

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Dale 103

Call to Order- 7:03 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.

Approval of Minutes | August 27, 2024

On a motion to approve the minutes Strahan seconded by Duncan

Officer Reports -

- **Chair's Report:** Hi everyone, I hope you are all having a good week. This week is kind of busy for Congress as we are holding interviews for associates this upcoming Sunday as well as anyone who is applying to be a representative. If you are currently an associate and are reapplying, please reapply to be an associate by Sept. 6th so that we can get you all on the same bill to be reappointed next week. So far, we have around 30 applications for the Undergraduate Student Congress so make sure to tell your friends, to get them involved, but I am sure we will see more when election filing happens. This weekend Rylee put on a lovely committee chair orientation, so all of your committee chairs were informed about how to do things like legislation. I filled out at least one bill for every slot of Engage for how to write bills with examples from different committees. Then, I am putting some paperwork about writing legislation in general because I know that it can be tough in general.
- **Vice Chair's Report:** Hi everyone! Hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend. Orientation will be Sunday, September 15th from 10 am to 3 pm. If you were appointed in the Spring and have never attended Orientation before, attendance for you will be required. All committee meetings will be in the Scholar's Room of the Union at 2:30 pm at the end of Orientation. If your name tag has any incorrect or outdated information, please let me know so I can have a new one for you next week. Thanks!
- **Secretary's Report:** Hi guys, I hope you are all doing well. I have nothing new to report at this time.

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** Hello everyone, Cosco did not meet because of Labor Day and a 4-day weekend. I hope everyone had fun. At this time, I don't think we are

going to meet until after orientation just to give the potential new members of our committee an opportunity to set their availability and what works best for them.

- **Congressional Administration:** Hi everyone, ConAd met officially this weekend. We saw CB-112-02 which is the Superior Court nomination bill we have this a recommendation of no recommendation. I would just recommend to all of you to look at the ConAd minutes from this Sunday which are attached to this meeting's agenda, just so we make sure that you are not asking any questions to the nominee that have not already been asked. Additionally, again general application for the Student Government Association will be opened until Friday at midnight. I would encourage all of you to tell your friends, tell your associates, tell your classmates, anyone who might seem interested in joining student government anyway shape or form. Please encourage them to fill out and apply.
- **External Affairs:** Hello everyone! I hope everyone is doing well. First, a reminder that we have paired up with OK Votes to organize our National Voter Registration Day Tabling! It will be on Tuesday September 17th, and we will be doing quite an expanded one from the tabling last year if you participated. We will be setting up three different tables this year, one in Burr Park, one on the north side of SOVAL and one at the Union. This means we will need a lot of people to come help out and table, so start thinking about times you'd be available that day. SEPTEMBER 17th! You should especially sign up because it will also count as your CSP! I will post the link to sign up for tabling in the group me right now! Please try and sign up for the Burr Park Table spots first as we will need the most help there. Then once again reminder the day after EA is hosting a Civic Engagement Forum on the 18th from 7:15-8pm, and we should have finally gotten our official venue for it the Gaylord Auditorium thanks to Hope! Finally, EA is partnering up with OK Votes again along with our tabling events for a Debate Watch Party! It will be on September 10th, and it will be lots of fun! I will have more details about that event by next week! I hope everyone has a great rest of their week!
- **Human Diversity:** New meetings are going to be on Fridays, right now they did a voter registration with the queer student alliance and that was also with OK votes, so they registered a lot of students to vote. Looking into the future, Aniketh is compiling a list of multicultural clubs so that we have a database of people we can contact and get opinions from. Bring into Congress and all of those good things.
- **Sustainability:** Good evening, SUSTY did not meet this past weekend, nor will we meet this upcoming Sunday either. Instead of meeting, I'm going to be available to chat if anyone wants to talk about sustainability or just anything in general. Text me on GroupMe if you want to chat.
- **University Policy:** Last Sunday we chose not to meet because our lovely chair Robinson is a very nice guy and was being very compassionate about the fact that a lot of us were going to be out of town. However, he decided to be a very proactive member of the committee by offering zoom office hours from noon to 12:30. Isn't that pretty cool? Also, he brought up some important things regarding the recent changes to Title IX because of the striking of the most recent Supreme Court Ruling. It is going to be a lot of fun University Policy. We are going to be trying to tackle a lot of different issues such as parking, the Title IX issues still and then we are going to try and work on student wages and a wide variety of different projects. I am really excited for how University Policy is going to be going. We are a growing committee, and we are on the rise this semester, and applications for vice chair and secretary are going to be coming up real soon. So, get ready because we are on the run, and we are on the rise.

