

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS Session CI

General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Devon Hall 120

Session CI

Roll Call – 7:01pm

Flag Salute – Representative Nadolski

Approval of Minutes

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Rojas

Chair's Report – Elections for the Representative seats and CAC Chair are open until 9:00pm tomorrow at elecitions.ou.edu. Please share those graphics and encourage people to vote. Next week we will turn over sessions if the Superior Court certifies the elections. Please finish up your projects by this Thursday and submit your bills on the bill submission form. If you want our help with the bills, please let us know. Next week are nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. This will be one of the very last things that we do next week. Representatives in Session 102 need to nominate you and second you, so choose people who are eligible. They need to be at the meeting to do this. At the meeting on the 16th, the nominator will have to give a two minute speech. If you are interested in running, please talk to us about the behind the scenes work.

Vice Chair's Report – You have been excused from the liaison requirement for the next two months.

Everything is set up, but there will be a Vice Chair transition soon, and so to give the next Vice Chair some autonomy over that process, I am waiting until then to implement it. Don't worry about that until the Fall Semester. We did our Implicit Bias Training with the GEC, and that went well. They also gave us the Harvard Implicit Bias Test and anyone who completes this will get Congressional Service for the month of April. If you are interested in being Vice Chair, let me know.

Secretary's Report – Hey everyone! Home stretch for attendance! Please let me know if you have to miss a meeting and let your committee chairs know as well. I have had a few people come talk to me about Secretary, which is great, and I would be happy to talk to anyone else who wants to run. If you do, you should really have a conversation with me about what the job entails, and I would be happy to walk you through it. Other than that, get your Congressional Service in for the month of April if you are a representative that stays between sessions.

Committee Reports-

- **Congressional Administration:** We saw CB-101-29 and it got a rec of do pass. We are putting together a FAQ page for Congress for questions that we get a lot about what we do in Congress, so send those to us if you have them.
- **External Affairs:** We are working with the Executive Branch to do another Voter Registration Drive, both here and at Norman North High School. We are continuing to attend City Council meetings.
- **Human Diversity:** We did the Implicit Bias Training, and we will be seeing the equal pay resolution today.

- **Problems and Projects:** Associate Sparks updated us about the golf cart policy and giving students the ability to use those when they have injuries. Riddhi spoke to us about the international student resolution which we may see next week.
- **Sustainability:** We had a trash walk this weekend with some new faces, and we sent a survey to the Greek houses to gauge their interest in recycling. We are finishing up the green funding project.
- **University Policy:** We did research updates. The people working on the hate speech policy will meet separately for that. The people at OUR Mental Health working on Karley's mental health module project wants the members of Congress to take a survey, so if you did that, Richard could count that as Congressional Service.
- **Ways and Means:** We did an Auxiliary Funding bill and we have been working on Primary Funding.

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

- Presentation from City Councilwoman Alex Scott
 Scott: Thank you for having me. I was in SGA during my undergraduate years. Today is election day, so I am wondering how many are registered to vote? How many in Norman? Why are you not registered in Norman? Maybe you are not from here. If you are living here or are from nearby, you should register to vote here. I brought voter registration forms if you want those. One key element of going into politics is having no shame. I went to the Library the other night, and I made sure to tell people that there was an election today. How many of you knew that there was an election in Norman? These are very important to vote in. I was talking to people about Vision for Norman and the critical infrastructure bonds that are important for Norman. When it rains here, it gets really bad. I have been in Norman for a while now, and we are in a bowl topographically. This is the reason that we don't get hit on campus, but it's also why we flood, including the fact that our infrastructure isn't great. Anything that happens in Norman affects you. When I was in SGA, we used to go to the City Council meetings and talk about the law about more than three people living together. When you talk to the established members of Norman, they are avidly opposed to changing this. They are 100% against more than three unrelated people living in the same household for a number of reasons including that they don't make money and the traffic gets worse. There was an issue with parking on one street where people can no longer park on some parts of the street. These are the kinds of issues that you have to come to us and speak about to make change. If you pay taxes here in Norman, your sales tax dollars are going back into the city. Municipalities in Oklahoma are funded primarily by sales taxes, and these are some of the most regressive taxes, as they disproportionately affect poor people. How many of you take CART and know that the situation is about to change? Who do you speak to about those issues? You should reach out to me if you ever want to talk about these issues. I will leave you with my email and phone number, and I am on Facebook. The city has to absorb a lot of CART. The University has run CART for a long time until last year when they made that decision to pass it off to the city. There has been a lot of political controversy about the north part of Norman and the North Park TIF. When we have to absorb services like CART, those decisions affect lots of people who are no longer benefitting from the general fund. City politics are crazy. I like to pay attention to the things that I have control over. When I first got involved, I got involved with the OEA and knocked on doors for the penny tax question, which failed. I was really asking my neighbors to pay for me when it really should have been coming from the state legislature. I told a legislator this once, and they did not like that. However, this kind of thing should not have been my job as a teacher, and so I advocated that we go on strike back in 2017. But Oklahoma is a right to work state, so you shouldn't strike, because you can be fired at will. If you want to stay involved, get involved with a party however you can. They will show you the way and give you things to do within the party. I did that as a teacher and then ran for a party office and won. I just asked people to vote for me because I care about this stuff. Once you start to get involved and knock doors and volunteers, you stay involved. That would be the fast track for getting involved is joining a party and talking to people and having no shame. I have a red megaphone and I go around south campus and I ask people if they're registered to vote. If you just talk to people and get them engaged, it can be really fun.

