

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS Session CI

General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Devon Hall 120

Session CI

Roll Call – 7:00pm

Flag Salute – Representative Bouch

Approval of Minutes

Representative Merchant seconded by Representative Patterson

Chair's Report – Happy last meeting of Session 101! This has been a very productive Session, and I'm proud of everyone putting in a lot of hard work this semester. I promised to bring a bill this week for Student Legal Services, but there are still some discussions to be had. If you want to see the specific version of the bill, I can send it to you. We are going to have this full meeting and then gavel into Session 102. If you are a new member, watch how Congress goes, and if you have any questions, ask an On Information. Next week are the elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. I will talk more about that after the nominations.

Familiarize yourself with Section 5 of the Bylaws which talks about these positions and the elections. If you are a Session 101 Representative who didn't get re-elected or are leaving, this is your last meeting. I encourage you to come to the next meeting to give speeches, get graduation cords, and get recognized by the body. This is a celebration of the things that we were able to accomplish in Congress this year. The Primary Funding Bill has been posted on the first floor of the Conoco in front of the conference room. This must be posted for 7 days. This is an important bill, so take a look at it and come prepared with questions. We are supposed to be good stewards of the Student Activity Fess.

Vice Chair's Report – I wanted to give everyone a final Liaison Program update. Everything is ready to go, but since I am leaving, I will be working with the next Vice Chair to talk to them about how they can reach out to the new organizations, how they can get your schedules, and make sure that they have control over that process. I see a couple of new faces, so welcome to Congress. We use Parliamentary Procedure which might be confusing if you haven't experienced that before. If you are confused, ask an On Information, and we would be happy to answer. Next week, new members will have a name tag. If you are retiring, you can keep the nametag. If you are staying into Session 102, leave it with me.

Secretary's Report – Hey everyone. I'm glad I didn't have to expel any of you, and your absences go away after this meeting. Congratulations, I applaud you all. The next Secretary can work with you on your absences in the future. Thanks for everything!

Committee Reports-

- **Congressional Administration:** We saw three bills on Sunday, but you only have one to see today. The one we are seeing is CB-101-31 the Voting Procedures Act. If you are interested in this position next semester, please come talk to me.

- **External Affairs:** We have one more Voter Registration Drive with Exec. We will be going to Norman North, and we will also be on the South Oval. I will send out the Sign-Up Genius later. If you are interested in this position, let me know.
- **Human Diversity:** We talked about transitioning between sessions, and we have a Committee of the Whole bill.
- **Problems and Projects:** If you have any interest in this position, let me know. We talked about the projects that we have been undertaking, what we have been doing, and potentially a name change.
- **Sustainability:** We had our last Sustainability meeting this weekend, but next weekend we are having a Sustainability Potluck so please come!
- **University Policy:** We had our wrap up for the semester. Lucy made a great graphic for the Discrimination Hotline for you all to share. There are some projects that we want to wrap up over the summer including the volunteer day. If you are interested, let me know.
- **Ways and Means:** I am Sam. I am the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. We are the most important committee, and we handle all of the funding. In Primary Funding Allocations and Auxiliary Funding Allocations, we allocated over a million dollars to organizations. The last thing I have to do is finish my Title X Rewrite Bill.

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

Motion to enter Committee of the Whole

Representative Merchant seconded by Representative Hobson

- Committee of the Whole

CR-101-07 TA Implicit Bias Training Resolution of 2019 (Miller/Merchant)

Representative Patterson seconded by Representative Kuketz

Miller: I wrote this bill because I think that it is important for people in positions of power to check their own implicit biases to make sure that they are running effective classrooms. I would like OU to implement these practices to ensure that we are moving forward.

Thompson: We talked to a lot of different classrooms and colleges, and they all have something informal in the works. However, when I was a TA, they kind of just give it to you without a formal training.

Quick: Is the short title written correctly?

Miller: Yes

Hardt: Would TAs be paid for this training?

Thompson: Some TAs are compensated for their work, and some are not.

Hardt: Specifically for the Implicit Bias Training will they get paid?

