

# THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS Session XCVII

**General Body Meeting**  
7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Devon Hall 120

### Session XCVII

**Roll Call -**

**Flag Salute**

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Chair's Report-** Welcome back everyone! It is wonderful to see you. Applications are live for Congress. If you haven't seen it on social media, please share it. Apps close on Friday at 5pm. Make sure to notify any friends you think would like Congress! Also, please apply to be HD or AA Chair! Feel free to talk to us if you have questions. They are due on Friday at 5pm and interviews will be Sunday. If you have questions, please ask us or the committee chairs. I sent you all an e-mail, but just to remind you all, President Boren is having an award given to him this Thursday at 3:30 at the Health Sciences Center. There is a bus leaving from the East Side of the Union at 2:30. We would love to see you there! I will be going and George is also going. You can also drive yourself. Orientation is coming up! Austin will be talking about it. Make sure you're coming up with projects so you can hit the ground running in your committees. Work starts now! We have a bunch of guests here tonight, so please be conscious of that. Also, welcome to our guests!

**Vice Chair's Report-** Liaisons are starting back up! If you have a group that you would like to be a liaison for, please come talk to me! I have a few you can join if you don't know what group you want to join. Don't forget that your committee meetings start this week, so please talk to your committee chair. Be sure to let them know what times you're available. Be sure to apply for the open committee chairships by Friday! Orientation will be on February 4<sup>th</sup> and will start at 4pm. This is a fundatory event!

**Secretary's Report-** Constituent Service and Office Hours can be completed just once between January and February, so please be sure to get those in! Feel free to stop by my office if you have any questions!

### **Committee Reports-**

- **Communications-** Hope your semester is going well! For those of you who expressed interest in being a member of the Communications committee, I will let you know in the next few days. That will be seen in two weeks when the new members are confirmed. We will have another round of t-shirts and an SGA-wide pull-over which will be done in tandem with the Exec Branch. Please be sure to PR Congress apps and tell your friends to apply! Also, I do want to note that, as members of Congress, it is part of your responsibility to engage people with Congress. Make sure to follow our social media accounts and retweet and repost our social media posts. Cupcakes and Congress tentative dates will be: 2/17, 3/4, 4/14, 11-2 and they will be in the Union.

- **Congressional Administration-** Good evening! I'm sorry I'm not with you all tonight but welcome back! As of noon today 27 people have applied for Congress. The applications are due by 5pm this Friday. Invitations to interview on Sunday will be issued Friday evening. It benefits our university to have a full and robust Student Body of Representatives and Associates so please encourage your friends/ peers to apply!
- **External Affairs-** Representative Nigh has made excellent facial hair decisions. Higher Ed day will be on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to go to the Capitol and talk to legislators on behalf of OU. Applications will be coming out in a couple of days and apply! If you're in Congress, you'll certainly be able to go. We want as big of a presence as possible. My committee, look for some assignments related to that tonight.
- **Problems and Projects-** Turn Up for Transit was handed over to us by JD Baker, so my committee will be working with that, along with George and transportation. Regarding veteran parking, it has been solved! We now have four spots at the veteran center. My committee, please meet after the meeting.
- **Sustainability-** We will be carrying over some old ideas from last semester, especially regarding water usage and sprinklers on campus.
- **Ways and Means-** For those of you waiting on auxiliary, we are hoping to see it next week, but we may wait a week. Union Catering is on a rolling basis for the semester, and primary opens at the end of next week, which is the main source of RSO funding. Be sure to tell your constituents about that!

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Special Orders**

SFC Co-Chairs

Rodolf: We went to the SGA Presidential Debate, then had a meeting with Chair Taylor and Brad Burnett give a presentation on personal finance. Then we had a meeting with Dr. Butterfield, and he talked about Society of Fellows and Constitutional Studies. Then we had our holiday party. When we got back, we had representatives from the Gender + Equality Center come and talk about their programs and a speaker from Camp Crimson. We also have a meeting next week with Dean Grillot to talk about study abroad.

Representative Williams

Williams: OSU's SGA lost a Senator this last weekend. Many of you may not know him, but many members of OIL did. I would like to have us all sign a card, which will be paired with a letter, that I will be delivering during a memorial service this weekend. Please consider signing to give some comfort to the family and show OSU SGA that we are there for them.

### **Student Concerns**

#### **Old Business**

## **Items to Be Considered**

### **970701- SGA Cabinet Directors Appointment Act of 2017 (Baker/Rubio) (Exec- Rec of Do Pass)**

#### **Representative Owings sec Representative Kovach**

Baker: There is the Department of Interior, Exterior, Inclusivity, Academic Affairs, and Communications. Erik is a Junior and is a very high achieving student. Austin Coffey is a sophomore and has some experience in SFC and Cabinet, so he brings a lot of motivation and experience. Annie Coffey is a sophomore and is very bright in Communications. She was on Cabinet last year. Ryleigh Navert is a sophomore and was on Cabinet last year. She's already been working on HigherEd Day. Vanessa is a former Cabinet member and the current President of HASA. These are all great people and they certainly have the leadership experience to hold these positions.

