

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CX

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 6th, 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 30, 2024

On a motion to approve the minutes Aslam seconded by Coats

Officer Reports -

- **Chair's Report:** Please join the GroupMe. We have had a lot of legislation written by members of the body. I would prefer that all legislation is viewed by myself and the committee chairs. Let's keep everyone in the loop.
- **Vice Chair's Report:** Everyone should have a nametag and we have snacks up here. If there is any spelling or anything incorrect on the nametag, please let me know. New members should have received an email about new member orientation, Sunday 11-3. It is in the Scholar's room of the Union. The dress code is business casual. I will be taking your headshot. If you are an older member and would like a headshot, please stop by the Conoco around three. If you have a dietary restriction, please let me know as soon as possible. This is for anyone who will be appointed tonight or anyone who has not attended an orientation. February constituent service points will be happening this month. I will send out an email tomorrow with the link to the form and the spreadsheet to see if you have been marked off. To the new members, follow our Instagram @oucongress. I will take photos tonight. If you do not want to be posted, please tell me. For old members, please sign up for our Big Event April 6th 10-2. The link is in an email I sent out along with the link to sign up for the Food Pantry volunteering which is April 19th 2-4pm at the OU Food Pantry. We have our November member of the month: Kendall Cousins!
- **Secretary's Report:** I am so happy to see everyone today! Since we have some new people here, I will explain the attendance rules again. Representatives must be at all General Body Meetings unless they email me, and Associates must be at the first meeting

of the month unless they email me. Both Representatives and Associates must be at all your specific committee meetings unless you tell your committee secretary. Everyone gets four unexcused absences. Based on my records, we have quite a few associates who are gaining unexcused absences quickly due to not going to committee meetings. It is so important that you participate in Congress no matter your position. Here is the link for the associate attendance.

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** Hi, my name is Hudson Haskins, he/him, I'm the local funny guy. Sorry, that was funnier in my head. What else do I need to say? I've got two out of the four. Oh, my committee, right. I'm representing Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns, or COSCO. We deal with campus outreach, safety, and concerns. For outreach, that looks like spreading awareness of Congress to the student body through tabling events like our upcoming Valentine's tabling to pass out sexual health and wellness items on Monday. Outreach and safety also look like taking student concerns. Say, I recently had a student reach out to me about free masks on campus. I found out that Health Promotions has free masks for students and got that information back to them. Safety also includes our monthly light walks, where we meet up, take note of lights off across campus, and let facilities management know. It's a great time, a great opportunity to meet other members, and our light walk will be this weekend, Sunday, at 6 pm. Just a couple of hours after orientation. Is there anything else? Oh, right. I'm a dad. That's why I'm wearing my shirt around my waist. She's cute. You'll see her sometime. Actually, you might have already seen her. She's in GroupMe. Yeah. Thank you.
- **Congressional Administration:** CONAD is the "internal affairs" of Congress, and we deal with admitting new members to the body, work with appointing executive offices, and handle the governing documents of SGA. CONAD did not meet this week, but Secretary Berggren, Vice Chair Landry and I conducted GenApp interviews! We have some awesome new members, and we will be seeing their appointment bill in committee of the whole. I hope you all are having a wonderful week.
- **External Affairs:** Hi all my name is Marilou Bento and I serve as the chair of External Affairs. External Affairs serves as the committee that addresses issues concerning tribal, local, state, and federal government as well as global issues and how they affect OU and our students at large. One of the goals of the committee is to continue to improve the relationships with our representatives across all the different levels of Government. We are in charge of organizing different events like National Voting Day in the fall where we get to do a tabling event for Voter Registration, and Higher Education Day where we get to go to the capitol and speak to our representatives advocating for more higher education funding just to name our two big ones. EA met officially on Sunday. We got to talk about higher education day and the protocols surrounding the day and generally what to expect. We also saw our Higher Education Day Resolution, which we will see tonight as well. We also covered our other projects briefly; with a Resolution recognizing Black History Month coming up next! If you are RSVPed for Higher Ed Day the master schedule for higher education day should be sent out by tomorrow, so everyone please watch your email for that. The schedule will tell everyone who they will be meeting with throughout the day.
- **Human Diversity:** My name is Hope and my pronouns are she/her/hers. Any issues on campus that relate to Human Diversity or any projects we focus on. We are currently

working on a drive for a LGBTQ+ youth. We will be collecting toothbrushes and other items like that. We in the past have written anti-Jewish hate bills.

- **Sustainability:** My name is Rylee my pronouns are she/her/hers. We focus on issues, projects, and awareness relating to sustainability on campus. We will be having our first trash walk on February 18th at 1pm. We will walk around campus and pick up trash. We did not meet this week. We are seeing our first bill in like two years about raising awareness on littering.
- **University Policy:** Hey, all! My name is Caleb Robinson, and I am the University Policy Committee Chairman, colloquially known as UPOL. We are heavily project-oriented in UPOL, but there is always room for flexibility if you are interested in pursuing legislation along with a project. We focus on university policy, programs, and initiatives or the lack thereof. One of the most pressing issues we have recently taken up is our bill supporting DEI in the State of Oklahoma, which has had a lot of input from members throughout Congress, the Graduate Student Senate and the executive branch. We recently completed two projects, one focusing on enhancing the transfer student process and providing more resources to make that transition as smooth as possible. The other project is focused on advocating for changes to our enrollment system since we have heard that students are having issues understanding their schedule when they first enroll. We get the opportunity to be some of the first people to test pilot programs that include the changes to this system. We are working on increasing benefits for student employees and advocating for open educational resources, among other things. Finally, we did meet officially this weekend and worked on sending out emails and assigning new projects.
- **Ways and Means:** My name is Izza and my pronouns are she/hers. We allocate funding to all student organizations on campus. Aux funding is what we do week to week. WAM met last week and saw Aux 11. Thank you to WAM for staying on the whole 4 hours last week and for the roughly 130 aux we have to look at this week. Jacob, thank you and sorry for the 27 pages of minutes. Aux was extended an extra 24 hours and will close at 9am tomorrow due to Engage crashing last week 2.5h before deadline.

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

On a motion to enter Committee of the Whole Robinson seconded by Rhoads

- Committee of the Whole

On a motion to see CB-111-04 Armour seconded by Gilson-Bond

- CB-111-04 “Session CXI General Application Appointment Act”
(Landry/Berggren/Cantrell)

Authors Explanation:

We have appointed new representees and associates. Secretary Berggren, Vice chair Landry, and I conducted this on Sunday.

7:23 remaining for questions

- Kathuria: I know ConAd has been working towards more people applying to Congress, how do you plan on collaborating with OU Daily and Nightly for the next GenApp cycle?
 - I am a journalism major, so I have connections to them, so I would love to work with them on that. There is room for improvement, but there was a very good turnout for the Spring semester.

On a motion to give this bill a rec of due pass Rhoads seconded by Duncan

On a motion to exit Committee of the Whole Strahan seconded by Harris, Chloe

Student Concern Link

Items to Be Considered

On a motion to see CB-111-04 Aslam seconded by Kathuria

- CB-111-04 “Session CXI General Application Appointment Act”
(Landry/Berggren/Cantrell)

Authors Explanation:

This is the bill we just saw.

7:53 remaining for questions

23-0-0

On a motion to recess for five minutes Harris seconded by Schonfield

On a motion to see CR-111-01 Cantrell seconded by Keupen

- CR-111-01 “Higher Education Day Resolution of 2024” (Bento) (EA, Do Pass)

Authors Explanation:

This has statistics about how the University helps Oklahoma and how Oklahoma has been funding us broadly. We talk about what is going to be needed in our workforce in the upcoming years, and talk about the importance of that.

7:30 remaining for questions

- Halsey-Kraus: Will you explain what Higher Education Day is?
 - We go to the Capital and speak to Representatives one on one and speak about why university funding is important to us. We talk about why funding is important to us and why it matters to students at OU and other Universities.
- Halsey-Kraus: When is Higher Education Day?
 - This Thursday.
- Halsey-Kraus: Are you excited?
 - I am hyped.
- Anand: What is the role of DEI in universities funding and why do you think it's important to mention it in this bill?
 - We find it important to mention this bill due to the Executive Order made by Kevin Stitt. DEI is important to support under-supported students. This is for students who did not receive enough support prior to coming to college that would get support at the University level. This program helps those students to succeed.
- Kathuria: What is the strategy for Higher Education Day this Thursday regarding approaching saving and preserving DEI?
 - We will be talking generally about our experiences and how the programs have affected us students. It's a one-on-one meeting so we can share our personal experiences. We will talk a lot about how these programs have supported us and given us possibilities to be here.
- Keupen: Would you accept an amendment to the 11th whereas clause that reads “Whereas: The Governor's Executive Order 2023-31, which requires state agencies and institutes for higher education to initiate a review of DEI positions, departments,

activities, procedures, and programs, and mandates the restructuring and/or elimination of DEI initiatives.”

- Yes.
- Schonfield: What inspired you to write this bill more than anything else?
 - It is important that we tell everyone publicly as the University of Oklahoma what we want as students, which is more education, support in our programs, and eyes on our efforts to make Oklahoma better.
- Anand: Let's say this bill doesn't pass or that it's not effective, what would you do in that case regarding DEI?
 - We would try to find workarounds and find ways to have programs that are adjacent to DEI but not explicitly DEI. Also, we can share how DEI has helped us while still complying with the Executive Order.
- Kathuria: Regarding your concerns regarding lack of higher ed funding, do you plan on bringing up issues such as outdated building, increased tuition, and expensive course materials when speaking to legislators on Thursday?
 - Yes. All those factors affect students directly. We all bring up our personal experiences along with statistics.

On a motion to extend time for questions for five minutes Anand seconded by Kathuria

- Anand: You mention the programs of DEI help those who did not receive support before college, can you give an example of a population that might not have received support and how existing DEI programs can support them?
 - For example, I am in a DEI program for engineering. They are they to support those who are represented in the engineering department, so in that case its women, LGBTQ+, people of color, and religious minorities. Anyone that does not have a lot of community here at OU or does not have a coalition would be included.
- Anand: Would the Executive Order change the way the programs are being run?
 - It could be affected. We are not quite sure yet.
- Coats: Would you accept a friendly amendment changing Section 2 to read “Section 2: OU SGA Undergraduate Student Congress encourages the protection and promotion of DEI programs, and for state funding to be protected for DEI programs.”
 - Yes.
- Strickland: What are you most looking forward to on Thursday?
 - Hanging out with everyone who wanted to spend their day going to the Capital. It fills my heart. I am excited to build connections and talk to Representatives.

On a call for debate Anand

Pro:

- Kathuria: My name is Shrey Kathuria (he/him/hims). I am here to talk about why we need to pass this bill. This bill is essential. It has something that is essential to who I am: diversity, equity, and inclusion. We must have a plan to protect and preserve DEI. My constituents are very concerned and have a lot of fear and anxiety about the attack on DEI. They are concerned about what is going to happen to ADRC funding, The Trio Center, Project Threshold, and The Campus Climate Response Team. These programs need to be protected. We need to make sure we tell state legislators that we care about these programs because they help students no matter their race, sexual orientation, or their gender identity. We need to stay true to these principles. Every person in this room

has something that is very powerful about themselves. DEI must be our top priority. If not, there would be many students being harmed. That would not be ok with me. Vote yes to this bill and stay true to our values.

Opposition:

- Anand: I do not know what to think about this bill. There are some objections that I have. The bill has two parts, regarding the one about increasing funding, I think there is a lot we could use funding for. The second part is regarding DEI that ties into the Executive Order. I want to say I really care about diversity, equity, and inclusion. I think that these principles are very important to strive for. I think the university will be a better place if it is diverse and includes all people. Also, I want to point out that some DEI programs can be helpful, but some can harm populations by not properly supporting them or excluding them. There are some things in the Executive Order that I want you to consider. One thing my colleague pointed out is that people don't know how it will affect the ADRC. But this bill does not apply to those with disabilities or alternate abilities. It does not stop all diversity, equity, and inclusion activities, it only restricts certain types of activities.

Pro:

- Robinson: If you have any issues with the DEI portion of this bill, that is only a small portion of the bill. We have an 8-page bill coming next week all about DEI, so if you have concerns about DEI and how we are addressing it, I recommend that you wait until the bill next week that is all about DEI and our support of it.
- Baggett: When we are talking about ADRC and disabilities or accessibility and all things like that, I think what was pointed out were concerns regarding how it would affect them, not specifically how the Executive Order was going to affect them. I think the concern is that people are so afraid that we are going down the path of legislation, so we should be putting out a statement to alleviate those concerns. We cannot override an executive order because we are a student congress. We are not putting anything into legislation, we are just stating what we support. This is a resolution. I think it's more important to put that out than pick it apart and scrutinize certain portions that do not align with your personal beliefs. It is valid.

Opposition:

- Anand: It would be a good idea to raise these concerns to legislators. We should talk to them about what their plans for legislation are in the future. I know it was mentioned that they might restrict more groups in the future, so talking to them would be good. I would want some clarification on what portions of DEI would be affected and get their thoughts. It is good that we can look at the issue of DEI more closely with the upcoming bill. I will bring other concerns about the DEI programs next week, but I think for now these were all good ways to address the scenario.

On a motion to move to the previous question Gilson-Bond seconded by Aslam

Authors Summation:

This bill is not a response to the Executive Order. It is only a bill that deals with us going to Higher Education Day and asking for more funding. That covers a wide variety of topics and that is why there are not many specifics about DEI. It is very broad.

28-1-0

On a motion to see AB-111-01 Wilson seconded by Coats

- AB-111-01 “Auxiliary Allocation 12 Act of 2023-2024” (Gulam) (WAM, Do Pass)

Authors Explanation:

We saw 64 organizations and allocated \$45, 684.

7:47 remaining for questions

- Kathuria: Could you explain to our new members how auxiliary funding works and the amount of money the committee chooses to give to each organization?
 - Student organizations submit their budget requests. Each registered student organization is eligible for funding. WAM looks at an organizations fiscal history which means we look at how much money they spent in the year or years because the money we allocate cannot be given to another organizations, so if they do not use the money others cannot.
- Schonfield: Would you change 12 in section one to read 11?
 - Yes.
- Koneru: Given that some of the RSO’s had trouble registering, will we have an upcoming bill for those who could not fill out the form?
 - Yes, we have them every week.
- Cantrell: How long was your meeting?
 - It took 4 hours. We started at 6:05 at ended about 10:15.

28-0-1

Follow-Up Reports

Announcements and Comments

- Bento: if you RSVP’d for Higher Education Day you should receive an email with the master schedule, so check your email.
- Strickland: I want to congratulate Ellie Wolthuis because she is officially the Chief of Staff.
- Cantrell: As my job as Parliamentarian, it is my job to inform the body of Roberts Rules of Order, Parliamentary Procedure, and standard rules. An abstention vote should only be used in a small criterion of votes, most notably when you have a moral, financial, or another conflict of interest that would be impacted by your vote. Your constituents count on you to represent them within the body therefore it is your responsibility to do so with their best intentions in mind. Using an abstention vote in an unwarranted circumstance exploits their vote to entrust you. Please vote to the best of your ability with your district and community in mind.
- Gilson-Bond: The environmental science student associatin will have a meeting tomorrow from 6-8 pm.
- Kathuria: Toby Keith has passed. He was a great OU and Oklahoma legend.
- Landry: if you dressed up tonight thank you, and if you want to be in a photo, I would love to get one. Shout out to Marilou for a great costume. Ocon's is partnering with the Food Pantry right now so go tonight.
- Cantrell: Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature is accepting new members, and we have our first meeting Thursday in Adams. It is a mock legislature for the state of Oklahoma where we focus on issues that you think would pertain to legislation that could be seen in state legislature. We have a moot court competition which is similar to something you

would do in law school. There is a press competition that is super cool. If you have any questions, please reach out.

- Baggett: I am the moot court director, if you want to be added to the GroupMe let me know.
- Strahan: There's a fellowship where you get scholarships called Urika. I do not know much about it, but this Thursday they are having a drafting workshop at the OU writing center.
- Robinson: This Thursday and Friday is early voting for local elections. Please go to the Cleveland County Election Board if you want to vote early.
- Coats: Tomorrow at 6pm in the library we are having a club meeting. The professor who is leading it is Joshua Frydman and he is the best professor. If you want to learn how to design games or code, you should go.

Final Roll Call

Adjourn

On a motion to adjourn Harris, Hudson seconded by Harris, Chloe

Chair: Abby Halsey-Kraus

Vice-Chair: Amelia Landry

Secretary: Carolyn Berggren

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXI

February 6th, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-111-04

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Act of Procedure appointing new
Representatives and Associates in the SGA
Undergraduate Student Congress; providing short
title; and providing an effective date.

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

Section 1: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Session CXI General Application Appointment Act.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to select new Associates and Representatives pursuant to the SGA Congressional Bylaws, Section 3.2.3(a).

Section 3: The following individuals are hereby appointed as Associates in the SGA Undergraduate Student Congress:

Reese Ball
Lucy Brodt
Harley Combest
Alexander Donald
Kayla Hynes
Alexandra Kisch
Aniketh Koneru
Mercer Martin
Himani Prajapati
Ria Sachdev
Sofia Urquieta

Section 4: The following individuals are hereby appointed as Representatives in the SGA Undergraduate Student Congress:

Khiala Brown, Fine Arts Representative
Brianna Cisneros, Engineering and Energy Representative
Brianna Lemaster, University College Representative
Kyle Martin, International and Area Studies Representative
Zoe Nguyen, Communications Representative
Kyle Oler, Engineering and Energy Representative

Section 5: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Amelia Landry, Vice Chair of the Undergraduate Student Congress

Carolyn Berggren, Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Congress
Madeline Cantrell, Vice Chair of the Congressional Administration Committee

Co-Author(s): The Congressional Administration Committee

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Aslam seconded by Representative Kathuria

Action taken by Congress: Unanimous Pass 23-0-0

Verified by Chair: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXI

February 6th, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF24

February 15th, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL BILL AB-111-01
SENATE BILL NO. GF24-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An act relating to appropriations; providing for short title; stating purpose; appropriating Auxiliary Funding for the 2023-2024 process; stating appropriation guidelines; establishing expiration deadline; directing transfer of unused funds by deadline; and providing an effective date.

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

Section 1: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Auxiliary Allocation 11 Act of 2023-2024”

Section 2: PURPOSE. The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.

Section 3: APPROPRIATION. The following amounts are hereby allocated to

Organization	Programs, Events & Activities	Capital Investments	Office and General Expenses	Total
Academic Team	160			160
Advanced Radar Research Center, Student Affairs Committee	100			100
African Student Association	2200			2200
Air Force ROTC Student Association	840			840
American Constitution Society	1000			1000
American Marketing Association	400			400
Arab Student Association	1000	1500		2500
Asian American Student Association	4000			4000
Black Law Student Association	820			820
Black Men in STEM	1000			1000
Black Men’s Mental Health Club	500			500
Brown Book Collective		500		500
Campus Activities Council	6000			6000
College Democrats	300			300
Criminal Law Association	100			100

Criminal Law Association		100		100
Delta Sigma Phi	600			600
East African Alliance	550			550
Friday Accounting Meetings	680			680
Gaylord College Graduate Student's Association	600			600
Healthcare Business Club	740			740
Horror Movie Club	300			300
Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Microwave Theory and Technology Student Chapter	700			700
Iranian Student Association	500			500
Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band	250			250
Korean Student Association	500			500
Lambda Delta Psi	500			500
Lambda Delta Psi	500			500
Latin Dance Club	280			280
MEDLIFE	300			300
MEDLIFE		212		212
Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences	100			100
Minority Health Sciences Conference	150		100	250
Oklahoma Law Review	325			325
Oklahoma Weather Lab	1950			1950
Omani Students Association	250			250
Omega Psi Phi	244			244
OU Men's Baseball Club	750			750
OU Men's Club Lacrosse	500			500
OU Powerlifting Club	500			500
Our Mental Health	34			34
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia	700			700
Public Interest Law Student Association	850			850
Rug Making Club		550		550
Russian Speaking Student Association	500			500
School of Meteorology Student Affairs Committee	400			400
Sigma Alpha Iota International Fraternity	650			650
Sitaraas	750			750
Society of Physics Students	350			350
Sooner Air Traffic Control Association	600			600
Sooner Competitive Robotics		2000		2000
Sooner Rover Team	434			434
South Asian Student Association	1380			1380
South Asian Student Association	400			400
Student Association for Computing Machinery	300			300
Student Association of Bangladesh		300		300
Styrohome	485			485
The Big Event		430		430
University Buddhist Association	100			100
University Buddhist Association	100			100
University of Oklahoma Percussion Society	500			500
Wall Street Sooners	300			300
Women in Finance	700			700

Women's Rights in Healthcare	270		270
TOTAL:			45684

Section 4: All guidelines and provisions in Title 10 of the Code Annotated shall apply to all funds appropriated in this act.

Section 5: This fiscal year for the account listed in these sections shall end May 10, 2024

Section 6: All unspent money remaining in the accounts listed in Section 3 shall revert to the SGA General Account after May 10, 2024, and the remaining appropriations shall be canceled.

Section 7: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Zuyyin Izza Gulam, Chair, SGA Budget Committee

Co-Author(s): SGA Budgetary Committee

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Wilson seconded by Representative Coats

Action taken by Student Congress: 28-0-1

Verified by Chair of Student Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXI

February 6th, 2023

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-111-01

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Resolution requesting support
for increasing funds for higher education
resources distributed by the State Government
of Oklahoma; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The fiscal year 2020 appropriation for higher education by the State of Oklahoma was \$1,003,794,375¹; and

Whereas: By 2025, 70 percent of jobs in Oklahoma will require some college, a long-term certificate, or a college degree²; and

Whereas: 96% of Oklahomans who graduate from a state system college or university remain and work in the state one year after graduation³; and

Whereas: For every dollar of state appropriations invested, the State System of Higher Education generates \$9.40 in economic output⁴; and

Whereas: Oklahoma's higher education system supported \$8.21 billion in total economic output in FY2016⁵; and

Whereas: Research findings continue to point toward increased education as an underlying source of economic growth, both in the U.S. and internationally, reinforcing the existence of a strong empirical link between education and economic growth at the state level; and

¹ "2024 Funding Request," Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education <https://okhighered.org/leg-info/funding-request/>

² "Launch Oklahoma," Oklahoma Works (November, 2017). <https://oklahomaworks.gov/attainmentgoal/>

³ "Oklahoma Public Higher Education Graduates Learn Here, Earn Here," Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (December 13, 2023). <https://okhighered.org/2023/12/oklahoma-public-higher-education-graduates-learn-here-earn-here/>

⁴ "The Economic Role Of Oklahoma's Public Colleges and Universities," Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (April 20, 2020). <https://documents.pub/document/the-economic-role-of-oklahomaas-public-colleges-and-economic-role-of-oklahomaas.html?page=1>

⁵ "Fast Facts," Oklahoma State Regent for Higher Education <https://okhighered.org>

- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center supported the greatest amount of local economic activity among all institutions and constituent agencies; and
- Whereas: The facility supports approximately \$1.85 billion in total economic activity, 10,700 jobs, and \$1.1 billion in employee compensation in the Oklahoma City region; and
- Whereas: In Fiscal Year 2023, the regents complied with the request and submitted a report that showed less than 1% of state and federal funding supports DEI; and
- Whereas: They estimated \$10.2 million in DEI spending for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, with \$3.4 million of that amount coming from state appropriations⁶; and
- Whereas: The Governor's Executive Order 2023-31, which requires state agencies and institutes for higher education to initiate a review of DEI positions, departments, activities, procedures, and programs, and mandates the restructuring and/or elimination of DEI initiatives.
- Whereas: This executive order puts at risk the DEI programs at the University of Oklahoma; and
- Whereas: The order could put federal funding or accreditation at risk, as many colleges depend on millions of dollars in grant funding, and several grants are tied to DEI support; and
- Whereas: DEI programs give necessary support to underrepresented minorities⁷.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:

- Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “The Higher Education Day Resolution of 2024.”
- Section 2:** OU SGA Undergraduate Student Congress encourages the protection and promotion of DEI programs, and for state funding to be protected for DEI programs
- Section 3:** OU SGA Undergraduate Student Congress encourages federal entities to appropriate more funds to Oklahoma for use in education.

⁶ Goins, Adria, “Stitt signs executive order taking aim at DEI,” (December 13, 2023). <https://kfor.com/news/oklahoma-legislature/stitt-signs-executive-order-taking-aim-at-dei/>

⁷ “Governor Stitt Signs Anti-Discrimination Executive Order, Takes Aim at DEI Measures,” Oklahoma Governor (December 13, 2023). <https://oklahoma.gov/governor/newsroom/newsroom/2023/december2023/governor-stitt-signs-anti-discrimination-executive-order--takes-.html>

Section 4: OU SGA Undergraduate Student Congress encourages residents of Oklahoma to contact local and state legislators about the importance of education and higher education funding at state and national levels.

Section 5: OU SGA Undergraduate Student Congress encourages residents of Oklahoma, in places of civic engagement, to consider the importance of a highly educated and competitive workforce in an increasingly global community.

Section 6: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- OU Office of Governmental Affairs
- Caden Glasscock, SGA President

Authors: Marilou Bento, External Affairs Chair

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Cantrell seconded by Representative Keupen

Action taken by Congress: 28-1-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Last	Initial	Last	Final	Last	AB111-2	CR111-01	Last	CB-111-04	AI
Anand	x	Anand	x	Anand	y	y	Anand	y	
Armour	x	Armour	x	Armour	y	y	Armour	y	
Aslam	x	Aslam	x	Aslam	y	n	Aslam	y	
Awoyemi	ex	Awoyemi	x	Awoyemi	y	y	Awoyemi	y	
Baggett	x	Baggett	x	Baggett	y	y	Baggett	y	
Bell	a	Bell	a	Bell			Bell		
Bento	x	Bento	x	Bento	y	y	Bento	y	
Brown	ex	Brown, Jenna	ex	Brown, Jenna			Brown, Jenna		
Cantrell	x	Brown, Khi	x	Brown, Khi	y	y	Brown, Khi	y	
Coats	x	Cantrell	x	Cantrell	y	y	Cantrell	y	
Crispino	ex	Cisneros	x	Cisneros	y	y	Cisneros	y	
de Mahy	a	Coats	x	Coats	ab	y	Coats	y	
Duncan	x	Crispino	ex	Crispino			Crispino		
Dunn	ex	de Mahy	a	de Mahy			de Mahy		
Ellis	x	Duncan	x	Duncan	y	y	Duncan	y	
Fisher	a	Dunn	ex	Dunn			Dunn		
Gilson Bond	x	Ellis	x	Ellis	y	y	Ellis	y	
Gulam	x	Fisher	a	Fisher			Fisher		
Harris, Chloe	x	Gilson Bond	x	Gilson Bond	y	y	Gilson Bond	y	
Harris, Hudso	x	Gulam	x	Gulam	y	y	Gulam	y	
Isias	x	Harris, Chloe	x	Harris, Chloe	y	y	Harris, Chloe	y	
Ogle	x	Harris, Hudson	x	Harris, Hudson	y	y	Harris, Hudson	y	
Kathuria	x	Isias	x	Isias	y	y	Isias	y	
Keupen	x	Lemaster	x	Lemaster	y	y	Lemaster	y	
Reynolds	a	Martin	x	Martin	y	y	Martin	y	
Rhoads	x	Nguyen	x	Nguyen	y	y	Nguyen	y	
Robinson	x	Ogle	x	Ogle	y	y	Ogle	y	
Schonfield	x	Oler	x	Oler	y	y	Oler	y	
Strahan	x	Kathuria	x	Kathuria	y	y	Kathuria	y	
Wilson	x	Keupen	x	Keupen	y	y	Keupen	y	
Zainuddin	ex	Reynolds	a	Reynolds			Reynolds		
PRESENT	22	Rhoads	x	Rhoads	y	y	Rhoads	y	
ABSENT	4	Robinson	x	Robinson	y	y	Robinson	y	
EXCUSED	5	Schonfield	x	Schonfield	y	y	Schonfield	y	
		Strahan	x	Strahan	y	y	Strahan	y	
		Wilson	x	Wilson	y	y	Wilson	y	
		Zainuddin	ex	Zainuddin			Zainuddin		
		PRESENT	29	YES	28	28	0	NO	23
		ABSENT	4	NO	0	1	0	ABSTAIN	0
		EXCUSED	4	ABSTAIN	1	0	0		0