us know about this problem, but what solution are you looking for tonight?

Elwick: We just want to make sure that this problem doesn't happen again, and we want to make sure that our budget gets restored next year. We don't want this allocation to become the norm, because that is not sustainable for us as an organization, and we want to show you all how important this funding is.

Rabb: A significant amount of our funding goes into co-programming with organizations, so it does all go back to the students.

Begović: Why did the Campus Activities Council Treasurer not attend the Ways and Means meetings for Primary Funding?

Elwick: It wasn't clear to me that those discussions were open to the public. I have been a part of Congress in the past, and I knew to look for it in during this time of year. However, when I looked yesterday, Campus Activities Council had not even been posted on the legislation, so I could not tell what we had been allocated. We were not given the week to see this in advance like other organizations were.

Begović: Will you attend those meetings in the future?

Elwick: We are hoping for appropriate allocations in the future, which would not require us to go to the meetings.

Wilson: There was a large overall budget cut this year in Student Activities Fees, so what will your reaction be for cuts in the future?

Elwick: We are looking for Ways and Means to consider what the money is going towards for the individual organizations. While some organizations might use the money for outside food or other things, Campus Activities Council uses all of our money within the University, and we want other organizations to be held to that same standard. I know for a fact that we spend our money in a fiscally responsible way, and we want to make sure others are as well.

Ton: To go off of that, Kara meets with our accountant every day and makes sure that all of these funds are carefully taken care of.

Murrain: Without question, we are using all of our money, and we are using it for the purposes that we say it is being used for, to provide the greatest number of services possible.

Rojas: You said that all your money goes back to the University, and you want others to be held to that same standards. On this list, there are smaller organizations that use their money for other, more specific reasons, like the Dungeons and Dragons Club or OU Rowing. Why should your allocation be important just because it stays within the University, when there are other legitimate reasons to use funds?

Krug: To respect other organizations on campus in the past, we have had to make adjustments and use our funds appropriately to support other Registered Student Organizations, whether that's monetary or otherwise.

Burleson: For Scandals, we reached out to every Registered Student Organization on campus this year to explain what Scandals is, how we can get them involved, and how we can make it happen for them no matter what, even if they can't afford to. We invited all Registered Student Organizations to come to these performances, and we let them know that they are welcome here. I don't know of a lot of other organizations that make this same kind of effort. We aren't trying to take money from other Registered Student Organizations, but we want to make sure that Student Government Association is communicating with these groups, and being a former member of Student Government Association, I know that is a continuing problem. You heard that Campus Activities Council serves 80,000 people, so what we're saying is that we want to be able to continue serving these students and those Registered Student Organizations.

Rabb: We are not trying to diminish what other Registered Student Organizations are doing, but we're trying to make college a great experience for all of these organizations and students, which is why it's important for this money to go back into the University. Looking at future budgets, we want to make sure Congress is looking at how that money is spent by different Registered Student Organizations because we make it such a high priority for ourselves.

Liu: I know Campus Activities Council is a lot of work, so thank you all for what you do. I understand that you're upset about the budget cut, but a lot of organizations got cut, and I know you serve a lot more people than most, but there are some organizations that got around \$100. It's good to hold everyone to the same standards as yourselves, but not everyone can spend all of their money back into the University the way that you do, so what would you say to that?

Rabb: Again, the biggest frustration for us is not knowing about the allocations ahead of time, and so our concern is not knowing that information until this morning more than where the money is going.

Elwick: We're not trying to compete with other Registered Student Organizations, we're just trying to make campus a good place for students and Registered Student Organizations. We feel for those Registered Student Organizations who got their budgets cut, because we did too, but for those

organizations who got increases, we would want them to be held to the same standards as us. It seems like the organizations who got increases got them only for spending all of their money, which we have always done. We aren't saying that we don't get a lot of money, but it all is very important. Johnson: In addition to being in Concert Series, I'm in other organizations that had budgets cut. One thing I noticed in the presentation is that Ways and Means knows things about the Auxiliary Funding options, but those organizations might not know about those option that they can use. There is the argument that other organizations can use the Auxiliary Funding options and Campus Activities Council can use other outside funding, but talking to these smaller organizations, it's clear that they don't know about these resources either. Instead of just saying that these resources exist, why don't we promote them to these smaller organizations?

