

# THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXIII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 28, 2024

Dale 103

**Call to Order- 7:00 pm**

**Opening Roll Call**

**SGA Mission Statement:** The mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association is to support the University's advancement by prioritizing student voices at every degree level; to advocate for the holistic development of each student; and to promote civic engagement and community involvement across campus.

**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 Bertotti seconded by Kathuria*

**Approval of Minutes | January 21, 2024**

**Officer Reports-**

- **Chair's Report:** Hello everyone! I hope your weeks are off to a great start. We've got a big meeting ahead of us today! Before we kick off with Congress business tonight, I want to tell everyone about two things. 1. The CAC Common Application closes this Sunday at 11:59 pm. You can be in Congress and CAC. The open events are Welcome Week, Homecoming, U-Sing, and Speakers Bureau. If you have more questions, feel free to ask me after the meeting! 2. The RSO Outstanding Programming closes this February Recognition Award closes on Feb 1st. If your RSO has done an amazing job this past year make sure to apply! More information is on the Engage homepage. Now for Congress Business! Today we are seeing votes of no confidence. Basically, a Vote of no confidence is a chance to evaluate the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary on how well we have done in our performance this year. You will get to question us individually for 10 minutes. For example, my Confidence will occur first. You all can ask me whatever you would like about my role as Congress Chair for 10 minutes. The time for questions cannot be extended. After the question portion, we will need a motion to enter the Executive Session. When an Executive Session occurs the person under the no-confidence will leave the room as well as anyone who is not a member of Congress. Executive Session cannot be recorded, and minutes will not be taken. Anything that occurs in the executive session cannot be spoken about with anyone who was not in the

executive session. What happens in that executive session stays in that executive session. IT IS ILLEGAL under Oklahoma law to share anything about the executive session with anyone who was not in the executive session. For example, no one here can tell me what is said about me in executive session. The executive session will end when someone motions to exit the executive session and the motion is seconded. Within the executive session, people will get one minute to share their thoughts (much like debate) except there is no proponenty vs opponency. Just people taking turns sharing thoughts. When we get out of the executive session the person under the no-confidence will come back in the room. We will then do a roll call vote of Representatives as to whether we want to No-Confidence the person or not. Yes, means you want to remove the officer from their position. No means you do not want to remove the officer from their position. That is how no confidence works. We will be seeing appointments tonight which is a huge part of Congress's job. I want you all to ask questions. I want you to ask the hard questions. What I do not want is for you to do be disrespectful or rude in your questioning. These appointees are students as well and they are nervous about being here. I want you to think carefully about how you ask questions, and I would be careful about asking questions about things the appointees cannot control. So instead of asking "You're freshmen how are you going to do this job?" You could ask "You don't have much experience with student government what other experiences do you have that could help you fulfill your duties?" If I find a question rude or inappropriate I will call decorum, and the question will not have to be answered. I have full faith that all of you know how to be respectful and kind. That is all I have we are now in line for the Vice-Chair Report.

- **Vice Chair's Report:** Hi everyone! This weekend we had our new member Orientation, went extremely well! Huge thank you to all of you who came, I am so grateful to have such a wonderful turn out! And an even bigger thank you to my lovely committee chairs and exec team who supported me and helped everything flow smoothly! I could not have made it happen without you being so willing to take things off my plate. Some things we went over included membership requirements and expectations, committee presentations, and parli pro! We took a 'What Committee Are You?' personality quiz, got to know each other, and had some lunch! Also, for our new members, all the nametags are color-coded according to your committee. You will see a small colored dot on the back, which coordinates with the color assigned to your committee. COSCO is dark pink. ConAd is purple. EA is blue. HD is light pink. Susty is light green. UPol is red. And WAM is dark green. Please be diligent in keeping your nametags with their assigned color and committee when putting them back at the end of the meeting.
- **Secretary's Report:** Hi everyone, I do not have much to say just that if you are a new member, please accept the engage page request that I have sent you so that the page will be properly updated.

#### **Committee Reports-**

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** Hey everyone! COSCO met officially on Sunday. We didn't assign projects just yet because I wanted to get our members finalized first, but now that we have them finalized, we'll delve into our projects this Sunday. Regarding light walks, COSCO has historically held its light walks on the last Sunday of the month, so COSCO's first light walk will be on Sunday, February 23rd. I will decide the timing of the light walk closer to that date, but I wanted to get the date out there so you all can add it to your calendars, as I hope to see all of you there.

- **Congressional Administration:** Hey everyone, ConAd met officially Sunday and gave CB-113-05 a Rec of Due Pass and CB-113-06 a Rec of No Rec. For CB-113-06 I highly recommend you refer back to the ConAd minutes sent out with the agenda and what the nominees say this evening in deciding your vote.
- **External Affairs:** Hello everyone, EA met officially this Sunday, and we got to greet some new members of the body and our committee so that was very exciting. We discussed Higher Education Day, and we are working on finalizing the details for the day of! As a reminder Higher Education Day is on Wednesday February 12th. The sign-up sheet is available right now and I encourage all members of the body to sign up and participate in this fun event! The sign-up sheet is closing this Friday at midnight so please sign up soon if you are planning to attend. On Thursday OU is also hosting a public debate between the three mayoral candidates for the city of Norman. This debate will be hosted in the Gaylord Auditorium at 5:45pm this Thursday. It will also be livestreamed, so I encourage everyone to either come attend or watch at home. I hope everyone has a great week!
- **Human Diversity:** Hi I am Xander Donald. I am the Vice Chair of Human Diversity. The current Chair is running a fever so that is why I am here. We met officially on Sunday, we met a lot of our new members, and we discussed a few of our projects.
- **Sustainability:** Hello! SUSTY met unofficially this past Sunday and discussed project updates and ideas for the upcoming semester. In the next upcoming week or two, we will be scheduling our February trash walk so stay tuned for that.
- **University Policy:** Hello, everyone! UPol met unofficially this Sunday since it was orientation and our first meeting of the semester. We outlined our upcoming projects, many of which are being carried over from last session. This Sunday we will meet officially and workshop email etiquette, PolicyTech, project briefs, and assigning projects to our new members - whom I welcomed with an email earlier today.
- **Ways and Means:** Hi everyone! WAM met unofficially this past weekend, and I got to talk to some new members of the

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Special Orders**

- Regular Votes of No-Confidence
  - Chair

10:00 minutes for questions

- **Kathuria-** What do you think are some areas that you would like to see yourself improve in as you hopefully continue the role as Congress Chair?
  - I can always use improvement. Something that I would like to do is I would like to host bill writing workshops. I know that I talked about this in my platform but the fall semester got really crazy, so what I would like to do is after a congress meeting, maybe after an exec meeting on Sundays, so different people can go. Host a workshop about how to write bills, we can write fake bills that would be really fun. Kind of get members engaged. I would also I think I think I would just like to get more people in the office. I know we have really good attendance at our meetings so far and our engagement is really good there. So getting more people at things like our light walks and our trash walks I think would be a big priority as well.
- **Kathuria-** How do you plan on collaborating with the Exec, OU administrators, and George in terms of being able to come up with creative solutions to counter such curveballs?
  - Something that we do in Big Exec is I actually meet with our President, our Vice President, the Vice President of Student Affairs, George and some other people

form our administration. We actually talked about these things in detail on Monday. We really just want to make sure that students feel safe at OU and make sure that they feel heard and whatever resources that we can get to them as well said we are nonpartisan so as we said that can be really difficult and really hard to navigate. So, making sure they have the resources that they need access to without polarizing other students.

