

# THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXIII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Dale 103

**Call to Order- 7:01 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 Robinson seconded by Carter*

**Approval of Minutes | January 28, 2025**

**Officer Reports -**

- **Chair's Report:** Hello everyone! I am so happy to see all of you today! As a quick reminder, before we get started the CSP form is currently in our GroupMe. I am now going to briefly go into how the election process will go. We will first go into our nomination speeches. Marilou was nominated first, so her two-minute speech from her nominator will happen first. Then, Marilou will have five minutes for her speech. We will repeat that process for Aaron. After the speeches, we will move into a ten-minute time for questions for both nominees. Questions have to be directed to both candidates, and each candidate will get two minutes to respond. The time for questions can be extended two times. After time for questions has elapsed, we will move into executive session. Executive session will be limited to thirty minutes. After Executive Session, we will immediately go into a vote for the nominees. Only representatives can vote in elections. Whoever wins the Vice-Chair position will immediately become Vice-Chair. Applications for the vacant committee chair position will open tonight and close Friday. You all should know what committee you are on at this moment if you do not know please come speak to me after the meeting. Good luck to both of our nominees they're both great!
- **Secretary's Report:** Hey everyone, if you are an associate, please scan this QR code so that I can mark you as present. Also, this blue water bottle was left in this room last week after the meeting, if it is yours, please come collect it! Thank you!

## Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** Hey everyone! COSCO met officially this past Sunday. We had a great meeting. There was fantastic attendance, and Henry brought some fantastic cookies as well. We went over project ideas and assigned people to projects, and we are already making really good progress. COSCO Vice Chair applications are now open, so please sign up for an interview spot if you're interested. Lastly, COSCO's first light walk of 2025 will be held on Sunday, February 23rd. It will be held at around 7:30PM; I might push it to 8PM if the exec meeting that Sunday has a heavy agenda. I will be sending out a sign-up sheet for the light walk soon.
- **Congressional Administration:** ConAd met officially this Sunday, and we gave CB-113-07 a Rec of Due Pass. We also gave everyone a project to do in ConAd and the Vice Chair applications for ConAd are also now open and you can find the link for that in the ConAd GroupMe.
- **External Affairs:** This Sunday EA met officially over the weekend, and we discussed the final plans for higher education day. as a reminder if you are signed up for higher education day, we will be having a workshop next Sunday at 1:45 which will help serve as training! We also discussed other project that we will be starting right after higher education, and we will discuss those at a later date.
- **Human Diversity:** HD met officially on Sunday we are now the biggest or largest committee in Congress, and we had two members show up the last congress orientation, but now we have 19 members, and we are really excited about that. In terms of updates on projects, we are continuing a resource opportunity to multicultural organizations. We are waiting for one of our new members to get back so we can finish up the blueprints for this involvement festival in the Spring. In place of doing a membership program with QSA we might co-program and host a professional development workshop. Another project that we are potentially looking at trying to save some of the language requirements in the Dodge College of Arts and Sciences.
- **Sustainability:** SUSTY Met officially this last Sunday. We did introductions and got to know each other just a little bit better and scheduled our trash walk for the 23rd during our normal meeting time of 230 pm.
- **University Policy:** Hello, all! UPOL met officially this weekend, and we explored how to use PolicyTech, which is the University's central library of policies. We also worked on professional email signatures and reassessed where we are on all of our projects. I have requested that those who do not have a project review our project list - I hope to have every member on a project in their area of interest by this Sunday.
- **Ways and Means:** Hi everyone! We met yesterday and went over expectations for this semester! Elizabeth, my Vice-Chair, and I will be running two workshops over the coming week: one this Friday at 6 and one at 5 next Tuesday, with both taking place in this room. If you would like to learn more about how to apply for Primary or have friends who would stand to benefit from learning more about the process, I encourage anyone who is in RSO leadership to attend either or the workshops as it will be geared toward helping RSO leaders make the best Primary application possible. That's all I have! Thanks guys!

## Liaison Reports

- **Kathuria-** Last week College Democrats hosted Representative Arturo Alonso, and the College Democrats got to meet him and got to know the youngest member of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives.

- **Harris-** So if you remember a few meetings ago I talked about hiring RA schedule. I was able to meet with the Director of Housing life. Mason Barker got quite a few questions answered so if you're curious at all about the RA hiring schedule, if you have any questions about that you can come see me after the meeting.

### Special Orders

- New Member of the Month/ Member of the Month
  - Henry Christiansen/ Andy Wang
- Vice-Chair Elections
  - Marilou Bento Nomination and Speech

2:00 minutes for nominator speech

- **Nominator Harris-** To my fellow members of Congress it is my privilege to stand before you today to nominate Marilou Bento for the position of Vice Chair of congress. In my time working with her, I have witnessed a transformation- both in her leadership and in the External Affairs Committee itself. When Marilou took over as Chair, the committee was in disarray. Few returning members, little organization, and almost no legislation being written. In just a short time, she turned it into one of the most active and effective committees in Congress. What truly sets Marilou apart is her ability to connect. She doesn't just engage- she builds relationships. Whether it's with city managers, local representatives, or members of the Oklahoma community, she ensures our student government is heard, respected, and involved in the conversations that matter. Under Marilou's leadership, External Affairs has become one of the most productive committees in Congress. Just this year alone, we have passed five pieces of legislation, completed seven major projects, and scheduled over 24 meetings with state senators and representatives and recruited 54 at for Higher Education Day. From policy work to civic engagement, from student advocacy to real-world impact. Her leadership has set a new standard for what this committee can achieve, and with Marilou as Vice Chair, I have no doubt that Congress can flourish and reach its fullest potential. Her dedication is unmatched. I have seen her go from a somewhat timid young woman to the strong leader we see before us today. She is present, she is engaged and is committed to making this organization better. The role of Vice Chair is more than just a title –it requires someone who can help run cross-committee collaboration, assist in bill writing, and be a resource for our members. I can think of no one more prepared, more capable, or more deserving of this role than Marilou Bento. I urge you to support Marilou as our next Vice Chair of Congress. She has proven herself as a leader, as a team player, and as someone who gets things done. Let's make the right choice-let's elect a Vice Chair ho will continue to elevate this Congress. Thank you.

