

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
Session XCVII**

**General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 6th, 2017
Devon Hall 120**

Session XCVII

Roll Call – 7:01

Flag Salute- Representative Davis

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the Minutes Representative Bishop sec Representative Lalani

Chair's Report- Hi everyone! Happy midterms. Hope you are all thriving. Stop by SGA if you need candy, talks, and laughs. If you see people on Soonerthon, make sure to give them a huge shoutout for raising over \$800,000 FTK. SGA Superior Court apps are out till Friday, so direct all friends to OrgSync. No meeting next week, and your committee times might change, so be sure to talk with your chairs. I hope you all have a relaxing week! Be safe.

Vice Chair's Report- Hi everyone! Please keep liaisons in mind. Be sure to go to meetings, tell us about what's going on, and if you're still wanting to be one, let me know. If you don't have one in mind, I can assign you to one. Make sure that you remember to come by and talk to one of three of us if you're wanting to run for one of our positions in about a month and a half.

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

Committee Reports-

- **Academic Affairs-** We had a super productive meeting on Sunday. We stayed for the whole hour. We are looking into the waitlist thing and we talked to someone in the registrar's office and discovered that it is up to the professor to some degree and up to the room allocation... so we can't really help with that. We can just let students know to e-mail their professors. We are looking into things about textbook affordability, specifically whether all students can use their Bursar account to pay for textbooks, which helps in terms of payment. We are also hoping to encourage the usage of OpenStax, which is a free textbook service online. We'll be talking to some departments to try to get them to use OpenStax. Beyond that, we are looking at publicizing free resources the library has so that students don't have to pay for things the university has already paid for. We also saw the resolution about the state's financial crisis, which we gave a rec of do pass.

- **Communications-** Hey everyone, next Cupcakes and Congress will be the Friday after Spring break from 11-2 in the Union. Go order a pullover! We are at 19, so we need 5 of you all to do it by Thursday. They're great and I really really want one.
- **Congressional Administration-** We didn't have any legislation to see, and because of midterms, we cancelled the meeting. I will be meeting with Kaylee and my committee to work on redistricting when we get back.
- **External Affairs-** We have started some legislation, so look forward to that soon. We are continuing on with projects.
- **Human Diversity-** We are continuing to work on the hate speech legislation and we didn't put it in this meeting because there aren't a lot of people here.
- **Problems and Projects-** I wasn't able to be at the meeting, but it was great. We saw 970301 and we gave it a rec of do pass.
- **Sustainability-** Kaylee took the canned food drive proposal to her Big Exec meeting, so I'm going to get with her and talk about that. We are looking into some cool stuff about shredding for students either in the Union or maybe somewhere in the Conoco. We heard back about some of the cool green stuff that OU has been doing, and this person talked about the pledge that Boren signed in 2007 to try to be carbon neutral. We are working towards LEED certifying the new buildings, and they are also working on putting in LED's lights. We are hoping to do a competition about sustainability in the dorms, so we are going to put that on the forefront of their minds.
- **Ways and Means-** Make sure to tell people to apply for Auxiliary. Last week, there was a question about the Russian Club. We gave them a substantial increase from last year because they had excellent financial history.

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

Student Legal Services Presentation- Tracey Langford and George Ahmadi

Student Concerns

Chism: AA, I had a student ask if we could get 24/7 hours in the library during midterm week. Is that something that has been looked at?

Bishop: I'm not sure if its been looked at before, but the problem that I see is that there isn't a "midterm week." We will look into it, however.

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

970203- A Concurrent Resolution Condemning Further Cuts in State Support to Higher Education (Kierig) (AA- Rec of Do Pass)

Representative Bishop sec Representative Lewis

Kierig: This is just a resolution expressing our concern about the state budget crisis. What inspired me to write this was that, on the 21st of Feb, the state declared a revenue failure, wherein the tax collections are below the expected budget. Last year, OU lost 15% of its state funding, meaning that we are down to 9% of our total budget coming from the state. Last year, the State Regents were cut by \$150 million, and this year, we are in line to be cut severely again. In 2001, the OU appropriation from the state was 166.8 million, last year, we got 132.4 million for a cumulative change of about 20%. Per full-time student, in 01 we got \$10,000, in 2016, we got \$6,467, exacerbated by our increase in enrollment. In spite of these cuts, we have become a

research one university, which places us in the highest levels of universities, and in the top 50 of several other rankings. We are just expressing our concern, how it affects universities, and how it affects us.