Rojo: This isn't just University funding that we have done, it's all of these different locations that we reserve for events and other projects. We are giving back to the University in other ways than just fluff and food. It's a lot of operational things that our money goes towards as well.

Begović: We have had really bad leadership in our Communications Committee in the past, and we've been trying to improve that this past semester. As next year's Communications Chair, we want to improve the communication between branches as much as possible.

Chair: This is a time for student concerns, direct questions to them that are appropriate for their roles here, not things that we can talk about during the budget bill. Keep your questions focused on the communication aspect that they've shown concern about.

Burleson: The main message is that Campus Activities Council did not find out until this morning that they would be cut \$24,000, which is a massive miscommunication between Student Government Association and Campus Activities Council. I asked the Student Government Association advisors, "Is it normal for this information to not be relayed to student organizations," and they didn't know. This isn't a small amount of money, and if we're just playing around with \$24,000, that's an issue. We understand that this money goes to other Registered Student Organizations, but give us a seat at the table during these discussions. I understand that we should also come to these meetings and see what's going on, but should other organizations also be expected to go through that process. We have a constituency to answer to as well, and we need to maintain our organization. We want to communicate more in the future to avoid this type of conflict going forward.

OI Chism: Should the Ways and Means Chair respond to this at this time?

Chair: Yes, after one more question.

Bishop: Will you explain the Auxiliary process for Campus Activities Council?

Elwick: If we aren't happy with our allocation, we can apply for Auxiliary Funding, but we always refrain from this because it is discouraged by our advisor. We've never questioned our allocation in the past, so we've never considered Auxiliary Funding, but Auxiliary Funding is not on the table for us, because we don't want to take more money from Registered Student Organizations. That's why it's so important for us to get enough money from Primary Funding to operate.

Chism: First of all, shoutout to Campus Activities Council; thanks for coming and expressing your opinions. Most Registered Student Organizations don't do this, but this is how we're supposed to handle student concerns. I'm grateful that we're having this discussion. I also want to apologize for how delayed this process is. We are a few weeks behind because of salaries and stipends and snow days. My committee was also having quorum issues, so this just got finished a week and a half ago. We are supposed to post the primary for a week before we can see it. I also want to apologize for my own clerical error for leaving Campus Activities Council off of the board, so I didn't find out until this morning as well. I told Alec that the miscommunication was completely my bad, and it does not reflect my committee or Congress and how we view other branches of Student Government Association. It is not normal for us to reach out to all of the Registered Student Organizations on campus and tell them what their allocations were—I wouldn't even just go to Tom and tell him how much Congress got, so that is nothing against you all either. I also wanted to say that obviously Congress loves Campus Activities Council, and we want to find a solution to this. Here are our options: The budget is completely balanced right now. We went through these Registered Student Organizations and then "cut" off of their increases until the budget was balanced. The first thing we

looked at to cut was Student Government Association's own budget. Even though it was the lowest governmental cut, I know that Campus Activities Council lost a lot of money. It is hard for me to go further through these organizations and cut them even more, and it is also a complicated process to amend the budget here on the floor. We can also to encumber some money from Student Legal Services. We want to keep that program running, and as we continued to go through this process, we realized that we just did not have enough money for all of the organizations. When we realized this, we cut the Student Legal Services budget in half, so that money is sitting there, but we would have to talk to the other heads of Student Government Association about that. I'm not going to say whether I would or would not recommend that, because Student Legal Services is super important, but that's an option. Kara also touched on Auxiliary Funding. I know that it's not precedent for you all to apply for Auxiliary Funding, but I would argue that this is a good use of Auxiliary Funding. If we move money around right now or in the Fall, we're truly taking money away from other Registered Student Organizations. I know it's not the norm, but the next Ways and Means Chair and I are willing to sit down with you and make sure that Campus Activities Council prospers next year. We know how frustrating this process is, but I hope you understand why we're in the position we're in. We don't want to see Campus Activities Council events cut, so we would ask you to apply for Auxiliary Funding in the fall, and we will work with you on that.