5:00 minutes for nomination speech

- **Bento-** Hello. I am Marilou Bento, and I am one of your nominees for the position of Vice Chair tonight. To give some background on who I am, this is my 4th semester serving the body as a representative and I have been the chair of external affairs for the past two semesters. From my time in Congress, I have seen it grow phenomenally in both membership and

participation. Hope and Chloe have done an excellent job at making congress a welcoming environment. This executive team has done an excellent job at showing the appeal of OU Congress to all students across campus both increasing and retaining members over time. So, what can I bring to the table as Vice Chair? If elected I want to strengthen the inner workings of Congress by being hands on with every committee to help them with projects and connect members with other members of the body by promoting cross-committee collaboration. I want everyone to feel comfortable around Congress and I believe that it starts with connecting all members with one another. This starts by Project Progress. I want to help each committee, and its members progress and complete their project goals. I know that one of the main reasons I came to Congress was to fight for a specific issue I felt strongly about, student voting rights. Last semester I had the pleasure of finally passing legislation that gave increased flexibility to students on Voting Day. That was one of the most incredible moments for me at Congress and I want to help every member in this room achieve that feeling, being proud of the difference they have made while at Congress and finishing what they set out to do. I will do this by gaining a deep understanding of all projects and looking for avenues where committees could collaborate or work on a shared goal together. I think that by helping each committee cross collaborate with each other it will not only help members get to know each other better but also help them experience Congress outside their committee's bubble and gain additional perspectives that will help them complete their projects. I will do this with unwavering consistency by setting a solid schedule for my attendance at committees. I want to alternate blocks of committees I will see every Sunday. I will create a schedule where committees are on an A-block schedule and B-block schedule, alternating committees each weekend so that I am at each committee at least every two weeks. All chairs will have this schedule accessible to them. I also want to strengthen consistency in each committee and set up a standardized documentation structure so that within our revolving leadership in Congress projects stay consistent and past events do not get forgotten. I want to do this by setting up a central location so that all committee projects and events outside of legislation can be stored. Along with this I want to restore transparency and strengthen the bonds across all branches of SGA. I plan to inform the body of the projects that other branches of SGA are working on not only to collaborate but also to inspire other possible branching projects. I have often run into the issue in Congress of working on a project that is very similar to a project that was being undertaken in the executive branch. If I help inform members about what the executive branch or other branches of SGA are doing, we can help improve cross-branch collaboration. For the second half of my platform, I want to continue Solidifying Community by connecting members of similar majors or colleges together to discuss the issues of their constituency. I believe that committees and their members often don't get to focus on issues facing their specific college, and if we focus on connecting members with similar experiences and majors, I believe we will be able to discover more issues that need to be addressed. It will also help all members achieve greater academic success as they build connections with others in their college. I

know I don't have all the answers or perspectives so for Understanding Concerns is focused on allowing members to voice their concerns about Congress specifically. We are obviously very focused on giving all students a place to voice campus concerns, but some members might feel shy about expressing negative opinions about Congress or its functionalities. I want to implement a concern box in the CONACO that would allow members to anonymously or openly file a concern whether there is a concern about their committee, another member, or the body as a whole. This will give me greater insight into the issues we may all be feeling so I can work to address them. Finally, I want to Empower Members and their voices across all of OU. I want to be better at informing the student body of our everyday activities across SGA. I will do this by working with the Secretary of Communications in the Executive Branch to make Instagram more representative of what SGA and Congress are doing to help students. I want to help the committee with projects and its accomplishments become more visible to all of OU. If this platform sounds like the direction you would like to see Congress pursue, then I encourage you to pursue with Marilou, where your passions are my priority! Thank you!

- Aaron Gilson-Bond Nomination and Speech

2:00 minutes for nominator speech

- **Nominator Oler-** Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to speak tonight in support of Representative and current Sustainability Committee Chair Aaron Gilson-Bond to assume the duties of Congress Vice Chair during our 113th session. Chair Gilson-Bond has served his constituents in this hallowed Dale Hall chamber for over 2 and a half years, and, throughout that time, has represented the dedication and passion that so many of you share for this association. Before I joined SGA, before I even *considered* joining, Aaron was the first member of the body that I spoke to about Congress. He attended an Environmental Science Student Association meeting that I happened to be present at and overheard me and a few others discussing something about SGA (probably a complaint) and chimed in to tell us that he was involved with Congress and that he was the Vice Chair of SUSTY. He took the time to share with us about what SGA does. He listened to our comments and addressed them respectfully with the kind of composure you would expect from a Supreme Court nominee. Well, maybe with a little more of that no-nonsense bluntness that Aaron has mastered so well. It's a quality that helped him level with us and made me immediately recognize that I could trust him. I believe Aaron would make an excellent Vice Chair. He has the experience, the dedication, and the pride required to serve in this role. Aaron has worked his way up through SGA, first as a rep, then the Vice Chair of SUSTY, and now the Chair of SUSTY - and he showed the same fervent dedication to Congress at every stage of his journey. This dedication will continue into his Vice Chair term. Aaron is well FIT to make the most of the remainder of this semester to implement a focused, achievable platform that will, above all, serve to increase connectedness within the body, support impactful leadership building, and to promote transparency in Congress's progress and our achievements. I am

excited to declare Chair Aaron Gilson-Bond FIT TO SERVE as your next Vice Chair!

5:00 minutes for nomination speech

- **Gilson-Bond-** My name is Aaron Gilson-Bond. I am the current Chair of Sustainability Committee. I have been in the body, for going on two and a half year, after this year it will be my third. I am excited to show you what my platform is a little bit about. My platform is going to be FIT. What is FIT? It has to do with flexibility for all, impactful leadership building, and transparent progress. I will kind of go into each of those different points with my goals, plan, and the reason why I feel this would be important. Starting with flexibility for all, my goal is to ensure everyone is connected with leadership especially with the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair is supposed to be an ally to associates, representatives, everyone in Congress. I want to make sure that I can be able to meet with the most amount of people as possible. How I am going to do this to start is I am going to poll members on when my office hours are going to be. How it would look like is I would give all availability throughout my entire week and you can choose the times that it would be best for you and then whatever the majority decides is actually what I decides is what I am actually going to do. So if everyone decided hey I want Aaron's office hours at 6am on a Monday, I guess that is just what is going to happen. So I am open to adjusting hours to accommodate changing schedules, obviously people have eight week classes so I understand that at the end of the semester maybe the times that started at the beginning don't work with you, but I would never just be changing my office hours to be convenient for me because I want to be convenient for you overall. Overall, why it matters, just to demonstrate the respect for your time, increase cooperation amongst us all. Impactful leadership building. What I want to do is I want to actually host workshops to kind of helps with professional development because even whether you like it or not we are all leaders on campus, whether it's going to be the RSO that you started, the RSO that you are in or the lab that you're in with your partners and you are helping guide them to get that perfect grade that you want. Everyone can be leaders. It is going to be based on public speaking, event planning, which is a huge thing because who actually likes conflict. I mean I don't that would be horrible, so Congress thrives whenever its members are confident, capable, and well-equipped so I want to be able to equip you with those. Working with things like the Career Center. I have obviously gave professional development stuff before in organizations that I am a part of, so I just want to be able to help everyone in Congress with that. Transparent progress. What I want to do is create a visual tracker that highlights things like service hours, goals and key achievements. So, let's say this specific committee is absolutely knocking it out of the park and getting legislation out all the time. I want to be able to highlight that so everyone can specifically see that because if we obviously only select two members a month to be highlighted, but everyone is obviously doing amazing things, and it is hard to choose between the two. I want to create also an anonymous form to give feedback on my performance because I don't want there to be a situation where we get

to the end of the year and then everyone's unhappy with something. So why does it matter, so transparency builds trust, and I want to make sure that you can trust me to do my job. By visually showcasing our progress we can celebrate our wins, identify areas of improvement and keep members engaged. So why me? I am an action-oriented leader. I am ready to bring fresh ideas and make the Vice Chair more dynamic and impactful. As well as doing the things that are outlined on the side of what the job description is to. Committed to inclusion. I want to make sure that every member's voice is heard because I have been the little guy. I have been an associate before where you feel that maybe your opinion doesn't matter as much as the Representatives, but everyone's opinion matters. So I want to make sure that is something that everyone understands also. Then focusing on growth by investing in professional development we will help Congress members achieve their personal and collective potential, so let's make Congress fit for a stronger future. My name is Aaron Gilson-Bond and thank you.

