

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXI

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Dale 103

Call to Order

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 | January 23, 2024

On a motion to approve the minutes Ellis seconded by Reynolds

Officer Reports -

- **Chair's Report:** We have no confidence votes tonight. We vote on the Big 3 to reinforce that these are the people we want leading the body. For each position we will have ten minutes of questions, after that we enter executive session where only members of the body or student affairs staff can be here. There will be ten minutes of debate, but it does not have to be debate. We will exit the executive session then we will vote if the person retains that position. Depending on how that vote goes depends on how tonight's meeting will go. If the person gets voted to not retain that position, nominations open immediately.
- **Vice Chair's Report:** The nametags are updated. The new member orientation will be on Sunday February 11th in the Scholars room on the union's third floor. It will be from 11-3. Check-in starts at 10:45. If you do not need to attend orientation, your committee will meet at 2:30, so please be there at that time. If you would like a makeup headshot, I will be taking those after orientation from 3-4. I sent a sign-up email for the Big Event and the Food Pantry volunteering. The Big Event will be from 10-2 on April 6th and the Food Pantry will be 2-4pm on April 19th. Check your email for the links to sign up. Both are constituent service points. Thursday we will do a Black History Month post. If you have any input email me.
- **Secretary's Report:** I have sent emails to the committee secretaries, so please be sure to check that.

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** We met this weekend. It was a quick meeting. They had Halal stickers on the glass in Dunham, and they are gone now so we discussed that. There is a light walk this month and the tentative day is February 11th. We also will be

tabling with Goddard regarding sexual health. We also will be reaching out to Goddard about a concern regarding masks. We also will be doing a registration drive in the Spring.

- **Congressional Administration:** We did not meet this week. We only have GenApp interviews this weekend. If you applied for a Representative seat, you will be getting an email about interviewing. There will be a panel interview. We are all subject to bias training. Next week we will have an appointment bill.
- **External Affairs:** EA met officially this weekend and we went over some projects and prepared for Higher Education Day. To those RSVPed for Higher Education Day we will be having an informational presentation by Holly Hunt at our next EA meeting this Sunday, so if you RSVPed but are not in EA, please feel free to come to our meeting on the 4th! If you haven't yet RSVPed for Higher Education and you would like to participate, the signup form closes at the end of tonight.
- **Human Diversity:** We met this weekend. We are working on projects. We want to get a speaker for Black History month, information on the ADRC, and get a drive planned.
- **Sustainability:** We met this weekend. Our trash walk will be on the 18th, around 1pm, and we will meet in the Conoco. We have a meeting about getting reusable food containers in the dining hall.
- **University Policy:** Hey, all! UPOL met officially this weekend. I will spare you all the details because we pretty much just went through an extensive list of potential projects for the spring semester - just know there is a lot to take care of this semester. For the new members, you are not so free from this list because you will hear a lot of these project plans during orientation. I also met with the Chair of the Department of Native American Studies, and we will be working on a proposal for the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to, at the very least, list NAS 1013 as an optional course on your degree check sheet in an attempt to bolster enrollment in a course that would provide a lot of necessary knowledge that many do not come into the university with.
- **Ways and Means:** WAM will be meeting tomorrow. Aux closes this Friday February 2nd. Primary dates will be announced this weekend. We will be looking at 71 funding requests tomorrow.

Liaison Reports

- OU College Dems is having their first meeting tomorrow in Adams Hall room 3103. There will be activities and planning for the semester.

Special Orders

- Regular Votes of No-Confidence
 - Chair

10:00 minutes for questions

- Kathuria: What is the plan you are coming up with for protecting essential student services such as the ADRC, the TRIO Center, and the Campus Climate Response Team regarding the attacks on DEI?
 - We are having conversations with university officials. We want to comply as much as we can with the executive order. We must comply. RSO's are not subject to all those requirements. For example, our Human Diversity Committee will be maintained. We are working to pass legislation, as well as Big Exec is in conversations with how we want to proceed and how we want to represent campus as best as we can.
- Coats: Could you explain your role?
 - I lead the General Body and Exec. I have a managerial position, so I manage conflicts and problems. If your committee chair doesn't have the answer, I will help.

I am the voice in Congress on certain matters. I go to Big Exec which is myself, the Chair of the Graduate Student Senate, the Student Government Association President and Vice-President, and the Campus Activities Council Chair. We sit down with Student affairs every Monday and discuss what is going on on campus and how students are impacted.

- Strickland: This is your 12th month being Chairwoman, if you maintain your position, that will put you to a 15-month term, does this make you flutter with excitement or shudder with fear?
 - Both. I can't say I am always 100% confident 24/7. If you had told me when I was 18 that I would have a 15-month chair term, I would've laughed at you. I did not expect this. Thanks for being ok with me doing this.
- Robinson: Since everything has its downsides, what is your least favorite or exciting part of your position?
 - Least exciting are office hours. Please come visit me. A downside is the decisions I have to make. A lot of the time I am making decisions on behalf of people that I personally wouldn't have to as a normal student. I have trouble asking for help sometimes.
- Keupen: What factors do you use when making a big decision?
 - I try to listen to the voices around me. I never have just my opinion influencing the decisions. I like to hear from others because I want to make sure I'm making the right judgement call. I never make a decision instantaneously. I can make simple decisions, but when there are situations that could impact students, I always wait at least 24 hours.
- Kathuria: Regarding the Congress agendas not being sent out on time, how will you ensure they are sent out in a timely manner?
 - I can't speak to committee agendas. Regarding the General Body agenda, I always send it out 24 hours in advance. The deadline for bills is due to the condensed timeline in between Exec and General Body. I wish I could have published the agenda earlier, but it is not always possible.
- Rhoads: How do you intend on improving Congress this semester?
 - I have been working on retaining and recruiting. I want to focus on getting people to apply through filing and GenApp. Congress has had a membership problem, so I want to work on that.

On a motion to enter executive session Gilson-Bond seconded by Duncan

On a motion to exit executive session Rhoads seconded by Reynolds

21-0-0 Seat Retained

- Vice Chair
- Coats: What is your role?
 - I step in when the chair is gone. When she is authoring the bill and has questions, I step in. I manage the social media. I plan the new member orientation. I am the ex officio member of all committees, so I try to go to one every week. I also work on boosting morale.
- Robinson: How would you rate the job you have done thus far as vice-chair?

- 6-7 because there is always room for improvement. During the end of last semester, I got overwhelmed with schoolwork and there were some things I did not do, but I met all the requirements. I feel I did not go above, and beyond which is how I normally want to approach things.
- Kathuria: What issue are you excited to work on?
 - My main goal is to amplify the voices of our clubs and RSO's, and work with them more. My job is very internally focused, but I want it to highlight other organizations as well. Also working with the DEI points. We need to make sure we are representative of everyone.
- Aslam: Do you prefer your current role as vice chair over your previous role as secretary?
 - I would prefer this role because I get to focus more on issues I care about. The tasks of Secretary are important, but they do not advance my personal goals. I love the communication I have now.
- Gilson-Bond: How many committee meetings do you go to a week?
 - I usually go to one, or more than one if they are back-to-back. I usually try to go to meetings that are impactful. Last Sunday I went to EA because it was Marilou's first meeting. I try to go if I know there is an important bill. It depends.
- Keupen: You play a vital role for outreach as the person who controls the Instagram account, do you have any plans for what you want to do for outreach in regard to the Instagram?
 - I want to post for Black History Month and do a spotlight. I also want to post congress member of the month. Also posting any events that have happened. My main goal is to show how much fun we have and that members feel seen and shouted out. I want to increase retention through people seeing that we are a social organization.

On a motion to enter executive session Kathuria seconded by Reynolds

On a motion to exit executive session Kathuria seconded by Reynolds

- Secretary
- Kathuria: How has your experience as Secretary prepared you to take on the task of medical school once you graduate?
 - This job comes with a lot of organizational and time management skills. That is a key factor in medical school when you are faced with deadlines and a heavy course load. I also gained communications skills by meeting new people, and you must be able to do that as a physician.
- Robinson: Do you know your words per minute?
 - Before I became secretary 60 or 65. I haven't taken a new test but as you see me in session I am typing like crazy. It is probably 70 words by now.
- Coats: What is your responsibility outside taking minutes during meetings?
 - I take note of the attendance, who is in the body (the representative and associates), communicate with secretaries of different committees, and make sure our Engage page is up to date.
- Aslam: I have heard different variations of your last name; can you clarify the pronunciation?
 - It is pronounced Berg-Wren
- Strickland: What do you like about being secretary?

- I enjoy it. A lot of people view the minutes as a terrible thing, but I enjoy typing away and then getting to revisit the areas I missed. I also am organized so I enjoy the aspect of sorting documents.
- Gibson-Bond: In the case that you were not voted in, who would you endorse instead?
 - You are putting me on the spot, but I know 2 people, Chloe Harris and Jacob Schonfield.
- Coats: In your tenure, what is the most notable things you noted down
 - This is probably not what you were asking but when I first became secretary, we had the longest recorded minutes at 56 pages. So that was a big moment for me.
- Robinson: What areas of your position do you feel have not met your expectations in? And how would you improve that?
 - It is hard keeping track of the committee documents, the little details between the documents and Engage. Before I used to do them separately but now I do it together, so it is easier to keep track. It's the little things that slip my mind, but I have gotten better.
- Kathuria: As a pre-health, how do you think your position has helped motivate other pre-health students to be part of Congress?
 - I talk to my friends and encourage them. Most of the time I just let them know what resources are available to them. They usually do not know what Congress is, and so I explain it to them and give them knowledge they would not have had.

On a motion to enter executive session Harris seconded by Ogle

On a motion to exit executive session Kathuria seconded by Reynolds

20-0-0 Seat retained

Student Concern Link

Items to Be Considered

Follow-Up Reports

Announcements and Comments

- Coats: The Financial Student Association is having a meeting at 6pm February 8th. This is a general event for anyone interested. I am slightly concerned for the Financial Student Association. They are the second largest financial organization on campus. They elected a freshman to be their President and he is my brother. It is open to anyone who wants to learn more about professionalism. He would appreciate anyone who would go.
- Gilson-Bond: There is an Environmental Science Student Association meeting at Carson Energy Center room 117 at 6pm on the 7th of February. There will be food.
- Strickland: President Glasscock, Vice-President Mortazavi, former President Firsch and former Vice-President Shultz are in DC this week with other big 12 SGA delegations advocating for higher education as well as the needs and want of college students. They have also been publicizing on the official universities page. Give them a thanks or a “what did you do?”
- Ahmadi: Student affairs unveiled the Presidents Cup. This was a resurrection of the President's Trophy. We are focusing on GPA and service for Greek life and other housing groups. The President also wanted to reach out to our Registered Student Organization community. They are doing a program award and are giving this away to five groups who will each get \$1000. This is based on personal development, well-being, and community

impact. It is a simple application on Engage. Applications are due Thursday. The event must have taken place on January 31, 2024, or before. This is our first year unveiling this. We want to reach out to a lot of groups.

- Kathuria: I will be working with Chair Robinson and Chair Halsey-Kraus on The DEI matters bill. Please DM me on anything if you want to be a co-sponsor.
- Coats: I have seen politics here on campus for both left and right groups. I made an organization on GroupMe for those who don't fit in to that mold. I made a group for anarchists and libertarians. It is for people to have a safe space.
- Halsey-Kraus: Higher Ed Day is February 8th. It closes tonight. Please go. It is a great opportunity.
- Berggren: If you are looking for a new furry friend Norman Animal Welfare is full of animals, and they have a deadline plea for one dog.

Final Roll Call

Adjourn

On a motion to adjourn Schonfield seconded by Duncan

Chair: Abby Halsey-Kraus

Vice-Chair: Amelia Landry

Secretary: Carolyn Berggren

Last	30-Jan		Last	Chair	VC	Secretary
	I	F				
Anand	x	x	Anand	y	y	y
Armour	x	x	Armour	y	y	y
Aslam	x	x	Aslam	y	y	y
Awoyemi	ex	x	Awoyemi	y	y	y
Baggett	x	x	Baggett	y	y	y
Bell	a	a	Bell			
Bento	x	x	Bento	y	y	y
Brown	ex	ex	Brown			
Cantrell	ex	ex	Cantrell			
Coats	x	x	Coats	y	y	y
Crispino	x	a	Crispino	Y	y	y
de Mahy	ex	ex	de Mahy			
Duncan	x	x	Duncan	y	y	y
Dunn	x	ex	Dunn			
Ellis	x	x	Ellis	y	y	y
Fisher	ex	x	Fisher	y	y	y
Gilson Bond	x	x	Gilson Bond	y	y	y
Gulam	x	x	Harris, Chloe	y	y	y
Harris, Chloe	x	x	Harris, Hudson	y	y	
Harris, Hudson	x	ex	Islas			
Islas	a	a	Islas			
Ogle	x	x	Ogle	y	y	y
Kathuria	x	x	Kathuria	y	y	y
Keupen	x	x	Keupen	y	y	y
Reynolds	x	x	Reynolds	y	y	y
Rhoads	x	x	Rhoads	y	y	y
Robinson	x	x	Robinson	Y	y	y
Schonfield	x	x	Schonfield	y	y	y
Strahan	ex	ex	Strahan			
Tolbert	a	a	Tolbert			
Wilson	ex	ex	Wilson			
Zainuddin	ex	ex	Zainuddin			
PRESENT	21	20	YES	21	21	20
ABSENT	3	4	NO	0	0	0
EXCUSED	8	8	ABSTAIN	0	0	0
1 Absence						
2 Absences						
3 Absences						
4 or More Abs						