Ton: I just wanted to touch on Sponsorship and how difficult that can be. You have students spending their summers trying to raise upwards of \$20,000 for their events, which may be just a fraction of what those events get allocated, so the \$24,000 cut is massive relative to what these students raise. Brittany Hutto, the incoming Film Series Sponsorship Vice Chair wanted to touch on how important Campus Activities Council has been for her. Over the last year, Campus Activities Council has become a really important thing in my life. Coming from Virginia, I did not know one single person here and Campus Activities Council and was an amazing way for me to branch out and make amazing new friends. I think it's a great way for people to explore their passions and get involved at OU. I know that Campus Activities Council, especially Film Series and College Bowl, have both had such a positive impact on my freshman year and are both things that I hope to continue being a part of for the next three years!

Bishop: I'm concerned that the only notification that we give Registered Student Organizations is on the corkboard, which assumes that they know where we are or where to find that information. In the future, hopefully we could just send an email or do something to communicate that better.

Chair: I'll refer that to Ways and Means and Congressional Administration.

Liu: I received two concerns from organizations from organizations who did not receive funding through the Primary Funding process. They sent me the following emails:

My name is My Lam and I am the current president of The Society of Asian Scientists & Engineers (SASE). I submitted my Student Government Association 2018-2019 primary funding before the deadline on March 1st, along with the supplemental form. However, I noticed that our funding request never got through. After double checking with our Student Government Association Representative, Shihui, I found out that SASE's request was simply overlooked. I was also told that they couldn't do anything about it despite doing everything correctly. I do not understand how this happened and I am definitely concerned. The next president will have to find different form of funding. I believe this is unfair to our organization and I'd like to understand how this mistake occurred. I also wanted to request bringing back interviews for funding. I feel as though it would lower the possibility of overlooking an organization and it would allow each organization to prove their case.

The Sooner Electric Racing team has applied for primary SGA funding but it has come to our attention that we will not receive any funds next year because we we hadn't submitted the forms. We did in fact and they are attached below. What must we do to fix this?

Chair: I'll refer that to Ways and Means.

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

AB-100-01 An Act Appropriating Primary Funds for RSO's (Chism) (WAM – rec of do pass)

Representative Behera seconded by Representative Bishop

Chism: Some Registered Student Organizations you might not have seen in the past. New Registered Student Organizations are coming up because they aren't getting funding from other places that they have gotten it from in the past. Some major specific groups used to be funded by departments, and they are becoming Registered Student Organizations now that they don't have that funding. I need a friendly amendment to make the total \$300,531.25. That was an error, because I don't know how to use Excel sometimes.

Begović: Would you accept a friendly amendment changing the total to \$300,531.25?

Chism: Yes

Hedgorth: Why are we allocating fewer funds this year to student organizations. Why did we receive less from Student Activities Fees?

Chism: That is a decision made by the heads of the Student Government Association. I am not a part of that committee. In the past, we have been receiving increases from the Student Activities Fees, so the cut would not have as much of an effect. None of us could have known about the substantial amount of organizations asking for funding, so that is no one's fault.

Smith: Why did the Society of Petroleum Engineers get only \$200?

Liu: They asked for \$50,600, but they received \$200 because they had nearly no fiscal history, and they never spent the money that they were allocated.

Chism: This is usually the reason for orgs not being funded. If you ask for more specifics, I won't be able to have that for you right now.

Scimeca: What does PEA stand for and how many are brand new organizations?

Chism: Programs, Expenditures, and Activities. I'm not sure about how many are brand new or are just applying for the first time in a year, that is not something we keep track of.

Bishop: Can you explain the Independent Greek Council getting allocated \$1,200 last year and \$8,400 this year?

Chism: They came to me earlier this semester and had a list of things they wanted to do that they couldn't afford to, and they wanted to know why they were getting treated differently than other Greek organizations. It turns out that it was only because they had asked for less money in the first place, so their increases were incrementally less. As a committee, we decided that we wanted to make the groups equal, because they serve similar populations. We did not do this for other groups, as they were not in similar situations.