- **Cunningham-** What was your platform when you ran and how have you executed those objectives?
  - I actually ran on the HOPE platform. I think it was helping build the body, optimizing resources, passing purposeful legislation and something about engagement. Its been a while, but I remember a lot of the core things. One of my core objectives is when I came into Congress at the beginning of the semester, we were really small. We had around 56 members in the body. Now we have 153, we have much better engagement more people at our meetings. People are excited to be here. We also have filled a lot more rep seats than we have in the past. I think we had 26 rep seats filled when I came in, that could be wrong, but I think that's around the number. Now we have 40 we would have 41 but our College of Education Representative had to leave OU, not just Congress, OU in general. So I was really excited to fill the seat. Then passing purposeful legislation I have worked really hard to make sure that we have legislation resources on our Engage, but it is how to write a bill. I gave every single committee Chair how to write a bill word docs so if people couldn't find it on Engage at least our members could have it. Just making sure that people know what to do I don't think that we have seen a lot of unnecessary legislation this year. I think that we've seen impactful legislation when we see legislation and I think we have had a good influx of that, so I would say that's why I did.
- **Schonfield-** Could you maybe list 10 members of the body that aren't committee chairs?
  - Yes, let me turn around. We have Ria Sachdev, Hayden Bertotti, we have got Henry Christensen. We have Alexandra Toyos, Zane Mirza. We have got Lilly squared that counts as two. We've got Delia with us Shrey Kathuria obviously. Elizabeth Duncan, I know some names guys.
- **Mirza-** As for the seats that have not been filled for representatives, do you have any concrete strategies on how to fill those remaining seats?
  - We have three districts that are completely unfilled. The College of Architecture, I am reaching out to their Dean when election filing opens and telling them to please get their students to apply. We have notoriously had trouble with the College of Architecture. The other seats that are open are our pre-health science district. Which means these are the students that commute back and forth from the Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City from here and they don't actually get to choose their schedules. So it is really difficult to get them involved in things. I have tried to reach out to their Dean as well I've tried to convince some nurses that I know as well, but they are super busy and then our exploratory district is open as well. It is for undecided so really that is targeting our people that might not know what to do yet. And so those people are kind of hard to find because there is not a dean for them. The College of Education we had it filled. I am going to reach out to their Dean as well. That's my plan to get those seats filled.
- **Cunningham-** What is your proudest achievement as Chair?

- I don't know that is a hard question. I think that my proudest achievement is that I walk in here now and people don't seem like they dread going to these meetings and that is really what I care about. I think people are a lot more engaged. People are hanging out in the Conoco. They are talking about how they love their committees and even though as Chair I often miss getting to know everyone really well one on one. I am happy that people are coming in here and are excited to be here and are excited to work on their projects and that is not really an achievement of mine but just the people in here, but I think that is my proudest accomplishment.
- **Cunningham-** How is your attendance outside of congress?
  - I try to get to as many events on campus as I can I try to go to some of our committee events. I have missed the trash walks, but I did go to EA's panel. I tried going to Oklahoma's Higher Education Day. I am actually pretty involved in Gaylord. I am part of an initiative in the College of Education actually called Transforming Tutoring Initiatives, so I try to do that every morning and then outside of this I have an internship as well. Oh I'm also in Alpha Gam I don't know why I forgot about that.
- **Keupen-** How would you rate yourself on steps that you have taken to remedy that or steps that you will take to remedy?
  - I would label myself a 6/10 because if you ask me a question I will answer it truthfully. But sometimes it is easy to be up here and forget to explain things. I am so used to being in Congress and all of you guys know what is going on. So sometimes when I get in front of student bodies, I can be bad about using lingo and things like that but I have taken a lot of steps to talk to classrooms and just let them know what SGA is. That is just a big problem in general. So letting them know about our resources and just being transparent about that and how our processes work, but I definitely think that there are areas that I can work to improve and just engaging in those one on one conversations when necessary.
- **Gilson-Bond-** How often do you miss or are late for your office hours?
  - I do not really miss my office hours. I think I was late once because of traffic. I think I missed once because I was sick, but I do notify the body when I am not going to be there. Sometimes I do go get lunch or I go on a walk because I am held up there for a long time but I am always accessible when people need me I am there.
- **Christensen-** How do you see yourself going forward?
  - I think one of the biggest things in introducing new members to the body is taking the time to get to know them. I might not be able to talk to you for a long time before the meeting, but I will make sure I know your name. I say hello, I ask you how your week is. I think that a smile and a hello makes a big difference. I care about everyone in this room and I hope that everybody knows I care about them and I think that we have been a lot more purposeful and I think that is what has helped keep new members engaged. Our committee chairs have been great about inviting people to sit with them. Chloe and Rylee have been really great about inviting them to office and saying hello and I think that's kind of what makes the difference and also just taking the time to explain what's going on. I mean it is a lot of lingo at once and its scary and I am still not the best at Parliamentary procedure all the time either, so just taking the time to explain things and encourage questions and not make it scary.

*On a motion to enter executive session Oler seconded by Robinson*

*On a motion to exit executive session Gilson-Bond seconded by Kathuria*

0-36-0 Seat Retained

- Vice Chair

10:00 minutes for questions

- **Kathuria-** Could you please tell the body some of the things that you would like to see yourself improve upon if you allowed to be Vice Chair in the next term?
  - One thing I really want to see more improvement on is just cross committee engagement. One thing that I did last semester is that I put all of these folders on my door. One for every committee and my goal was really just to have people from other committees just shout out people from other committees and I just haven't seen a lot of that because I don't think I have just done a good job about emphasizing that culture and cross committee collaboration is push that and push more relationships with our committees. We have also moved committee chair one-on-ones from the Chair to the Vice Chair position. I want to just be a lot better at building relationships with our committee chairs and just making sure that they feel very supported and like all of their needs are met.
- **Cunningham-** What was your platform when you ran for Vice Chair and how have you executed those objectives?
  - My platform was ROOT for Rylee. The first one was RSO engagement which I have not done a lot on because I think our Chair Hope has done such an amazing job of just reaching out to our RSO's, but that was one thing that I did as Sustainability Chair, so it was kind of what I wanted to do as Vice Chair, but I just think that Hope does a really good job at it already. I don't remember the rest, really it was just a lot of new member engagement and just making sure that there was a good community within Congress, which I think that all three of us have done a good job of.
- **Mirza-** Could you elaborate on your position on a day to day and what you do?
  - My position is technically to serve as the Associate coordinator which is why I am in charge of hosting orientation every semester. So I host orientation for all the new members of the body, just making sure that they are very familiar with our rules and our community and just making sure that they feel welcome. It is also why I do things like bring the name tags and the snacks just to make sure that every single member of our body feels seen and heard whether they are a committee chair or an associate. I also serve as relations with the committee chairs and their voice in Exec and just helping support them as well. Day to day I make sure that their name tags are all kept, buying snacks bringing them to the body, planning orientation all things like that.
- **Gilson-Bond-** How many meetings did you attend of each committee?
  - I don't remember off the top of my head. I would have a goal to try and attend as many committee meetings as possible every Sunday, but I'm also apart of the OU policy and Debate Team which requires me to travel some weekends. There were some weekends that I could not attend any committee meetings and some weekends where I would attend every single one. One thing that we did change is to make each committee meeting go in 45-minute intervals on Sunday. So they all take place exactly 45 minutes apart so it is easier for you guys to go to other committee meetings and for me to go to every single one because there was an issue last time where Susty would have their trash walk at 1:30 and EA would also be meeting at 1:30 so I would kind of have to pick and choose or COSCO would start at 4 and

Upol would start at 4:15 and I just don't think that it's really fair to have to pick and choose which committee I want to go and support. So we moved them all 45 minutes apart so I could be able to go to all of them.