Kelling: *Would you consider a friendly amendment to change the abbreviations to its full word?*

Kierig: *Yes*

Owings: Seeing as we've considered and passed a recent resolution regarding this before, why did we write a new one?

Kierig: Last February, we passed a resolution expressing our support for State Question 779, which was going to raise the sales tax by a penny in order to provide teachers with a \$5,000 pay raise, and about 30% of the money raised there would have come to higher education, which would have restored these cuts. I wrote this primarily because I was angry that we are doing this again, and we've done it every year for the past 9 years. We haven't had new state funding or funds for construction, renovation, etc. I was angry, and I wanted to do something about it.

Kelling: *Would you accept a friendly amendment on, instead of sending it to the leadership of the House and Senate, sending it to everyone in the House or Senate?*

Kierig: *No, I don't accept that amendment. In my committee, we believed that a targeted approach would be better, especially after our conversation with Emily Virgin.*

Kelling: *Would you accept a friendly amendment to add local television stations to the list?*

Kierig: *No*

Echols: Would you say that Section 2 truly could accomplish anything based on how vague it is?

Kierig: It was intentionally vague because all of the possible solutions to this fiscal crisis are a matter of contention. The governor has proposed expanding the sales tax to include things that you don't normally pay. Something we talked about on Sunday was the fact that our gross production tax, which is what oil companies pay on oil production, is the lowest in the nation. That means that a resource that our state is very reliant aren't taxed very highly.

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

Kierig: There are a lot of potential solutions.

Bormann: In the 5th Whereas clause, you say thanks to the support of private donors and friends. Who are the friends?

Kierig: I use friends to refer to people like Wick Carey, who donated because he was friends with President Boren, which funds a number of chairships in Classics and IAS.

Kovach: *Would you be open to a friendly amendment adding an 8th Whereas clause reuttering the \$4.72 return on investment that \$1 in spending on higher ed has?*

Kierig: *Yes*

Chism: I'm looking at Section 2, regarding revenue to prevent ever-deeper cuts. Is that a scrivener's error?

Kierig: The point was to emphasize the fact that we've been doing this for 15 or 20 years.

Kelling: Who is William Savage?

Kierig: A local journalist who is the son of a former OU professor. He runs a not-very-widely read but widely read in policy circles called NonDoc.com, which apparently is read by a number of state legislatures and officials.

Echols: *Based on your answer to my last question, would you accept a friendly amendment adding "sources of revenue as they see best fit"?*

Motion to Extend Questions to the End of the List Representative Quick sec Representative Reid

Kierig: *Yes*

Reid: *Would you accept a friendly amendment changing Section 3 of the bill to a Whereas clause seeing as how it is a statement of what we already believe and not a statement of new intent?*

Kierig: That clause was introduced by a member of my committee who wanted to put it there because he wanted to emphasize that he was reaffirming our beliefs. *No.*

Williams: Are you aware that we passed a bill similar to this at the top of February?

Kierig: I wasn't aware, because it didn't come to GSS.

Motion to Move to a Roll Call Vote Representative Mazeitis sec Representative Quick
This bill passed by a vote of 30-1-0

970301- A Resolution Thanking Matt Marks (Williams/Finley) (PnP- Rec of Do Pass)

Representative Owings sec Representative Lalani

Williams: I wrote this resolution to thank Matthew Marks for his effort to fight hunger on this campus. He was President Pae's Executive Assistant, and took it on himself to start a food pantry. People don't like talking about being food insecure, and Matt Marks helped address it even though he lost his presidential race. I met with President Baker yesterday, and he had some stuff that he wanted to add.

Owings: *Would you accept a friendly amendment clarifying the language of the 3 Whereas clause and adding a 4th Whereas clause, clarifying the language in Section 1, etc?*

Williams: *Yes*

James: I don't disagree that what he did was awesome, but why did we choose to single him out, especially when we usually just write a card?

Williams: I feel like these people all have offices, and they all have offices to serve the students. He didn't have a tenure past his commitment, and I think that it shows his character that he continued to contribute.

Reid: *Would you accept a friendly amendment changing the word "huge" to "dire"?*

Williams: *Yes*

Chism: Seeing as the 5 or 6 other students that are working on the Food Pantry Exec Staff, wouldn't it be more appropriate to thank all of those individuals instead of the one person?

Williams: I wasn't aware they had many other staff, but given that it was Matt Marks project, I will continue with this.

James: Just to get more specific, why a resolution instead of a thank you card?