Begović: Why did the International Advisory Committee get much less than they asked for?

Chism: The International Advisory Committee always asks for way more than we can fund, and this happens with a lot of organizations. They probably got about 15% increase, which was a lot for any organizations.

Bishop: Can you explain why all of the residential towers are outside the umbrella of Housing Center Student Association?

Motion to extend time for questions by 5 minutes

Representative Quick seconded by Representative Liu

Chism: They still want to have events and give out information for the freshmen in these dorms, and because Housing Center Student Association can't give out that money to them as an umbrella organization, this was the only solution they saw. As a committee, we didn't have a problem with this, because we want to see these events continue.

Rojas: Why are we funding International Greek Council and Multicultural Greek Council, don't they have dues?

Chism: They are, but way less than the dues we think of for groups like Pan. Also, a lot of these dues go towards administrative things.

Blank: Now that we've seen how much money needs to be allocated, do you think the funding process will change in the future?

Chism: That's something that the heads of branches will have to talk about, but that money will have to come from somewhere. We don't want to have this happen again next year or be unprepared for it.

OI Chair: That committee is myself, Campus Activities Chair Rabb, President Shurbaji, Graduate Student Senate Chair Pavlowsky, and the Student Government Association Advisor Clarke Stroud, and we all know the kind of effect that this has had on organizations.

Bishop: How does the Auxiliary Funding history play into Primary Funding applications? Do you hold it to the same spending standard?

Chism: Yes, depending on how much it is. When we look through, we have printed sheets of the organization's fiscal history, and we also had to look on OrgSync to differentiate between Auxiliary Funding and Primary Funding.

Vanderford: Can you explain the different things that Student Activities Fees fund?

Armer: Student Affairs, Student Life, Student Government Association, Sarkey's Fitness Center, Goddard Health Center, The Gender and Equality Center, Counselling, and Testing. All of those different sources and a variety of other programs are funded by these fees.

Motion to extend time for questions by 10 minutes

Representative Rojas seconded by Representative Begović

Bishop: What was the range of allocations for new organizations and how does that work with law organizations?

Chism: We try to give new organizations between \$600-\$1,000 but that was too much, so we tried to scale that back to only operational costs. That was hard with organizations that had no fiscal history. With law organizations, it used to be that the Student Bar Association was an umbrella organization for them, and Student Government Association would fund them and allow them to allocate those funds themselves.

Umbrella organizations are no longer allowed to do this, so the smaller organizations have to apply directly. This was hard because although we knew that they were operational, they had no fiscal history for us to see. Ways and Means Chair Emeritus Echols decided to set a precedent of \$1,400 for law organizations. We were able to see how they spent that money this year, so our allocations are based on that.

Powers: A group that I am a liaison for did not receive primary, but do you know why? They aren't on the list, but I want to make sure that they know why.

Chism: They might not have applied, so make sure they did that. I also sent out emails to organizations who did not receive funding to tell them why, and I know all of those emails went out, so have them email the Budget Chair if they haven't heard about it.

Begović: Is there a reason that the Residential Student Organizations only got \$750 each?

Chism: Because they are new organizations, but we wanted to recognize that they do a substantial amount of work for their residents.

Passed by a roll call vote of 22-0-0

AB-100-02 An Act Appropriating Primary Funds for Governmental Organizations (Chism) (WAM – rec of do pass)

Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Powers

Chism: This is what was allocated to governmental organizations for Primary Funding. The only thing we are considering with this bill is moving Student Legal Services onto this bill because they are a part of Student Government Association.

Cassidy: Would you accept a friendly amendment adding Student Legal Services onto this budget and changing the total accordingly?

Chism: Yes

Bishop: Do the salaries and stipends changes that we passed factor into this?

Chism: Yes

Behera: We had to have this special meeting so that we could wait a week and make this legislation public. Is all we did post it on the board in the Conoco?

Chism: Yes, this is what we've done historically.