Miller: No, but that should be a part of their responsibility. This would go into their general training.

Cassidy: Would you accept a friendly amendment adding "requesting" into the title?

Miller: Yes

Cassidy: Are the training guidelines university-wide or by college?

Thompson: By college. The Deans and Directors we spoke to all had different ways of doing things.

Williams: Why is this not a concurrent resolution?

OI Vice Chair: This means that the bill would go through both houses.

Miller: I thought that it would be powerful enough just through us.

Thompson: Most TAs that don't receive this training are in undergraduate classes, so this applies mostly to the undergraduates.

Quick: Would you accept a friendly amendment adding Provost Harper and Vice President Surratt?

Miller: Yes

Merchant: What specifically do you think that Implicit Bias Training will contribute to?

Miller: I think that this gives underrepresented students an opportunity to speak up and feel that their voices are heard in the classroom.

Kuketz: Is this bill a measure of response, or is it preventative?

Miller: I see this as a preventative measure.

Chism: Is this an exhaustive list of the Deans?

Miller: Yes

Chism: Would you accept a friendly amendment to put the word "Interim" in front of Irvine?

Miller: Yes

DeAngeli: Have you researched the logistics of a change like this?

Thompson: When we talked to people, they expressed that they had a couple of different ways that they were working on the program. We didn't want the point to get lost on the specifics, so they can implement this in a way that suits them, but we wanted them to know that this is what students are advocating for.

Miller: They do this kind of training well through the Gender and Equality Center.

Gau: Was this based on a concern that you heard or an interest of yours?

Miller: I felt that it was necessary.

Cassidy: Would you accept a friendly amendment that changes the resolve section?

Miller: Yes

Cordova: Are you planning on working with the administration after this bill passes to implement this measure?

Miller: Yes

Cordova: Is this going to be the GEC Implicit Bias Training like we did with Congress, or a new specific one for TAs?

Miller: Probably the general one for now, but it would be great to tweak it in the future.

Thompson: I think that Erin did a great job in our training making sure that she was applying it to the things that are relevant for us in student government, and I believe that she would do the same things with TAs.

Motion to give CR-101-07 a rec of do pass

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Merchant

Motion to leave Committee of the Whole

Representative Kuketz seconded by Representative Patterson

Student Concerns

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

CB-101-31 Voting Procedures Act of 2019 (Powers) (ConAd → rec of no rec)

Representative Bouch seconded by Representative Stack

Powers: This bill gets rid of the motion to consent on final passage. This means that every bill that would go through this body would have to go through a roll call vote like the funding bills. This is a simple bill, so I'll take questions.

Merchant: What was the motivation for this bill?

Powers: We have passed just one bill through this body with a roll call vote this semester that did not have to go to a roll call vote. I think that by consenting to every bill we see that we aren't doing our due diligence as Representatives. Our committees are doing a good job, and we see good bills, but by voting on every bill, we give our constituents a record of what we are doing and make sure that everyone is represented.

Williams: Would this remove consent for motions?

Powers: No, just for passage of bills and only in the general meetings

Stack: Are we proposing this as a fix for letting people be heard, or a problem with consent itself?

Powers: There is no problem with consent itself, and it isn't all just people not being heard, but I know that with bills getting consented to in this body there have been people who were uncomfortable objecting to those kinds of motions. It can and does happen. It's not necessarily systematic, but it is something that does happen.

Cordova: I sit up front and watch all of you during the meetings. I don't think there is always someone strongly opposed to the consent motion, but I have seen and been told many times about not being comfortable with consent. I think that expecting people to actively yell objection which is controversial and confrontational is not what we should be doing when we can simply ask everyone to vote, and then you can vote no when everyone else is voting.

Quick: Can you explain if someone called for a roll call vote in a meeting, how is it functionally different?

Powers: With consent, you are assuming that everyone is going to say yes, whereas roll call gives everyone the chance to vote.

Quick: How does this functionally within the body change anything? I don't think if you call a roll call vote it allows for anything that a call for consent wouldn't allow.

