

# THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS Session XCVI

**General Body Meeting**  
**7:00 pm, Tuesday, September 27, 2016**  
**Devon Hall 120**

### **Roll Call –**

7:02

### **Flag Salute**

Representative Huffling

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to Approve the Minutes Representative Mee sec Representative Ryana**

**Chair's Report-** Hey everyone! Welcome. Cupcakes and Congress went incredibly well today! We had a great turnout. We ended up running out of cupcakes twice, and ended early because we kept running out. Huge thanks to those that came out. We will have another one in October. Give Shelby a hug! This past Monday night, Jake and I did Mock Congress with SFC. They saw Formation and Cargo Embargo. Give those SFC'ers some snaps. SGA Open House is tomorrow night, so come knock out your Constituent Service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Conoco tomorrow from 6:30-8:30. I chatted with Chair Lewis about districting which we did. Please come talk to me about filing. Its October 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to run. I have e-mailed you if your chair is up for election. If you want to double-check, stop by during office hours. Some seats are open in the Fall, some in the Spring. Be on the lookout for another e-mail. We want to avoid people losing their seat. We also have a good piece of legislation and some guests, so please be attentive and use On Information to get info about Parliamentary Procedure.

**Vice Chair's Report-** Sorry I wasn't here last week. I had to rehearse with Echols for the show, which is going well. As Kaylee said, we have a very lovely piece of legislation tonight. I'll be chairing. Because some members are new, please be patient with names and such.

**Secretary's Report-** Hello everyone! If you need a Parliamentary Procedure sheet, please grab one, as we may be getting deep into Parliamentary Procedure tonight. If you haven't completed Office Hours or Constituent Service yet, please do so before Thursday night at midnight. If you attended Cupcakes and Congress today, or were scheduled for a shift that didn't end up happening because we ran out of cupcakes, you met your requirement. If you still need Constituent Service, please be sure to come to the SGA Open House tomorrow! If you did Cupcakes and Congress or come to the SGA Open House, you will not need to submit an OrgSync form. I got the names from all of the attendees today and I will have a sign-in sheet for that event. Also, please let me know if there are any problems at all! I know that I can sound a bit nagging at time, but I really do just want to make sure that no one receives an unexcused absence! If I can help in any way, please let me know, and please let me know if you have any suggestions about how I can do my job more effectively. Also, please check out the resources at [bit.ly/Session96](http://bit.ly/Session96).

