

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CIX

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 21st, 2023

Dale 103

Call to Order – 7:07pm

Opening Roll Call

Mission Statement: The mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Undergraduate Student Congress is to represent the interests of undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic and individual achievement. The Undergraduate Student Congress is committed to building a strong campus community, promoting civic engagement, and enhancing the quality of the undergraduate experience at the University of Oklahoma.

Moment of Silence: 20 Second Moment of Silence to allow an opportunity for reflection.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes

Representative Mullins seconded by Representative Glasscock

Officer Reports -

- **Chair's Report:** Hi, all! I don't have much for you all. Tonight we have our first workshop night! I am super excited to have 6 fake bills to see tonight as well as 1 real bill. Also, I brought more Drink Safe technology to hand out to you all. Please pick some up and pass them out to other members of the student body.
- **Vice Chair's Report:** Hey everyone! Big news from me this week, we finally have our link for congress merchandise! You have until April 16th to pre-order your merchandise and you definitely should! Let me know if you are confused, the link doesn't work or if you have questions. Next the March CSP needs to be filled out by quite a few members we only have three individuals who have filled out that form, so I will send that link again please fill it out, I do not want you to receive an unexcused absence. Orientation date has been decided as April 16th, this is very late but due to certain circumstances we have to be flexible, so I will email who needs to be there, if you are wondering if you need to be there please let me know! If you have Insta ideas let me know, the DC one-pager will be completed at the end of this week and emailed to you! Thanks all!
- **Secretary's Report:** Hello, the only thing I have to report this week is just a reminder to make sure you are on the Engage Page, in the GroupMe, and are receiving my emails. If not, please let me know! If you are new and were unable to be here at the last meeting, please get comfortable reading the minutes and let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** Hey all! I hope everyone had a fantastic Spring Break. Just so everyone knows, we will be meeting this Sunday at 3:30 in Copeland Hall.

Okay, now for some quick project updates! Ben, expect a text or email from me today with two final versions of the food services poster. If you think they look good, I will send them to Frank and let him have a lookover before we post! I have a meeting scheduled with the General Counsel to go over legislation to provide to Faculty Senate on Friday at 1:30. I will share the location once we have that set, and hopefully the Integrity Council chair will be available to join too! Let me know if you would like to join. I reached out to Director Nguyen asking for a list of ablution areas and asked if they had heard anything from MSA regarding more prayer areas. I also shared Ramadan Transport graphics their way for review. Expect updates soon! We will have a Light Walk this Sunday at 7:45 (sundown)! I will share that sign up link later today over email and in the GroupMe. Audrey is also updating our project sheet, so be on the lookout for that. As always, if anyone has any questions at all please just let me know. Looking forward to seeing everyone again after the break!

- **Congressional Administration:** I don't have too much for my Chair's report. ConAd did not meet this week due to Spring Break, but we will be seeing the GenApp Codification Act tonight, which also happens to be my first bill. Coming soon will be an amendment to make CSPs the official responsibility of the Vice Chair (rather than the Secretary), as well as some election rule changes requested by Commissioner Wright. Carter is also writing a bill to correct the current SGACA definition of "high office", which contradicts the SGA Constitution.
- **External Affairs:** I hope everyone had a great spring break! OU at the capital day is next week on Wednesday. I will have a form to sign up sent out to all of you very soon, hopefully before the end of the meeting. EA will be meeting officially this weekend Sunday at 5:15 in Price 2020.
- **Human Diversity:** HD Did not meet and we will meet on Thursday.
- **Sustainability:** Hi everyone, Susty did not meet over break so I don't have much to report. Our trash walk for the month will be announced soon, so keep a look out in the GroupMe for that.
- **University Policy:** Hey guys! UPOL didn't meet the Friday before Spring Break because I had already left. We are changing our meeting times to Thursday at 5 PM, just because I got a new job and work on Fridays. I haven't gotten confirmation from everyone in UPOL so pending approval on that meeting schedule but for now we will meet this Thursday at 5 PM. Other than that, we will be seeing Michael's bill hopefully soon. Thanks!
- **Ways and Means:** Auxiliary and Primary funding closes March 24th.