- **Ways and Means: Hey guys,** WAM did not have a meeting last week and will be meeting Friday. I am looking forward to eating lunch with my WAM members.

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

Student Concern Link

Items to Be Considered

On a motion to see CB-CXII-02 Aslan seconded by Reynolds

- CB-CXII-02 “September 2024 Superior Court Act.” (CONAD, Rec of no Rec)
(Wolthuis/Glasscock/ Mortazavi/ Grace)

Author’s Explanation:

Sorry, everyone for the almost delay I was running from my night class. I am very excited to present our nominee for the final vacancy in the Superior Court today. Ms. Ella Dreese is a pre-law scholar, she is extremely qualified as you will see here in a second, but for full transparency we interviewed candidates last spring for Superior Court and Ella was our first alternate. We were originally going to appoint someone else who was already a law student because as you know the Superior Court tries to find either law students or pre-law students, it is not required, but it is a nice thing to do. We found someone in law school, unfortunately she was not very communicative, so we were not able to go through with her appointment. Ella, while she is an undergraduate student, is a pre-law scholar, very qualified, so we asked if she would be interested in being appointed this fall, she jumped on it within 30 seconds and said absolutely, yes please and I will let Ella introduce herself. Hi guys my name is Ella Dresse, I am a junior. I am an entrepreneurship pre-law student I am on the pre-law track. I am also a pre-law scholar in the honors college, which essentially what that means is I do have early admission into OU Law school, and I am really hoping to continue on that and going to OU Law School starting my senior year. I am very excited to have the opportunity to possibly serve on the Superior Court and continue my love and passion for law.

6:28 remaining for questions

- Kathuria- What do you think it would mean to you personally if you were nominated to the Superior Court?
 - Ultimately, I think the goal of the Superior Court is to uphold the excellence of the University while also making sure that the students are protected within the Constitution and the Code Annotated as outlined by SGA. I think that being a part of the Superior Court would not only give me the ability to work with others around me to learn how to best suit the student body, but also to uphold to excellence of the University itself in making sure that things are going as they should be and everything is in line in comparison to the Constitution.
- Kathuria- If you were to be confirmed, do you plan on staying publicly neutral about the upcoming election and the potential candidates who might be running for Congress or President?
 - Yes, I do. I understand as part of the superior court it is incredibly important to stay unbiased and impartial in all elections and also in the issues that are brought up. I do know that within the Code Annotated it does say that we are required as justices to recuse our stance on something, if we do think that it is impossible to become impartial. However, I do know that it is something incredibly important and I fully look to stand on that throughout my time serving as a Superior Court justice.
- Kathuria- Can you define what you mean by being very strict in terms of interpreting the Constitution and the Code Annotated?