- **Schonfield-** What have you done to boost morale within the body?
  - I think things like bringing snack and the little folders on the door. Also just Chloe and I make sure that our office hours are very welcoming we have tried to create an office where people feel welcome to come in and out of. Chloe brings candy, I bring fidget toys. Something that I really wanted to improve on was that community aspects of the Conoco I had honestly never stepped foot inside of the Vice Chair office until I was taking over the position from Amelia and we were going over transition docs. Now I can safely know that I have seen many of your faces coming in the Vice Chair and Secretary Office which is a big improvement from how it used to be. I think you guys should feel comfortable coming to talk to us outside of congress.
- **Estrada-** What is your favorite thing that you have done this semester?
  - My favorite thing that I have done. I think moving the Committee Chair one-on-ones to the Vice chair. So the Vice Chair is supposed to be an advocate for the committee chairs and is also an ex-officio member of every committee and that's just something that the Vice Chair never really did before me so that is just something that Hope and I talked about and we really wanted to bring back just making sure that the Vice Chair is really involved by meeting with the committee chairs.
- **Cunningham-** How many times have you canceled, been late, or just otherwise missed office hours?
  - I am going to be very transparent I do have a chronic illness, so I tend to not make it to my office hours sometimes. For example, I had to cancel my office hours on Wednesday because I literally threw up on my way to campus, but I feel like I have always been very transparent with letting the body know when I will be there and when I won't and just making those office hours up later in the week if I do have to miss. So yes, I have missed quite a few, but I always make sure to be very diligent and transparent and notifying the body and making those office hours up later in the week.
- **Kathuria-** What are your projects, goals, and ambitions if you get to serve as Vice Chair in another term?
  - Again, I think just really improving cross committee collaboration. All of our committees are super big I think every committee has at least 12 people in it. Most of the committees have about 20 people in them and I want people to feel comfortable working with other committees instead of just staying in their own so that there is more of a community culture to Congress rather than just specifically only having friends within their committee.
- **Aslam-** Before you had your current role you served as Sustainability Chair can you go over which position you love more and why?
  - As much as I loved being the Sustainability Chair, I feel like I love being the Vice Chair a lot more, I am not a super logistical person, and I am not going to write a bill. Sorry, that is not who I am, but I love the people aspect side of things. I love hosting Orientation; I love making presentations. I love meeting with the Committee Chairs. I love office hours and having a place where people can just come and feel

welcome and eat candy and play with fidget toys and so I really do love and cherish both positions, but I think that the Vice Chair role is just more situated to my strengths.

- **Richardson**- Have you considered hosting virtual office hours?
  - I have before, sometimes I have hosted office hours on zoom if I knew in advance that I was going to be sick.
- **Cunningham**- What would you say that your hierarchy of responsibilities including Congress?
  - I would say that for me this semester Congress definitely does come first. I do get paid for this position so I take that very seriously. My debate coach knows, George knows, he is our advisor for the debate team. I will always put Congress first above the Debate team even at the woes of my debate coach she does not appreciate it sometimes. She knows that's where my passion is. That's where my heart lies. I would say Congress, and then academics and then debate for me.
- **Duncan**- Do you have set plans for this upcoming semester if you are staying in this position to encourage cross committee collaboration?
  - I think meeting with the committee chairs personally will help a lot because I will get to hear more about what projects they are working on and being able to recommend different cross committee collaboration projects. Like whenever I hear Syed talking about one project, he wants to work on in Cosco and then I hear Upol wants to work on something similar. Then I will recommend that those two committee chairs collaborate and have one project that both committees can work on. This is my first week having one on ones with the committee chair so I can't really tell you any specific projects that I would have cross committee collaboration on.
- **Keupen**- Do you have any plans this semester regarding communications and public relation issues?
  - Regarding communications and PR. Last semester, there were some fumbles in regards to running the Instagram. Just because that was our first semester combining our Instagram accounts. So it used to be OU Congress and OU SGA and last semester we made it OU SGA and moved it all to one. Then we had an unfortunate problem where the Director of Communications from our Executive Branch just would not respond to anything, so a lot of communication issues just fell to Congress, specifically. So, yes moving forward I am really looking to work more with Exec to create a more cohesive PR team and just be more active on the Instagram and engagement.

*On a motion to enter executive session Christiansen seconded by Duncan*

*On a motion to exit executive session Harris seconded by Hallum*

36-0-0 Seat Lost

*On a motion to take a 10-minute recess Harris seconded by Oler*

*On a motion to nominate Marilou Bento, Harris seconded by Carter*

*On a motion to nominate Aaron Gilson-Bond, Oler seconded by Cody Walker*

- Secretary

10:00 minutes for questions

- **Robinson**- When is the last time you checked your words per minute?
  - Probably when I was nominated for Secretary the first time. It is faster. I know it is faster because I am getting those minutes out real quick. I have never typed so fast in my life and my nails are long.



- **Gilson-Bond-** What is your proudest achievement as Secretary?
  - My proudest achievement was actually getting everyone to come to office hours that was so exciting. I bribed you all with candy and I know that you weren't really there for me, you were there for the candy but it was great there were so many people in the Conoco. I mean I met Owen, I met Representative Toyos. I met Iglehart. I met Representative Wang. It has just been so nice to get to meet so many of you because I was really isolated I really only talked to Aaron before so it's really great to have gotten that opportunity to be a part of your journey in SGA.
- **Kathuria-** How do you plan on making sure that we are providing encouragement and making sure that all of our representatives are showing up and doing the business for the people?
  - Yes of course. I have been a little bit harsher with letting people be excused. I ask why they need to be excused usually if its for academic reasons or another organization I excuse them, but I definitely have been trying to get all of the people who I have been noticing have a lot of absences, reaching out to them, being like hey what's going on? We saw two expulsion bills last semester that I wrote. I have noticed that most committees are having great retention. I am not going to take credit for that, that is all the committee chairs, but it has pretty good I would say. I think that community we have has really helped
- **Election Commissioner Savage-** Going forward what could the body do to help alleviate you being hard of hearing and make it a little easier?
  - Yes, please speak loud. If I can't hear you at least my recording can hear you, so its usually ok. But if you are in the back just speak as loud as you can even if you are in the front. Sometimes I mishear and I have to look at Hope and be like what just got asked, I have no idea. So if you could just speak loud that would be great. But I try my best to hear so its not really an issue, I don't want to make it an issue.
- **Cunningham-** What was your platform when you ran and how have you executed those objectives?
  - My platform was 'TREAT' yourself by voting for me. The T was Transparency that was trying to get all of the legislation online which I did do. We have until Session 112 to Session 100 and I am working on getting all the way to one but I don't not see that happening because it is not all online at the moment. R was for Reliability it was trying to get all the committee secretaries to have minutes that look the same by having meetings with every committee secretary or at least sent them the documents they need so that they can transition well into the role. E was for efficiency which is getting the minutes out timely. I get them out by at least Wednesday, hopefully in the afternoon but sometimes at night. The ConAd minutes and the Exec minutes are usually done Sunday night or Monday morning. Accountability was also getting more members to show up, we have had really good attendance to the meetings I think we have only had 4 or 5 representatives not show up and then 2 or 3 not notify me. T was for thoroughness. Which all of my minutes are verbatim so that I have done as well.
- **Mirza-** Has there ever been an instance where you have missed record keeping on a small or large scale and how have you navigated those absences?
  - No I have never missed a meeting any of them Exec, Committee ConAd or the General Body Meeting. I always have a recording of all of the meetings too so I can go back and listen to them. I listen to every general body meeting all over again, so I love hearing all of your voices again multiple times.

