

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
Session XCVII

General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 28th, 2017
Devon Hall 120

Session XCVII

Roll Call -

Flag Salute

Representative Maddy Thompson

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the Minutes Representative Klima sec Representative Bishop

Chair's Report- Hi everyone! A couple of quick things: as you know, we have the \$1,000 for the congressional initiatives fund. If you have ideas that you want us to consider, please let us know! We want to make sure that we use those funds before the end of the year. Also, Shelby put the link for pullovers in the GroupMe, so go buy them if you want them! Also, today is the last day to register for Big Event with SGA, so do it now. Also, sign up for Soonerton with us. Also, tonight we're seeing a couple pieces of legislation. We want to wait for the Election reform bill because we're waiting on an author to show up.

Vice Chair's Report- Just a reminder that today is OU Giving Day, which is a chance for anyone to give back to OU for scholarships and things like that. Go to thousandsstrong.ou.edu and there are a lot of links to donate to your college. For your liaisons, let the organization know, have them approve it, and then make sure that you tell me.

Secretary's Report- Please be sure to complete your Constituent Service and Office Hour requirements by tonight!

Committee Reports-

- **Academic Affairs-** Hi everyone! I'm the Vice-Chair, but our Chair wasn't there for the meeting so I'll give the report. We didn't see any legislation, but we started two new projects. We are looking into why certain classes don't have waitlists, why booking classrooms for studying is difficult, and also looking into bookstore and Bursar billing.
- **Communications-** as you guys know, the link for pullovers is now available so don't forget to order one! The link will close at 11:59 on Friday, March 9th - the Friday before spring break. I've contacted people from the other branches of SGA so they can order as well. The next cupcakes and congress will be Friday, march 24th, 11-2 and you'll get more information on that as it gets closer. In the mean time, keep sharing and following our social media!

- **Congressional Administration-** We saw three pieces of legislation this weekend. We tabled the “call a house a house” bill and then we saw 970105 which regards the student parking appeals board and gave it a rec of do pass. We also saw 970802 which we gave a rec of do pass.
- **External Affairs-** We didn’t see any legislation but we all have some projects we’re working on. You all will have some opportunities to engage as well! You can maybe do some tutoring with elementary school kids, so be sure to look out for that email. We will also be co-programming with GSS on a project for Norman teachers outreach. It was just pitched to me from their EA Chair. You also might help with that! Don’t know exactly what it’ll look like, but I’d love to see you help out if interested.
- **Human Diversity-** We didn’t meet this Sunday, but the GroupMe is always lit. The first issue we’re working on concerns hate speech. The other project that we’re working on is a resolution regarding the transgender community. If you’re interested in getting involved in that, let me know!
- **Problems and Projects-** Our Chair isn’t here, so I’m the Vice-Chair. We saw the resolution thanking 970202. We gave it a rec of do pass. WE are working on lighted crosswalks, campus printing, parking signage, the OU Innovate app, public safety, meal exchanges at the Union, and water fountains. If you all have any questions or concerns., please contact our committee so that we can work on solutions to those problems.
- **Sustainability-** We didn’t see any legislation, but we have a few fun projects coming up. We’re looking into doing recycling education, make our recycling bins stand out from the trash cans, some educational talks and movies, and maybe a competition between the dorms to see who can do the most water conservation. We will also be writing a proposal to the Parking Department to be able to donate food to the new pantry in order to reduce money from your parking ticket. It’d be modeled after another university.
- **Ways and Means-** I've come down with a bad case of the flu. We'll be seeing Aux 10 tonight and we'll need a friendly amendment to strike Green Week. They were funded already on Aux 9 and somehow made it over to Aux 10 as well. This is the first time we're going through primary with the new OrgSync process so I apologize for the growing pains. If anyone has any questions about what the process actually looks like on my end in a day to day sense please feel free to get in touch and I would be happy to show you exactly how everything gets sorted. We still have a very large sum left in the Auxiliary Fund for the semester so please encourage your organizations to apply and apply more than once. Also, there are still some Union Catering funds left so encourage your organizations to apply for that as well.

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

Student Concerns

Cordova: I was wondering about the incident that happened on the South Oval today. How was it addressed? I was wondering if OU was going to push anything regarding the debate. It took 25 minutes for the man holding the sign to be removed from the South Oval.

James: Maybe we can publicize that you should call? If you ever see anything with regard to that, please be sure to report it.