- I think that the reason that we have the SGA Constitution and the SGA Code Annotated is that we can follow the guidelines that we have put out for the students here at the University. I do think that those are there for a reason and that they should be followed strictly because they are here to give us those guidelines to make sure that we are protecting the rights of the students here at OU and also make sure that they are given the ability to act freely as students here. I think ultimately with upholding those as strict; they are ever-changing documents as we continue to look forward into the upcoming future here at OU. However, I think that they are guidelines for us to strictly abide by and as the student rapport that is what you are supposed to be doing, abiding by those guidelines making sure that you are being held liable in comparison to those guidelines.
- Kathuria- How do you plan on making sure that you are not allowing other justices to influence how you might rule on a certain case?
 - I think ultimately something that I am incredibly excited about is to get to be a part of is learning from the people around me. I think that being part of an organization with so many different viewpoints and different individuals is incredibly important. I think learning from people in those places is incredibly important. I am actually a tour guide here at the University as well as in Crimson club, so I have the opportunity to surround myself with individuals with very different viewpoints than I do and from very different places on campus and people that don't necessarily think the same way that I do and I have been able to hold my own opinions on things while also having healthy conversations with the individuals around me and continue to be a good representative of the University itself and the excellence of it.
- Kathuria- How do you plan on ensuring that you are being fully transparent with all bodies of the Student Government Association?
 - I think that transparency in itself is incredibly important especially when dealing with something as a strict interpretation of the SGA Constitution and Code Annotated. I think that with that transparency is where you get the trust and the upholding of integrity within the student body so that is something that I think through communication not only within the Superior Court, but within the other branches of SGA as well is incredibly important and will continue to be upheld, whether that be communication with everyone about what's going on and different activities. Just making sure that the communication channel always stays consistently open because that is how we are able to uphold the integrity of the university itself.
- Kathuria- Do you have any prior experiences with the legal system or the judiciary system and could you describe those experiences?
 - I have been able to research the Oklahoma Judiciary system in the State of Oklahoma. Specifically, the *McCurty v Oklahoma Supreme Court Ruling*, that is something that I did post an abstract and submitted for application for an editorial. So, I have had some examples and some ability to be involved in the State itself. I also am a pre-law scholar; with that we do have different organizational meetings where we get together and talk about things that are going on, especially in the law sector. I also am looking forward to taking an LSAT again, I just recently took one, so I do have examples to exposure to the law side of things and I hope to continue that as I go forward in my educational experience.

On a motion to extend time for questions Kathuria seconded by Reynolds

- Kathuria- What sector of law are you interested in practicing after your graduate from law school?
 - I am really interested in practicing family law. I was adopted and so was my brother and I am really interested in child advocacy, and I really want to help give a voice to children that don't necessarily have one, especially in difficult family situations.
- Gilson-Bond- During this round was there anyone else that you looked at or was the first option Ella?
 - As I mentioned, these interviews were actually held last spring. So the superior court justices that are now serving on the court that y'all appointed those are obviously from that same interview pool. I believe that there were two others that did not make the cut, we would not have even put them as alternates. We all agreed Ella should any of the nominees fall through, Ella was most definitely going to be the person that we look towards and if Ella rejected that offering of the position, then we were going to have to reopen the GenApp for it. We promise that it was not a last-minute scramble, Ella was our alternate should anything go wrong, something did go wrong luckily Ella agreed to the position

18-0-0

Follow-Up Reports

- Kathuria- We did pass the Honoring the 2024 OU Softball team bill in the Graduate Student Senate last Thursday. It was passed by unanimous consent, so I am glad nobody dissented on my bill, so that is amazing. So, now it is on President Glasscock's desk, and I can guarantee to you that he will sign it and maybe just maybe there will be a little ceremony or something. I am excited for this bill to be signed because OU Softball deserves the absolute honors for an incredible accomplishments that they have received.

Announcements and Comments

- Harris- I am a TA for an intro to engineering class we need partners for a community project that we have been working on. So, the problem that we are searching for there can be more, we have a lot of people so we can have multiple community partners, but we need a problem that can have a group of four and about 5 groups working on to take them about a month of good work to do. Not super expensive, preferably a physical solution. An example is we made some enrichment toys for the Oklahoma City Zoo and on the software side we are helping the food pantry with some of their input/output. So, stuff like that, if you have any problems, you can email me. I will put it in the GroupMe.
- Kathuria- I am pleased to announce that the EXEC of the Undergraduate Student Congress has nominated me to be on the Homecoming Royalty Court. This is an honor that I take very seriously, and I am blessed that everyone has been very supportive of me over the years. You guys mean the world to me and thank you so much for getting me to where I am and getting to hopefully be on that stage walking the football field whenever that football game takes place. Thank you guys so much for everything, y'all mean to world. I love you.