Bishop: Can you explain what the Graduate Student Senate grants provide the graduate students?

Chism: They have a process where they take applications from graduate students and allocate grants to those students to do research.

Bishop: When looking at Congress's allocation, did they consent to getting that kind of cut, or was that just you and the committee?

Chism: Originally, it was an informal check-in with the previous Chair, but we had to make more cuts that we ran by the current Chair.

OI Chair: I made sure to tell the committee to make sure that we got one of the biggest cuts.

Bishop: The Graduate Student Senate cut, did it come from things that you decided on, or did you check to make sure it was okay to cut grants.

Chism: Yes, we checked this with Carrie beforehand.

Elwick: Can you explain the amount cut from Campus Activities Council and why that wasn't communicated to me?

Chism: We tried to hold off on Campus Activities Council cuts until the last second, but that's when we had to make those cuts. We don't usually check in with Registered Student Organizations about those cuts, so that lack of communication was on me. We did want to protect Campus Activities Council's budget as much as possible because we know that you all do so much, but we decided that because you are such a resilient organization, you could handle the cut.

Elwick: I know you don't normally communicate with all Registered Student Organizations, but since we are Student Government Association as well, and I run into you regularly, why did we not get that same courtesy?

**Motion to extend time for questions by 5 minutes
Representative Behera seconded by Representative Liu**

Chism: I didn't actually seek out these people, they had just asked me pointed questions about it. We did not try to leave Campus Activities Council out at all. I work with Tom closely, so he knows what's going on and he knew what questions to ask, but it was nothing specifically against Campus Activities Council. We did not intentionally leave you all out, and hopefully we communicate better in the future.

Bishop: What was the cut to the Operations budget actually cutting?

Chism: It was for new computer updates. I thought we could hold off on that for another year given all of the other budget cuts.

Begović: How will this cut affect Congress and what we do year-to-year.

Chism: Right now, Spring Orientation for Congress is not funded, so you all will have to apply for Auxiliary Funding to cover that. There were also several committee events that weren't covered, so Congress will have to acknowledge that they may have to deal with less money this upcoming year in general.

Begović: If we had not passed the budget increase, would we have a lot more money to spend on Registered Student Organizations?

Chism: No, that was only about \$15,000 which would have either gone to Student Legal Services or organizations who got cuts from their increases. With the work that these individuals do, I think those salary increases were worth it.

Blank: Is there anything in the budgetary process that prevents organizations like Campus Activities Council from applying for Primary Funding?

Chism: I did hear something about potential internal rules preventing that, and if that's something that we want to look into changing, I would invite Campus Activities Council to do that.

**Motion to extend time for questions to the end of the list and close the list
Representative Hedgorth seconded by Representative Bishop**

Bishop: When you all are looking at these requests, the process is different for government organizations than with Registered Student Organizations, so how do you decide which parts to cut or increase?

Chism: We hold them to the same standard, but in this situation, we took on the cuts because we are Student Government Association and we felt that we should take on a significant part of that burden. There is a ranking system in the application that separates out Operations, and that's the only real difference.

Ton: Are the itemized parts of the Student Government Association branch budgets public?

Chism: Ways and Means does not publish those, but those organizations can do so if they want to.

George: If anyone wanted to know those details, they'd have to go through the Open Records Office.

Blank: How much should Campus Activities Council expect to get back through Auxiliary if they apply?

Chism: I can't give numbers for that because I don't know how much will be available, but I know that Campus Activities Council will work closely with the new Ways and Means Chair, so I imagine that they'll get the bare minimum.

Elwick: If our advisors do not allow us to apply for Auxiliary, which it looks like they will not, what should we do about that, and how can we make back those losses?

Chism: I don't have the experience to answer that specifically, but there are other ways that other organizations cut their functionality. Congress has cuts—we won't be fully funded—so we will have to cut some costs and events—Campus Activities Council will likely have to do that as well.