- **Hallum-** What roles do you have as Secretary?
  - My roles are to write the minutes, send them out to everybody. Another role that I have, I added some roles to mine. Now I am supposed to be updating the code annotated with the General Council I do help with that. I update the bylaws on municode. I also added the role of updating legislation on there. I write expulsion bills for people that don't show up to meetings and then I am also responsible for being a voting member of ConAd and writing all of the minutes for both of those committees.
- **Cunningham-** What is your red flag?
  - Are you supposed to know your red flags? I don't know, you know what that's probably what it is as a red flag.
- **Keupen-** What is your zodiac sign?
  - Pisces in March.

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

*On a motion to exit executive session Oler seconded by Kathuria*

0-36-0 Seat Retained

### **Student Concerns**

#### **Items to Be Considered**

*On a motion to see CB-113-05 Gilson-Bond seconded by Carter*

- CB-113-05 “Clarifying Information about the CSP Act” (Aslam) (Rec of Due Pass)

#### **Authors Explanation:**

So, this bill is pretty clear cut and dry it basically just changes up the Bylaws a little bit to match what we have already been doing. Currently the vice chair is responsible for tracking the constituent service points also it is her job to determine whether or not it can be waived so I just added that. In addition, I also wanted to introduce the term Constituent Service Point into the Bylaws. It is a term that we use a lot, and it is a term that you cannot search and easily find but in the future if this passes it will be. In addition I wanted to clarify that if you do attend a committee meeting that is outside of your own that does count for a constituent service point but the way that it was worded was unclear and it implied that if you go to a committee meeting that it does not count for that for a constituent service point but it does. Last thing is that it removes the point system which implied that you needed multiple different constituent service points each month which is not true you just need one. I will mention that I am going to look for a friendly amendment striking out paragraph I under section 3c. I wanted to delete that entire section because we do not do a point system, we just do one constituent service point and I am just going to be looking for that friendly amendment.

6:55 remaining for questions

- **Richardson-** Would you accept a friendly amendment to strike out paragraph I under section 3c?
  - Yes.

*On a motion to see CB-113-06 Wang seconded by Estrada*

*On a motion to divide the question Kathuria seconded by Gilson-Bond*

*Objection Keupen seconded by Hallum*

*Objection fails 7-28-0*

*On a motion to view all candidates together but vote each individually Oler seconded by Schonfield*

- CB-113-06 “Secretaries of the SGA Executive Office of the President Appointment Act of 2025.” (Strickland, Dunlap, Wolthuis) (Rec of No Rec)

#### **Authors Explanation:**

Good evening, everyone I know it has been a long night, but thank you all for having all of us. I am Carter Strickland; this is Avery Dunlap and that is Ellie Wolthuis. We are presenting our nominees for EOP this year. We have 7 very qualified, kind-hearted and eager candidates for these roles. They are students just like you and they decided to get involved in SGA just like you and after taking bias training looking at their applications and conducting interviews these are the 7 candidates that we decided to go with. They are amazing students, they are all qualified, we wouldn't pick them if they weren't. We did an interview process, application process, and definitely went through the ropes so we ask that you be respectful in your questions and we look forward to answering them. Could each of the nominees share your names and the positions that you are nominated for. My name is Mohammed Elgouhari I am Secretary of Strategic Initiatives. I am Joseph Harroz Secretary of External Development. Josie Nicholson, Secretary of Campus Relations. Mercer Martin, Secretary of Student Services. Kendall Coppinger, Secretary of Fiscal Responsibility. Abbey Gross, Secretary of Communications. Noah Brown, Secretary of Student Belonging

6:34 remaining for questions

- **Mirza-** Could each of you please give a relatively short introduction as what you seek to do in your positions?
  - **Elgouhari-** So I hope to build bridges between different stakeholder groups. So my biggest thing that I have been on is innovation and build bridges between our science or stem departments, or business department and engineering.
  - **Harroz-** Secretary of External Development, I would like to help bridge that gap and allow students to really integrate to speak with local people regarding things like the law and our representatives and the way that I could do that is through student body speaker series with Representative or someone else.
  - **Nicolson-** I really want to work with RSO's, Greek Life, young life and fine arts to really make sure that they are utilizing SGA to the best of their abilities. It can be that personal connection for them to want to reach out to along with them cross program with each other when it comes down to it.
  - **Martin-** I would be the Secretary of Student services; I really want to streamline all the resources that we have on campus. We have great resources from action tutoring, mental health group, therapy at Goddard which I know that congress tried to give out to the people and make them more aware of that. So, I just wanted to work with Congress and other people to really streamline our resources and make sure the student body knows about them.
  - **Coppinger-** I am hopefully the Secretary of Fiscal Responsibility. One thing that I would really like to continue is the transparency with the budgets and RSO's and also to create a bridge between say the budgetary committee and the executive office, so that there is at least one person that knows all the answers to why we decided to do things with certain budgets and things like that.
  - **Gross-** I am hopefully the Secretary of Communications. I am hoping to really get involved with the students. I know that a lot of SGA is run through the media and things like that, but something that I wanted to take on is being actually involved in creating an SGA presence there through projects.
  - **Brown-** As Secretary of Student Belonging, I would mostly be trying to reach out to unrepresented RSO's and trying to stay really well connected with the things involving students.
- **Kathuria-** Nominee Gross- Do you have any sort of experience running social media accounts or being in charge of any forms of communications?