Final Roll Call

On a motion to adjourn L. Coats seconded by Walker

Adjourn- 7:33 pm

Chair: Hope Rhoads

Vice-Chair: Rylee Houston

Secretary: Chloe Harris

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXII

September 2, 2024

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS25

September 12, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-CXII-02
SENATE BILL GS25-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of legislation appointing justices to the SGA Superior Court; providing for short title, providing for codification, and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1: Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “September 2024 Superior Court Act.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to name and appoint a Superior Court Justice.

Section 3: In accordance with SGACA Title IV, Chapter 2, section b, subsections iii and iv, Superior Court Justices will be appointed by a majority vote of the panelists [the SGA President, the GSS Chair, the Congress Chair, and the General Counsel]. The Chief Justice of Superior Court is one of the panelists, however they will only vote in the event of the tie.

- Ella Dreese

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

Authors: President Caden Glasscock, Student Government Association
Vice President S. Cyrus Mortazavi, Student Government Association
Ellie Wolthuis, Chief of Staff to the SGA President
Chief Justice Claire Grace, Superior Court

Submitted on a Motion by: Aslam seconded by Reynolds

Action taken by Congress: 18-0-0

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:

3-Sep						
Last	First	Intial	Final	Last	First	CB-112-02
Aslam	Saed	x	x	Aslam	Saed	y
Awoyemi	Ayomide	a	a	Awoyemi	Ayomide	
Beasley	William	a	x	Beasley	William	y
Bento	Marilou	x	x	Bento	Marilou	y
Bertotti	Hayden	a	x	Bertotti	Hayden	y
Brown	Jenna	ex	ex	Brown	Jenna	
Calvert	Laura	a	a	Calvert	Laura	
Cantrell	Madeline	x	x	Cantrell	Madeline	y
Coats	Lucas	x	x	Coats	Lucas	y
Coats	Noah	a	a	Coats	Noah	
Duncan	Elizabeth	x	x	Duncan	Elizabeth	y
Gilson-Bond	Aaron	x	x	Eaton	Elena	
Harris	Hudson	x	x	Gilson-Bond	Aaron	y
Ho	Caren	a	a	Harris	Hudson	y
Islas	Lizbeth	a	a	Ho	Caren	
Kathuria	Shrey	x	x	Islas	Lizbeth	
Keupen	Ben	x	x	Kathuria	Shrey	y
Koneru	Aniketh	ex	ex	Keupen	Ben	y
Lancaster	Jackson	a	a	Koneru	Aniketh	
Marah	Michael	a	a	Lancaster	Jackson	
Martin	Kyle	x	x	Marah	Michael	
Ogle	Pierce	a	x	Martin	Kyle	y
Oler	Kyle	ex	x	Ogle	Pierce	y
Reynolds	Michael	x	x	Oler	Kyle	y
Robinson	Caleb	ex	e	Reynolds	Michael	y
Schonfield	Jacob	x	x	Robinson	Caleb	
Schroeder	Brooklyn	x	a	Schonfield	Jacob	y
Strahan	Frankie	x	x	Schroeder	Brooklyn	
Walker	Cody	x	x	Strahan	Frankie	y
Wilson	Jeriah	ex	ex	Walker	Cody	y
Zainuddin	Raeed	a	a	Wilson	Jeriah	
				Zainuddin	Raeed	
PRESENT		15	18	Yes		18
ABSENT		11	9	No		0
EXCUSED		5	4	Abstain		0