Motion to go to a roll call vote

Representative Quick seconded by Representative Powers

Passed by a roll call vote of 21-0-1

CB-100-10 – An Act Appointing the Ways and Means Chair (Cassidy/Cordova/Holt) (Exec – rec of do pass)

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Bishop

Cassidy: This is the bill appointing Sam Quick as our new Ways and Means Chair. He would also serve in the dual-role as the Student Government Association Budget Chair. He would handle the Auxiliary Funding and Primary Funding processes as well as work closely with Curt to handle the Student Government Association accounting. Sam has been a member of the body for a very long time, and he has a lot of experience on the Ways and Means Committee. We asked him questions about working on a faster timeline so that we can see Primary Funding earlier and allocating a proper amount of Auxiliary Funding throughout the year to spread the money out and make it last longer.

Quick: I'm a Junior Economics major. I've been in Congress on Ways and Means for five semesters. I want to focus on getting organizations to apply for funding and communication with those organizations, which are the two most important roles for this position. I've seen three different chairs go through this process, and Hennessey's done a great job this semester. There are a few smaller structural things I would like to change after recounting my experiences, including some application questions and promoting opportunities for outside funding.

Begović: How would you improve the communication between your committee and the other branches of Student Government Association?

Quick: I would like to utilize regular meeting times, maybe once a month with the other branch heads. We could go over the different budgets and the things we need to do to make sure everyone has the funding they need. I want to be able to start the dialogue about these things a lot sooner on in the process.

Cassidy: Normally this process is done much earlier in the semester and can be handled by an experienced Congress Chair, but there was a miscommunication because we saw it right when I was elected. This should be different next year, and the communication should be better.

Williams: You've been on Ways and Means for a long time; what are the changes you think need to be made based on your experiences?

Quick: The funding process has changed a lot since I've been here. I helped Ryan write the structural changes that we've seen in the past, and I don't think that many more changes will need to happen other than improving the communication. I could work with George and Curt on that.

Scimeca: Will your approach to Auxiliary Funding be different or similar to that of the current Chair?

Quick: It will be the same, because the funding process is largely objective, and I'm not looking to change that.

Blank: If there is an additional increase next year in Registered Student Organizations who apply for funding, how would you hone in the budget process?

Quick: I foresee being more conservative in the Auxiliary Funding process earlier on in the year to avoid that problem.

Cassidy: We've been very generous with Auxiliary Funding this year, which is great, but it adds up over the long term, and we want to make sure it is more consistent over the course of the year in the future.

Begovic: Would you be in favor of having a mandatory meeting with Student Government Association branch heads about Primary Funding?

Quick: I wouldn't be opposed, but it might not be necessary.

Motion to extend time for questions by 5 minutes
Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Rojas

Hutchinson: We've seen how much time Chair Chism has put into Ways and Means; how much time do you have to devote to Ways and Means to make sure you can be there for those office hours and that you're communicating with everyone?

Quick: Last semester, I took time away from Congress for I-CCEW, which was a massive time commitment, but I am not doing that now, which opens up a lot of time for me to do this job.

Begović: Why were you not a part of Congress this past semester?

Quick: I was an intern at I-CCEW.

Cassidy: He was also still an associate and stayed in touch with Congress and what we were doing.

Begović: How would you improve the communication of the Primary budgets to Registered Student Organizations?

Quick: I would work to set up some kind of email resources for these organizations to make sure that that information gets disseminated. I would also work with the Communications Committee on this.

Liu: What do you mean by being "conservative" with the funding process?

Quick: Just being conservative with the Auxiliary Funding process to make sure that we have enough money for the entire year and for the Primary Funding process. I would like to be able to scale back how much we increase these organizations instead of increasing based on blanket numbers—we want to be able to consider the organizations individually.

Cassidy: I'd like to touch on this with an organization that I'm involved with called the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature. Despite getting just \$1,000 in Auxiliary Funding last year, this year they got \$11,000, which is a massive leap. We want to see growth within these organizations, but we also want to make sure that we're facilitating this for all organizations.

Liu: How would you make sure that this is consistent between large and small organizations? Someone will always be upset, but how will you handle that?

Motion to extend time for questions by 5 minutes
Representative Liu seconded by Representative Bishop

Quick: I would rely on the criteria that we use as a committee and make sure that it's fair across the board. It's not as though we just aren't giving money out, but we want to make sure that the committee has appropriate oversight.