Varghese: How long do you have to live here to register to vote?

Scott: As long as you have an address here in Norman, you can register to vote. I highly encourage absentee voting, because they will send you a ballot several weeks in advance. You can look to see what you're voting on, use it to talk to others about the issues.

Williams: There has been a steep decline in the quality of the rhetoric used in the city elections. When did everyone become so mean?

Scott: On social media, it is easy to be derogatory towards others. Everyone has keyboard courage. To my face, I have met people who say really horrible stuff who greet me differently. People aren't going to say those types of things to your face because they aren't prepared to have a healthy debate. There are several factions in Norman. There is overlap between the group who opposes the housing change and those looking to develop the senior center. For those political science majors, you may start to study the power structures there. What you find is that there are economic and social elites, and we have some in town. In 2016 there was the storm water election, and the utility was very bad. Ward 5 wants to annex from the rest of Norman, and the Fowler dealership by Walmart put a lot of money into a campaign that went against the utility bond. They did this because they have the means to take care of themselves. In the other camp, there is a rhetoric for people trying to advocate for the little people. In the Breea and Hickman camps, Breea had less ethical controversy where Bill did with regards to residency requirements. He had social activists calling him out, but they didn't have a lot of money, and so they did this online. With Breea it was more about wanting the BearCat. That was the division there. It becomes emotional because it directly affects you, and the mayor is the face of the city. A lot of times people feel like it will come down to the lesser of two evils.

Ahmadi: What would be a good way for students to get involved in city council?

Scott: We have our council meeting every other Tuesday where we cast votes on things. The times in between we talk about other issues like the Charter Review committee. You might think that this is a simple thing, but this has been delayed twice already. I would encourage you all to read the agendas and reach out to us. I am very responsive, and I send your feedback to the staff. There is always a staff person to reach out to. If you ever call or text me, I will get back to you. Most of us are very communicative and responsive. Facebook is a great way to reach us as well, except Bill. Go to normanok.gov to see our information. Our emails are all pretty simple and straightforward.

Contact Info:

Ward8@normanok.gov

(405) 514-0669

- Update from the Executive Branch

Ridenour: We want to update you about everything going on. Thursday we have a meet-and-greet with Dr. Surratt. This will be at 12:30pm. The Department of Inclusivity will be doing Stick it to Stigma Week including a lot of great activities like Yoga and the Health Hut. The Department of Communications has reached out to Hispanic-American Student Association and Asian Student Association to start to bridge the gaps between multicultural organizations and SGA. The Department of Interior is working on the Sarkey's Gym proposal including meeting with the admin there and student art groups.

McClung: I have been working with students on the food groups and food donations across campus.

Ridenour: Let us know if you have any questions.

- Update from the Chair of the Election Board

Swearengin: Elections are happening in various districts, for Student Bar Association, and for CAC Chair. The polls are open, and they close tomorrow at 9:00pm. There is a situation with the University College District. There is a discrepancy within the OrgSync and the student database. There are freshmen who should be able to vote who are not able to. We also have upperclassmen who should not have access but have been able to vote in that district. I have been working with George, but we aren't sure what is going on. This hasn't occurred with any other districts. It may be because of the different advising windows, but we did not have these problems in the Fall. Even I was prompted to vote in the University College District, and I should not be. I have spoken to the Election Board, and we may have to throw out those election results. I sat down with General

Counsel about the procedures for rescheduling the election. Superior Court will have to make a final determination about the election results, and they will base that on the Election Board's recommendation and public comment. Based on the Superior Court decision, hopefully on Friday, we recommend that GSS introduce a bill on Thursday to reschedule the University College election for a few weeks from now. If that were introduced and passed on Sunday, you all would see it on Tuesday, and the president could sign it on Wednesday. There is a required timeline of three weeks for a special election, but there is a waiver for the general election. We realized that this should have similar language anyways, and you are seeing an election bill today, so I would recommend making an amendment to that bill and adding that language. The upcoming elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, fall under the election finance guidelines. If you do spend money on those races, you need to declare your financials for that. I would be happy to work with you on that reporting. If you run into any additional issues, please send me an email or fill out the form for election problems or grievances. We don't currently have anything reported, but let me know. These problems don't exist anywhere else currently. If everything else goes to plan, only the University College elections will be affected by this. If you are a candidate who will be affected by this, I will keep you updated.

Williams: If University College gets thrown out, can we postpone internal elections?

Cassidy: I don't believe we can turn over the sessions until all of the elections are confirmed by Superior Court.

Schneider: Last year University College was incorrect also, so did they figure that out?

Swearengen: Maybe. This issue may be because of freshmen getting moved in and out, but we aren't sure. Our question is why some freshmen are getting denied, or why upperclassmen are prompted to vote in the election. It may be the Pre-Law designation as with Richard and I, and it may be one of the reasons from last year, but I have been notified by someone not Pre-Law, so I am not sure.

Motion to enter Committee of the Whole

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Patterson

- Committee of the Whole

AB-101-13 Auxiliary Allocation 19 Act of 2018-2019 (Quick)

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Kuketz

Quick: This is the last Auxiliary Funding bill, Auxiliary Funding Allocation Act 19. We saw 13 organizations and spent \$5,363.25.

Motion to give AB-101-13 a rec of do pass

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Merchant

CB-101-30 Title XI Establishment Act (Cassidy)

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Del Rio

Cassidy: This is a simple bill. It takes two sections from another section of the Code Annotated and moves them into a new Title XI. This is to consolidate student resources into its own section. With Student Legal Services having received permanent funding, it is my intention to codify the entirety of SLS and make it an SGA program. In talking to others, we felt like this was the right way to set it up within its own section with other student resources. Next week, I will have a bill that does this, and we can do a deep dive into SLS generally at that time.

Motion to give CB-101-30 a rec of do pass

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Bell

CR-101-06 Resolution Against Pay Discrimination (Merchant/Kolker/Stormer)

Representative Patterson seconded by Representative Liu

Merchant: This is a resolution to address equal pay disparities on campus between male and female workers. Today is Equal Pay Day, which is the day representing the amount of additional days that

women have to work in addition to a man to get equal pay. In speaking with professors, there is a pay disparity here at OU, and they are not treated the way that they should be.

Chism: In the first whereas clause, is that a scrivener's error?

Merchant: Yes

Motion to give CR-101-06 a rec of do pass

Representative Kuketz seconded by Representative Bouch

Motion to move out of Committee of the Whole

Representative Chism seconded by Representative Schneider

Student Concerns

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

CB-101-29 Election Accessibility Act of 2019 (Holt) (ConAd → rec of do pass)

Representative Bouch seconded by Representative Patterson

Holt: This bill does two important things. Section 3 addresses something that we talked to GSS about with regards to needing 500 signatures in order to run for the office of Student Body President. We give that number context with this bill, and it now parallels other language regarding a petition. This requires that a number of signatures equal to 10% of those voting in the last election are required to run in the next election. This bill caps that number off at 500 which is where the requirement is right now. Based on the last election, the number would be at 200 signatures. The rest of the bill is to allow for the public financing of elections. SGA would be able to help people cover all of their costs of campaigning. Section 6 deals with this as the printing of campaign materials, and it sets up a system where we fund printing for them. They request materials for their campaign and then George processes that. OU Printing Services and SGA coordinate the request and then SGA incurs the cost, and it goes on that candidate's expense report. This system maintains the budget cap and allows more people to run in campaigns. Representatives in the past have rarely spent money on their campaigns. Presidential candidates do spend more money, but not everyone can afford to spend that much money. It will allow more people to run. The bill also lowers the spending cap for Representatives seeing as they have not spent that money in the past.

Bouch: Is the Section 3 "fifteen" a scrivener's error?