Powers: I don't think that moving to a roll call vote would lessen our time for discussions, debate, or questioning any more than consent motions do, and we haven't been doing those things anyways.

McCans: Does this have a large negative time impact?

Powers: If we have a massive amount of bills in a meeting, it might add a few minutes.

Del Rio: How would this affect GSS, or are they having similar problems?

Powers: In my two years in Congress, maybe they've sent bills back to us two or three times. They consent to everything. This wouldn't affect them.

Gau: Without consent, would bills have failed?

Powers: I don't think that they would have failed, but I can't speculate. I would like to see voting occur on bills. Last week we socialized our elections after five minutes of discussions by unanimous consent, and surely someone in this body did not agree with that.

Motion to extend time for questions by 10 minutes

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Patterson

Spangler-Day: Would this make students more attentive when it comes to looking at bills?

Powers: Yes, and I think that it would generate more discussion on these bills. In the past we have had very long meetings because we argued about everything. I think this created high quality bills, and I think that it will foster that in the future.

Chism: Do you think, based on your research, that there would be another way for more questions to be asked? Or was this the only way?

Cordova: I don't know if this will have enormous benefits for the discussions on bills, but if you are asked to vote yes or no on a bill, I think you have to give it more thought. I think that this bill ensures that no matter what your personality type is, you will have your voice heard on a bill.

Williams: In Section 3 you strike the language regarding acts, resolutions, and you add motions. Does this allow for motions to be passed with consent?

Powers: This puts the language more in line with the funding bills. It is more uniform.

DeAngeli: Do you see the circumstances for the new body changing, or would we still have this problem of consent on every bill?

Powers: This has a lot to do with the culture of the body. We didn't used to consent to much. It depends on the members, what they want to do, how they conduct themselves, etc.

Cordova: We used to have a contentious and outspoken body that would object to everything. Our body now is more soft-spoken, and that doesn't mean that people aren't putting in their due diligence, but this is a way to make sure everyone has their voice. Bodies will be more or less outspoken over time, but this ensures that the voices are heard no matter what the body.

Quick: Is the best way to change the culture to change the rule, not the culture enacted by the leadership?

Powers: The body will do what it will regardless of the legislation. This bill is to get people's voices heard. We come from different academic disciplines for a reason. I don't think everyone shouldn't feel like they have a place. This ensures that we are doing our jobs effectively.

McDermott: Would having a written record of how everyone votes affect the re-election of representatives?

Powers: It may. I think we should have this record, and I would want to know what my representatives were doing. I don't know if it will affect outcomes, but it should be available.

Chism: Did you consider leaving motions to consent to resolutions because they are less contentious than other bills?

Powers: I considered it, but I think resolutions should have votes as well. We have had some controversial ones in the past.

Cordova: Our resolutions should seem as powerful as the rest of our bills, and we don't want to discount them.

Williams: What are your thoughts on motions to pass by acclamation?

OI Nadolski: What is acclamation?

Williams: This specifically involves elections when they only have one contestant. This is a motion that can be made in this case and you do not log votes.

Powers: We don't do them, but hypothetically, I would still want to know, and I would still want to have votes on that.

Bouch: Can we be a transparent body with passage by consent in place?

Powers: It can be, and consent has its place, but we should be attempting to use more transparency.

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

Representative Del Rio seconded by Representative Merchant

Objection Vice Chair Cordova

Motion fails by acclamation

Motion to extend time for questions by 10 minutes

Representative Bouch seconded by Representative Merchant

Del Rio: If this bill were to fail, because the Vice Chair runs Orientation, do you think they could teach members to call for passage by consent less often?

Powers: We could start stressing more about the importance of voting and telling members what consent does. I think that just talking about it is important.

Cordova: This is something I have tried to address both of the past two semesters. We do Parliamentary Procedure practice and encourage roll call votes. This is a way that we don't have to wait for that change to come. This incurs just a small amount of time, and it will be a good way to test out whether this works or not.

OI Stack: Does this affect consent to motions?

Chair: When people make motions, the tradition is that the motions are all proposed by unanimous consent.