Rojas: Would you ever underfund an organization that has good fiscal history?

Quick: We would see how much we want to increase their budget based on past percentages.

OI Liu: Is the Chair aware that increases are different year-to-year and are based on the budget and the circumstances of each organization?

Chair: Yes

Cassidy: We also have rules about what we can fund, so it may depend on what they are asking for.

Quick: Generally, we don't decrease their allocation if they're spending their money appropriately.

Passed by unanimous consent

Follow-Up Reports

Scimeca: The water usage fliers are out in Cate and the Caf in the napkin holders and on the walls.

Items for Future Agenda

Announcements and Comments

Cassidy: Thank you all for coming tonight, it was really important that we saw all this legislation. I also want to thank you all for listening to the student concerns. I want to make sure that in the future we aren't debating the merits of their concerns, and that we are focused on understanding what their concerns are. I will make sure to follow up about all of this with the Campus Activities Council Chair.

Cordova: The Study Party is tonight! There is going to be lots of food there, so please come eat. We also have our staff appreciation lunch tomorrow, so come and thank our staff and eat all of the free food there as well.

Bishop: This is my last meeting; it's been a pleasure serving with you all.

Chism: Thank you for letting me be your Ways and Means Chair. I am studying abroad in the Fall, and I may be back, but I hope you all have fun next semester.

Liu: I spoke to President-Elect Gallogly at an event, and he was very nice and sounded very excited about hopefully being invited to Congress meeting in the future. Also, with the pothole that we heard concerns about, apparently it's not on University property, but the city said it's not theirs, so we don't know whose it is.

Begović: Send me all of the cool things that you're doing this summer so that we can keep the Congress social media active!

Final Roll Call

Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Chism

Adjourn

Representative Hedgorth and Representative Bishop seconded by Representative Chism

Chair: Thomas Cassidy

Vice-Chair: Mackenzie Cordova

Secretary: Richard Holt

Session 100	General 5/1
Begović, Amer	x
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	ex
Del Rio, Paulina	ex
Duechting, Donald	ex
Fees, Elaina	ex
Felkner, Katy	ex
Hedgcorth, Joseph	x
Hodzic, Uzeir	ex
Hobson, Sarah	ex
Holt, Richard	x
Kalvacherla, Vinay	ex
Khan, Adam	ex
Liu, Shihui	x
McClintic, Alexander	ex
Monohar, Kanjan	ex
Powers, Shayla	x
Quick, Samuel	x
Rojas, Julio	x
Schneider, Caitlin	x
Smith, Kaitlyn	x
Thompson, Gabi	x

Vanderford, Elliott	x
Walton, Jonathan	ex
Williams, Dan	x
Wilson, Taylor	x
Present	22
Absent	0
Excused	12

Session 100	CR-100-10	AB-100-01	AB-100-02
Begovic, Amer		y	a
Behera, Pranoy		y	y
Bell, Aspen		y	y
Bishop, Kimberley		y	y
Blank, Faith		y	y
Bonic, Karla		y	y
Bray, Matthew		y	y
Bridwell, Trey		y	y
Chism, Hennessey		y	y
Cordova, Mackenzie		y	y
DeAngeli, Emma			
Del Rio, Paulina			
Duechting, Donald			
Fees, Elaina			
Felkner, Katy			
Hedgorth, Joseph		y	y
Hodzic, Uzeir			
Hobson, Sarah			
Hoefke, Madeleine			
Holt, Richard		y	y
Kalvacherla, Vinay			
Khan, Adam			
Liu, Shihui		y	y
McClintic, Alexander			
Monohar, Kanjan			
Powers, Shayla		y	y
Quick, Samuel		y	y
Rojas, Julio		y	y
Schneider, Caitlin		y	y
Smith, Kaitlyn		y	y

Thompson, Gabi		y	y
Vanderford, Elliott		y	y
Walton, Jonathan			
Williams, Dan		y	y
Wilson, Taylor		y	y
Yes	0	22	21
No	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	1