Holt: Yes, but there are a couple of amendments I would love talk about and then accept. There is a concern that if you need to wait to register materials it will take a long time before you can begin campaigning, but I have made sure that the Election Board Chair will figure that out with Printing Services. I would accept an amendment for the section stipulating that the Election Board Chair must open the registration for materials two days after the end of the filing period. You still can't campaign outside of the campaign time period, but you can have the materials go through the process in the appropriate time frame. The second amendment adds subsection v to put disclaimers on materials. Everything SGA prints must say that printing is funded by SGA, and this amendment would make these materials include a disclaimer that this printing is not an endorsement.

Chism: Will you accept the two proposed friendly amendments?

Holt: Yes

Chism: If we aren't imposing fines on candidates anymore, how are we funding this?

Holt: This is something the body should seriously consider. The Election Board has some money in the short term, but that is not guaranteed in the long term. The Election Board is required to apply for money in the Primary Funding process in this bill, and I think the Auxiliary Funding process is probably more appropriate for this type of budgeting. Election and Expense reports of the past show that about \$450 are spent for Presidential candidates and almost nothing for Representatives. I would estimate a cost to SGA of about \$2000-\$3000 a year. We would just have to budget for it.

Gau: Could you please explain why we are lowering the number of signatures required?

Holt: You could think of it as lowering it. We are capping the number at 500, but what this really does is contextualize the number to base the requirement off of engagement. It's 10% of the number of people who

vote in elections. The cap is to ensure that we don't have an unreasonable number of signatures required to participate in an election. It usually isn't an issue to get signatures until this year when neither candidate was able to get the required number, which is where the concern came from. It is connected now to the student body's engagement with SGA.

Bouch: Why did you lower the budget for Representatives?

Holt: Past expense reports for Representatives show that they never really spend any money, and those who do don't spend more than about \$20. In the future, anyone who spends anything near \$100 would be a huge increase, and in the future we can change it to reflect that improvement.

Chism: Hypothetically, if we had another budget year where we can't fund anything completely in the Primary Funding process, what would happen with this campaigning budget?

Holt: The Election Board can go through Auxiliary Funding process, and it would make even more sense to do that with this type of funding. There are other options within SGA that we could give to them including the SGA Operations Budget and the Congressional Initiative Funding. The Election Board could also consider a first come first serve process for candidates if it gets very bad.

Cassidy: Did you consider putting a cap on how much we would spend on each candidate that would be lower than the total budget?

Holt: I considered it. Since this bill is to help those who can't spend that much on elections and help them, it made sense on principle to cover the total cost. You could theoretically publicly fund only some of the costs and then simply help the people who are already able to spend, which would be counterproductive.

Chism: Since districts are small, have you considered making Representatives budget constraints smaller than \$100?

Holt: Since it was at \$250, I thought that lowering it to \$100 was a good start, but I would be open to it.

Bouch: Who is approving the materials that are requested?

Holt: George approves campaign materials, and he looks at all the rules for the different organizations. Your approval goes through the same process as if you buy it yourself.

Powers: Would you accept a friendly amendment lowering the Representative budget cap to \$50.

Holt: Yes

Gau: Thousands of students go to OU, and only 200 signatures would be required for the next election. Do you believe that is a big enough number?

Holt: I would say that I think it is enough based on the engagement that we see with SGA. My original intention for this percentage was 15%. When you get bigger involvement, the number gets huge. If you want to raise the percentage within the 500 signature cap, that's something I would be open to.

Gau: Would you accept a friendly amendment raising the percentage to 20%?

Holt: Yes

George: Are we leaving "Discretion of George" on the bill?

Holt: No

Passed by unanimous consent

AB-101-13 Auxiliary Allocation 19 Act of 2018-2019 (Quick)

Representative Powers seconded by Representative Papanicolaou

Quick: Yield

Motion to go to a roll call vote

Representative Powers seconded by Representative McCans

Passed by a roll call vote of 32-0-0

CB-101-30 Title XI Establishment Act (Cassidy)

Representative Bouch seconded by Representative Bell

Cassidy: We are considering a bill for codifying Student Legal Services as a permanent offering. This will be an annual \$55,000 expense that serves a lot of students. If you want to ask me questions, I will chat before next week's meeting.

Passed by unanimous consent

CR-101-06 Resolution Against Pay Discrimination (Merchant/Kolker/Stormer)

Representative Patterson seconded by Representative Rojas

Merchant: We spoke about this.