## Committee Reports-

- **Academic Affairs-** This week, we did not meet as we had no legislation to see. So no report.
- **Communications-** Hey everyone! I'm sorry I couldn't be here in person (school, amirite?). First off, I want to give everyone who came and helped with Cupcakes and Congress a shoutout! It was a huge success - we got the word about SGA out to a lot of people and even got to speak to some constituents one on one! It wouldn't have been possible without the help of everyone who came. You guys absolutely rocked it and I know that this is going to be a great session! Our next Cupcakes and Congress will be on Tuesday, October 25th. Like I mentioned, we'll be looking into a blue pocket t-shirt and red sweatshirt. Only about 16 people said they were interested in the baseball style shirt, but I've got a really cool design idea that I'm hoping will change enough of your minds to be able to get them :). I sent ID solutions an e-mail soon and hopefully they won't take long and I can have designs for you all next week!
- **Congressional Administration-** I'm Vice-Chair Nigh, we saw one bill this weekend, and it's pretty contentious. It is 960110 and it reshapes the funding process. Even though we gave it a rec of do pass, please be sure to read through it thoroughly.
- **External Affairs-** We have an event tomorrow that we are co-sponsoring with Walker RSA. From 6-8 there will be free food and voter registration forms. This is a great chance to talk to freshmen about voting locally.
- **Human Diversity-** My name is Chelsea and I'm the new Human Diversity Chair. Last week, we talked about key issues/ideas. We brainstormed what we wanted to address for the student body and what do we need more information on. That was this weekend and then next week we are going to delve into an actual plan to get our projects started. I asked each member to pick an idea or calling and then elaborate on what they wanted to do going forward.
- **Problems and Projects-** We had a very productive meeting. We saw the first look of the mental health bill coming out of the Senate which we will be seeing next Tuesday. We have lots of new ideas- construction notification project because sometimes students are surprised, as well as an instance where a student was injured on an unmarked fence post, so we want to make sure that FM is flagging those things. We are working on lots of different things, and please come talk if you have anything we can work on!
- **Sustainability-** We had a really productive meeting last week, where we talked about the projects we have going, tossed around some ideas for game day recycling. We had a woman running for Congress come and talk about SQ 777, which is a state question (amendment to OK Constitution). This question has some impacts on the environment that we are not OK with. We are going to poll students for opinions, and I hope that you all are able to talk to constituents. "To protect agriculture as a vital sector of Oklahoma's economy, which provides food, energy, health benefits, and security and is the foundation and stabilizing force of Oklahoma's economy, the right so citizens and lawful residents of Oklahoma to engage in farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state. The Legislature shall pass no law which abridges the right of citizens and lawful residents of Oklahoma to employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices without a compelling state interest" Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify any provision of common law or statutes relating to trespass, eminent domain, dominance of mineral interests, easements, rights of way or any other property rights. Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify or affect any statute or ordinance enacted by the Legislature or any political subdivision prior to December 31, 2014. That's really long, and it sounds great: oh we are giving people the right to farm. However, compelling state interest is part of the problem. Compelling state interest is the highest burden of a proof. You have to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that

something is unsafe, when we would prefer that people prove things to be safe. We are concerned with clean air and clean water, which the other side claims has been marked as a compelling state interest, though it is not grandfathered in. They are leaving it up to the courts. We agree that there are some good points in the legislation, but we are concerned that it will let large companies run wild and we won't be able to stop them. Please ask members of my committee if you have questions

- **Ways and Means-** Today we are seeing Auxiliary Fund #2. I will be proposing legislation per GSS meeting instead of per Congress meeting. We discussed the interview legislation in committee, and we intend to voice our concerns during debate. We apologize for not being able to make the ConAd meeting.

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Special Orders**

*CAC Chair- Aimee Schnebeck*

Schnebeck- I oversee the programming branch. I am here to help out with the interview legislation, but I hope to pop in a few other times. We have a paint frenzy on Thursday, HoCo, the concert coming up, uSing is coming up... lots of exciting things!

*Black Student Association*

Bowser- I am really interested in the legislation that you all are wanting to pass regarding interviews, so I wanted to be here

*Chief of Staff- Timothy Crisp*

Crisp- I just wanted to come introduce myself. I'm a new GTA and I've had a really busy schedule. I help Daniel and Michael manage the Exec Branch. I also am helping manage the Bike Share and Pre-Finals Week projects. Pre-Finals Week reform is headed to a vote in FS next month. The RFP process for Bike Share has been finalized, and we hope to implement in November. Lastly, I wanted to remind everyone that your worth and success is not defined by what you get on campus or where you go, and when you can let that go, you will finally be on your way. I am happy in my position, but would not be here if I hadn't let other things go.

## **Student Concerns**

### **Old Business**

#### **Items to Be Considered**

960110- An Act Revising the Budgetary Process (ConAd- Rec of Do Pass)

#### **Representative Kelling sec Representative Owings**

Rains- This is a piece of legislation that I've been working on for a while. This legislation gets rid of interviews and imposes a supplementary form that organizations will fill it out. This form will include all questions that WAM uses in interviews. In evaluating some concerns raised about WAM, we believed that this would be the best way to alleviate those concerns in order to best serve students, which is our goal. In terms of other Big 12 schools, only one other school in the Big 12 has interviews run by students. A few others have interviews conducted with faculty. Most don't have interviews. I believe that this will be the easiest and best funding process.