Williams: I feel like this resolution is a good measure, rather than a thank you card, but I like people to know who did this. Who knows what he's going to do with this.

Mazeitis: Doesn't this create a dangerous standard wherein we are obligated to thank everyone for everything?

Williams: You can write them if you want.

James: Did you write this alone?

Williams: I worked with Rep Finley and President Baker.

Move to Table Indefinitely Representative Reid sec Representative Chism
Objection- Representative Owings
Motion carries via a hand vote

New Business

Follow-Up Reports

Items for Future Agenda

970113- A Act For the Continuity of Representation (ConAd)

970506- Aux 11 (WAM)

970709- The Liaison Updating Act (ConAd)

970710- The Appointed Membership Act (ConAd)

970711- An Act Amending Title IV (ConAd)

Announcements and Comments

Warner; Tomorrow night at 7:30 in Catlett is a chicken strip benefit night. Support these amazing kid musicians, get some chicken strips, and eat some cheesecake brownie bars. Cards are accepted.

Quick: On March 23rd, JD Vance is coming to campus. It is a President's Associates Dinner, and if you haven't read the book, you should.

Bishop: Right after this, the TOG Open House is happening in Wagner Hall 135. For those of you who don't know, TOG is a student-run non-profit consulting organization on campus. It is a great way to work with the

OKC Metro community and hone in on professional development skills. It is non-committal, come and go, etc. Feel free to walk with me.

Final Roll Call

Motion to Skip Final Roll Call and Adjourn Representative Reid sec Representative Quick

Chair: Kaylee Rains

Vice-Chair: Austin Reid

Secretary: Jake Mazeitis

Session 97	General 3-7
Baker, Colin	ex
Bergman, Victoria	x
Bishop, Kimberley	x
Bormann, Andrew	x
Brown, Kandro	x
Buckley, Anna-Gray	x
Buxton, Jillian	x
Carpenter, Daniel	x
Carson, Haley	ex
Chism, Hennessey	x
Cordova, Mackenzie	x
Cox, Reece	x
Curley, Nicholas	abs
D'Silva, Jordan	ex
Davis, Syleste	x
Do, Khanh	ex
Grunewald, John	x
Guidot, Ashley	x
Hedgorth, Joseph	x
Hoefke, Madeleine	x
James, Madison	x
Kalvacherla, Vinay	abs
Kelling, Taylor	x
Klima, Alexandra	ex
Kovach, Chase	x
Kuketz, Timothy	x
Lalani, Sanah	x
Layne, Alexander	abs
Lewis, Danielle	x
Mazeitis, Jake	x
McClintic, Alexander	x
Nigh, Ryan	x
Owings, Brian	x
Pham, Daniel	ex
Quick, Sam	x
Regalado Rubio, Carlos	abs
Reid, Austin	x
Ryana, Naomee	ex

Simmons, Jonathan	ex
Thompson, Gabi	x
Thompson, Maddy	x
Warner, Mason	x
Williams, Dan	x
Yawn, Jon	x
Present	32
Absent	4
Excused	8

Session 97	970203	970301
Baker, Colin		
Bergman, Victoria	y	
Bishop, Kimberley	y	
Bormann, Andrew	y	
Brown, Kandro	y	
Buckley, Anna-Gray	y	
Buxton, Jillian	y	
Carpenter, Daniel	y	
Carson, Haley		
Chism, Hennessey	y	
Cordova, Mackenzie	y	
Cox, Reece	y	
Curley, Nicholas		
D'Silva, Jordan		
Davis, Syleste	y	
Do, Khanh		
Grunewald, John	y	
Guidot, Ashley	y	
Hedgcorth, Joseph	y	
Hoefke, Madeleine	y	
James, Madison	y	
Kalvacherla, Vinay		
Kelling, Taylor	y	
Klima, Alexandra		
Kovach, Chase	y	
Kuketz, Timothy	y	
Lalani, Sanah	y	
Layne, Alexander		

Lewis, Danielle	y	
Mazeitis, Jake	y	
McClintick, Alexander	y	
Nigh, Ryan	y	
Owings, Brian	n	
Pham, Daniel		
Quick, Sam	y	
Regalado Rubio, Carlos		
Reid, Austin	y	
Ryana, Naomee		
Simmons, Jonathan		
Thompson, Gabi	y	
Thompson, Maddy	y	
Warner, Mason	y	
Williams, Dan	y	
Yawn, Jon		
Yes	30	0
No	1	0
Abstain	0	0