- Absolutely. In high school, I was the President of community service council. I did all the outreach, planning events and stuff like that. I am also adobe certified in specialist in digital design which would be illustrator certified, specialist in graphic design and I am adobe certified professional in visual design, so I have a lot of certifications for design. I have also had leadership roles throughout and then PCS so I have worked a lot doing communications and such.
- **Kathuria-** Could you please explain what type of communication strategies you have been working on through your time in the President's Community Scholar's program?
  - Absolutely, so often through the PCS we outreach to underprivileged communities throughout Norman so I work really closely with Meals on Wheels and that is something that I did in high school as well. I served there every single week, I started the moment that I got here in Norman. I work also throughout Dallas and I would connect with people all throughout the community. I got to work really closely with people who don't have a lot and it was just a really cool thing to see so definitely connecting with people getting to talk to them and serve them.
- **Burnett-** Could you go through every single one of these candidates and tell us why they are going to be the best fit for this specific job?
  - **Dunlap-** Because I was Director of External Cabinet, I will talk about Joesph first. Joesph has a extensive internship experience which for this position it is really just about knowing the people to contact. Not necessarily having a personal connection with them but understanding how the system works and being able to get this specific project done to argue on behalf of this for something that happens to the body. This is who you connect first. That is why I think that Joesph is really qualified for this position. His project idea was incredible, a presidential student speaker series for the student body. You know that's been a gap with people not knowing resources in Norman, not understanding people to contact if there is a greater issue outside of the University. So, I think that is a really great resource and a really great project for him.
  - **Wolthuis-** I will do Mohammed. One of the most intelligent people that you will ever speak to genuinely. In his interview, all three of us the moment he left said oh my goodness he is far smarter than us. He also has an extensive background with legislation, with different offices at the Capital and different internship experience as well. For full transparency, we did not have a Secretary of Strategic Initiatives Position before we had interviewed Mohammed and after interviewing him we decided Oh my goodness this person needs to be on this team, he is phenomenal and I hope that just speaking with him tonight you can all realize this as well. Very well suited for the little writeup that you all received as well for the Secretary of Strategic initiatives.
  - **President Strickland-** For the other lovely five nominees, Joey showed a phenomenal interest in wanting to get involved of interest in wanting to get involved in Campus and SGA specifically. She touched on her time back home in California and how SGA influenced her and how she wants to pour that back in on the Higher Education level. Mercer Martin I mean SGA Queen, she has really poured her soul into SGA and specifically within Congress and within CLA. Mercer she just pours herself into everything and when she came in to interview we were like without a doubt she is suited for SS. Kendall she came in guns blazing with such a kind heart and she wanted to again CLA, Congress Member and wants to get more involved

into SGA with this new position and helping us as an executive branch get better with finances, we think she would be a great fit. Abbey blew us out of the water with her application coming in with the only applicant having Adobe script certification. Which I have never seen in all my years so that is fantastic for someone to have with communications. Then Noah, in his personal statement during his interview there was just such a want and desire to give back to OU and to meet new people as all of them express. They really care for OU and want to fulfil the mission of the Student Government Association so that is why we selected them.

*On a motion to extend time by 10 minutes Kathuria seconded by Vedra*

- **Duncan-** For the nominees that do not have ties to the student government whether they are aware or can name the different committees of our Congress and what they do?
  - **Nicolson-** I can give you some that I just learned from this meeting. So there is sustainability which we heard about and I know that there is ConAd who we had a meeting with Sunday. There were like 3 more that you guys have talked about but it is really clear that you guys are so in collaboration that you work together super well and and I know that our group in the same time that we have met are super open to it and I know that we will do a fantastic job and seeing you guys able to accomplish and we are going to accomplish it. I'm sure we will work together great and we will all learn about it by the end of the term.
  - **Harroz-** In external development I will be working with External Affairs pretty closely so I would like to get all of your names and phone numbers in that committee so that we can all work closely together.
  - **Gross-** I know that I will work closely with quite a few branches, and I am really excited to get to know new people. I don't know all of them yet, but I am really excited to.
- **Vedra-** Why was the cabinet ineffective and how these positions are expected to fix that?
  - **Dunlap-** I was not at the ConAd meeting, but I will answer one question our Director of Inclusivity did an amazing job last year and I will back her all the way, but this year we have split the Director of inclusivity role into Student services and student belonging. A big part of her job was taken up by the safe ride program that we have here at OU, so we split that into Student Services which is Goddard, Mental Health, and just like Mercer mentioned a lot of advocacy programs around campus such as safe ride and then student belonging which deals more with underrepresented student organizations and student groups around campus. So that was one way of increasing our cabinet which is now known as EOP, just splitting that big role into two separate roles so that it can be done more efficiently and better represent the students need.
  - **Wolthuis-** I think that maybe ineffective or inefficient was the wrong choice of word as well. I think maybe ineffective for the purposes of this administration is looking for because every administration comes in with a very different view, very different purposes, and very different goals for that administration. So I think seeing last year's structure, maybe they decided that next year's structure needed to look a little bit different to represent those initiatives and those goals.
- **Christensen-** There is a lack of college diversity across the nominee's majors was that a product of the applicant pool itself or if you for see that being a problem going forward?
  - **President Strickland-** Every student at the University of Oklahoma is open to apply to all of these roles and I cannot name the majors of everyone that applied and got

an interview you all represent the colleges and we want to help you reach out to the student body whether they are from Dodge, Price, or wherever you have just making that connection stronger for us all to work together

- **Bento-** Nominees who have experience in Congress, please briefly talk about what branch you are involved in and long you have been in SGA and for the nominees that have no experience or little experience please give a short explanation of why you chose to go to the Executive branch first instead of other branches?
  - **Brown-** I have been in SGA since the Fall of my freshman year. I have been in External Affairs for about a year and a half now. I just recently switched to ConAd, but I have not gone to any ConAd meetings. I am also in CLA and I was in it my freshman year and this year I am on Exec.
  - **Gross-** I decided to apply to the position it came across my email and I went to the SGA page and I read what it was about and everything. Then I decided to apply and I did this because I felt like I could get more involved with the student body. Specifically, I wanted to work more with freshman I feel like it has been hard to get involved and I feel like this was a way too but also to get other people involved so that is why I applied.
  - **Coppinger-** I started in SGA the fall semester of my freshman year which was last semester, but I was nominated for a Representative position for Congress in Price and I also am a member in CLA and I really enjoyed the experience. I know that it is a short time, but I would like to continue that.
  - **Martin-** I am in CLA too. I first got I involved in SGA through CLA my freshman year, my lovely Chair, Chair Rhodes and Baylor, but I loved it so much Hope was actually that one that encouraged me to go into Congress. I am an associate which maybe not much longer I am part of the University Policy Committee and another associate Ria we are working on a project right now to enhance student employee benefits as I am sure a lot of you guys know I am not getting an email back. So that has not been exciting, but I love my time here so much. As well as being a part of the executive branch through CLA, I loved it so much that I decided I wanted to be Co-Chair with Cal Smith of CLA. I am just so excited and happy my biggest accomplishment is probably seeing all of the CLAers here and just getting involved and they are so active and asking questions and I just love that this is what SGA breeds. .
  - **Nicolson-** I am from California like Carter mentioned and coming to OU was definitely a shock in a lot of ways. It is a major campus and I came from a really small school so I didn't get involved in SGA my freshman year which is super unlike me. I was super involved in everything in High School, I loved doing it and I have been in Student Government my entire life. Then I was in PLC and Cyrus was my mentor throughout the program so I just followed him along as he went through being Vice President last year and got to watch him. So the second that I saw the email I knew that this was something that I wanted to do because RSOs and Greek Life was how I found my people and I wanted to bring my home back in a way when I got back.
  - **Harroz-** I have always spent a lot of my college, whether as Vice President of my fraternity, PLC and JCPenney Leadership Program and doing something in those. So I never really had the time to pour into the pot of SGA but now that my time in those positions has come to a close and I got to work on the REAL campaign it was

great working with those two and helping them get elected. I wanted to keep it going now that I have more time and really following my expertise and my passion which is politics and how we can better the University of Oklahoma.

- **Elgouhari**- Similar with me I was a student athlete here for my first two years and I was involved in some student organizations at the time to get involved with SGA. But I am no longer a student athlete and I saw this application on Instagram and I thought it would be a great way for me to bring together everything that I have done over the past few years whether it is the policy internship or the innovation leadership, Muslim Student Association and just synthesize it all to be able to take on projects and work with a very talented group.

*On a motion to extend time for questions by 15 minutes Robinson seconded Gilson-Bond*

- **Finley**- Would you the authors tell me what the Lead On Strategic plan is and then the nominee did you know that before and how do you plan to do that?
  - **President Strickland**- The Lead on Strategic plan is the current administrative plan that the OU administration is conducting for OU. There are a few goals, there are pillars, you can look it up online they are for you and the public to look at. But a strategic plan is how any institution grows and develops into a better institution. So we had the opportunity to meet with the Strategic plan designers during early January so recognizing that OU is within this state of growth with more students coming every year, with the transition to the SEC, how Norman is going to benefit, and relate with that transition. So making sure that we have someone there that is always up to date with that
  - **Elgouhari**- I was familiar with the strategic plan. They are actually going through a refresh right now, but they have some really cool research projects that they have on the plan and just a lot of really cool initiatives. Earlier on, the past couple of years I have been looking for an in to get involved whether it was just on the research programs or on a larger scale but I didn't know how so now that I have an opportunity to be in contact with the runner of that plan I think it will be great and it is something that I wanted to do for a while but just never thought I would get the chance.
- **Richardson**- Miss Gross- What is your writing experience since that is a big part of communications?
  - Gross- So without actually being certified to do writing but I actually love writing I do enjoy it. I write all the time, I do journal, but I write on my day to day. I find writing as something I enjoy I do it all the time in school. I do not have professional experience, but I have done job applications, I have done quite a few things, but no professional experience.
- **Gilson-Bond**- What experiences do you have with RSO funding?
  - I don't have any experience with RSO funding except with coming to previous Congress meetings and hearing about that, so I am excited to work with the Ways and Means Committee Chair. But also, even though I don't have experience with RSO's I do have it in a general sense as I have had an internship where I have got to shadow a President of a company, and I got to see all the inside financial things and I am excited to apply all of those skills into this. Also, just a great way to learn, since this position has never been done before at OU specifically, I am excited to try and help it grow and use these other people as resources to maybe learn some things along the way.

- **Kathuria-** How do you plan on working to make sure that people of all races, sexualities, and genders feel represented and that they can be part of a cabinet some day in the future?
  - President Strickland- I think that this has been said before and I understand that but actually reaching out and actually showing up. Saying if you want to get involved in SG here are the applications. But as Chairwoman Rhodes mentioned earlier extending that branch out, going to classes, going to RSO meetings, going to multicultural events and speaking to their RSO leader's one-on-one. That was something that Avery and I ran on through the REAL platform was actually going to them instead of expecting them to come to us and so if you have insights on our outreach. Our doors are always open but just again making sure that things actually happen and making sure that hand goes out to them.
- **Robinson- Nicholson-** In your bio it mentions that you are a part of the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage Federalist Society, does the ICH have a federalist society chapter for undergrads?
  - Nicholson- So it is actually two separate things they were not meant to be put together.
- **Martin-** How are you going to connect outside of Greek life with the student body?
  - Nicholson- Secretary of Campus Relations will deal with both RSOs and Greek Life, like I kind of mentioned earlier I am a member of Greek Life, but I have also found so much of my community outside of Greek Life and RSOs. While that is super important for the 33% that are in it. It is so important also to make sure there are places and spaces for everyone that is not in it because of course it doesn't appeal to everyone which I understand. I think that it is just super important kind of like Carter said, going to them and making sure that everything it is all the same, making sure that all of the RSOs know and have the resources that SGA has and utilizing the resources in the best of our abilities is more to be like a key part of my job not just for all RSOs to make sure that we are hitting majority of the body not just that 33%.
- **Mirza- Coppinger-** Do you have any plans to reach out to those organizations and provide more funding in historically underrepresented RSOs?
  - **Coppinger-** Yes in short terms. To go more into detail on that, I don't get to physically go and give them money but I do get to maybe take steps forward to maybe understand all of their resources and reach out to them and just like let them know hey just like how right now the applications for funding are open maybe making it more widely known because I know it can be kind of overlooked in a lot of ways because there's only a few platforms that it is spoken about and let them know about everything and then be in contact with the Ways and Means committee chair because I don't get to officially vote on those I just more get to sit in and be like a representation and a bridge in the executive cabinet and almost like let's keep them in the know
  - **President Strickland-** I want to clarify the responsibility of Secretary of FR. That role that Kendall would serve in would be more of a liaison and communicator for us and sort of help us manage the executive branch budget, but also if the WAM committee needs any additional help in reaching out to RSOs and if any RSO's have any questions we can help guide those questions to the WAM Committee so it is more a liaison role and an assistant to our budget.
- **Cunningham- Brown-** What would you consider your biggest strength?



- **Brown-** I would say that my biggest strength is the people skills that I have cultivated this year specifically. If you guys don't know I do in CLA because I am the Vice Chair of student engagement and my two roles for that are mostly making people feel more at home and feel more welcome where they are and one thing I do for that is I plan some of the outings that we do. The other thing I do is meeting them and getting to know them on a personal level so that I can connect them with alumni of CLA and get them matched with a mentor so my people skills I feel have gotten a lot better this year.
- **Burnett- Martin-** What would you say is your biggest weakness?
  - **Martin-** My biggest weakness, probably I talk to a lot of you here. I talk a lot, very fast, very rapidly and so one thing that I am really excited to work on this year is really taking a step back and active listening. That is a role that I hope to apply, listen to the students hear what are they missing? Do they not know about Goddard? Do they not know about SafeRide and all the different ways that I can practice my active listening skills to make sure that I am connecting them with the resources they need and streamlining it to be the efficient as possible.
- **Wintory-** Do you have a plan for a system of accountability in case these secretaries or just the newly created roles themselves do not serve their intended purpose?
  - **President Strickland-** My big thing and I know that this is a massive thing for them. Communication is key and so we have to be clear communicators with each other and with all of you, so if there are concerns that you have let us know. If there are concerns that we have we will let you know. So it is just streamlining that but if they are out of line that is a conversation that is a conversation that we will have with them on a personal and professional level.
  - **Dunlap-**Also something that Carter and I talked about with accountability in our secretary spaces is consistently having a project list. There is often times on the Executive offices of the President that it is like oh okay I finished this project when do I start the next one. So having some sort of continuing project list to keep them going and keep them empowered in that and that can be something that we can have feedback from and add to it. It will be a rolling list just to keep accountable and keep them moving.
  - **Wolthuis-** Addressing things head on as well I think a great benefit of being able to serve this particular role again for me is learning from my mistakes last year. Not letting problems fester, not letting things continue, addressing problems straight on, just like President Strickland said about open communication, really not being afraid of the tough conversations early on.
- **Wintory-** Do you think the authors will be more receptive to questions from the student government or do you think that we will be able to ensure the accountability of these secretaries and make sure that everyone's working in their positions?
  - **President Strickland-** 100%
- **Finley- Harroz-**Could you go into detail about your projects?
  - Harroz- Yes definitely. So obviously there is a Presidential Speaker Series where you have people like Paul Ryan and people like that and students are allowed to come to that but it is not really a student based deal and then each college you have the Dean speaker series and things like that. Well I want to do a student body presidential speaker series which we believe would get local representatives like Daniel Pay for example maybe even after a few speaker series you get an actual US Representative

to come and speak and give their opinion on the state of Oklahoma, politics and things like that. From there you can ask questions at the end of it like you would in a normal series. Obviously it will take a bit of work, but I am currently working towards a vision to be able to do that.