10:00 minutes remaining for questions

- **Burnett-** How do you guys plan to increase unity if you were to be in the Vice Chair position?
  - **Bento-** The first thing that I would really focus on with unity is getting all the representatives and associate numbers to get to know each other a little bit more. Obviously, with my platform, I want to focus on cross committee collaboration. I think that if members can branch across the committees and members from different communities, that is going to help everyone feel more comfortable in Congress and feel more at home. Obviously, I think that unity will be really great either way no matter who the nominee is me and Aaron Gilson-Bond we talked a lot of bit of this and you know we both would vote for each tonight. So, we feel very strongly about this going either way.
  - **Gilson-Bond-** Regardless of which nominee is chosen/elected, unity is going to be a huge priority. The way I would tackle unity is first getting to know each person myself. Literally this past weekend I have been up super late, trying to write down everything that I know about out of everybody, so that when I did reach out, I would be able to give personal messages to those people so that it was a little more personal for them. With that, with knowing people individually you're able to see where they kind of fit in. So maybe someone is in this committee, but you know hey there are people in this committee right here, that they are going to be not that part in. So maybe you are like hey let's go talk about this some more. Hey, come over to this meeting really quick where it's going to be fine and then they actually get to talk to each other in these committees and I can have that cross-committee collaboration and I can have friends in these committees and then everyone will go to each other other's meeting at this point and they are not going because it is another meeting on Sunday that they need to go to they are going because they are going to be able to see their friends while they are there.
- **Cunningham-** What exactly is the hierarchy of all your responsibilities including SGA?
  - **Gilson-Bond-** The hierarchy of all my responsibilities. I am going to be completely transparent, number one in all ROTC. I already signed the dotted line so I can't just be like no, I don't want to do this anymore. I can kind of legally obligated to do that and it also pays for my school, but the second obligation is going to be student

government 100%. I enjoy student government, I do it a lot it is all, it is all voluntary for me right now and everything. So that comes second and then I would probably say in between that there's obviously academics there everyone should be striving for that 4.0. But being able to plan out your time accordingly to be able to meet all those different things, I would never take on a responsibility that I know I cannot plan time aside for.

- **Bento-** For me my hierarchy would be pretty similar, number one obviously is academics we are all here to get a degree. I love going to class and I love learning more about my major I picked it for a reason I love doing it, so I don't miss classes, and I love going to them. But the second thing on my hierarchy is definitely going to be student government. I have been incredibly involved since sophomore year and this place has just felt like a home to me and has given me so much over the past two years that I want to give back everything that I have.
- **Schonfield-** What personality quality is the most important for the Vice Chair to possess in your opinion and how do you demonstrate this quality?
  - **Bento-** I think the most important quality for Vice Chair to possess is unwavering optimism I believe that every Vice Chair needs to see the best past forward for Congress they are directly connected to all of its members because they go to committee meetings they are in charge of associates. So making sure that everyone here feels positive and feels welcomed and ready to get to work is my number one priority and what I think is the number one feature that the Vice Chair should have.
  - **Gilson-Bond-** I would say the number one feature for a Vice Chair to have is to be caring and that comes in multiple different ways. I think the way that I show I care is I am a little bit blunt as people have probably figured out over time knowing me. I care enough to tell you the truth and not lie to your face and tell you that everything is going to be ok. I want to be able to let you know hey this is right here what is happening so that we can solve it together and be able to fix it because that is the most important of all so I think that's the most important quality to have as a Vice Chair because I want to be able to be completely honest with the committee chairs so that they know what they are doing wrong.
- **Aslam-** For how long have you desired the Vice Chair position?
  - **Gilson-Bond-** I have really kind of wanted to be the Vice Chair, I remember talking about it initially probably the beginning of last semester. I would say subconsciously even longer than that. How I pictured myself is I never wanted to go from being in a position for a short amount of time, jumping to the next thing. I wanted to be able to land in a position get my feet underneath me and wanted to continue going there. That's why as you have seen as you have heard from Kyle I have stayed in my position for a great amount of time before I moved on to that next time so I would say subconsciously a while but for sure the beginning of last semester.
  - **Bento-** For me it would have definitely been the beginning of last semester in the Fall as Chair of the External Affairs committee in the Fall. I really found my footing and my place and I was able to do so much with the External Affairs committee complete so many projects and see so many people in my committee just get ecstatic over everything they were completing and ever since I saw that growth in my own members I was like hey I want to help every member achieve that feeling. I want every member to feel like I made a difference while I was here and me helping you guys get on that path and get there is my number one priority.



- **Kathuria-** How do you plan on making sure that you are being present not just to the people in Congress but the entire student body particularly because you are going to be serving everyday OU students?
  - **Bento-** Yes, so a big part of my platform is connecting representatives with other representatives in their college I think we need to redirect a lot of focus back into people's majors and their academics and what they personally face on a day to day, like issues on a day-to-day basis within their college. That helps people connect with people in their majors and address issues that may have gone overlooked. Also to address the student body more as a whole I want to revive the Instagram a bit more and give the OU student body a better peak into what we are doing day-to-day whether that's giving them insight on projects or events that we are doing or just showing off great pictures from congress because that sense of community really brings people in and really brings people a lot closer on what we have to say.
  - **Gilson-Bond-** One thing I like to say versus kind of going back to my past experience as Vice Chair of Sustainability. One of my responsibilities was being a liaison. I kind of want to start that up too with that Vice Chair role instead of being pidgin hold to going to environmentally friendly RSO's, I want to go to different things and just talking and hearing the different things. Whenever I went to that ESA meeting, I did hear complaining about student government, particularly with funding. I want to be able to understand that process more to be able to help those people so that they are not all mad at us because they are like I got only \$50 but we have been here for a while now. So, I want to be able to go there and talk with people so that I am an ally for them inside of SGA and giving them those resources. But it also goes to a big part of the Vice chair role that always get brought up all the time is social media. I have past experience running social media to kind of give facts and figures to what that looks like, I ran my units Instagram and I went from 400 followers to 900 followers in just a year and so I have previous success in doing that so that is a big thing that I am going to be able to do because like Marilou said being able to give people that inside look on what we do in student government is a big thing and I want to be able to bump that up for us.

*On a motion to extend time for questions by 20 minutes Kathuria seconded by Vedra*

- **Donald-** Do you have a plan in case something comes up in school and you are forced to deal with that first?
  - **Gilson-Bond-** The biggest thing with academics is looking back at my previous history of what I have done in school. I have been training for this moment for a while for history looking back. I took 20, 21, and 23 credit hour semesters this semester I am taking 17 hours and that is substantially less than I have done in the past I am honestly dying in my apartment at home by the little amount of work that I have to do because I have been so used to having to do so much. So yes, it is ranked higher but that is because of the importance of it. I don't want to have to be in student government for 10 years because I wasn't able to graduate. I want to be able to graduate on time in my major because that is the most important thing here because we all came here for a degree so that is why that is right there.
  - **Bento-** Personally as an engineering major, I have a crazy workload, so I have definitely learned how to handle that throughout my years. I am now a junior. I have an incredibly rigorous organizational skill like if you saw my outlook calendar you would probably cry, I am just an extremely organized person and I am just always

looking ahead at the possible assignments, exams, anything that I have in my classes and I am always getting prepared. I plan my weeks like weeks ahead and I know when I am going to be able to do something so nothing ever catches me by surprise. If something does catch me by surprise, I am going to be honest with the Executive Team and I am going to let them support me and as soon as I get that off of my plate, I am coming back to Congress full force and taking care of the numbers here.

- **Vedra**- Would you say that there are members in your committee that are ready and prepared to step into that role?
  - **Bento**-Yes, absolutely I have talked to a lot of members in my committee. I know that at least 4-5 people are interested in becoming External Affairs Chair and they are planning to apply.
  - **Gilson-Bond**- I have 100% full faith of confidence in my committee. I don't think that there is one person in my committee that I wouldn't trust being chair because of the way that I have guided them to know what to do. But there are people I know for a fact that are interested in the position and would 100% maintain on doing a great job and I would be able to help them throughout the whole entire way so that there isn't a pause.
- **Hawkins**- What is your plan of action coming into this spot?
  - **Gilson-Bond**- My plan of action is immediately this week sending out the form for office hours because to start office hours next week, 100%. Right there so I can have that already to you guys so that when we do start the following week it is already set in stone for all the rest of the time hopefully. Then the next thing is going to be planning workshops I am going to be immediately reaching out to the Career Center seeing what things they can offer to help us out, starting those workshops withing the next couple of weeks. I would like to be able to do one once a month so February is already taken so I will have to get that one going already so doing that. Going with transparency also sending out a form one thing I would like to be able to do is go with the inbox to like my signature block, so you can just hey let me just look at the email that Aaron Gilson-Bond sent before click on that and have like listen dude you are doing a great job but you're doing this wrong right here I would like to see this for me so I can immediately start that because it would be on my phone so I can go like hey I don't know who sent this but this is ok this is positive feedback maybe I will start that. Then going on with the board of looking at the different things. I am going be looking at the CSP's that people have already done, that people are working on, the opportunities that people are going to, these different meetings outside of their committees because going to see everything this past weekend is going to be vital so I can start that kind of board and be like hey Upol is doing really amazing right now. They're doing these different things, so there can be a little committee, committee competition a little bit like we are showing you up a little bit on these CSPs. All of us went to the trash walk to kind of start that engagement within the body.
  - **Bento**- When it comes to structure something that I have personally noticed with my time in Congress is obviously we are not going to be members here forever we are all going to graduate hopefully. So leadership changes often between the executive branch between the committee chairs, so something that I have really noticed is that projects get left behind or events that we traditionally do get forgotten about so one way I have addressed structure within my own committee coming into

it was I made a big, we had a centralized google drive, but I revived the Google Drive and I did like a big organization of all the past events that we have ever done, all the legislation. Just a lot of internal bookkeeping basically for our committees, so my plan is basically to extend to Congress while we have excellent bookkeeping from the Secretary over legislation is a really great start. I would like to extend that bookkeeping to events, to projects that we have all done, and make it accessible for all members so all members can look through it and be like hey we haven't done this or we haven't been keeping up with this event and I would really like to revitalize it and just making sure that nothing gets forgotten about.

- **Carter-** How will you handle conflict and issues among the members of Congress?
  - **Bento-** So I will handle conflict by being honest with people obviously part of my platform was a concern box for congress members to bring up issues that they find in Congress. So, if I ever got a concern, I would bring the person that is concerned or maybe people and I would talk to them honestly and say hey I have this concern, let me know how I can help you fix it or let's figure out a game plan to make this concern not an issue anymore. Just being able to talk frankly with people and come up with a plan on how to address issues and move past them is going to give them the confidence to know that they are going in the right direction.
  - **Gilson-Bond-** Similar with having the way where people can have that anonymous reporting system is a big thing with being able to have that. But the biggest thing I think about with conflict resolution is the in-person issues there. Has anyone ever just been able to walk into a room and you can tell that the vibe is off kind of thing? I want to be able to go to those committee meetings and see maybe these people aren't doing well together and maybe I can go talk to them individually and see where they have common ground and maybe be like did you know this person is also doing this similar thing and then they can see each other in a different light so they don't go on just hating each other for the rest of time or one person just inevitably wants to end up leaving Congress because they just don't like someone else. Finding that common ground individually and then being able to bring them together is a big thing so that they maybe they don't have beef.
- **Wang-** What would you say is the most important lesson that you have learned during that time and how will you translate that into your new goals as Vice Chair?
  - **Gilson-Bond-** The biggest thing that I have learned in my leadership role is just following up with people. I think a lot of people can agree that there has been times to where you have reached out to somebody maybe they reached out to you initially and then they never reached out again or they are like hey I am going to get this information for you and then they never came back. I've tried to do that in Congress where inside of my committee, I'm able to give these resources out. I have also practiced that in other leadership positions that I have had and throughout the university in general being able to go find something come back and show them hey you are not only on my mind whenever you are right in front of me. Whenever I leave and walk away I am still going to be working for you so whenever I come back to you I have something I have something for you so that you are actually able to come back and do what you love
  - **Bento-** One of the biggest lessons that I have learned, it might sound obvious but I think it is very important when you work hard toward something you get richly rewarded. I think that putting that deep amount of effort that I have into the

projects with my members has not only inspired the members around me to work harder but has also inspired me to work harder and when we both get to put our minds together and really dedicate ourselves to something that is important and that we find important, which is most of our job in Congress, so many great things get done. The amount of achievement we can get to is something that you don't even think about until you are there honestly.

- **Harris-** What difference have you made on campus as a committee chair?
  - **Bento-** During my time as chair I have completed quite a few different projects. One of them is the Voting Day Legislation, I touched briefly on that in my speech basically giving voting day as a day off for the students if the professors allow. I have revitalized the civic engagement forum program here at OU this is something that EA used to do a long time ago and it was an event that I brought back, and we invited a bunch of representatives and senators and local volunteer leaders and basically take questions from students which was a really exciting event. We passed free speech week legislation last semester and took a target at protecting protestor rights because that was a very big project on campus. We also have a very big issue on campus corner and bar safety, me and some of my other members have gone around on the bars on campus corner and we passed out anti-roofing coasters and basically just connected with all of the owners of the bars and basically said hey OUSGA is here to try to make your bars safer and we have made those connections and started that project. Obviously, we are working on Higher Education now which is a really big event and that's a little bit of the things that I have completed.
  - **Gilson-Bond-** Starting off freshman year, one thing I noticed was how dirty campus can be sometimes so immediately something that me and Chloe Harris worked on was being able to do any anti-littering resolution. That process took a long time, throughout that we got that published to Sarah Ballew who is the Director of Energy and management. She was able to see that and maybe she didn't notice that there was a problem before and immediately there was a process of revamping the entire recycling process on campus. I mean everyone sees those really fancy trash cans things like that inside of some of your colleges you can see your recycling materials there putting more of an emphasis on the University side. I can also talk about through that process I was able to do a survey to go and get people to respond so I could see what their concerns were as far as sustainability. One thing I often talk about in being chair is being able to empower people to make a change in their committee also. Something that I am mostly proud of too, I don't know where she went but Kayla one thing I gave her the power to be able to do was be able to talk about the trash walks with CLA to make that a point with them. So we had the biggest trash walk that SUSTY has ever had comparatively to just me and Chloe and a few other people walking around on campus it was over 30 people for that one CSP opportunity and those are some of my things that I have done
- **Benitez Mendoza-** How will you ensure that past mistakes made by the previous Vice Chair are not repeated?
  - **Gilson-Bond-** Obviously mistakes are only mistakes if you fix them but if you don't fix them then it is just constantly your fault. We all had a reminder of what this position can be we have seen what it hasn't been and then with that I kind of saw and was able to hear what people's issues were. So I can improve on those specific

things. The first thing that I am going to be doing is literally writing down what my goals are so weekly constantly working to improve with you versus walking around the office and completely forgetting about it. I want to make sure that I'm constancy in communications with everyone inside the body so people can give me that feedback and I am going to be completely 100% open to that feedback is a big thing to. If I am told Aaron, you are doing a horrible job I want to be able to do some self-reflection and be like man I really need to completely start doing better because this is not good and I am completely disenfranchising a bunch of people and not just the people in Congress but the people on campus. So I want to be able to just being able to sit back and look at everything from the past and so I can be like this is going to happen, this isn't going to happen this is what we are going to do instead.

- **Bento-** For me I would say the best way to do that is obviously pay attention to the Bylaws. I know that there are 13 roles that Vice chairs have to undertake according to the Bylaws and making sure that we keep those in mind and making sure we stick to them throughout our role is very important. The other facet of that is consistency, part of my platform is obviously being a consistent person in committees. I plan to be very transparent with all committee chairs and show up to committees twice a week, every committee twice a week so they will see me there. They will know that I am a consistent person in their corner and I think with that consistency also comes the availability of being able to tell me if they have an issue they will be able to tell me they will be able to reach me and I will work promptly to fix it
- **Wintory-** What makes you confident that you will be able to keep the body informed on your efforts and your success in executing your plans?
  - **Bento-** Sure so one of my ideas for transparency is obviously sharing my schedule with all of the committee chairs so they know when I am coming and they can hold me accountable, but on a broader look for Congress and SGA as a whole with transparency I plan to inform members what the other branches are working on and basically communicating closely with all the other branches to bring projects, events, everything that the other branches are working on. My plan with that is trying to be informing the body on a monthly basis every time that I send out the CSP form to all the members, highlighting hey this is what the Executive Branch is working on, this is what GSS is working on, this is what CLA is working on and just being able to give that communication to members will allow them not only to want to work with the other branches but inspire them to take another project that is similar.
  - **Gilson-Bond-** I think a big thing that people overlook a little bit is I don't want to say false promises because I think that would sound really mean, but being able to see their platform and being able to see the results of that platform. I think it is a shame/ sad thing whenever you know its months later when we are going to talk to people and they have to talk about their platform and then its like you have to stretch to say hey did they actually do that kind of thing. So what I want to be able to do is every single time that I complete something on my platform be able to just let everyone know, whether it is going to be during general body, hey I promise this thing is going to happen, this is me doing that. I also like to make sure to tell everyone too. Something that we talked about last week was how no confidence is a thing that you can do at any time so lets say that you saw someone in this position and they are like wow they promised all of these different things and they are not doing it, you can just bring that up again and I don't want to have that happen if I

was in the position. So I am going to be constantly communicating what I'm doing and of course my platform. Because Vice Chair the big thing with it is the platform is what you promise and so you need to make sure that you keep your promises and I want to make sure I do that

*On a motion to extend time for question by 10 minutes Kathuria seconded by Robinson*

*Objection Harris succeeded by Hallum*

*On a motion to extend times to be 5 minutes Koneru seconded by Oler*

- **Koneru-** If you were able to list the committees in order of importance to you what would they be?
  - **Gilson-Bond-** That is a killer question. Upol, HD, EA, WAM, COSCO I feel horrible. I yield the time.
  - **Bento-** In the pursuit of fairness, I will take my own attempt so I don't wing out on it. First it is probably a tie between COSCO and WAM just because you guys address the issues of concerns of campus immediately right now. Next would probably be HD, you guys also address a lot of concerns and human diversity is a huge concern right now. After that I would say EA and then Upol and then SUSTY and then I think that's all of them.
- **Hallum-** What attributes or accomplishments make you believe that the other would be a great Vice Chair?
  - **Bento-** A great attribute about Aaron is his passion but also his ability to communicate. I think he is an amazing communicator, he is great at communicating with all of the members of SUSTY. All the members of SUSTY trust him a lot because he has such clear communication and he is able to give them clear goals and expectation and I think because of that SUSTY has become such a strong committee.
  - **Gilson-Bond-** For Marilou I think the biggest is the nature of her committee and how well she has done at running that. I say nature EA does a lot of different things a lot of big things at that, coming in from what we have heard wasn't the greatest circumstances before how the amazing she does EA does a lot of great things not the greatest circumstances before and she has built that filled and that's why I think that even if she won to be Vice Chair she would have no problem going in that position.

*On a motion to enter executive session Vedra seconded by Richardson*

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

*On a motion to end executive session with unanimous consent Aslam seconded by Hawley*

*Gilson-Bond elected as Vice Chair 18-17*

## **Student Concerns**

### **Items to Be Considered**

*On a motion to see CB-113-07 Christiansen seconded by Oler*

- CB-113-07 "Elections Revision Act of Spring 2025." (Savage/Martin) (Rec of Due Pass)

### **Authors Explanation:**

Hi everyone, my name is Baylor Savage if we haven't met before I am the election commissioner and while the election has come up there was a couple things that I noticed in the last election that I just want to make more clear. Really my rules and how I do my job there is not really a lot of handoff from one commissioner to the next. It is a lot more just read the Code Annotated and study and learning how those flow so I can facilitate it the best. While I was doing that there was a couple of different things I noticed. Number one as you can see here before we are adding it, there was no

closing time on these elections this was really left up to the election commissioners discretion. However the problem with that is from one year to the next, while I might now and I can get it set up on my end I am not the only one sending out announcements and stuff like that so there is a chance of miscommunication. Making it a uniform time that ends up where every year from now on it will make it so that it is not an issue, it will be just a bit more seamless and give them less stuff to worry about because we would hate for someone to think lets say it closes at 9 and it actually closes at 8 and they loss their vote in that. So kind of just making sure it is uniform. The other thing on this is as you can see before it said all congressional races had to have a simple majority vote of 50 plus one to win their seat and while this is not really a big issue for lets say SBA, CAC, or presidential races, as some of you guys know those of you that are in Dodge if there is maybe 8 seats open and for every single one of them to get a simple majority is kind of unrealistic and unattainable so this is kind of just restructuring what that says, so now it is just going to be popularly elected how it has been in function but not in wording. So it is just going to be down the line, but lets say that there are 8 seats and the last seat ties like there are two people for that one then that's going to be a runoff and stuff like that. So kind of just changing the wording on that so they can be a bit more of a seamless system at work that matches what we do functionally and yeah I worked with Kyle on this a lot and Maddie a little bit before that.

5:54 remaining for questions

- **Kathuria-** Do you believe there should also be a uniform start time for when polls open for the SGA election days?
  - Yes, I am not sure that might be in another. That wasn't really something that I was thinking about because that wasn't really an issue honestly, but yeah, I could go back and look at it some more if there isn't a thing. I would be happy to add it.
- **Kathuria-** Would you be willing to accept a friendly amendment to Chapter 6 for the general election to include a start time of 8am?
  - Yes, I accept that.
- **Hawley-** Can I ask why you chose 8pm and not 11:59 pm?
  - One thing for me and for other years, honestly if you are someone running it is very stressful and you kind of want to know as soon as possible and stuff like that. Usually a lot of things we do lets say like filing and that closes at 5 pm. So a lot of that stuff has been done by end of work day. We push it a little bit past that, just so anyone who can't do it during the school day can get home and do it. However I didn't want to do it too late because I wanted everyone to have the decisions the night of. Just for a timeline for you guys it takes me about an hour to actually get the report ready once it is done. There is actually a lot that I need on that front once its ready because I have to get all of the names and all that done all that formatting. So if we close at 8pm everyone will have their notifications around 9pm still time for most people to be up for the night time to understand where they are if they got a seat if they didn't. Prepare for maybe the future, but still with people to come home and vote at that point if they wanted to.
- **Robinson-** Have we looked at the potential of doing something instead of a runoff something like ranked choice voting to avoid the desire to need to do a runoff a few days later?
  - So rank choice voting and stuff like that, I didn't want to take too many bounds on my own and stuff like that I am just following the procedures that are already listed in it. I feel like doing something like that is really kind of beyond my role. I am just

trying to make the process easier for facilitating on my end and stuff like that if that is something you guys are looking into, we can absolutely change that in the future.

32-0-0

*On a motion to see CR-113-01 Richardson seconded by Beasley*

- CR-113-01 “Higher Education Day Act of 2025.” (Burnett/Wilson) (Rec of Due Pass)

**Authors Explanation:**

Hello my name is Ava. This bill is super simple, we have one of these every single year, it is tradition for us to do this before higher education day. We outlined fiscal history about higher education why it is important that the government funds higher education, the benefits that students get from higher education and we have a little bit in the bottom I think in section 5 talking about the Department of Education. My co-author Jeriah is not able to be here tonight they are very sick so I will give their message. They say higher education has been a continuous topic ever since I got to OU and assumedly for years before that. Because of this we continue to write legislation to inform the student body about the SGA stance on the matter. If you haven't read the legislation, I encourage you to do so that way you can get updated on important statistics regarding higher education in our state.

7:03 remaining for questions

- **Kathuria-** Are you aware that higher education used to be significantly higher funded in the 1960s-70's compared to today?
  - Yes, basically we carry through with these opinions and these facts on higher education day. That is our time to talk to representatives and senators about why they should fund it why it is important. We have a lot of statistics that we go off of on the importance of higher education and how that can go back into the state and the revenue that the state makes because I want everyone to make money here.
- **Mirza-** What was your process for drafting this piece of legislation?
  - We make one of these every year a lot of it was constructed off of the one from the previous year. A lot of these statistics don't change that significantly, last year our resolution was more based on well our sections were based on DEI because of the circumstances surrounding DEI. We decided to change it to more focus on the Department of Education and OU SGA's stance on the Department of Education, through a higher education rate.
- **Cunningham-** How did you choose the audience under Section 6?
  - These people are people who hold a lot of power when it comes to funding higher education, obviously, we have the governor, the state superintendent Ryan Walters, the board of regents all these people and the OU Daily because we love the OU Daily. These people besides maybe the OU Daily have a lot emphasis on how much money we get and I think it is important for them to see these statistics and have them put it on their desk because maybe we wont get the opportunity to talk to Kevin Stitt or Ryan Walters, or the board of regents.
- **Richardson-** Do you accept a friendly amendment to send this to say the White House and other federal agents that represent the State of Oklahoma?
  - We need specific names to add so if you would like to think of those people and email the authors and see if anyone would be willing to see a friendly amendment later you can.
- **Toyos-** What was your favorite part about learning about how to write resolutions specifically?



- I actually have some experience learning how to write bills. When I was in Oklahoma Girl's State before my senior year I actually wrote a bill. It was fake not real obviously, it didn't go anywhere but it was about medical marijuana in Oklahoma and that is kind of where I got my footing. So this is just kind of a happy place to bring that back and it was my favorite part was being able to look at all of these statistics and reflect on how we can actually make impacts on Higher Ed day and through Congress.
- **Pruitt-** Have you previously attended Higher Education Day, and will you be attending this year?
  - I am a freshman, so I have not previously attended higher ed day. I have attended the capital I have been paged for my representative capital when I was a junior in High School in Dallsbury. I recommend that everyone that everyone does, and I will be there. If you guys have any questions let us know.
- **Savage-** How do you feel about long-winded questions that kind of give certain people time to work on research that they need to make the amendments now instead of later? Is there any specific way you feel on a scale of 1-10?
  - I actually I mean on a scale of 1-10, I think maybe a 0, I don't really like it I think you should come to prepared.
- **Richardson-** Would you accept a friendly amendment to send this bill to Donald Trump, Josh B, Frank Lucas, Tom Cole, and Stephanie Bice?
  - I accept all of them except Donald Trump.
- **Wintory-** What advice do you have for first time authors trying to write their own bills?
  - We have a lot of resources on the Congress website. I got this template. Please confer with your committee Chair, they are a great resource. Anybody who has done this before, it is actually not as hard it is a lot more chill than it seems, and Hope is also a very good resource.

33-0-0

## Follow-Up Reports

### Announcements and Comments

- **Kathuria-** The Desi prom by the Indian Student Association is being hosted this Friday at 7pm at the Molly Shi Ballroom by the way it's ok if you bring a date. Two, it's a great way to meet every day OU Students.
- **Keupen-** Members of this body, I rise before you today to address cultural concerns I have about Congress. This is not just about my personal experience but about broader systemic issues of how transparency, communication, and leadership practices affect our ability to uphold the mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association: to prioritize student voices, advocate for holistic development, and promote civic engagement. We have developed habits that actively undermine these goals. I want to begin by acknowledging that there was room for improvement during my own time as COSCO Chair. I am by no means perfect, nobody is. However, I was unaware of any significant concerns about my leadership until after the selection process, when it was too late to address them. This lack of feedback hindered my development as a new chair. I also recognize that leadership styles differ among individuals. This underscores the need for a more structured and consistent feedback process to ensure concerns are addressed constructively and proactively. Relying on informal communication hinders growth and collaboration. Another key issue in our culture is the tendency to bottle things up rather than address concerns directly and constructively. Too often, frustrations or critiques are left unspoken until they

reach a breaking point, at which time they become personal rather than productive. This approach stifles growth, prevents collaboration, and creates an environment where problems fester instead of being resolved. If we are serious about supporting the development of student leaders, we must foster a culture where open and timely feedback is the norm, not the exception. When concerns about my leadership were finally raised, it was during and after the selection process for the appointment process for committee chair. I was given no opportunity to respond to these concerns. This lack of transparency hindered my ability to represent myself fairly, to grow in my leadership role, and undermined the values of equity and accountability that our organization should uphold. Without clear communication and consistent leadership practices, we risk failing our mission to advocate for the holistic development of every student- whether a constituent, a student leader, or both. The challenges I faced are not isolated—they reflect systemic issues that, if left unaddressed, will impact students in the future. This issue is compounded by another cultural challenge: a superiority complex that exists within our organization. At times, there is an unspoken hierarchy where some voices are valued more than others—not based on merit but on perceived status. This discourages new members from contributing ideas, creates an exclusionary atmosphere, and contradicts our mission to elevate all student voices. Leadership should not be about gatekeeping but about empowering every member to contribute meaningfully. A Congress that sees itself as above critique or unapproachable to those outside its inner circle cannot effectively represent the student body. To better align our leadership practices with our mission, I propose the following improvements: Establish a structured feedback system: All chairs and committee members should receive regular, constructive feedback throughout their term, creating opportunities for development and address concerns *before* they escalate. Promote transparency in decision-making: Leadership processes should include clear communication of expectations, advance notice of critiques, and opportunities for improvement. Foster proactive leadership: Leadership roles should be supported by training and tools that help individuals develop essential skills, ensuring every member can thrive and grow. Encourage open dialogue and mutual respect: Congress should actively work to eliminate the superiority complex that discourages collaboration, ensuring that every member's input is valued and considered. Members, this is not about assigning blame but about identifying opportunities to strengthen Congress and uphold our oath to the mission we all share. By fostering transparency, communication, and proactive leadership, we can ensure that every voice is heard, every leader is supported, and every process reflects the fairness and integrity we strive for. Despite these concerns, I have faith in our Exec team and their potential. This is an opportunity for us to grow together and create lasting change. Let us commit to these improvements—not just for today but for the future of our Student Government Association. Thank you.

- **Harris-** Hey so EA is working on a new fun project. It is on homelessness in Norman. We are really working on reaching out to people and kind of making the issue well known. A lot of people don't know that Norman does not have a permanent shelter. We only have a temporary shelter location and it is very difficult for people to find a consistent housing and even having a stable mailing address at a permanent shelter can make a huge impact on someone's side. With that being said we need people. this is a huge project it is a huge undertaking so if you are at all interested in advocating for homeless people in Norman, please message me on Groupme, message Marilou or come to the EA committee. Thank you.

## Final Roll Call

*On a motion to adjourn Oler seconded by Hanley*

**Adjourn- 9:01 pm**

Chair: Hope Rhoads

Secretary: Chloe Harris

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIII

February 4, 2025

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

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-113-07  
SENATE BILL GSXX-XX/GFXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Procedure amending the Code Annotated to reflect the necessary changes to the Election Rules; 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 “Elections Revision Act of Spring 2025.”
- Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to amend the Student Government Association’s Code Annotated to reflect necessary changes to the Election Rules.
- Section 3:** AMENDATORY: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association’s Code Annotated Title VI Chapter 2 is amended as follows. For the purposes of this bill, all items removed shall be denoted with a ~~strike through~~. All items added shall be denoted with an underline.

Chapter VI-2 Election Rules

1. **Electorate.** The electorate of the SGA Presidential and the CAC Chair races shall consist of all members of the SGA. Subject to any applicable provisions of the SGA Constitution, the Legislative Branch shall establish the electorate for all other races in General and/or Special Elections. In the absence of any guidance from the Legislative Branch, the Election Commission may adopt any rules established by the affected organization to determine the electorate for a specific race.
2. **Election Dates.** The sections below shall be the dates of the general elections, unless the Legislative Branch changes the date by an Act of the Legislative Branch at least three (3) weeks before the week of the date proposed by the legislation. The Election Commissioner shall have the power to waive this three (3) week requirement if they deem that exceptional circumstances warrant a waiver. Any special election, referendum, or initiatives shall be passed by an Act of the Legislative Branch at least three (3) weeks before the week of the date proposed by the legislation. This requirement cannot be waived.
  1. **Fall General Election.** The Fall General Election shall be held the Tuesday and Wednesday of the eleventh (11th) academic week of the fall semester. Voting shall open at 8am and shall close at 8pm on Wednesday.

2. **Spring General Election.** The Spring General Election shall be held the Tuesday and Wednesday of the eleventh (11th) Academic Week of the spring semester. Voting shall open at 8am and shall close at 8pm on Wednesday.
3. **Deadline Requirements.** Any deadline within this Title, except those noted, may be implicitly suspended by the Election Commissioner with the advice and consent of the Election Commission.
4. **Election Funding.** The SGA Budgetary Committee shall allocate sufficient funds in each Administrative Appropriations Act to conduct two General Elections, two (2) run-off elections, and at least one (1) special election, including the compensation of all eligible Election Commission members for each election and sufficient publicity for filing and voting.
5. **Polling.** If an SGA member cannot vote through the online voting software implemented by the Elections Commission, they shall request a ballot from the Election Commission in person in the SGA Office or over the OU-maintained email service. In doing so, the SGA member shall provide their OU ID as sufficient identification. The ballot may be requested any time after the publishing of the Information on Candidates booklet and shall be sent when the online polls open. The alternative ballot must be accepted during the online polling days and normal business hours of the Student Life office. The Election Commission shall ensure that any person that used an alternative ballot cannot and did not vote more than once (1) in any election.
6. **Voter's Rights.** The following rights should not be infringed upon:
  1. The right of the student to vote by secret ballot shall not be infringed. The right of the student to arrive at a voting decision free from undue influence shall not be infringed.
  2. No person(s), group(s), or organization(s), regardless of their affiliation, shall require any student(s) to vote, or shall require any student(s) to vote either for or against any proposal, candidate, or candidates in any SGA sanctioned election.
  3. Any SGA member has the right to request, in writing, a ruling of the Election Commissioner at any time during the campaign period. The Election Commissioner shall make a written ruling on any such petition within twenty-four (24) hours of its submission.
7. **Procedure for Run-off.**
  1. ~~The Congressional~~ The Presidential, SBA, and CAC races shall be popularly elected by a simple majority vote (fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) vote) of the ballots cast for that purpose. In any of the aforementioned races, should no candidate receive a simple majority vote (fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) vote), the top two candidates shall be placed on the ballot for a runoff election to occur on the Tuesday immediately following the original election date. The top vote-recipient of the runoff election shall be declared the winner.
  2. The Congressional Representative seats shall be popularly elected. If in any of the Congressional Representative Seat races, any of the candidates with the least amount of winning popular votes shall tie for an open seat, the candidates shall be placed on the ballot for a run-off election to occur on the Tuesday immediately following the original election date. The top-vote recipient of the run-off election shall be declared the winner.

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

Author(s): Congressional Administration Committee Chair, Kyle Martin  
Election Commissioner, Baylor Savage

Co-Sponsor(s):

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Christiansen seconded by Representative Oler

Action taken by Congress: 32-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate

Verified by Chair of Senate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by SGA President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIII

February 4, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX

Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-113-01  
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

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

Whereas: The fiscal year 2025 appropriation for higher education by the State of Oklahoma was \$1,023,746,221<sup>1</sup>; and

Whereas: By 2025, 70 percent of jobs in Oklahoma will require some college, a long-term certificate, or a college degree compared to 40% in 2014<sup>2</sup>; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma specifically, has 34,823 students currently enrolled across all campuses in the United States, and

Whereas: 93% of Oklahomans who graduate from a state system college or university remain and work in the state one year after graduation<sup>3</sup>; and

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

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<sup>1</sup> Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. "2025 Funding Request - Legislative Information - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education," December 2, 2024. <https://okhighered.org/leg-info/funding%20request/>.

<sup>2</sup> Reach Higher Oklahoma. "Critical Occupations - Reach Higher Oklahoma." Reach Higher Oklahoma, December 20, 2024. <https://reachhigherok.org/directcomplete/workforce-partners/critical-occupations/>.

<sup>3</sup> Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. "Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education," n.d. <https://okhighered.org/>.

Whereas: Oklahoma’s higher education system supported \$8.21 billion in total economic output in FY2016<sup>4</sup>; and

Whereas: Oklahoma’s higher education system requires a 9.3% increase in funding for the year 2026 or \$95,000,000<sup>5</sup>; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS AND THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE, CONCURRING THEREIN THAT:

**Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “Higher Education Day Act of 2025.”

**Section 2:** OU Student Government Association encourages federal entities to appropriate more funds to Oklahoma for use in education.

**Section 3:** OU Student Government Association encourages residents of Oklahoma to contact local and state legislators about the importance of education and higher education funding at state and national levels.

**Section 4:** OU Student Government Association encourages residents of Oklahoma, in places of civic engagement, to consider the importance of a highly educated and competitive workforce in an increasingly global community.

**Section 5:** OU Student Government Association encourages the maintenance of the Department of Education in the State of Oklahoma for the continuation of benefitting students in higher education.

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

- Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma
- Ryan Walters, Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- OU Board of Regents
- OU Office of Governmental Affairs
- OU Daily
- Kevin Hern
- Josh Brecheen
- Frank Lucas
- Tom Cole

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<sup>4</sup> Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. “Workforce Development - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,” October 3, 2024. <https://okhighered.org/econ-dev/?highlight=economic%20output>.

<sup>5</sup> “FUNDING REQUEST FUNDING REQUEST.” Accessed January 30, 2025. <https://okhighered.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/funding-request-2025.pdf>.



- Stephanie Bice.

Author(s): Ava Burnett, Arts and Sciences District Representative  
Jeriah Wilson, Associate

Co-Author(s): Marilou Bento, Engineering District Representative

Co-Sponsor(s):

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

Action taken by Congress: 33-0-0

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Last	First	Intial	Final
Aslam	Syed	x	x
Ball	Reese	x	x
Beasley	William	x	x
Benitez Mendoza	Delia	x	x
Bento	Marilou	x	x
Bertotti	Hayden	x	x
Burnett	Ava	x	x
Carter	Lauren	x	x
Christiansen	Henry	x	x
Cunningham	Owen	x	x
Duncan	Elizabeth	x	x
Estrada	Nicole	x	x
Fazzani	Diego	x	x
Finley	Jael	ex	ex
Fisher	Mecca	x	x
Futa	Ryne	a	a
Hallum	Elias	x	x
Harris	Hudson	x	x
Hawley	Kayla	x	x
Higareda Castillo	Lilian	x	x
Kathuria	Shrey	x	x
Keupen	Ben	x	x
Koneru	Aniketh	a	x
Lapp	Bridget	x	a
Martin	Kyle	x	x
Ogle	Pierce	a	a
Oler	Kyle	x	x
Pruitt	Aydan	x	x
Reynolds	Michael	a	a
Richardson	Thomas	x	x
Robinson	Caleb	x	x
Schonfield	Jacob	x	x
Schroeder	Brooklyn	a	a
Toyos	Alexandra	x	x
Vedra	Hayden	x	x
Walker	Cade	x	x
Walker	Cody	x	x
Wang	Andy	x	x
Wintory	Michael	x	x
<b>PRESENT</b>		33	33
<b>ABSENT</b>		5	5
<b>EXCUSED</b>		1	1

Last	First	CB-113-07	CR-113-01	objection	
Aslam	Syed	y	y	n	
Ball	Reese	y	y	n	
Beasley	William	y	y	n	
Benitez Mendoza	Delia		y	n	
Bento	Marilou	y	y	y	
Bertotti	Hayden	y	y	y	
Burnett	Ava	y	y	n	
Carter	Lauren	y	y	y	
Christiansen	Henry	y	y	n	
Cunningham	Owen	y	y	y	
Duncan	Elizabeth	y	y	n	
Estrada	Nicole	y	y	n	
Fazzani	Diego	y	y	n	
Finley	Jael				
Fisher	Mecca	y	y	n	
Futa	Ryne				
Hallum	Elias	y	y	y	
Harris	Hudson	y	y	n	
Hawley	Kayla	y	y	n	
Higareda Castillo	Lilian	y	y	n	
Kathuria	Shrey	y	y	y	
Keupen	Ben	y	y	n	
Koneru	Aniketh	y	y	y	
Lapp	Bridget				
Martin	Kyle	y	y	y	
Ogle	Pierce			n	
Oler	Kyle	y	y	y	
Pruitt	Aydan	y	y	n	
Reynolds	Michael				
Richardson	Thomas	y	y	n	
Robinson	Caleb	y	y	y	
Schonfield	Jacob	y	y	n	
Schroeder	Brooklyn			n	
Toyos	Alexandra	y	y	n	
Vedra	Hayden	y	y	y	
Walker	Cade	y	y	n	
Walker	Cody	y	y	n	
Wang	Andy	y	y	n	
Wintory	Michael	y	y	y	
<b>Yes</b>			32	33	12
<b>No</b>			0	0	23
<b>Abstain</b>			0	0	0

Last	First	VC Election
Aslam	Syed	g
Ball	Reese	b
Beasley	William	g
Benitez Mendoza	Delia	b
Bento	Marilou	g
Bertotti	Hayden	b
Burnett	Ava	b
Carter	Lauren	b
Christiansen	Henry	g
Cunningham	Owen	g
Duncan	Elizabeth	b
Estrada	Nicole	g
Fazzani	Diego	g
Finley	Jael	
Fisher	Mecca	b
Futa	Ryne	
Gilson-Bond	Aaron	b
Hallum	Elias	g
Harris	Hudson	b
Hawley	Kayla	g
Higareda Castillo	Lilian	b
Kathuria	Shrey	b
Keupen	Ben	b
Koneru	Aniketh	b
Lapp	Bridget	
Martin	Kyle	g
Ogle	Pierce	b
Oler	Kyle	g
Pruitt	Aydan	b
Reynolds	Michael	
Richardson	Thomas	g
Robinson	Caleb	g
Schonfield	Jacob	b
Schroeder	Brooklyn	
Toyos	Alexandra	g
Vedra	Hayden	g
Walker	Cade	g
Walker	Cody	g
Wang	Andy	b
Wintory	Michael	g
<b>Bento</b>		17
<b>Gilson-Bond</b>		18