Liaison Reports

- **Glasscock:** OU Day is on March 29th, next Wednesday at the Captiol. We want as many people to go as possible. Breakfast and lunch will be provided and we are meeting at 7am and should be back my 3.
- **Kathuria:** The Holi celebration hosted by the India Student Association will be this Sunday at noon on the Soval. Make sure to bring clothes you will be willing to get dirty as we will be throwing colors at each other. I'll send out the RSVP in our GroupMe.
- **Haskins:** Admissions and Recruitment is hiring tour guides and is doing an open house on March 27th.
- **Stickland:** Next weekend the College of Fine Arts will be hosting the Oklahoma Festival of Ballet.
- **Cantrell:** Please come join Alpha Gamma Delta as it celebrates "Cheese and Mac" and the International Day of Giving this Wednesday, March 22nd 5-8pm at the Alpha Gam house. The event is come and go. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door, but if you bring a

canned good (which would go to the OU Food Pantry) you can get a dollar off. That ticket gets you lots of delicious mac and cheese and toppings. All proceeds go to anti-hunger organizations such as Feeding America and Meals on Wheels. To get a ticket in advance, talk to any one of the several Alpha Gams in Congress including myself, Maddy Cantrell, Hope Rhoads, Lauren Sherrer, Flora Solymosi, or Kate Shadman. Thanks!

- **Landry:** Tomorrow is the 6th year anniversary of the OU Food Pantry, and we are inviting you to celebrate with us at our inaugural 5k run on campus this Saturday. The path will be open from 8:30am to 12pm and if you are interested, I will send the sign up in the group chat. The entry fee is \$10, and you can sign up online or in person the day of. It will be on the South Oval.
- **Dunn:** There is an application open for the Society of Fellows. If you are interested in history or law you can get a \$1000 scholarship for it. It's only a once per month commitment and is kind of like a book club.
- **Mullins:** OK Votes is meeting this Wednesday at 6pm in Carnegie room 305 and we will be talking about the board of education primary elections.

Special Orders

- Workshop Night – Fake Bill Presentations

Student Concern Link

Items to Be Considered

- CB-109-12 “SGA General Application Codification Act” (Dunn/Halsey-Kraus)
(ConAd/Rec of Due Pass)

Motion to see CB-109-12

Representative Glasscock seconded by Representative Craig

Author's Explanation (Dunn): Currently Gen App doesn't exist in our governing docs. This gives the President, Congress Chair, ConAd chair, and Chief Justice good control over it, but we are essentially writing what we already do.

2:29 yielded to questions

- **Halsey-Kraus:** Would you mind explaining what the SGA General Application is to the new members in the room?
 - If you aren't running in an election, that is the only other way to become a member of Congress. You all filled it out when you applied for Congress. There are opportunities for other branches like the executive branch, and you would use Gen App for that as well.
- **Kathuria:** I am concerned about section 13 where it states that the chair of ConAd is the primary contact for the SGA Gen App. Don't you think the President, Chief Justice, or election commissioner should also be in that category?
 - **Halsey-Kraus:** I wrote this when I was still ConAd Chair. Saying that the committee chair is the primary contact is just saying they are the point of communication between all of the branches. For the application themselves the officers are the primary contact. The ConAd chair is just helping organize the application.
- **Strickland:** Has GSS already seen this bill or is the February in the title a typo?
 - They did see it, but they would be seeing it again.
- **Strickland:** On February 26th we had. ConAd meeting and during that I had a friendly amendment which was a definition section of terms however that has not been added to this version. What is that about?
 - **Halsey-Kraus:** That is a mistake on my part.

- **Dunn:** The amendment just clarifies that SGA Member means any student at the University of Oklahoma
- **Kathuria:** Can you explain what you mean when it says the chair shall be responsible for distributing applicant information to the corresponding opportunity?
 - Every officer has access to the information in the general application so it's not necessary that the ConAd chair would have to do that, but in the event that, say, Chris didn't want to pull that information into an excel sheet, the ConAd chair would do it.
- **Strickland:** As stated in the Code Annotated, the chair of ConAd is not a high office in SGA. Do you deem it appropriate that an officer that is not of high office should be in charge of the process for all branches?
 - Yes because the Chair of Congress has a role in this process by directing when we have applications and when we don't. It makes sense that we have two members that oversee that aspect. It is the Congressional Administration Committee's job to conduct interviews, so it makes sense that we are involved in the application process.
- **Rhoads:** Do you believe this harms separation of powers?
 - We had this same discussion with President Firch and with President Lissau, which is why we are seeing this bill again since he had some issues with it. The reason section 13 exists is because it effectively deals with the separation of powers. The president, Chair of Congress, Chief Justice, or any ranking official can open the application up to two times per semester. For instance, I've been directed to open it for March 27th, so it will be open next week. That demonstrates right there the separation of powers.

Debate on CB-109-12:

Motion to recess for 5 minutes

Representative Kathuria seconded by Representative Craig

- **Mullins (pro):** I am pro this bill because it has gone through a lot of consideration and opinions. It's been molded to fit everyone's opinion. This is not saying the ConAd chair has sole power, and it is not stopping any other officer from opening it. ConAd deals with interviews, and we are one of the main branches in SGA that sees applications.
- **Kathuria (opp.):** I was really wanting to vote yes on this bill however there were a couple turn offs for me. In section 13, I don't think it should be the ConAd Chair distributing information to the SGA President or Chief Justice. My constituents told me they are concerned about when they are interviewing there could be a potential conflict of interest. It seems like a power grab. I don't think this is the way to handle the GenApp because it should be the individual groups making decisions. I would make the primary contact the President and Chief Justice.
- **Griffin (pro):** I have been here for a while and there has been a lot of confusion around Gen App in the past simply because every group wants it opened at a different time and there haven't been any set rules. All branches have access to this information and in fact it was consented upon by all branches. They were in all of these conversations surrounding the writing of this bill. President Firch specifically said yesterday that he was okay with this bill. It is just making sure that if these branches are not on top of their stuff, the ConAd chair is responsible. It allows flexibility while making sure the application is clear and timely.

- **Strickland (opp.):** I approve of a majority of this legislation however it does concern me that a head of a committee of a branch is in charge of bringing in new people instead of someone like the election commissioner. On top of that I worry that the ConAd chair is not a high office and is put in charge of these important procedures. Those are my trepidations, but I do support the bias trainings and the content of the application.
- **Dunn (pro.):** To clarify, if for some reason the ConAd chair was to be stubborn and not willing to listen to the President in an attempt to open the Gen App, it isn't just me who has access to opening and closing it. They can change the dates its open manually. This bill sets rules for how that's done. Even if I flat out refused, it's still on a practical level within the other branches ability to continue forward.
- **Kathuria (opp.):** It is concerning when there are other members behind in the application process cycle. However, saying that the ConAd Chair can deliver all of that... Hypothetically, if I was the ConAd chair, I could have no bias training. If I was looking at those applications and saw that one of my best friends was on there, I would be by bragging about how this person should be selected. That is morally wrong, but by having section 13 what you are asking for is that conflict of interest. You could put yourself in a situation where the most qualified applicants aren't selected.
- **Landry (pro):** This bill has had iterations of it for at least a year now. It's passed through three compositions of the Congressional Administration Committee and it's been modified a lot. As mentioned earlier, it's not as if the parties listed haven't been in on these conversations. It is putting into words what is already happening, so I think we are, for lack of better terms, wasting time by delaying its passage.
- **Kathuria (opp.):** Whatever branches work on the bill, it doesn't mean that it's good enough to pass. I am genuinely concerned about conflicts of interest. With the last iteration of the bill, I talked to President Lissau and realized I had made a mistake by supporting it. It was wrong by me because the ConAd chair is not a high ranking official. They don't have office hours. Maybe it should be, especially if they are going to deal with such important information.
- **Cantrell (pro):** I am in support of this bill because like Secretary Landry said, it is just putting into the governing docs what is already occurring from what I have understood living with her and listening to her describe the process as a ConAd member from the fall and this spring. What is the point in not passing it if it is already happening in practice?
- **Rhoads (opp.):** I am not completely sure how I am voting but I have apprehensions in general. It makes me nervous that the ConAd head of committee is the main contact because I think it should be the election commissioner. For example if we are doing associateships and the ConAd chair had a friend who wanted to join, there could be more bias to open the application than if it was the election commissioner. That's not me accusing the ConAd chair of anything – I respect that they are doing their best job. But it puts a lot of power in the hands of someone who is not an elected official.
- **Dunn (pro):** Addressing the past few comments, there have been concerns about the ConAd chair being potentially biased. The actual procedure we use when interviewing to select and associate or representative overrides most bias we could have because each member of ConAd, up to five, is present and rates each answer from interviewees numerically. Those answers are ranked and only the top section

are considered for positions. If someone came in who was unqualified and the ConAd chair voted completely in favor of that person, it would be difficult for someone to install them because of the other voters.

- **Trautman (opp.):** I wouldn't say I am completely opposed however it is important to mention to the new members that this bill has gone back and forth a few times. In some cases that could be seen as a positive thing but also it could be a potential negative. It is not something that has been seen by all cabinets as something that should be passed. Some changes have been made since it was first vetoed but we could maybe take a step back and look at how we address some of these changes instead of this large bill.
- **Mullins (pro):** When it comes to conflict of interest and bias, that can occur in any position, no matter if you are ConAd Chair, President, or Election Commissioner. It can happen at any time – you can do trainings and still have bias. If the President has friend they would theoretically be able to open the application too, so I think that argument can apply to anything. In the past we've seen with Emeritus ConAd Chair Abby Halsey-Kraus that the committee has done a great job with making sure that people are getting into this body fairly. The exec team did a thorough job when picking the new ConAd chair and we should trust them. If something were to happen where the ConAd Chair has bias that would be dealt with by exec.
- **Kathuria (opp.):** Chair Dunn is a hell of a ConAd Chair and a wonderful guy. I am confident that if the body chose to vote yes, he would avoid conflicts of interest. I am not concerned, however, with what happens today, but with what happens tomorrow. We could be setting a potentially dangerous precedent for a long period of time. College SGA has a representation of not getting stuff done and being popularity based, and that should change.

Motion to previous question debate

Representative Dunn seconded by Representative Schonfield

Objection by Representative Kathuria

Debate (on exiting debate):

- **Craig (pro):** I think at this point if we keep going back and forth it's pointless. People are already pretty set in their opinions.
- **Kathuria (opp.):** I don't think it's healthy for this body to leave debate. I am concerned about the structure of this bill and we have to continue getting viewpoints of the opposition. We would be giving our constituents a major disservice if we ended debate. I don't care how long we stay here, those hours would be worth it if we are serving our constituents.
- **Glasscock (pro):** It's 9 o'clock and we've been here for two hours. Let's say this does pass, there is still a chance that it doesn't go through GSS or that it gets vetoed by the President. We should get out of here.

Motion to previous question debate on debate

Representative Ketaneh seconded by Representative Mullins

20-0-0 pass

Motion to previous question debate

Representative Ketaneh seconded by Representative Schonfield

20-0-0

Author's Summation (Dunn): That was something. We saw a lot of good debate. While the other side has great points about separation of powers, section 13 does not make the ConAd Chair any more powerful than it has previously been. All they are entrusted to do is

communicate with branch heads. It's not required, and the heads of branches can still open and close gen app as they wish. In fact if there is a disagreement, the branch head takes priority.

1:56 yielded to the void

12-8-0 pass

Follow-Up Reports

Items for Future Agenda

- **Kathuria:** I am about to write a piece of legislation to congratulate Tao Robertson, and OU Women's basketball star, for breaking the record in all time 3 pointers made. We need to recognize our female athletes for their accomplishments.

Announcements and Comments

- **Cantrell:** Just another reminder about Cheese and Mac tomorrow!
- **Glasscock:** OU day is on March 29th. Please come, so we can have more people than OSU.
- **Fisher:** OU Women's Gymnastics recently won the Big 12 Championship and that is something to recognize.
- **Kathuria:** There is a possibility of Trump getting indicted and I just want to remind you to please be safe. Those who are protesting have every right too but if they are committing acts of violence, it should be addressed.

Final Roll Call

Motion to adjourn

Representative Reese seconded by Representative Mullins

Adjourn - 9:14 pm

Chair: Abby Halsey-Kraus

Vice-Chair: Bailey Trautman

Secretary: Amelia Landry

		21-Mar-23		Date of Session:	21-Mar-23			
		Initial	Final	Last Name:	First Name:	CR-109-12	PQ on debate about debate	PQ on debate
Barnett	ex	ex	Barnett	Ryan				
Brown	x	x	Brown	Khiala	y	y		y
Cantrell	x	x	Cantrell	Madeline	y	y		y
Chiariello	a	a	Chiariello	Clayton				
Coxson	x	x	Coxson	Ashlyn	y	y		y
Craig	x	x	Craig	Carter	n	y		y
Daly	ex	ex	Daly	Isabel				
Duncan	x	ex	Duncan	Elizabeth				
Dunn	x	x	Dunn	Tucker	y	y		y
Fisher	a	x	Fisher	Mecca	n	y		y
Ferguson	x	x	Ferguson	Daniel	n	y		y
Ghazal	ex	ex	Ghazal	Razann				
Glasscock	x	x	Glasscock	Caden	n	y		y
Hyslop	x	x	Hyslop	Anna	y	y		y
Islas	x	x	Islas	Lizabeth	y	y		y
Kathuria	x	x	Kathuria	Shrey	n	y		y
Ketaneh	x	x	Ketaneh	Yara	y	y		y
Koenig	ex	ex	Koenig	Ezra				
McCoy	x	x	McCoy	Lane	n	y		y
Mullins	x	x	Mullins	Annie	y	y		y
Nguyen	ex	ex	Nguyen	Nhi				
Papahronis	x	x	Papahronis	Demetri	y	y		y
Reese	x	x	Reese	Nathaniel	y	y		y
Reynolds	ex	ex	Reynolds	Michael				
Rhoads	x	x	Rhoads	Hope	y	y		y
Robinson	a	a	Robinson	Caleb				
Rops	x	a	Rops	Molly				
Schonfield	x	x	Schonfield	Jacob	y	y		y
Strickland	x	x	Strickland	Carter	n	y		y
York	x	x	York	Isabel	n	y		y
PRESENT	21	20			Yes	12	20	20
ABSENT	3	3			No	8	0	0
EXCUSED	6	7			Abstain	0	0	0

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CIX
March 21st, 2023

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS23
February 23rd, 2023

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-109-12
SENATE BILL GSXX-XX/GFXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Act of Legislation codifying the use of the SGA General Application, providing for short title, and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

- Section 1: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “SGA General Application Codification Act of 2023.”
- Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to codify the SGA General Application as the primary application for leadership opportunities within the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the Student Government Association.
- Section 3: Definitions:
- a. SGA Member: In accordance with the SGA Constitution Article 2, Section 1, “every regularly enrolled student at the University of Oklahoma, Norman campus, shall be a member of the SGA.”
 - b. SGA Officers: The members of whichever governing (Executive, Legislative, or Judicial) branch who are involved in conducting the appointment processes.
- Section 4: The SGA General Application shall offer opportunities for all regularly enrolled students, including undergraduate students, graduate students, and law students, on the OU Norman campus to apply for.
- Section 5: The SGA General Application shall provide an application for the governing branches of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association. One (1) individual supplemental page for each application shall be offered.
- Section 6: Ranking officers of each application opportunity shall be responsible for creating an appropriate number of both essay questions and other form-type questions for SGA Members to answer in their application.

- Section 7: The SGA General Application shall accept applications through an Engage profile shared by the three (3) governing branches of SGA.
- Section 8: Applications for appointed positions using the SGA General Application shall open before the beginning of the academic term and close after the start of classes. The SGA General Application can also be opened on an as-need-basis. The application shall be open for no less than 12 days.
- Section 9: All SGA Members applying for leadership opportunities shall provide the following information on the application:
- a. Personal information: Biographical information deemed necessary by the SGA office responsible for overseeing the SGA General Application (ex. Name, preferred name, email, etc.)
 - b. Academic information: Major(s) and class standing
 - c. Consent for an academic standing check.
- The previous information shall not be used in the application review process unless a position requires a specific class standing and/or major.
- Section 10: All SGA Members applying for leadership opportunities shall answer the following question on the application:
- a. “What does it mean to you to be a part of the Student Government Association?”
- Section 11: Following the closing of the SGA General Application, ranking officers of each application opportunity are responsible for hosting their own interviews for applicants. During interviews, SGA Officers are not obligated to repeat questions from the SGA General Application.
- Section 12: All SGA Officers involved in the appointment process are highly encouraged to complete selection bias training prior to the application and interview process. Selection bias training promotes awareness of a person’s unconscious beliefs or stereotypes in their everyday decisions and thoughts. By completing a selection bias training SGA Officers ensure a fair and equitable application process for all SGA Members applying.
- Section 13: SGA Members may only be considered for the position(s) they apply for. If an SGA Officer feels an applicant would be better suited or qualified for another position within the same branch, the SGA Officer can contact the applicant for consent to change the application.
- Section 14: The SGA General Application shall be managed and organized by the Chair of the Congressional Administration Committee. The Chair of the Congressional Administration Committee (“the Chair”) shall be responsible for working and guiding SGA Officers through the application cycle, and for updating, opening, and closing the General Application as the ranking officer of each branch of SGA directs. When any disagreement over content, opening, or closing of the application occurs, the preference of the SGA President, The Chair of The Undergraduate Student Congress,

or the Chief Justice of the Superior Court shall take priority over the preference of the Chair of the Congressional Administration Committee. After the closing of the SGA General Application, the Chair shall be responsible for distributing applicant information to the corresponding opportunities. Throughout the application cycle, the Chair shall be the primary contact for the SGA General Application.

Section 15: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Chair Dunn, Congressional Administration Committee
Chair Abby Halsey-Kraus, Undergraduate Student Congress

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Glasscock seconded by Representative Craig

Action taken by Congress: 12-8-0 pass

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date:_____

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date:_____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date:_____