Kelling: Could each of you tell us why you think you should be the Director of the department you've been nominated for?

Navert: I have a lot of experience in the Exterior, and this is something I'm passionate about.

Meraz: I think that I am qualified because I'm very passionate about the inclusivity of campus. Although I don't have experience specifically on this department, I was in Cabinet last year and I do everything in my power to pursue what I'm passionate about.

Coffey: I really enjoyed working on Communications last year and I got involved because none of my friends knew what SGA was, and I'm really hoping to change that. I feel qualified, especially with my experience.

Coffey: I enjoyed working in the Interior last year, and there were a lot of opportunities to create change. There are some really cool people in my Cabinet, and we have some great direction from above.

Nickels: I have a lot of experience in CAC leading teams, and I want to make the academic process both fair and inclusive.

Owings: What is one small idea and one large idea you have?

Meraz: Some of our longer projects are on JD's platform. We want to implement gender neutral bathrooms in academic buildings across campus. We also want to do something to bring a lot of different people together like a "dinner table at OU".

Navert: One of our biggest projects will be Higher Ed day, which is on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Chase and I have a great relationship already. One smaller project is establishing community service in Norman that all members of SGA can participate in, especially to foster SGA bonding.

Coffey: Communication will focus on intensive branding to get the SGA name out there. We want a much greater social media presence. We will also do some posters across campus, modeled after the consent posters. We are hoping to work much closer with RSO's, and are hoping to get our members to 80% of RSO meetings.

Coffey: We are wanting to improve mental health and mental illness counseling on campus. We are hoping to get a list of referrals for counselors in Norman. One of the other programs is modeled after a program at another University which involves collecting items left in places in campus housing, selling them to students, then donating that money.

Nickels: Establishing the Regents advisory board will be the main, long-term project. A shorter term project will be increasing awareness for Project Threshold so people know what it is.

Williams: What will your budget look like for the next year?

Baker: There hasn't been time to set up the budget, and they don't really know the balance. For right now, there isn't really a say. One thing that is important to me is being conservative with how we spend our money, especially concerning budget cuts.

Cordova: What kind of term is each Director looking at?

#### **Motion to Extend Time by Five Minutes Representative Reid sec Representative Ryana**

Baker: Their term lasts as long as the current Executive Branch administration does, so until next November.

Williams: There is a current race in Ward 1 and Ward 7 in the Norman City Council, which is where a lot of students live. Will you work with the Norman City Council?

Navert: We can't advocate for a certain candidate as SGA, but we can encourage people to vote.

Unfortunatly we are focused on HigherEd right now, but we can definitely work on it.

Rains: How do you all plan to work with other branches?

Navert: We've been working a lot with Chase already, and I look forward to working with him and his committee.

Meraz: I actually wanted to do that today, so when you do get a chair, I certainly want to communicate with them to make sure that we support whomever the HD Chair is.

Coffey: I am certainly interested in working with you all, especially because we are all one SGA. I will certainly be working with the Communications Chair of Congress.

Coffey: We should certainly avoid duplicating efforts, and I think that would work well on a project-by-project basis, whether Congress wants to work with Exec or vice-versa.

Nickels: Once there is an AA Chair, I look forward to working with them.

Reid: Annie Coffey, the Exec and Legislative are two Branches as it was stated earlier. How do you intend to work effectively to promote things from other Branches without making statements for those branches?

Coffey: Primarily from re-posting and working with the Chair.

### **Motion to Extend Questions to the End of the List Representative Quick sec Representative Kovach**

Reid: Erik Nickels, can you explain the plans for the board of regents advisory board?

Nickels: We are looking to work with Chris Purcell, the VP of Government Affairs. We are looking to give students a voice in the Regents meetings.

### **Consent**

### 970901- Act Establishing the Academic Affairs Department (Baker/Rubio) (Exec- Rec of No Rec)

#### **Representative Kelling sec Representative Quick**

Baker: This is an Act establishing the Academic Affairs department. Cameron, Dylan, and I discussed that we wanted our administration to be focused on Academic efforts. A lot of those issues used to be handled under the Department of the Interior, but because there are so many things that Interior oversees, we wanted to create a department that would allow students to work specifically on Academic Affairs.

Reid: What kind of projects would you see Academic Affairs working on?

Baker: There has been discussion about setting up an advisory board for the Board of Regents, involving working on that with the VP of Governance and how they will be selected. We would also be looking at the grade appeals process, especially concerning how lengthy it is. It would be focused on academic issues to help students.

Kelling: How will this Department differ from Congress' committee?

Baker: Congress and Exec are two different branches, so they will work on their own projects. They certainly have the freedom to work with each other, but it is up to the leaders of the branches.

Bishop: What else would the Department of the Interior do?

Baker: Environmental sustainability, campus safety especially for students that are living on campus, researching other issues that can be addressed.

Owings: Is there any procedure within the department that allows them to propose ideas to the committees?

Baker: There is no formality, but that is more of an issue for those leaders. I know that I personally encourage the Directors to work with Congress and I myself along with Kaylee and other SGA leaders do meet regularly, so if something comes up we can connect people that need to work together.