Pavlowsky- This hopes to get rid of face to face bias, which is when you judge people when you don't mean to. We want to judge the RSO, not the person. When we move to online evaluations, like we do in Senate, you look at information regarding the RSO as opposed to what happens in the day-to-day of interviews. This does not prohibit the WAM committee from meeting with RSO's, rather, it's just for the interview process. I have a number of sources that indicate that this kind of bias does exist.

Rains- We are here for questions. We want to make this process accessible and easy for students.

Owings- Why should face to face interviews be replaced with a form that doesn't allow for questions that are pertinent to the RSO?

Pavlowsky- You may e-mail questions about the form to the group.

Rains- Specific questions may be asked to the RSO.

Owings- How can WAM ask questions if they have concerns?

Pavlowsky- They can e-mail the group.

Owings- Why can't interviews be supplemented instead? This is the base-line.

Rains- The interview process, if reformed, will be much more intensive. We are looking to make the lives of RSO's easier, instead of making the lives of WAM committee members harder. The WAM committee can ask the questions they need to on the form. If after looking at the form they have questions, they can e-mail the RSO.

Schnebeck- Have you all gotten complaints about the process?

Pavlowsky/Rains- yes.

Kelling- In response to the author's statement that it would be too difficult, would you agree with that statement?

Echols- We do not think that it would be too difficult. We believe it would be more effective and efficient.

Davis- What were the concerns from the orgs about the funding process?

Pavlowsky- In some cases, misunderstandings regarding different cultures or personal relationships.

Rains- I talked to a number of RSO leaders and they believed the process to be complicated and that this would be easier.

Crisp- You cited two things. The one other school that does interviews with students and the studies on implicit bias. Please cite.

Rains- Texas Tech does interviews like we do. I got that straight from their SGA website.

### **Motion to Extend Time by 5 Mins Representative Bray sec Representative Nigh**

Pavlowsky- They are looking at the differences between face-to-face interviews and structured/non-structured interviews, and there are problems in both, but structured interviews have less implicit bias.

Crisp- Who is "they"?

Pavlowsky- Sears and Rowe in their 2003 paper "A personality-based similar-to-me effect in the employment interview: Conscientiousness, affect-versus competence-mediated interpretations, and the role of job relevance." Its looking at job interviews, but I believe it to be similar to the funding process. They were looking at the impact of face-to-face bias against an applicant during an interviews. These become more pronounced with less structure, but implicit bias was found at all levels of structure. There are a number of articles with similar findings. This looks at personality and gender more specifically. The more similar one is to the interviewer, the more likely you are to favor them, without regard for who is the better candidate. This is not a conscious thing, but rather, an unconscious effect.

Ryana- Can you reiterate how exactly this change will make it easier for WAM to provide funding for RSO's and also how RSO's are supposed to benefit?

Rains- It will make it easier for WAM in that they won't have to schedule meetings every Sunday to interview, rather, just go over a form. It will make it more accessible to RSO's.

Kelling- Is there a concern that this could eliminate a potential for RSO's to explain a request?

Rains- I would argue that this does not. If some RSO's are interviewing and some aren't, some RSO's are being favored. You can still talk to the committee, but the form will be submitted online. You can do the same thing on the form that you can do in the interview.

Schnebeck- Do you know what kind of selection bias training WAM goes through? I know some other orgs go through an intensive training?

Rains- None. There is no bias training in Congress for WAM members. Some members might go through the Diversity Experience.

Capehart- Would you outline the process that will need to be undertaken if we fail this bill?

Rains- The interviews will become much more regulated. More "HR" style. Every member of the WAM Committee will have to be at every single interview. If anyone can't be there, we have to cancel the interview. We will also require bias training. There will be codified questions that are the only questions that can be asked in the interview. The rules will be stuck to rigidly. These interviews will also be subject to the Open Meetings Act, everything said and done will be typed and posted for the public.

Pavlowsky- This is standard for social research or HR interview process. We would be upping the standards to do away with face-to-face bias.