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

970105- An Act Clarifying the Student Parking Appeals Court Self-Governance (Mazeitis) (ConAd-Rec of Do Pass)

Representative Mazeitis sec Representative Lewis

Mazeitis: The Parking Appeals Court would like to be able to expel members based on attendance, and considering that they already have the power to set their by-laws, I recommend that we explicitly give them this power.

Consent

970202- A Resolution Thanking Molly Shi Boren (Slane/Rubio) (PnP- Rec of Do Pass)

Representative Owings sec Representative Nigh

Slane: This resolution will give due credit to Molly Shi for her outstanding service to the University. A previous resolution regarded her contribution to campus beautification, but that was struck. Molly Boren is a strong independent woman who does not need no man's resolution to substantiate her achievements.

Swearingin: *Would you be opposed to a friendly amendment to Section 3 adding the Honors College?*

Rubio: *Yes*

Consent

970505- Auxiliary Allocation Act #10 (Echols et alia) (WAM- Rec of Do Pass)

Representative Chism sec Representative Nigh

Swearingin: Let's talk numbers! With Ways and Means, I do need a friendly amendment striking Green Week because it was appropriated in Auxiliary 9. Russian Club requested \$1,0200 and we awarded them \$620 for a concert, picnic, and food festival. The United World requested \$2,700 and we awarded them \$1,800 for rentals. Gold Club requested \$800 and we awarded them \$800 for travel expenses.

Slane: *Would you accept a friendly amendment to strike Green Week?*

Swearingin: *Yes*

Cordova: Can you explain what The United World is?

Williams: It is a group of international students here at OU.

Rains: Can you talk about the funding and what people requested it for and why you decided to allocated half of what Russian Club and The United World asked for?

Swearingin: Russian Club requested money for a concert and a food festival, The United World requested money for rentals. It would have to do with fiscal history.

Rains: Do you have the final number for how much we have remaining in the Auxiliary fund?

Swearingin: We have \$100,220.06 remaining.

Motion to Move to A Roll Call Vote Representative Owings sec Representative Reid

This bill passed by a roll call vote of 33-0-0

970802- OU SGA Elections Rules Update Act of '17 (Mazeitis/Bourland/Taylor) (ConAd- Rec of Do Pass)

Representative Mazeitis sec Representative Lalani

Taylor: We are changing a lot about elections! There is a lot to be done. We are passing around a very helpful document. We changed a lot of things that have been overlooked. We moved the election a week earlier in the fall and the spring to give more time for appeals. We can't do anything during dead week, which is an explanation of why we did that. We gave GSS and ConAd the power to extend deadlines in the Title. All of these are reactions to things that have been happening. I've been doing this for three years, and I like these changes. We are giving Superior Court more specific guidelines. We eliminated Poll Operator Training Sessions because that hadn't been done in years. We averaged my salary, we increased pay for the Board by \$10, we increased the Poll Operator pay to reflect a change in hours. We specified that filing happens online. I don't take pictures of you all anymore. The biggest changes relate to grievances. I had about 50 last semester, which is not OK. So, we made a lot of good changes to deal with that. We also opened up an unofficial notification process that enables any student to fill the Election Board in without filing a grievance. It also changes the process to eliminate frivolous grievances.

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Extend Author's Explanation by a Minute Representative Reid sec Representative Ryana

Bourland: First and foremost, this clarifies the fact that the Election Board doesn't get to review its own decisions. We fixed that with this opinion. I want to talk to you specifically about good faith. This is not a ban on bad faith, it is a requirement for good faith. This follows the federal code. The definition can be found in the bill. If a reasonable people read the rules, you should have some idea whether or not the conduct you are saying violated a rule violated the rule. If there is a genuine question, that was filed in good faith. The Chair has the power to determine whether something is good faith or bad faith. We put bad faith in to explain what the opposite is.

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Extend Author's Explanation by a Minute Representative Klima sec Representative Owings

Bourland: You must file in good faith, if you don't file in good faith, you are filing in bad faith. The Chair has the power to make that decision. The good news is that, if the Chair says that its bad faith, you can appeal to Superior Court in order to make the appeal. That is how this whole role should work. We have a preliminary decision, secondary decision, then back to the Election Board. We've written two opinions in the last year because people have filed an absurd number of grievances. If you really think it's a violation, file one. If you have more questions, maybe consider it a bit more.

Motion to Extend Questioning by 5 Minutes Representative Hedgorth sec Representative Nigh

Israel: On the Section regarding the Fall General Election, the PAN president has been struck. How will they be elected?

Taylor: They run their own elections.

Williams: *Currently, the filing period is around four days. Would you be open to a friendly amendment extending it to five days?*

Taylor: *No, because we don't have time to send this back to GSS. Write it later, maybe?*

Owings: Do we have enough money budgeted currently to fund the salary increases?

Taylor: Yes

Lalani: I wanted some clarification on poll operators running for office. Can people run the poll and still be campaigning?

Taylor: They are not allowed to campaign anywhere near that poll, but they can run it.

Ryana: Can you explain more about the bad faith and why you think that it is essential to add?

Taylor: We've had issues in the past with people getting nasty and trying to file grievances solely because that's how they want to win. People have been attacking other candidates. If it is a legitimate concern, it'll be in good faith. However, if you are targeting people and not doing it in good faith, then that's in bad faith. If you have information, you can submit it unofficially.

Bourland: This is a requirement for good faith, not a ban on bad faith. We shouldn't need to say don't file in bad faith. We are saying that you must have a good faith believe that what you're alleging is a violation of a rule. We want to try to find a way to make sure we are filing something that matters. As we wrote in our opinion, we were just trying to get someone over three. That's not why we're here.

Mazeitis: This also saves time both for the Election Board and the candidates.

Swearingin: I'm concerned on the difference between good faith and bad faith. I understand that it is an objective standard, but I'm concerned that the difference is subjective.

Bourland: The protocol is in there. If the Election Chair believes that there is a filing with a reasonable belief that a rule was violated, it is good faith. If the Chair believes that there isn't a basis in law or in the code, then a reasonable person would know that, and a reasonable person wouldn't have followed. The Chair gets to determine whether someone has actually looked at the code and determined whether or not this is a violation of the rule.

Swearingin: So that would be a no to my request for including more stringent protocols?

Bourland: No, because it is inherent in the Code. If you want a further definition of bad faith, you can write another bill clarifying that.

Swearingin: Regarding bad faith, do you believe that, due to the risk of penalty, that bad faith punishments could discourage good faith filings?

Bourland: That's kind of the point. We want people to strongly consider the filings they're making. If you have read the rules and have a clear violation, you should have no worries about filing. No one needs to deal with grievances filed in bad faith because it a waste of everyone's time.

Owings: In Section 30, the “Unofficial Notification Process”, couldn’t a person submit baseless accusations with no actual proof, and no one investigates whether or not it happens?

Taylor: They can submit as many as they want. If we think that there is an egregious rule violation, we will be investigating.

Chism: Looking at the responsibilities of the Election Chair, we struck the responsibilities of the Chair and moved it to the Board. Why?

Taylor: It is more of the Board’s power than mine.

Bourland: Because the Board is voting on grievances, we moved it there.

Lalani: I was wanting clarification on the section with regard to name publishing. Where is that being published?

Taylor: Before, grievances were being kept secret, and then they were filed in the election report. Now, when people ask to see the grievances, they will see who files against them.

Bourland: This is something that we talked about in the meeting, and a lot of people were worried about putting their name on it. However, with candidates responding to grievances, candidates can’t do that adequately without knowing their accuser. If you’re going to file something, mean it.

Motion to Extend Questions by 5 Minutes Representative Nigh sec Representative Brown

Williams: Why are we eliminating poll operator training sessions?

Taylor: Now, we do it at the polls when we set up the polls. We teach them when its happening. Sometimes, it can be 10 people working the poll. It eliminates a lot of unneeded work.

Mazeitis: It is a very simple process.

Owings: Could the good faith/bad faith increase the role of the Election Chair at the expense of the Board?

Bourland: We talked about that, but we thought that the intent was to be an initial look at the grievance. If the grievance is filed in good faith, it’ll be seen by the Election Board. This doesn’t take that power away from them, but it is appealable and the Superior Court can see it if the campaign disagrees with the Chair’s decision. That is easier than making 5 people vote on it.

Owings: Why are the reports under Section 30 being made public in the election report despite a lack of potential investigation?

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Extend Questions by 5 Minutes Representative Chism sec Representative Ryana

Taylor: I am required to include it all in the report, as I must include all pertinent information.

Bourland: Part of her duties are to make sure that nothing sketchy is happening during the election. We are the Court talked about the alt-right posters and we were wondering whether it might give rise to something so absurd that it would invalidate the election. This allows for a formalized way of notifying Superior Court that there is something so extreme so as to amount to a miscarriage of the election process, the Chair will investigate them and we will take that into consideration when we look into validating the election.

Reid: Can you explain why there is no definition of campaign members or electronic messaging?

Taylor: Campaign members are already defined in the code and electronic messaging is open to interpretation. Unsolicited electronic messaging is given to the Chair to present their definition at the candidates meeting so that the Chair can update as electronic messaging updates. That is already in the Code.

Bourland: Those definitions and her rulings are all appealable to the Superior Court.

Owings: Would removing the anonymous nature of the unofficial notification process make the grievance system more open?

Taylor: We did this because we want to protect anonymity. I’ve had some people come and tell me that they need some degree of anonymity due to a relationship to the candidate or something similar. I like it being anonymous because it gives people a voice when they need to. They can put their name on it if they want to.

Williams: You all seem ready to pass this for the Spring Election. Why is that?

Taylor: This is really helpful and we need it.

Bourland: I agree. The reality is that 50 grievances are too many. We only upheld 7 or 8. We also find it important to make sure that people put their names on their grievances. We also wanted to specify the nature of the relationship between the board and the Court. We wanted to implement this together. If we can get this process in now, we know this will work. We did most of this last semester, and it wasn’t in the Code. So, we need it to be clear for those who come after us.

Motion to Extend Questions to the End of the List Representative James sec Representative Thompson (Maddy)

Chism: I am a little concerned that candidates being allowed to run polls without another party being there can lead to low-key campaigning. Have you all talked about this?

Taylor: They are required to have more than one person at the poll, and if anyone sees it and reports it, that is a clear violation.

Reid: So you will be accepting no friendly amendments?

Bourland and Taylor: Yes

Bourland: Anything that is concerning could go in another one. If you want to specify what bad faith and good faith are, I promise that, from a legal standpoint, this is enough. It requires that there is a basis in law and fact. This is going to be a mirror of federal procedure.

Owings: You said earlier that the Court needs to be review the election in order to validate. So, why do you have claims that aren't verified?

Bourland: The Election Chair and the Board investigate, and in the election report, include their investigation and their findings. That is what we have discussed in inherent in the duties of those positions. The standard to invalidate an election is astronomically high. If the Court needed more information, we could ask for it.

That is a fluid process, and if we need more information, we can do this. We have asked for it in the past.

Taylor: This stems from last semester, when people were filing grievances and saying that they knew that it wasn't a grievance but they wanted it to be known. That's when they can use the unofficial notification process.

Chism: If someone submits an anonymous report and you decide that that is an issue, would that be filed as a grievance?

Taylor: I would tell them to file it as a grievance. If you really mean it, file a grievance.

Owings: In Section 21g, it states that no candidate shall make 3 rule violation complaints in bad faith. What occurs after those 3 bad faith filings?

Taylor: It is every 3 that they receive an infraction.

Williams: Does anywhere in this bill specify the Board as a lower court?

Bourland: No, but you would have to do that in Title 4. My recommendation to you all would be to remove the Election Board from the Executive Branch and move them to a subsidiary court of the Election Board. That would be my recommendation.

Motion to Move to a Roll Call Vote Representative James sec Representative Kalvacherla

This bill passed by a roll call vote of 32-1-0

New Business

Follow-Up Reports

Items for Future Agenda

Announcements and Comments

Reid: Just to remind everyone, Contemporary Dance Oklahoma is closing this upcoming weekend. I believe that its \$10 for a student ticket. It's an amazing show. Also, we have to register for College Bowl by the 10th, because of the amount of interest, I'm going to say that you have to bring me the \$5 in order to register. It is the 26th-31st of March.

James: Please be sure to recycle these papers.

Warner: Wednesday March 8th, Kappa Kappa Psi is hosting a Chicken Strip benefit dinner. Come get some Canes and Chick-Fil-A and support an organization that provides music lessons to students in the city. It is at Catlett at 8:30 on the 8th. We just had a concert tonight and I can't wait to watch it.

Bishop: OIL is meeting on Thursdays from 5-6 in Gould 155. The Lt. Gov of our state-wide organization is coming to talk about the organization and give us a sneak peek at what he's been up to. The Men's Lacrosse team is 6-0 and they have their biggest rivalry game this weekend and they're playing SMU. At 3, there will be a Chikaskia Stick ball exhibition game, so the Chickasaw Nation will bring out a team and have an exhibition match.

Chism: Kappa is having Kappa cupcakes from 5-9 on Thursday,. It is \$5 and it goes to their philanthropy.

Reid: Whatever your opinions on the man, I want to remind you all that the president is giving a speech to a Joint meeting of Congress tonight.

McClintick: A former OK governor is coming to campus and will be in Dale 218 and if you want to meet him, Econ Club and PolySci Club will have a meet and greet from 3-4 in Wagner Hall. The event is March 2nd at 1:30.

Mazeitis:

Pae: Next Tuesday, March 7th is the Open House for TOG. Kaylee, Kim, and I have all been in it. It is a great opportunity for professional development. Second, if you're interested in teaching at local high schools in terms of government, please talk to me, Jake, or Jillian about Generation Citizen. You get to teach kids how to engage with the civic process.

Rains: Happy Mardi Gras! We are going to LnL after this.

Final Roll Call

Motion to Adjourn Representative Mazeitis sec Representative Warner

Chair: Kaylee Rains

Vice-Chair: Austin Reid

Secretary: Jake Mazeitis

Session 97	General 2-28
Baker, Colin	x
Bergman, Victoria	ex
Bishop, Kimberley	x
Bormann, Andrew	x
Brown, Kandro	x
Buckley, Anna-Gray	x
Buxton, Jillian	ex
Carpenter, Daniel	x
Carson, Haley	ex
Chism, Hennessey	x
Cordova, Mackenzie	x
Cox, Reece	x
Curley, Nicholas	x
D'Silva, Jordan	x
Davis, Syleste	ex
Do, Khanh	x
Grunewald, John	ex
Guidot, Ashley	x
Hedgorth, Joseph	x
Hoefke, Madeleine	ex
James, Madison	x
Kalvacherla, Vinay	x
Kelling, Taylor	ex
Klima, Alexandra	x
Kovach, Chase	x
Kuketz, Timothy	x
Lalani, Sanah	x
Layne, Alexander	x
Lewis, Danielle	x
Mazeitis, Jake	x
McClintic, Alexander	x
Nigh, Ryan	x
Owings, Brian	x
Pham, Daniel	x
Quick, Sam	ex
Regalado Rubio, Carlos	x
Reid, Austin	x
Ryana, Naomee	x

Simmons, Jonathan	x
Thompson, Gabi	x
Thompson, Maddy	x
Warner, Mason	x
Williams, Dan	x
Yawn, Jon	ex
Present	
	35
Absent	
	0
Excused	
	9

Session 97	970105	970202	970505	970802
Baker, Colin			y	y
Bergman, Victoria				
Bishop, Kimberley			y	y
Bormann, Andrew			y	y
Brown, Kandro			y	y
Buckley, Anna-Gray			y	y
Buxton, Jillian				
Carpenter, Daniel			y	y
Carson, Haley				
Chism, Hennessey			y	y
Cordova, Mackenzie			y	y
Cox, Reece			y	y
Curley, Nicholas			y	y
D'Silva, Jordan			y	y
Davis, Syleste				
Do, Khanh				
Grunewald, John				
Guidot, Ashley			y	y
Hedgcorth, Joseph			y	y
Hoefke, Madeleine				
James, Madison			y	y
Kalvacherla, Vinay			y	y
Kelling, Taylor				
Klima, Alexandra			y	y
Kovach, Chase			y	y
Kuketz, Timothy			y	y
Lalani, Sanah			y	y
Layne, Alexander			y	y
Lewis, Danielle			y	y
Mazeitis, Jake			y	y
McClintick, Alexander			y	y
Nigh, Ryan			y	y
Owings, Brian			y	n
Pham, Daniel			y	y
Quick, Sam				
Regalado Rubio, Carlos			y	y
Reid, Austin			y	y
Ryana, Naomee			y	y
Simmons, Jonathan			y	y
Thompson, Gabi			y	y

Thompson, Maddy			y	y
Warner, Mason			y	y
Williams, Dan			y	y
Yawn, Jon				
Yes	0	0	33	32
No	0	0	0	1
Abstain	0	0	0	0