Nigh: Does this include a need to recruit new people for the department?

Baker: Yes

### **Motion to Extend Questions to the End of the List Representative Klima sec Representative Lalani**

Reid: You discussed a couple of the projects that you were thinking about them pursuing. In Congress, we have difficulty at times finding extensive projects for our Academic Affairs committee to go after, especially because a lot of the projects are very big tasks to tackle. What longevity do you see in this committee and how do you see them chasing down issues?

Baker: The advisory board is a little more immediate, but with most academic affairs issues, its more about putting these issues on the radars of university leaders. It isn't always about proposing or making change, but more about Deans and department chairs know about the concerns that students have. I talked to Dr.

Gaddie, and he agreed that some of these problems take times. Many of these leaders have served for decades, so that is one thing that is consistent, which is why communication is important.

Echols: What was your rationale behind creating a whole separate Department rather than creating an office under the Interior?

Baker: It would allow a certain degree of separation and would allow us to allocate more resources and time into Academic Affairs, especially considering how many issues the Interior takes on. I want to balance time for how we balance projects.

Williams: What do you think the overall budget of the new Department will be?

Baker: Probably nothing, besides the human capital and effort.

Reid: How will creating a new Department make SGA's efforts for Academic Affairs be more effective than what they already are?

Baker: I'm not fully aware of all the efforts that SGA has been doing, but I believe that the way that we are setting out to create a new department and empower new leaders, we are more focused on bringing out issues and putting them on the radar then necessarily creating concrete change.

Echols: Can you give us the number of individuals that will be on each Department and how they intend to divide their labor? Specifically Academic Affairs and the Interior.

Nickles: We have five people, and we've only had one meeting, so I can't give you a detailed list, but there is a long and detailed list of projects. I'm happy to keep you up to date.

Coffey: There were three big initiatives that the Interior took on: SLS, Bike Share Program, and Dead Week Reform. It is likely that all of these would have occurred faster if we had far more people working on them. I can keep you updated on individual division of labor as time goes on.

**Motion to Move to a Roll Call Vote Representative Nigh sec Representative Bishop**

**This bill passes by a roll call vote of 25-1-0**

## **New Business**

### **Follow-Up Reports**

### **Items for Future Agenda**

### **Announcements and Comments**

Bishop: The first meeting of OIL is this week. The meeting time is now on Thursdays at 5 so we can get dinner after. It is a really cool way to expand your leadership past campus. Once a semester, we go to the Capitol, we go through ParliPro and see bills that could be passed on the floor. Come check it out! We'd love to have you.

Baker: Thank you and you all are always welcome! Please introduce yourself if I don't know you. I would also love to see you all on Thursday if you're able to go! He's been our President for 23 years and he deserves every bit of recognition.

Kelling: SVA meetings are every second Wednesday at 5:30 in the Veterans Lounge. Meetings and the space are open to all.

Ryana: Student Healthcare Outreach is meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. For those of you that don't now, we fundraise for free clinics to make healthcare more accessible.

Elliott: Please recycle your agendas! Also, shoutout to those of you who followed our social media.

Echols: February 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> will be OU Drama's production of Love's Labors Lost with your VC and WAM Chair.

Kovach: On the 14<sup>th</sup>, you can vote in your local election for your Ward representative. If you're doing HigherEd day, please be sure to vote early.

Reid: Opening this weekend is the Young Choreographer's Showcase and is choreographed by the students here for the students here. Check it out, and it's a wonderful show! Thursday-Sunday in the Brackett Theater. Tickets are buy one, get one free.

## **Final Roll Call**

**Motion to Skip Final Roll Call and Adjourn Secretary Mazeitis sec Representative Quick**

Chair: Kaylee Rains

Vice-Chair: Austin Reid

Secretary: Jake Mazeitis

<b>Session 97</b>	<b>970701</b>	<b>970901</b>
Alrawi, Salam		
Baker, Colin		y
Bergman, Victoria		y
Bishop, Kimberley		y
Buckley, Anna-Gray		y
Buxton, Jillian		y
Carson, Haley		
Chism, Hennessey		
Cordova, Mackenzie		y
Cox, Reece		y
Curley, Nicholas		n
D'Silva, Jordan		
Davis, Syleste		y
Do, Khanh		y
Erwin, Hunter		
Grunewald, John		y
Hedgorth, Joseph		y
Hoefke, Madeleine		y
James, Madison		y
Kelling, Taylor		y
Klima, Alexandra		y
Kovach, Chase		y
Kuketz, Timothy		
Lalani, Sanah		y
Lewis, Danielle		
Mazeitis, Jake		y
McClintick, Alexander		y
Nigh, Ryan		y
Owings, Brian		y
Pham, Daniel		
Quick, Sam		y
Regalado Rubio, Carlos		
Reid, Austin		y
Ryana, Naomee		y
Simmons, Jonathan		
Thompson, Maddy		
Williams, Dan		y
Yawn, Jon		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>

<b>No</b>	0	1
<b>Abstain</b>	0	0