Rains- This has nothing to do with what we think of WAM. This is just to eliminate future problems. WAM is awesome.

## **Motion to Extend Questions to the End of the List Representative Kelling sec Representative Cox**

Alrawi- Could there be name bias, considering that the interview is an assessment of leadership?

Pavlovsky- These interviews aren't about the person, but rather the RSO. These interviews are judging the person, not the RSO.

Schnebeck- When you have someone come in to an interview, you might think they are shy or quiet, and that might just be them in the moment, which isn't a perfect evaluation of who they are as a leader.

Lalani- If you are allowed to disclose, can you name specific instances where bias occurred and the complaint was filed?

Rains- Last semester, a complaint was written with the Daily about a meeting between WAM and BSA. After looking into it, this was what we considered the best process.

Brown- Do you think eliminating interviews would prevent discrimination claims that the former WAM chair had to address, or other biases that other individuals had to deal with?

Pavlovsky- I think it would go a long way to do it. I don't think that it solves the problem in its entirety, but it helps.

Lay- Speaking from experience, I'm the treasurer of a large org on campus, and there was a lot to be gained from the information to be gained from the process. You mentioned there are office hours and other ways to meet with the committee to explain different aspects. How could organizations have a face-to-face meeting with WAM?

Rains- The thing that takes up the most WAM time is interviews, so removing interviews will allow WAM to have more time to meet with RSO's and do forums, explanations, open houses, etc. can be utilized for RSO's to ask face-to-face questions.

Kelling- Do you think that this could possibly create a situation where fraudulent or un-needed requests slip through without interviews?

Rains- No. That doesn't happen now. I haven't heard a case of that.

Echols- Curt does a low-level audit on requests. In order for the organization to get money, they have to submit receipts.

Mee- Co-Sponsors?

*Brown*

*Elwick*

*Kuketz*

*Mee*

*Grunewald*

*Ryana*

*Reid*

*Simmons*

*Rubio*

Quick- You previously stated that not all RSO's receive interviews when it comes to primary funding. Are you aware that the new Chair policies for the spring is that he will grant interviews for everyone?

Rains- This is for primary and auxiliary. In the future, this may not be the case, and speaking from experience, I wasn't able to offer interviews to everyone because we didn't have the time. I don't think that basing it on a single committee will be conducive to promoting long term accessibility.

Bray- Is there any numerical data that racial bias or gender bias has been a problem with the WAM committee?

Pavlovsky- There have not been studies on racial bias on the OU WAM Committee.

Davis- Is there a reason why the first response was to cut interviews instead of meeting with WAM to see how the process can be changed?

Rains- This isn't the first instance, it's just the first in a while. There has been discrimination based on a number of things in the past. That is enough for me to look at the process.

Pavlovsky- We shouldn't have to get a bunch of problems to realize that there is one. We should do something right now that is shown to help.

Rains- I didn't meet with the WAM committee before I proposed this legislation, but I did meet with Ryan.

Kelling- Do you think there could be a concern that taking the process out of the light... could an RSO have a problem with questions asked now, couldn't the WAM Committee, behind closed doors, make decisions based on race and gender, make decisions?

Rains- There can be bias in any situation. The form process is much less likely to have bias.

Pavlovsky- WAM is more than welcome to track their own minutes and meetings in order to help reduce bias.

Rains- WAM Committee meetings are all subject to the Open Meetings Act, which means they are posted to the public.

Pavlovsky- We don't fear that happening, because the current system should be sufficient.

Owings- Considering the centrality of claims against the WAM Committee, have you investigated other factors that are supposed to be considered by WAM that they are supposed to consider? Have you proven that bias claims are real?

Rains- I have not sat down and made a chart, but I do have experience as being the VC of WAM and knowing when there are unneeded questions and questions about the budget. When you can't fund a certain item, you explain why you can't fund the item. Un-fundable items are posted online and so all RSO's have access. In addition, WAM would have more time to communicate.

James- You talked about how some RSO's have interviews and some don't. Does that give those that interview an advantage?

Rains- Yes, I know that there is bias because I was on WAM.

Pavlovsky- It's not malicious, just a knowledge that their claims are "valid" because you know them. Putting their numbers on paper cuts down on bias.

Crisp- Given that the WAM Chair isn't in support of the bill, what other methods were considered?

Rains- Ryan and I sat down to George about what we could do beforehand to try to keep interviews.

However, once you sit and think critically about it, this was the best option. In the long run, interviews don't make things more accessible for students. We did look at other options, but we believe this to be the best.

Brown- Can you please re-direct my question to the CA Chair? Were any of the WAM members present during the debate of the bill in committee?

Lewis- No.

Alrawi- I think the interview process is good for students to model interviews post-graduation. If you are taking this out, might there be students who need the interviews?

Pavlovsky- We are focusing on the RSO, not building an individual's resume. We are not here to defend it as a resume builder.

Rains- Regarding experience, it is on the WAM Committee. Students can go to Career Services and do mock interviews. Interviews become a problem when they feel like the validity of their RSO and their events are being questioned. We aren't here to give students a resume builder, we are here for the RSO's.

Lewis- If this bill were to fail, and the alternative of highly-regulated interviews were implemented, would the pre-determined questions be asked? How will we make sure nothing else is asked?

Rains- If this does fail, and we go to the regulated interviews, every single question they want to ask need to be written down and codified, likely in the Code Annotated. If something is asked that shouldn't have been, we will be sure to know due to the Open Meetings Act. There is also a GSS rep.

Elwick- Have you talked to any RSO's, specifically those that complained, about the change and their opinion?

Rains- I met with Kennedie and she was in the interview that was brought to the Daily. I talked about the changes, and she thought it was a good idea. She thought her organizations' validity and event were being questioned, and we should do anything that we can to help make students feel helped/assisted to make their time at OU the best possible. She was in favor of this and she thought that the process was not needed as the questions were repetitive.

Bray- Tuition rates are sky-rocketing and all of this money is being paid from constituents. Don't we owe our constituents the validation of the money being spent to see if it does help the greater body?

Rains- Absolutely. Do we need to judge and question their organization? No. This money comes from the SAF. Every request will be looked at by WAM and by Curt and by GSS, so a lot of people are getting their opinions in, and I think people are seeing it thoroughly.

Pavlowsky- This process doesn't impact our ability to determine the viability of an RSO. We are making the process more equitable.

Owings- Has SGA or the University been threatened with legal action?

Rains- I do know of a federal court case that has happened in the past (10 years back) between WAM and a political newspaper. It ended up going to federal court and it ruled against WAM.

Pavlowsky- We have a history of dealing with this issue and we are trying to minimize bias.

Crisp- What was the influence by the Directors of Student Life over using the HR standards?

Rains- This was a bottom-up approach. We thought it was a good idea, and the administration were in support.

Pavlowsky- We went to admin and got suggestions, but this is coming from us (Big Exec).

### **Debate**

**Motion to Recess for 5 Minutes Representative Echols sec Representative Quick  
Motion to Recess for 2 Minutes Representative Lewis sec Representative Mazeitis**

Simmons- Proponency

Crisp- Opponency

Mazeitis- Proponency

Bray- Opponency

Noble- Proponency

Owings- Opponency

Brown- Proponency

Alrawi- Opponency

Vann- Proponency

Kelling- Opponency

Capehart- Proponency

Dong- Opponency

Bowser- Proponency

Echols- Opponency

Pavlowsky- Proponency

Quick- Opponency

Reid- Proponency

Bender- Opponency

William- Proponency

Pham- Opponency

Schnebeck- Proponency

Williams- Opponency

Pae- Proponency

Lay- Opponency

Rains- Proponency

Davis- Opponency

Echols- Opponency

**Motion to Previous Question Representative Nigh sec Representative Kelling**

**Objection- Representative Alrawi**

**Objection Fails by Hand Vote**

Author's Summation

**By a Roll Call Vote of 19-15-0, this Bill does Pass**

960509- Auxiliary Allocation Act #2 (WAM- Rec of Do Pass)

**Representative Capehart sec Representative Quick**

Echols- I will run through them fast. UW for renting food and promotion for cultural night. The Turkish Student Association wanted handouts for Turkish classes. Lambda Delta Psi wanted space rentals for an event. Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts banner and fliers for general usage. Crimson Skies Design for propeller. Angolan Student Association supplies for general meetings. Arabic Club food and supplies for general meetings. Association of Geography Graduate Students food and drink for general meetings. Autism Speaks at OU for event rentals. \$48,300ish left.

Kelling- I think you said it and I missed, what is the money for United World for?

Echols- Check

Cox- how much did Autism Speaks request?

Echols- \$1,000

Cox- Last year they were trying to host an event and had to cancel it due to funds.

Echols- We usually can't fund full amounts and its primarily based on prior years' history.

**Motion to a Roll Call Vote Representative Quick sec Representative Kelling**

**By a Roll Call Vote of 35-0-0, this Bill does Pass**

**New Business**

**Follow-Up Reports**

**Items for Future Agenda**

960909- A Resolution Thanking Guests (External Affairs)

960111- A Resolution Reforming Our Debate Process (Congressional Administration)

960402- An Act Authorizing a Student Survey on SQ 777 (External Affairs)

960201- A Survey Bill Gauging Student Interest in Minors (Academic Affairs)

**Announcements and Comments**

Kelling- We have LnL after this, but come and join in the bi-partisanship to hang out.

James- Emily had to leave but she wanted everyone to know that Forum is accepting student applications.

Capehart- I want to go to LnL at New York Pizza.

George- SGA Open house on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Conoco from 7:30-9:30. If you have questions about funding, come on by. I will be there to answer questions about OrgSync. If you have more questions you should ask Daniel. Please change your objection process. Please.

Rains- I'm really proud of you all. Please come talk to us if you have questions. Every debater had great points and spoke eloquently. Thanks to everyone. Come to LnL.

**Motion to Skip Final Roll Call and Adjourn Representative Owings sec Representative Kelling**

**Final Roll Call**

Chair: Kaylee Rains

Vice-Chair: Austin Reid

Secretary: Jake Mazeitis



<b>Session 96</b>	960110	960509
Abney, Jordan	y	y
Alrawi, Salam	n	y
Benjamin, Morgan		
Bray, Bryan	n	y
Buxton, Jillian		
Capehart, Tanner	y	y
Chun, Bum Ki		
Cox, Reece	y	y
Curley, Nicholas	n	y
D'Silva, Jordan	y	y
Davis, Syleste	n	y
Echols, Ryan	n	y
Elliott, Shelby		
Elwick, Kara	y	y
Erwin, Hunter	y	y
Gomez, Hector		
Grunewald, John	y	y
Hillis, Tevis		
Huffling, Madison	n	y
James, Madison	n	y
Kelling, Taylor	n	y
Kirkham, Lucas		
Klima, Ali	y	y
Kovach, Chase	y	y
Kuketz, Timothy	y	y
Lalani, Sanah	y	y
Lay, Alex	n	y
Lewis, Danielle	y	y
Martin, Lindsay		
Mazeitis, Jake	y	y
McClintic, Alexander	n	y
Mee, Emily		
Nigh, Ryan	y	y
Noble, Sam	y	y
Owings, Brian	n	y
Pham, Daniel	n	y
Quick, Sam	n	y
Reid, Austin		y

Rubio Regalado, Carlos	y	y
Rucka, Magdalena	y	y
Ryana, Naomee		
Simmons, Jonathan	y	y
Steward, Sarah		
Thompson, Maddy	n	y
Vann, Peyton	y	y
Williams, Dan	n	y
Zahra, Andi		
<b>Yes</b>	19	35
<b>No</b>	15	0
<b>Abstain</b>	0	0