Passed by unanimous consent

Follow-Up Reports

Chism: In regards to diversity in the Greek community, remember that this refers to all Greek councils. There are five. When you refer to "Greek Life", you refer to all of us. I am chairing the Inclusivity Committee on the Panhellenic Association. Every Panhellenic chapter is sending me an inclusivity plan for the next year for me to approve. This is not just going to be diversity for diversity's sake. I wanted to keep you all updated, and if you have questions, please let me know.

Rojas: April 6 is Venezuelan Night. This is Saturday at 6:30pm. Also, there are two Indian Student Association events. There is an event throwing paint and powder at each other on Saturday, April 6 at 11:00am. Eve of Nations is April 12 at 6:30pm.

Yadav: On April 12, Eve of Nations is 6:30pm-9:00pm. This is a dancing and singing competition. ISA is hosting India Night on April 20 which is a fashion show with dancing and singing.

Rojas: Tomorrow they are having a dance and meditate activity from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the Scholar's Room in the Union.

Yadav: There is a Debate tournament this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. If you want to judge, and you are qualified, I can get you set up. We need judges for state elections. I am planning on having my International Students Resolution next week, and I am taking co-sponsors.

Items for Future Agenda

Announcements and Comments

Ahmadi: I am in charge of pulling the lists for the elections. There is not an OrgSync issue. I use an app from OU IT that pulls from the data store. This changes all the time on the back end. We are trying to track down what happened. Before the Election Board or anyone jumps the gun on this, we are trying to figure this out. If you know anyone who can't vote, please tell them to reach out to me at kga@ou.edu. There are also some Pre-Law students who got thrown in there, but we can make a database to check over the voting, and we can take staff time to do this. I want to make sure that these questions get asked, but we don't want to dismiss the work that the candidates have been doing. If you know of any other issues, let me know.

Bouch: Is this the same thing that happened when HCSA used the OrgSync portal?

Ahmadi: I don't think so. Housing pulled a different list than what I pull. Even then we can take a look and ensure that everything is getting done correctly.

Liu: I have been selected as a finalist for the Mr./Ms. Asian Pageant. I would love for you all to support me. If you go on the Facebook page there is my headshot, and every like and share is a point. I am also selling raffle tickets that get you in to win prizes. The Asian-American Student Association is hosting the pageant in Meacham, and pre-sales are \$5. Sales at the door are \$10.

Motion to skip Final Roll Call and Adjourn

Representative Powers seconded by Representative McCans

Final Roll Call

Adjourn – 8:27pm

Chair: Thomas Cassidy

Vice Chair: Mackenzie Cordova
Secretary: Richard Holt

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

| Session 101 | AB-101-13 | CB-101-30 | CR-101-06 | CB-101-29 |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Alpert, Lucy | y | | | |
| Bell, Aspen | y | | | |
| Biškup, Emma | y | | | |
| Bonić, Karla | y | | | |
| Bouch, Malachi | y | | | |
| Bridwell, Trey | y | | | |
| Chism, Hennessey | | | | |
| Cordova, Mackenzie | y | | | |
| DeAngeli, Emma | | | | |
| Del Rio, Paulina | y | | | |
| Douglas, Zoe | y | | | |
| Felkner, Katy | | | | |
| Gau, Dalton | y | | | |
| Guido, Trinity | | | | |
| Hardt, Peter | | | | |
| Hart, Harrison | y | | | |
| Haugland, Sara | | | | |
| Hobson, Sarah | | | | |
| Holt, Richard | y | | | |
| Kim, Jiyoona | y | | | |
| Kolker, Sephra | y | | | |
| Kuketz, Tim | y | | | |
| Liu, Shihui | y | | | |
| Mayes, Mark | y | | | |
| McCans, Hunter | y | | | |
| Merchant, Mahak | y | | | |
| Mosley, Jordan | y | | | |
| Nadolski, Karley | y | | | |
| Papanicolaou, Peter | y | | | |
| Patterson, Savanah | y | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Powers, Shayla | y | | | |
| Quick, Samuel | y | | | |
| Rojas, Julio | y | | | |
| Sallee, Sophie | y | | | |
| Schneider, Caitlin | y | | | |
| Spangler-Day, Santana | | | | |
| Stack, Hunter | | | | |
| Thompson, Gabriela | y | | | |
| Vanderford, Elliot | | | | |
| Wegrzynski, Abbey | y | | | |
| Williams, Dan | y | | | |
| Wilson, Taylor | y | | | |
| | | | | |
| Yes | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Abstain | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |