

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

Dale 103

Call to Order- 7:00 pm

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.

On a motion to approve the minutes Lapp seconded by Koneru

Approval of Minutes | October 15th, 2024

Officer Reports -

- **Chair's Report:** Hello everyone as a reminder we will be having the presidential forum tonight it is going to be within special orders it will take around 30 minutes. To our guests here today thank you for coming. Some of our members have been wiped out by a math test that has also been held tonight.
- **Vice Chair's Report:** Hi everyone, today we are going to be seeing a bill establishing the PR committee which I will be a part of. So just a reminder on that note if you have any posts that you want to be added to the Instagram for your committees just let me know. Additionally, a change we will be making from now on is that all committee Vice Chairs will be serving as a PR advisor to whoever the Vice Chair of Congress is, which is me right now. So, if you are the Vice Chair of your committee, please just take note that it will be a role that you will be taking on. Lastly, I just want to remind you guys of the envelopes on Chloe's and I's office, they are for you guys to use, so if you guys see people in your committee or other committees that you think are doing a really great job at their projects or that you just want to give a little shoutout or compliment to, just right one and drop in their committee's folder.
- **Secretary's Report:** Hi everyone, I hope you are all doing well, I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who showed up to Coffee with Congress. It was super fun, and I loved getting to talk and hang out with you all. Also, a big thank you to Rylee for putting on the event and bringing the coffee!

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** COSCO did not meet this past weekend because I broke my wrist, but we have our new vice chair, Syed Aslam and our secretary Emma Duncan.
- **Congressional Administration:** Hi all! ConAd met officially on Sunday, and we saw CB-112-13 and gave the bill a recommendation of due pass. We still need volunteers to table for the election next Tuesday and Wednesday so please please please sign up with your committee friends! We are also looking for volunteers to help put up signs on Monday! This coming Sunday, ConAd will be meeting at 4:30. We are currently working on a couple of bylaws updates so be on the lookout for that!
- **External Affairs:** Hi everyone so we met on Sunday, and we saw two different pieces of legislation which we will be seeing tonight. We gave a recommendation of due pass for both of them, the Voting Day Resolution and the Free Speech Week Resolution, so that is exciting. On the project side our focus on the unhoused community in Norman, we are talking with people in city council, and we are still trying to communicate with food and shelter. Tonight, I will be meeting on one case with the contractor for emergency shelter so we will be keeping an eye out on that. Otherwise, we did some more internal OU stuff where we are reaching out to an organization called the Mat Project. The Mat Project is an organization on campus that uses recycled plastic to make mats for people who are unhoused, and they give them to different volunteer organizations around the community. They will be having a meeting tomorrow at 5-6 I have a little poster that I will put in the GroupMe and if any of you guys want to help out with this project, give some volunteer time to the Mat Project they are really awesome and they want a lot of people to help out with this. It is a very big task to make mats so this would be a great opportunity for you guys to get involved with all of them.
- **Human Diversity:** HD met unofficially on Friday we discussed a few of our projects, we wanted to celebrate Day of the Dead that's coming up soon, HOSA is hosting something for the Day of the Dead, so we might try and volunteer for that is November 1st. This month is also domestic, so we have many members that are trying to work on something for that. I will follow up with my committee member to see what she wants to do. Then we have another project for the Oklahoma Women's Shelter where we are just trying just to get donations, so we have a local food store here in Norman called our Sister's closet, so we will try to work with Greek Life Chapters to collect donations of all types of clothes, toys, boys clothes books, hygiene products for woman, and all that stuff. We also want to establish a queer mentorship program so we might do that with the Queer Student Association and some big little program and a weekly game night. We will reach out to QSA in order to do that and today we had a meeting discussing policy changes that happened last semester, so we will organize a meeting with different members of SGA and see what they have done and then have a meeting down the line with OU Admin. Then we have an involvement fair that want to eventually do. We are thinking of doing it sometime in the Spring in April, when everything finishes, we will have a coming together of different RSO's and a nice end of the school year, we will try to have dances and food.
- **Sustainability:** SUSTY met officially this weekend. For SUSTY there isn't anything new in particular. This weekend we had our first trash walk with CLA. It was super fun, and the turnout was super great. We had over 30 people turnout. At the meeting we just talked about project ideas to see if there were any updates. Overall, I'm super happy with everything I've seen from my committee so far.

- **University Policy:** UPOL met officially this past weekend. A lot of our projects are on track to be finished except for a few projects that we are just waiting to hear back from administration, which doesn't want to return emails.
- **Ways and Means:** WAM met officially this Sunday, and we are going to be seeing AUX 5 later tonight. We have about \$26,000 left to allocate. We will be closing auxiliary funding on the 31st of this month.

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

- The Presidential Forum

Student Concerns

Items to Be Considered

On a motion to see CR-112-02 Aslam seconded by Lapp

- CR-112-02 "Voting Day and Voting Rights Resolution of 2024." (Bento/Samuel/Sherer)
(Rec of Due Pass)

Authors Explanation:

This legislation, titled the "Voting Day and Voting Rights Resolution of 2024," is a formal request from the University of Oklahoma's Undergraduate Student Congress aimed at encouraging the university's staff and faculty to allow students excused absences on Election Day, November 5, 2024. The primary concern driving this resolution is that despite the university's commitment to promoting civic engagement, the current academic and work schedules of students pose significant barriers to voting, especially given Oklahoma's voting hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day is not currently recognized as a holiday, so students and faculty alike currently have no protected time to vote. The resolution emphasizes the importance of voting as part of students' civic development, outlining how part of the University of Oklahoma mission is to foster well-rounded, engaged citizens. This is all especially important as Oklahoma's youth voter turnout is one of the lowest in the nations and Oklahoma's General Turnout is not any better. This resolution mentions previous efforts for Election Day to be made a university holiday, and how those have not found success. So instead, we are encouraging professors to voluntarily provide an excused absence for students wishing to vote, with a request for professors to offer digital materials for their class that day. We aim to prevent students from being penalized academically for exercising their voting rights and seek to protect their participation in the elections. I have also talked to several faculty members at OU and gathered feedback from them during this process as well. If you would like some more insight on the conversations I had with them, feel free to ask in questions. Thank you.

5:47 remaining for questions

- **Kathuria-** What took place in those conversations with those faculty members?
 - I went to the Senate faculty, and I presented to them what the legislation was going to do and what it was going to ask of them ahead of time because I wanted to hear their concerns if they had any regarding this legislation passing. Most of the faculty were really receptive towards the legislation and said they were going to take efforts to give excused absences to their students. I did have some concerns from professors who were a little upset that this was being put on them which I totally understand, and I had a conversation with them and I explained a little about the background how we tried to make this a university holiday last semester if you guys don't know and I gave them some insight about why we were not able to, and so they were a lot more receptive afterwards. We are going to be sending this legislation out to the Deans, who will be sending it out to their faculty and staff and encouraging them to promote this legislation.

- **Kathuria-** Why did the University of Oklahoma choose not to have election day as a guaranteed holiday for OU students?
 - In the legislation I talked about the Regents Policy manual, so last semester if you guys don't know we recommended to the board of regents to let us have an extra student holiday on campus to allow for Voting Day to become a student holiday. We typically have the student holiday the Friday before OUTEXAS, so students can safely make it to campus and travel, so while we made this recommendation the Board of Regents policy has remained unchanged and they still limited us to only one student holiday request per semester, so because of this our ask was profuse.
- **Finley-** Would this be a holiday every year or would this only be for this year?
 - This would be just for this year since it is not a change in policy or anything like that we are just asking professors to do this out of the kindness of their hearts, so hopefully what I would prefer to start with this legislation is a tradition of us doing this until we have a more permanent solution, but for now yes it would only be for this year.
- **Harris-** Would there be any negative blow back for professors who decide to have class?
 - No in the sections that I laid out, I specifically state that this is to the discretion of the professors and ultimately if they choose not to do this it is up to them, we are not forcing them or telling them they have to do this, so I also talked with the professors I know that it is a very difficult time right now it is midterms. There's a lot of classes that just can't, some classes in reality will not be able to take off and give excused absences, but what I hope it that if the majority of them do even if the student is forced to go to a class that day at least they will have some more flexibility in their schedule in later classes.

23-0-0

On a motion to see CR-112-03 Oler seconded by Beasley

- CR-112-03 "National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024." (Carter/Bertotti) (Rec of Due Pass)

Authors Explanation:

Hi everybody, so we all know what the first amendment it is iconic. We love it, it gives us the power to express our needs and therefore we believe in it. If you didn't know public universities are required to uphold the first amendment, however, they do have power to limit the time and place that protests occur. So, this means that campaigning, chalking, and protests themselves can be limited legally without criminal consequences by a couple of universities. With Freedom of Speech Week, currently taking place from the 21st of October to the 27th. We thought it was going to be important to expand the Free Speech Week Resolution by firstly expressing our gratitude to OU, being historically very supportive of protests on campus but then also discouraging them from turning their views and using the power that they do have to limit protests. In the doc there is some statistics about violent and non-violent protests on campus and then also a couple of quotes about the OU's current President about his beliefs which are very supportive of free speech. But at the end of the day, we are all SGA representatives and it is our job to amplify the voices of students, and to me this resolution is just an extension of that. It is really important to make sure that students have a platform to securely and safely engage with the student body.

6:25 remaining for questions

- **Bento-** On a friendly amendment to change section six from Undergraduate Student Congress to the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association?

- Yes.
- **Cantrell-** Why did you define free speech as the right of the public to show their beliefs and protests with the aim of having campus community in public spaces without including information about the press freedom that is allowed within the first amendment as well?
 - In creating our self-definition of freedom of speech on campus we really wanted to emphasize the difference between violent and nonviolent protests because some universities have tried to shut down protests under the reasoning that it is going to become violent, so while the reasoning might be true in practice it is not valid if they use their power to shut down protests, so that is the reasoning for emphasizing nonviolent and violent protests over press.
- **Strahan-** Is that similar to how the press can't have the police called on them, but students can?
 - Kind of yeah when I was looking into it legally, the OU President cannot call the police on protests which I thought was interesting.
- **Bento-** Would you say that this resolution was written with a focus on protests due to the past year and being more specific to what is happening?
 - Yeah, definitely we are not calling out any specific protest, but this was definitely in response to some protests that you may have seen on campus recently.

22-0-0

On a motion to see CB-112-13 Keupen seconded by Kathuria

- CB-112-13 “Establishing the Public Relations Committee Act.” (Houston) (Rec of Due Pass)

Authors Explanation:

Hi everyone! This is a bill to formally establish the Public Relations Committee of SGA. As you all know, we have moved all SGA affiliated Instagrams to two accounts, SGA and CLA, so this is already an informal committee, but we wanted to formalize it for two primary reasons. The first is simply to ensure that this gets carried on into the future. One thing that is increasingly important is the collaboration between our branches, specifically Congress, with the Executive Branch. If we are going to continue operating as one PR team, we want to ensure that the communication we established this session continues on into future terms. The second is clarification. I have recently heard some concerns regarding the Instagram account and worries that the Executive branch has sole control over what does and does not get posted. This is simply not true, but I understand where the concern comes from when we hear the words “executive” and “director”, which is why we wanted to establish a committee with no line of power. In this committee, we will all have equal access and input in regard to representing our own branches. We will also be seeing some legislation in the future to establish every committee Vice Chair as a PR advisor to the Congress Vice Chair, who will then take that information to this PR Committee.

6:26 remaining for questions

- **Kathuria-** Why do you think having multiple separate SGA Instagram accounts goes against the principles of the cohesion we want to see as a governing body?
 - First of all, I think it just makes us look a little bit more divided when you have the executive branch just posting on one account and then the Congressional branch just posting on one account and multiple committee’s having their own account. I think having one unified account just makes us look more cohesive, more collaborative. I think it also forces us to sit down and have conversations with one another about what we can and cannot do as a collective PR team. It's not about an Instagram account, it's about PR as a whole. Establishing this branch you can see that there are

two people from the executive branch, the Vice Chair of Congress, someone from GSS, someone from CLA, these are our primary modes of contact that we have with students so you will notice that the reason we wanted to create this cohesive committee for PR is to have one person represented from every one of our major bodies.

- **Kathuria-** Why isn't SGA combining Instagram accounts with CAC even though CAC is a part of the Student Government Association?
 - OU marketing and communication has approved for there to be two accounts, an SGA account and a CAC account. I believe that they may have probably approved a CAC account as well. OU Marketing is the reason for that.
- **Finley-** Would representatives and associates be able to apply for to be a part of the committee?
 - Vice Chair Houston- Not necessarily which is why we would have the committee Vice Chairs be an advisor, so this would be like Big Exec which is another committee within SGA where the high-ranking officer from all the committees meet so it would just be like that.
 - Chair Rhodes- Also all of our meetings are subject to the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act meaning that anybody can attend these meetings, so no one is going to be stopped by this. Also, with the committees we are aiming for it to be the vice chairs, but if committee's need to send someone else or committee chairs believe that they have someone better for the job we are going to work on putting that in the legislation as well so people will be represented.
- **Kathuria-** Is it in your opinion that combining the CLA, CAC, Undergraduate Student Congress and Student Government Association Instagram accounts, would help build cohesion amongst student government?
 - I think that is an interesting concept. As it stands I think that CAC and CLA have access to post on the SGA Instagram, but CAC is such a unique branch of SGA, we are the only school that has a fourth branch just for programming, so their audience and their content is very different from what you would typically see on the SGA account and then for CLA, they also have a very different audience because their audience is specifically for freshman. I believe that is also the reason for OU Marketing approving those three accounts separately because they are so distinguished for each other, but they still can all post on the general account

22-0-0

On a motion to see AB-112-05 Harris seconded by Fisher

- AB-112-05 “Auxiliary Allocation 5 Act of 2024-2025” (Schonfield) (Rec of Due Pass)

Authors Explanation:

This is our auxiliary 5 allocation. Attached to the agenda was our minutes from the meeting if you want to look at that for any specifics and also, we have the funding process attached to the email.

7:44 remaining for questions

- **Kathuria-** Do the governing branches of the SGA specifically have to request for auxiliary funding?
 - Yes, they do.
- **Finley-** What is CRU
 - Cru is a religious organization on campus.
- **Lapp-** Did Cru receive the full amount of funding they requested?
 - They requested \$2,053, so no.

- **Lapp-** Do they have a bad fiscal history?
 - Yes, so how much they were allocated last year, they didn't even spend 10-15% of it. So even though the request was super high that is why they got so little.

22-0-0

Follow-Up Reports

Announcements and Comments

- **Cantrell-** Hi everyone this week is pink week for OU Relay for Life. So Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's presence on campus, so OU Relay for Life has been tabling today and tomorrow and we are also running the benefit week so we partnered with Nothing Bundt Cakes so 50% of the proceeds anytime that someone mentions relay at checkout for Nothing Bundt Cakes goes to the American Cancer Society, so if you get cancer you should go get bundt cakes. Also, we will be hosting Bowling for Boobies at Sooner Bowl I think on Friday which is also a fundraiser for us but also bowling for Boobies it's great.
- **Oler-** Next Thursday, October 31st there will be a tree walk on the South Oval this will be to support our commitment to maintaining Tree Campus USA status with the Arbour Day Foundation we will be meeting at the Bizzell Statue for a 30-45 minute stroll around the South Oval. I can't wait to see you there to explore the different species on campus.
- **Fisher-** Next Tuesday, October 29th, the Union Programming Board and Weploo are each separately hosting haunted houses. I think y'all should lowkey check it out because it is a spooky month and if you are feeling scary this month, I say check them both out for real.
- **Keupen-** I forgot to mention in my committee report that our monthly light walk will be this week at October 27th at 8:30 we will meet outside the Conoco.
- **Cantrell-** OU Alpha Gam is hosting Sweet Life at Alpha Gam. It is going to be a smores bar at Alpha Gam Delta House 930 Chautauqua from 5 to 8, so you should come to get yummy food.
- **Harris-** This is in reference to the food and shelter thing, They are meeting about it right now, so I am going to get a final update but they had a special session basically what they are trying to propose is to extend the contract until a new contractor is decided for Friend's House. It is proposed to extend the contract up until then or up until March 2025 after the winter months

Final Roll Call

On a motion to adjourn Ogle seconded by Walker

Adjourn- 8:10 pm

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII

October 22, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-02

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional to encourage the University of Oklahoma to suggest to its staff and faculty to provide an excused absence to students on Election Day; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The mission of the University of Oklahoma 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.”

Whereas: Students at the University of Oklahoma are on track to become well rounded, engaged citizens due to the institution’s academic excellence, and an essential component of civic engagement is the practice of voting; and

Whereas: Research shows that voting is habit-forming, and universities play a key role in introducing students to the voting process, particularly during formative years of civic development; and¹

Whereas: The mission statement of the University of Oklahoma is “to provide the best possible educational experience for our students through excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and service to the state and society.”²

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma’s President Joseph Harroz Jr. has emphasized the importance of educating students about democracy, stating, “One of the things that we know a university stands for is not just giving individuals the opportunities they otherwise wouldn’t have in helping create a great workforce but to teach students

¹ Wood, Wendy, and John Aldrich. “How Voting Becomes a Habit.” The Hill, August 10, 2019. <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit/>.

² ou.edu. “About,” n.d. <https://ou.edu/about>.

about democracy,” at a recent Norman city council meeting; and³

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma is a Voter Friendly Campus, as recognized by the NASPA and Campus Vote Project and is committed to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Presidential Commitment, promoting active voter participation through resources for registration, sample ballots, candidate information, and poll worker opportunities; and ⁴

Whereas: Despite these efforts, Election Day has not been federally recognized as a holiday, nor has it been recognized as a holiday on campus, and Oklahoma’s voting hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. conflict with most students’ academic and work schedules; and⁵

Whereas: A full-time student must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours per week, and many students work an additional 20 hours per week on campus or longer off-campus, leaving limited time for voting or to travel to go vote; and ⁶

Whereas: Only 59% of University of Oklahoma students voted in person during the 2022 elections, contributing to Oklahoma’s status as the state with the lowest youth voter turnout at just 15%, and one of the lowest overall voter turnout rates in the nation at 50.4%; and^{7 8}

Whereas: The trend of declining voter turnout continues, with lower participation reported in

³ Anusha Fathepure. “Messages Show OU Students Were Offered Pay to Attend Council Meeting on Entertainment District Vote.” OU Daily, October 2, 2024. https://www.oudaily.com/news/entertainment-district-norman-ou-oklahoma-snapchat-university-north-park-arena-tif-students/article_476e7992-804f-11ef-b95f-ebc27abf8bae.html.

⁴ “Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Campus Action Plan,” 2022. <https://allinchallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/University-of-Oklahoma-Action-Plan-2022-June.pdf>.

⁵ Oklahoma State Election Board (0270). “Dates and Deadlines,” 2024. <https://oklahoma.gov/elections/elections-results/dates-and-deadlines.html>.

⁶ Ou.edu. “Employment,” 2023. <https://www.ou.edu/cis/iss/students/employment>.

⁷ Oklahoma Policy Institute. “The 2022 Midterms Reveal Our Democracy Is Still Inaccessible to Many Oklahoma Voters,” March 4, 2023. <https://okpolicy.org/the-2022-midterms-reveal-our-democracy-is-still-inaccessible-to-many-oklahoma-voters/>.

⁸ Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. “State-By-State Youth Voter Turnout Data and the Impact of Election Laws in 2022,” April 6, 2023. <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/state-state-youth-voter-turnout-data-and-impact-election-laws-2022>.

the 2024 primary elections; and ⁹

Whereas: According to the Regents' Policy Manual for the University of Oklahoma "Undergraduate Student Congress and Graduate Student Senate shall have authority to recommend to the President one unscheduled school holiday in the Fall semester of each academic year with the understanding the recommendation of a holiday must be made to the President at least two weeks before the recommended date in order to allow time for adjusting teaching schedules and the like.", and¹⁰

Whereas: This recommendation has historically been allocated to the Red River Holiday, blocking the ability to recognize Election Day as a holiday; and¹¹

Whereas: Previous efforts to secure an additional unscheduled holiday for Election Day have been rejected, leaving students without formal protections for their right to vote.¹²

Whereas: Despite efforts from the University of Oklahoma Student Congress to protect students' right to vote, previous requests to designate Election Day as a holiday have not resulted in changes to university policy, and¹³

Whereas: The lack of flexibility in students' schedules—due to class attendance requirements and work commitments—creates significant barriers to voter participation, and¹⁴

Whereas: The continued low voter turnout, both at the university and statewide, demonstrates the urgent need for additional accommodations to ensure that students are not

⁹ DeLeon, Tanner . "Voter Turnout in Oklahoma Continues to Decline." KFOR.com Oklahoma City, March 7, 2024. <https://kfor.com/news/local/voter-turnout-in-oklahoma-continues-to-decline/>.

¹⁰ "REGENTS' POLICY MANUAL for the UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA ." Accessed October 16, 2024. <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/regents/docs/CurrentPolicyManual.pdf>.

¹¹ Glasscock, Caden, Cyrus Mortazavi, Abby Halsey-Kraus, Claire Burch, and Catherine Tramel. CR-111-08 "Red River Holiday Act of 2024," Session 111 § (2024). <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/USG/Minutes/session-111/4-9-24-Congress-Minutes.pdf>.

¹² Wolthuis, Ellie. CR-111-09 "The Protection of Student Voting Rights Resolution.," Session 111 § (2024). <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/USG/Minutes/session-111/4-9-24-Congress-Minutes.pdf>.

¹³ "REGENTS' POLICY MANUAL for the UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA ." Accessed October 16, 2024. <https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/regents/docs/CurrentPolicyManual.pdf>.

¹⁴ Ou.edu. "Full Time Enrollment & Credit Hour Limits," 2023. <https://www.ou.edu/registrar/enrollment-services/limits>.

disenfranchised by their academic or employment obligations.¹⁵

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:

- Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “Voting Day and Voting Rights Resolution of 2024.”
- Section 2:** The Undergraduate Student Congress urges professors to provide an excused absence on November 5, 2024, allowing students to vote without academic penalty. Professors are encouraged to make class materials digitally accessible for that day.
- Section 3:** Students should not face academic strain or punishment for exercising their right to vote.
- Sections 4:** The Undergraduate Student Congress asks the Deans of the respective colleges to encourage their faculty to support this request.
- Section 5:** The implementation of excused absences shall be left to the discretion of each professor.
- Section 6:** Recognizing that other solutions, such as designating Election Day as a university holiday, have not been possible, this resolution represents a last-resort effort to protect students' voting rights.
- Section 7:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
- President Joseph Harroz Jr., University of Oklahoma
 - David Surratt, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
 - John Antonio, Dean of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy.
 - Hans Butzer, Dean of the Gibbs College of Architecture.
 - Jonathan Stalling, Interim Dean of the Boren College of International Studies.
 - Mark Morvant, Interim Dean of the College of Professional and Continuing Studies.
 - Anna Carpenter, Dean of the College of Law.
 - Michael Markham, Dean of the Honors College.
 - Randall Hewes, Dean of the Graduate College and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - Mary Margaret Holt, Dean of the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts.
 - Andrea Miller, Dean of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication.
 - John Klier, Dean of the Gallogly College of Engineering.
 - Berrien Moore III, Dean of the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences.

¹⁵ DeLeon, Tanner . “Voter Turnout in Oklahoma Continues to Decline.” KFOR.com Oklahoma City, March 7, 2024. <https://kfor.com/news/local/voter-turnout-in-oklahoma-continues-to-decline/>.

- Laku Chidambaram, Interim Dean of the Price College of Business.
- Stacy Reeder, Dean of the College of Education.
- Denise Stephens, Dean of University Libraries.
- Faith Martin, Oklahoma Votes

Author(s): Marilou Bento, Chair of the External Affairs Committee
Jasmine Samuel, Undergraduate Congress Associate
Krislyn Sherer, President of IGNITE

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Aslam seconded by Representative Lapp

Action taken by Congress: 23-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII

October 22, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX
Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-112-03
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing and protecting Free
Speech and National Freedom of Speech Week; and
providing for distribution.

Whereas: The United States has federally protected the right to free speech through the First Amendment under the Bill of Rights, ratified December 15, 1791; and,

Whereas: The First Amendment¹⁶ protects peaceful protest, assembly, hate speech, and petition, including the use of posters, signs, flyers, and chalking in permissible spaces set by the university; and,

Whereas: Actions which violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, such as property damage, trespassing, violence, and illegal harassment, in addition to language that aims to incite or threaten violence, is unprotected¹⁷; and,

Whereas: Public universities, such as the University of Oklahoma, are subject to the First Amendment, and cannot withhold awarding students a degree as a result of peaceful protest, nor can the President call the police on peaceful protest¹⁸.

Whereas: University of Oklahoma President, Joseph Harroz Jr., released a statement stating, “The freedom to speak, inquire, and express strikes at the heart of any great institution of higher learning.”¹⁹

¹⁶ “U.S. Constitution - First Amendment .” 1791. Constitution.congress.gov. Library of Congress. December 15, 1791. <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/>.

¹⁷ United States Courts. 2023. “What Does Free Speech Mean?” United States Courts. 2023. <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/what-does>.

¹⁸ Forum, By Freedom. 2024. “Protesting on College Campuses: Laws, FAQs and More.” Freedom Forum. May 1, 2024. <https://www.freedomforum.org/protesting-on-college-campuses/>.

¹⁹ Harroz, Joseph “President Harroz Free Speech Week Remarks” The University of Oklahoma Office of the President. October 11, 2023. <https://www.ou.edu/president/messages-and-statements/2023/free-speech-week>

- Whereas: From October 7, 2023, to May 30, 2024, the Crowd Counting Consortium, logged over 3,700 days of protest activity across 525 colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and school district offices across 317 cities in the United States; and,
- Whereas: Nearly 2,200 days of protest activity occurred after April 17, 2024, most remaining entirely non-violent, and
- Whereas: Protests at many other Universities were met with “immediate and aggressive hostility” by police and University officials, with 3,645 arrests occurring since October 7, 2023⁵
- Whereas: We recognize that temporarily occupying educational spaces may be a necessary means to incentivizing change, which is permissible, as it helps the campus community in the long term²⁰; and,
- Whereas: Having solidified free speech rights encourages a higher degree of expression and advocacy within the University of Oklahoma community, urging a modern environment that consistently works to benefit all those involved; and,
- Whereas: Historically, the University of Oklahoma’s administration has allowed students the right to protest, which has encouraged student involvement and leadership²¹; and,
- Whereas: The continuation of this allowance not only upholds a fundamental constitutional freedom, but demonstrates an environment of diversity, social evolution, civil service, tolerance, and academic freedom.
- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma Administration has remained steadfast in its commitment to protecting free speech and peaceful protest, while maintaining a neutral stance by ensuring all groups, regardless of viewpoint, are afforded equal opportunities to exercise their right to protest.
- Whereas: President Joseph Harroz Jr. recently stated in relation to the protests, “We shouldn't teach students what to think. We should teach students how to think.”²²

²⁰ Ulfelder, Jay. 2024. “Crowd Counting Consortium: An Empirical Overview of Recent Pro-Palestine Protests at U.S. Schools.” Ash Center. May 30, 2024. <https://ash.harvard.edu/articles/crowd-counting-blog-an-empirical-overview-of-recent-pro-palestine-protests-at-u-s-schools/>.

²¹ “Students protest possible Iraq invasion” OU Daily. October 25, 2002. https://www.oudaily.com/students-protest-possible-iraq-invasion/article_f84d4e33-0571-52f4-84c9-454da3819b64.html; Harkins, Paighen et al. “OU students and administrators join together in protest” OU Daily. March 10, 2015. https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-students-and-administrators-join-together-in-protest/article_3f7a7914-c6b6-11e4-8e82-af8054f903a9.html

²² Pablo, Thomas, and Abby Young. “A Year Later: OU Students Walk out in Support of Palestine, Criticize Lack of University Action.” OU Daily, October 9, 2024. https://www.oudaily.com/news/a-year-later-ou-students-walk-out-in-support-of-palestine-criticize-lack-of-university/article_604d87d6-8695-11ef-a597-cbbc7947e737.html.

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

- Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2024.”
- Section 2:** The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recognizes the third week of October as Free Speech Week²³ and supports the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and safe protests within the University of Oklahoma campus.
- Section 3** In accordance with the First Amendment, the Undergraduate Student Congress defines, ‘free speech,’ as the right of the public to share their beliefs and protest with the aim of helping the campus community, through peaceful means in public spaces.
- Section 4:** While universities may restrict protest access to non-students and impose unbiased limitations on the setting and noise level of a protest, the Undergraduate Student Congress, asks that the University of Oklahoma uphold this resolution and the First Amendment in all policy, allowing for freedom of speech to be maintained.
- Section 5:** We urge the University of Oklahoma to stay attentive to any potential harassment of student protesters by faculty or staff and to take prompt and decisive action should such incidents arise, ensuring that students' right to free speech is not undermined.
- Section 6:** The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association thanks the University of Oklahoma for allowing peaceful protests to occur on campus, no matter the background or views of the organization. We commend the University of Oklahoma’s commitment to letting student voices be heard.
- Section 7:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
- President Joseph Harroz Jr. of the University of Oklahoma
 - David Surratt, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
 - OU Students for Justice in Palestine
 - Kasi Shelton, Executive Director of OU Hillels
 - OU Turning Point USA
 - OU Daily
 - OU Nightly
- Author(s): Lauren Carter, Fine Arts District Representative
Hayden Bertotti, University College District Representative

²³CreationDepot. n.d. “Home.” Free Speech Week. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.freespeechweek.org/>.

Co-Author(s): Marilou Bento, Chair of the External Affairs Committee

Co-Sponsor(s):

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Oler seconded by Representative Beasley

Action taken by Congress: 22-0-0

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: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII

October 22, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GSXX

Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-112-13

SENATE BILL GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act amending the SGA Code Annotated to establish
the SGA Public Relations Committee

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 “Establishing the Public Relations Committee Act.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to modify the SGA Code annotated to add the Public Relations Committee in the SGA Code annotated.

Section 3: AMENDATORY: The Code Annotated Chapter IX will be amended as follows, with ~~striketrough~~ indicating a removed section, and underline indicating added sections:

1. **Name:** This board shall be called the “Public Relations Committee.”
2. **Purpose:** The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to assist in the mass media communication between the Student Government Association and general student body. The Committee will meet with the intention of establishing media plans for the Student Government Association.
3. **Membership.**
 1. Membership for the PRC shall be as follows:
 1. The Director of Communications for the Executive Cabinet
 2. The Chief of Staff for the Executive Cabinet
 3. The Vice Chair of the Undergraduate Student Congress
 4. The Chair of the Public Relations Committee for the Graduate Student Senate
 5. The Vice Chair of Public Relations for the Crimson Leadership Association
4. **Meetings.** Meetings of the PRC shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act. The Committee shall meet at least twice per month throughout the academic year. Meeting dates and times shall be decided upon by a consensus of the Committee's members.

Section 4: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Vice Chair Rylee Houston, Undergraduate Student Congress

Co-Author(s): Chair Hope Rhoads, Undergraduate Student Congress

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

Action taken by Congress: 22-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a Motion by:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Action taken by Senate:

Approved by SGA President _____ Date: _____

CONGRESSIONAL BILL AB-112-05
SENATE BILL NO. GS24-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An act relating to appropriations; providing for short title; stating purpose; appropriating Auxiliary Funding for the 2024-2025 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 5 Act of 2024-2025”

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
Cru	\$50.00			\$50.00
Victim Advocacy Program	\$300.00			\$300.00
Speech Team	\$500.00			\$500.00
Queer Student Association	\$3,500.00			\$3,500.00
Linguistics Club	\$125.55			\$125.55
Oklahoma Law review	\$489.70			\$489.70
OU Fencing Club		\$500.00		\$500.00
OU Food Pantry Student Association	\$1,995.00			\$1,995.00
Housing Center Student Association	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
Psychology Graduate Student Association	\$151.00			\$151.00
SGA Undergraduate Student Congress	\$300.00			\$300.00
Crimson Leadership Association	\$200.00			\$200.00

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at the University of Oklahoma	\$400.00			\$400.00
Korean Student Association	\$350.00			\$350.00
Cooking Club	\$750.00			\$750.00
Student Socialist League	\$194.83			\$194.83
Music Outreach at The University of Oklahoma	\$900.00			\$900.00
Little Hearts Alliance	\$500.00			\$500.00
Institute of Industrial Engineers	\$278.31			\$278.31
Pakistani Student Association	\$308.11			\$308.11
Friday Accounting Meeting	\$600.00			\$600.00
Criminal Law Association	\$324.00			\$324.00
Criminal Law Association	\$219.90			\$219.90
Asian American Student Association	\$4,000.00			\$4,000.00
Big Brother Big Sisters Collegiate Board	\$728.68			\$728.68
Linguistics Club	\$49.00			\$49.00
National Medical Device Make-A-Thon	\$800.00			\$800.00
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi	\$655.00			\$655.00
Global Brigades		\$120.00		\$120.00
Animal Legal Defense Fund at The University of Oklahoma College of Law			\$75.00	\$75.00
Horror Movie Club	\$210.00			\$210.00
American Institute of Chemical Engineers			\$500.00	\$500.00
Business Law Society	\$34.72			\$34.72
World Literature Today Student Advisory Board	\$500.00			\$500.00
Sustainable Energy Society	\$500.00			\$500.00
Oklahoma Law Review	\$561.50			\$561.50

Black Creative Circle	\$400.00			\$400.00
Computer Science Interview Preparation Club	\$430.00			\$430.00
Black Creative Circle	\$150.00			\$150.00
South Asian Student Association	\$1,470.00			\$1,470.00
Mental Health Counseling Student Association	\$300.00			\$300.00
The Trumpet Studio	\$800.00			\$800.00
OU Gaming Club	\$550.00			\$550.00
OU Figure Skating Club	\$900.00			\$900.00
Pre-Law@Price	\$300.00	\$330.00		\$630.00
International Security Studies Student Association	\$300.00			\$300.00
Black Business Network	\$800.00			\$800.00
TOTAL:				\$30,900.30

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 2, 2025.

Section 6: All unspent money remaining in the accounts listed in Section 3 shall revert to the SGA General Account after May 2, 2025, and the remaining appropriations shall be canceled.

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

Author(s): Jacob Schonfield, Chair, SGA Budgetary Committee

Co-Author(s): SGA Budgetary Committee

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Harris seconded by Representative Fisher

Action taken by Student Congress: 22-0-0

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: _____

				22-Oct					
Last	First	Intial	Final	Last	First	CR-112-02	CR-112-03	CB-112-13	AB-112-05
Aslam	Syed	x	x	Aslam	Syed	y	y	y	y
Awoyemi	Ayomide	ex	ex	Awoyemi	Ayomide				
Beasley	William	x	x	Beasley	William	y	y	y	y
Bento	Marilou	x	x	Bento	Marilou	y	y	y	y
Bertotti	Hayden	x	x	Bertotti	Hayden	y	y	y	y
Brown	Jenna	ex	ex	Brown	Jenna				
Calvert	Laura	ex	ex	Calvert	Laura				
Carter	Lauren	x	x	Carter	Lauren	y	y	y	y
Cantrell	Madeline	x	x	Cantrell	Madeline	y	y	y	y
Coats	Lucas	ex	ex	Coats	Lucas				
Coats	Noah	ex	ex	Coats	Noah				
Combest	Harley	a	x	Combest	Harley	y	y	y	y
Duncan	Elizabeth	x	x	Duncan	Elizabeth	y	y	y	y
Estrada	Nicole	ex	ex	Estrada	Nicole				
Finley	Jael	x	x	Finley	Jael	y	y	y	y
Fisher	Mecca	x	x	Fisher	Mecca	y	y	y	y
Gilson-Bond	Aaron	x	x	Gilson-Bond	Aaron	y	y	y	y
Harris	Hudson	x	x	Harris	Hudson	y	y	y	y
Kathuria	Shrey	x	x	Kathuria	Shrey	y	y	y	y
Keupen	Ben	x	x	Keupen	Ben	y	y	y	y
Koneru	Aniketh	x	a	Koneru	Aniketh	y			
Lapp	Bridget	x	x	Lapp	Bridget	y	y	y	y
Martin	Kyle	x	x	Martin	Kyle	y	y	y	y
Mitei	Kristen	a	a	Mitei	Kristen				
Ogle	Pierce	a	x	Ogle	Pierce	y	y	y	y
Oler	Kyle	x	x	Oler	Kyle	y	y	y	y
Prajapati	Himani	a	x	Prajapati	Himani	y	y	y	y
Reynolds	Michael	ex	ex	Reynolds	Michael				
Robinson	Caleb	ex	ex	Robinson	Caleb				
Schonfield	Jacob	ex	ex	Schonfield	Jacob				
Schroeder	Brooklyn	a	x	Schroeder	Brooklyn	y	y	y	y
Strahan	Frankie	a	x	Strahan	Frankie	y	y	y	y
Stubbs	Lauren	a	a	Stubbs	Lauren				
Walker	Cody	x	x	Walker	Cody	y	y	y	y
Wang	Andy	ex	ex	Wang	Andy				
Wilson	Jeriah	ex	ex	Wilson	Jeriah				
PRESENT			18	22	Yes	23	22	22	22
ABSENT			7	3	No	0	0	0	0
EXCUSED			11	11	Abstain	0	0	0	0