Schneider: Can you detail about how you've encouraged other discussions and roll call votes?

Cordova: I have done this in Orientation. I have objected myself to consent motions, but as I have said, it is something that we have heard as a concern. I have not been the most exhaustive, but waiting to see when that change comes is not the right approach.

Quick: If you were in administration, and you saw a bill that said passed by unanimous consent or a bill that had some people voting no, would you think that it carries the same weight?

Powers: I wouldn't think there was a lot of thought going on if it just said unanimous consent, and I would want to see the votes.

Cordova: It is also dishonest to think that everyone in the room just agrees with what's going on in the body. This may not result in an enlightenment for the administrator, but it would be more honest.

Gau: I don't think that the lack of consent would change the outcome of the bill. What are your feelings about that?

Powers: We should not assume that people will simply object to a motion like that. Not everyone is that outspoken, and we shouldn't assume that.

Cordova: This kind of bills caters to the few people who might vote no without yelling that objection. We want to make sure that all votes are heard and considered.

Gau: Would bills pass or fail differently because of this?

Cordova: I can't speak to that, but I have had people come up to me and tell me that they were uncomfortable objecting, and I have seen people be physically uncomfortable in their seats during consideration of bills that get consented to. I think this gives people more representation.

Stack: Would this language open the discussion of needing to get rid of the motion to go to a final roll call vote because we need more discussions? People may say that that process is also so people can just roll call vote and do things more quickly.

Powers: I don't think that this would apply to the roll call vote system because it has more checks, and that system would still get to a vote.

Stack: I don't think that this gets rid of the problem of voting with the populace.

Powers: We have tried to fix peer pressure voting by taking it off the screen. I don't think that consenting addresses that problem.

Spangler-Day: Would you agree that this would give representatives more time to personally consider the bill?

Powers: Yes, I think that if you have to have your vote listed, then you would put more thought into it.

Motion to suspend the rules and extend time for questions by 10 minutes

Representative Quick seconded by Representative Bouch

Objection Representative Stack

Motion fails by acclamation

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

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Stack

Quick: If people have come and told you this is an issue, and you have seen this as an issue, why have you not objected to consent on the final passage of bills this semester?

Powers: I don't see people's faces from my seat, but I have had problems with this in the past. I have not been willing to make that objection sometimes, and I am an outspoken person and an experienced member. I don't think that this is a problem that having consent on final passage would address.

Cordova: There is also such a thing as leading too much, and if I objected to everything, that would be too much coming from the front of the room.

Quick: If it only adds minutes, and that is so minimal, do you agree that there is no reason for me not to vote for this bill?

Powers: I agree with you. I don't think that there is a cost at all, and I think transparency is a benefit always.

Cordova: I agree with you, and I think if we are considering that consent is a time-saving device, that is a problem, because then we aren't doing our jobs.

Miller: Do you think that this gives each bill as much consideration as a funding bill currently receives?

Powers: Yes

Cordova: Is there anything you want to add?

Powers: I appreciate the discussion on this and the questions that we've heard, but before we move to debate, I want you to consider why it is important. We are supposed to represent our constituencies, and I think we need to do this as effectively as we can. You should ask yourself, why not take this measure?

Debate – Representative Stack

Motion to recess for 5 minutes

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Papanicolaou

Opponency

Stack

Proponency

Quick

Kuketz

Spangler-Day

Merchant

Powers: I want to thank you all for the debate and the arguments tonight. I think this is important. If we think consent is a time-saver, that is a bigger issue that we need to address with Congress. We represent thousands of students, and that is important, so adding 5-6 minutes to a meeting shouldn't be something we work against. If we think that passing by unanimous consent sounds more powerful than a real vote with some no votes, that is dishonest with what is going on in this body. If consent is functionally the same as passing a bill with a vote, then let it be functionally the same, and I think that we should let the record reflect that.

Passed by a roll call vote 27-4-1

CR-101-07 TA Implicit Bias Training Resolution of 2019 (Miller/Merchant)

Representative Quick seconded by Representative Merchant

Thompson: You heard our explanation.

Motion to go to a roll call vote

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Patterson

Passed by a roll call vote 31-0-1

Follow-Up Reports

Chism: I am the Vice President inclusivity of Panhellenic. The Inclusivity Committee has been selected, and this week we are going to meet and send questionnaires to the chapter presidents asking for information about how they will change the culture in their chapters. I will approve those and evaluate these things. If you have questions or you want to suggest anything about that, please let me know. I want you to be aware of the changes being made in Panhellenic.

Announcements and Comments

Yadav: This week on Friday there is Eve of Nations from 6:00pm-10:00pm at the Lloyd Noble Center. This is a dance competition where you can enjoy cultural events and good food. There are fliers for the event, and the information is on the International Advisory Committee social media. Saturday is India Night, and I will be dancing there, so come support!

Alpert: Housing Center Student Association is having a Gala this Monday at 7:00pm. This is semi-formal but not required. Malachi and I will be there, and there will be free food!

Motion to enter Final Roll Call

Representative Powers seconded by Representative Kuketz

Final Roll Call

Motion to Adjourn Sine Die

Representative Williams seconded by Representative Del Rio

Adjourn Sine Die

Chair: Thomas Cassidy

Vice Chair: Mackenzie Cordova

Secretary: Richard Holt

Session 101	General
Alpert, Lucy	x
Bell, Aspen	ex
Biškup, Emma	x
Bonić, Karla	x
Bouch, Malachi	x
Bridwell, Trey	ex
Chism, Hennessey	x
Cordova, Mackenzie	x
DeAngeli, Emma	x
Del Rio, Paulina	x
Douglas, Zoe	ex
Felkner, Katy	ex
Gau, Dalton	x
Hardt, Peter	x
Hart, Harrison	abs
Haugland, Sara	x
Hobson, Sarah	x
Holt, Richard	x
Kim, Jiyoung	x
Kolker, Saphra	x
Kuketz, Tim	x
Liu, Shihui	ex
Mayes, Mark	x
McCans, Hunter	x
Merchant, Mahak	x
Mosley, Jordan	x
Nadolski, Karley	x
Papanicolaou, Peter	x
Patterson, Savannah	x
Powers, Shayla	x

Quick, Samuel	x
Rojas, Julio	abs
Sallee, Sophie	abs
Schneider, Caitlin	x
Spangler-Day, Santana	x
Stack, Hunter	x
Thompson, Gabriela	x
Vanderford, Elliot	abs
Wegrzynski, Abbey	x
Williams, Dan	x
Wilson, Taylor	x
	32
	4
	5

Session 101	CB-101-31	CR-101-07
Alpert, Lucy	y	y
Bell, Aspen		
Biškup, Emma	y	y
Bonić, Karla	y	y
Bouch, Malachi	n	y
Bridwell, Trey		
Chism, Hennessey	y	y
Cordova, Mackenzie	y	y
DeAngeli, Emma	y	y
Del Rio, Paulina	y	y
Douglas, Zoe		
Felkner, Katy		
Gau, Dalton	a	y
Hardt, Peter	n	y
Hart, Harrison		
Haugland, Sara	y	y
Hobson, Sarah	y	y
Holt, Richard	y	y
Kim, Jiyoung	y	y
Kolker, Sephra	y	y
Kuketz, Tim	y	y
Liu, Shihui		
Mayes, Mark	y	y
McCans, Hunter	y	y
Merchant, Mahak	y	y
Mosley, Jordan	y	y
Nadolski, Karley	y	y
Papanicolaou, Peter	y	y
Patterson, Savannah	y	y
Powers, Shayla	y	y

Quick, Samuel	y	y
Rojas, Julio		
Sallee, Sophie		
Schneider, Caitlin	n	y
Spangler-Day, Santana	y	y
Stack, Hunter	n	a
Thompson, Gabriela	y	y
Vanderford, Elliot		
Wegrzynski, Abbey	y	y
Williams, Dan	y	y
Wilson, Taylor	y	y
Yes	27	31
No	4	0
Abstain	1	1