- **Finley-** Are you aware that EA does projects like that and would you be willing to work with them?
  - Yes definitely.

*On a motion to suspend the rules Kathuria seconded by Richardson*

*6-28-1 motion failed*

*On a call of debate Kathuria seconded by Richardson*

*Objection Harris seconded by Hallum*

*Objection failed 20-14-1*

*On a motion to return to the previous question Aslam seconded by Christiansen*

*Objection Kathuria seconded by Bento*

*On a motion to previous question fails 20-13-1*

### **Debate**

- **Gilson-Bond-** My main concern, the biggest red flag is unfortunately the Secretary of Fiscal Responsibility. Just your main job being with RSO's and not having that RSO experience on the financial side is that you have the job or you are getting the job but then you have none of the experience. I wouldn't go and apply for a job whenever I have nothing background wise that says hey I am a great fit. I can just see last year happening again where other things have happened whenever you just kind of give it to someone in a way. I understand that you believe authors that they are going to be able to do it, but I just for me personally cannot see that.
- **Kathuria-** I really don't know how many nominees I am going to vote in favor of, but I do need to mention something about the potential Secretary of Student Belonging. There has been a history and a track record of the individual having an inconsistent attendance record. My question is if a member is not going to show up times as a committee member. How can we trust the member to show up at a time when it matters the most. We have critical problems that we have to address like diversity, equity, and inclusion matters. We have a lot of social issues, we have a lot of stuff that is coming our way because of curveballs thrown by the Executive branch and we need to have all hands on deck in order to be able to win for the OU Student Body and not have underrepresented communities be severely affected in a negative way.
- **Brown-** As for my absences if you look to my freshman year, you definitely will see very very few of those. As of last semester though I was dealing with family stuff, passing family I had to step away. I was splitting time between here and Muscogee. I made the chair of my committee aware of that and I sent some frameworks for some projects but unfortunately, I had to step away for myself and my family.
- **Bento-** To also speak on behalf of the nominee of the Secretary of Student development I will say all of their absences were excused for external affairs committee last semester.
- **Coppinger-** I just wanted to respond to what you were saying is that I completely understand that I do not have a lot of experience with RSOs but I do want to point out that it is not exactly in my job description to be giving money exactly it more in my job description to be a liaison and report what the committee themselves chooses. It is not up to me I don't get to vote on any of that it is more so that I am letting the President and like the executive cabinet understand as a whole.

- **Schonfield**- In a similar vain, speaking as the Ways and Means committee Chair, I will be blunt because I am tired I can't say that I know the position will bring a lot of value but I don't see the harm in it and additionally another person I can have in the room giving ideas to help get information to the RSOs about the funding process is another person in my corner.
- **Hawley**- I know that we have touched on this a few times but I still just have a general concern and I know that you guys have answered questions and all that so you don't have to do it again, but I do just have a general concern about the representation of the wider student body, given that so many of you guys extracurriculars are the same.
- **Christiansen**- I just want to say that I think there are 24 applicants and I believe that the authors selected the 7 best out of the 24 and I think that the limiting factor of that small number of applicants can attribute to that and perhaps maybe with the next administration it would be nice to see that expanded, but I just think that's something you can consider.
- **Toyos**- We are all the same type of students, the same types of students in business are the ones who are going to go out and reach for these opportunities. I am a freshman, the second I got here I applied to CLA, I applied to Congress. I had no idea what Congress was and kind of talking to Hope and Baylor that's what got me involved. It is not their fault that they are the types of students who are going to go at it and are going to look for their resources and they got their spot. I am sure that a bunch of people applied for them and they were the ones that got picked which sounds like they are there for a reason.
- **Kathuria**- I am going to now speak about potential secretary of communications. This individual has a skillset that is unmatched in terms of their ability to with the use of the Adobe platform and seeing the work that individual did in High School especially with meals on wheels, like gosh I was almost tearing up whenever I was looking at that. That is somebody right there that has so much potential to I've ever seen.
- **Election Commissioner Savage**- I promise I will try to be quick guys I just want to mention this myself as someone who has gone through this process very recently and talked to you guys I just want to mention that I also had no experience coming into this role, yes I am pre-law and stuff like that but what it really came down to was the willingness to learn the position and make a difference. I talked to George, I read a lot so just keep that stuff in mind even as someone of my own positions, I absolutely understand that concern but just having in mind levels to an individual maybe they are willing to learn and maybe make it based off of that.
- **Kathuria**- I am going to bring this up about the nominees something that did break my heart a little bit. Something that I did not see in ConAd minutes or in Congress about trying to advocate specifically for underrepresented student populations especially at a time when we are seeing attacks on LGBTQIA+ rights, attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and I know I am not going to tell you how I am going to vote but I really just beg and hope and pray that you know that people of all backgrounds are going to feel that they have a place in being able to talk to you. I hope that the nominees will use their privilege in a sense to lift up the student body and help move us forward during times which seem to be very turbulent.
- **Finley**- I would say first I don't know how I am going to vote. But I do want to say to the nominees that I think that you are very brave, I think a couple of you are freshman and from one freshman to another I think you are very brave for going up for that position. I also want to say that I think tonight has been very heavy for a lot of us. I feel a lot of emotions. I think that everyone in this room has felt a lot of emotions. Can we all just take a deep breath real quick. I will say that yes there have been concerns brought up about the positions and

the nominees and I am not saying that those are not valid but I just want to say that as we consider those things. The critiques, the pros and the cons, and the decisions just everybody be very cognizant that these are people that are brand new and they are students like us. I am not saying who I am voting for I am not trying to include when to vote yes or no.

- **Cunningham**- I would like to go off what the election commissioner said I think that while a lack of experience can be an issue for some, it can also introduce a new set of eyes. Along those new set of eyes can come a want to learn and a willingness to work with other groups. I mean I jumped into SGA headfirst through CLA and then Congress as well. I had no experience prior to this, my experience was all in public speaking. So while yes some of these candidates you could see them as heavily lacking experience I think that lack of experience can also translate into a willingness to learn.
- **Gilson-Bond**- On that note a little bit, how I few experience and positions is like you don't jump to such a high important position initially. I cannot think of a good example or analogy for this but myself for example. Obviously I came with the intent of leading my committee one day because people are going to graduate eventually but I came in and became an associate right away and then I felt that for a whole entire year and then I finally ran for my representative seat and I was that for an entire year and during that process becoming Vice Chair it is a slow moving way to figure out how to get your feet on the ground especially in college when you have time to do so many different things. Coming in as a Freshman though and just immediately starting, doing one thing for not even 6 months and then doing immediately going to a high office essentially is a little crazy to me.
- **Mercer Martin**- Just to reference your last amazing point which I do really think that's a valid concern, but I would also like to focus on the fact that these are two different rankings of government. As someone who has had experience in the Undergraduate Student Congress and in the Exec branch. I think that it is two different methods. I think that right now in the executive branch there is a lot more ease for learning and maybe learning from Jacob Chair of Wam, learning from the executive cabinet versus Congress, Chair Hope can not get up there and start learning. She has to have experience going forward so I think just to acknowledge the difference between the two branches is also a good acknowledgement of what different people will bring to that role.
- **Bento**- To build off about the experience talk first of all I think that each nominee is extremely courageous for applying to these positions and I applaud your ambition that is probably something that I would do if I was in your position. However I do want to make note that these positions are very individualistic in the sense that you guys will be tending to your role alone and you also don't have a lot of time in you role the term is a year and some people in Congress will spend many years or many semesters in Congress learning the ropes. I believe that while you all have the ability to learn it is quite a quick turnaround to learn and also effect time at the same time.

*On a motion to end time for debate Schonfield seconded by Wintory*

### **Authors Summation**

First off some questions revolving the fiscal responsibility position. This is a new position as we have mentioned multiple times tonight and so really for that position we are trying to work with WAM and really see what that position can turn into. I know that we just did talk about learning on our feet, but truly that is just how it goes. We have a year in this position, Carter and I have a year in this position that is not the nominee's faults and truly we do do a weekly one on one with them. We are ready and I know that is hard to see oh my gosh how are you actually going to do that but truly it is an encouraging trying to push them and working with them closely throughout the entire semester in those one-on-ones. Trying to push them and trying to get the ball rolling so Carter and I can

accomplish what we said we would for the student body and really push our ideas forward in a quality manner but as quickly as possible. Another concern was their diverse backgrounds and whether or not that existed so I will just go down the line and give you a different background that each of these students have. Mohammed was a wrestler for two years that was his first two years at the University, that is a background that we haven't really had in SGA at least on Executive committee so we are excited to work with him on that and see how we can advocate for our athletes here at our university. Joseph is in JCPenney leadership program, he has some incredible skills that come from that program and some incredible learning opportunities, connections. People on campus who are all over campus in JCP that are all Price majors, really really cool connections with Joseph on that. Josephine is an out of state student from halfway across the country she really has a different experience than a lot of people at the University. Ok and then sga, sga, communications crazy and then sga as well.

*Nicholson 34-0-0 Bill passes*

*Harroꝝ 35-0-0 Bill passes*

*Gross 27-8-0 Bill passes*

*Brown 34-0-1 Bill passes*

*Elgouhari 35-0-0 Bill passes*

*Coppinger 35-0-0 Bill passes*

*Martin 35-0-0 Bill passes*

### **Follow-Up Reports**

- **Kathuria**-The George McLaurin Day Act and Universal TopHat Act, both passed GSS with no problems and they were signed by the SGA President.

### **Announcements and Comments**

#### **Final Roll Call**

*On a motion to adjourn Carter seconded by Wang*

**Adjourn- 10:03 pm**

Chair: Hope Rhoads

Vice-Chair: Rylee Houston

Secretary: Chloe Harris

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIII

January 28, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-113-05

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Act of Procedure amending Section 6 of the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Congress to clarify information surrounding the Constituent Service Point.

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 “Clarifying Information about the CSP Act”

**Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to clarify information about the Constituent Service Point in the Undergraduate Student Congress Bylaws.

**Section 3:** AMENDATORY: The Undergraduate Student Congress Bylaws Section 3.3 Subsection 3 is amended as follows. New additions shall be denoted by an underline, and deletions shall be denoted by a strikethrough.

3. CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE REQUIREMENT

a. Definitions:

- i. Congressional Involvement Activity – Any activity, event, meeting, or training that a member attends to connect with the OU Community.
- ii. Congressional Involvement Requirement – The requirement for a member to accumulate a minimum of one Constituent Service point by participating in a Congressional Involvement Activity during each month that the Student Congress holds a general meeting.
- iii. ~~Point – The value per event, activity, meeting, or training that a member attends (1:1 equivalence).~~

b. All members of the Congressional body shall meet the Congressional Involvement Requirement each month that the Student Congress holds a general meeting. Newly elected or appointed members need not meet the Congressional Involvement Requirement during their first month of membership. Members shall submit Congressional Involvement Activities to the Student Congress Vice Chair.

c. The Congressional Involvement program shall be fulfilled as outlined by the following:

~~i. Point System:~~

- ~~(1) To calculate the point value of a Congressional Involvement Activity, members shall track the number of events, activities, meetings, or trainings they attend and convert the number to points (eg. One (1) meeting equals one (1) points, two (2) meetings equals two (2) points, etc.)~~
- ~~(2) To calculate the point total for the month, the Congress Vice Chair shall add up points accumulated during the period.~~

ii. A List of Congressional Involvement Activities includes but is not limited to:

(1) Meeting of a Registered Student Organization; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Training; Gender and Equality Center (GEC) Trainings; Code Club; Light Walk; Trash Walk; University-Sponsored Community Service Project; Oklahoma Votes Sponsored Event, and other events at the discretion of the Congress ~~Secretary~~ Vice Chair.

iii. A List of Congressional Involvement Activities does not include:

(1) Congressional General Meeting, a Congressional Committee Meeting of one's own committee, or office hours

d. Congressional Involvement Requirements include:

i. Representatives and Associates must accumulate a minimum of one (1)

Constituent Service point each month that Congress holds a general meeting. This requirement shall be waived at the discretion of the Congress ~~Secretary~~ Vice Chair.

ii. The Congress Vice Chair reserves the discretion to choose how the Congressional Involvement Point is submitted each month.

iii. Members shall accrue an absence for failure to meet their Congressional Involvement Requirement or submit proper documentation to the Student Congress Vice Chair by the final day of the month at 11:59 p.m.

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

Author(s): Syed Aslam, Arts and Sciences Representative

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Gilson-Bond seconded by Representative Carter

Action taken by Congress: 34-0-0

Verified by Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIII

January 28, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GS

January 23, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-113-06

SENATE BILL GS25-03

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Procedure appointing the SGA Executive Office of the President secretaries; 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 “Secretaries of the SGA Executive Office of the President Appointment Act of 2025.”
- Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be appointing the SGA Secretaries of the Executive Office of the President for the Strickland-Dunlap Administration.
- Section 3:** In accordance with Title III, Chapter 1, Section 5, Subsection C(i) of the SGA Code Annotated, “Led by the President, Vice President, and the Chief of Staff, The Executive Office of the President (EOP) shall support the efforts made by its leaders to reflect the continued interests of the student body, SGA, and platforms,” the following student shall be appointed as the Director to their respective post:
- |                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Secretary of Campus Relations:      | Josephine Nicholson |
| Secretary of External Development:  | Joseph Harroz III   |
| Secretary of Communications:        | Abbey Gross         |
| Secretary of Student Belonging:     | Noah Brown          |
| Secretary of Strategic Initiatives: | Mohammed Elgouhari  |
| Secretary of Fiscal Responsibility: | Kendell Coppinger   |
| Secretary of Student Services:      | Mercer Martin       |
- Section 4:** This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Authors: President Carter Strickland  
Vice President Avery Dunlap  
Ellie Wolthuis, Chief of Staff to the SGA President

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Wang seconded by Representative Estrada

Action taken by Congress: 35-0-0

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:

