

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS Session CV

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 26, 2021

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/4769500899?pwd=dC92V25oeUZRUldiYU9xelBvTHhUQT09>

Meeting ID: 476 950 0899

Passcode: 08675309

7:01 Roll Call

Mission Statement

Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes

Representative Griffin seconded by Representative Bryant

Chair's Report - Good Evening everyone, thank you all for being here. Over the break, members of exec continued to meet unofficially to ensure a smooth setup for this semester. For the time being, there is no space available for us to meet, but once University Scheduling has class locations finalized, we may have the opportunity to move back to hybrid meetings. Additionally, in the coming weeks, we should have some more fun events before or after meetings, or maybe during special orders just to build more community in Congress. Also, tonight immediately following the meeting, applications for the positions of UPOL chair and either EA or COSCO chair will be opening. Those applications are available on the Congress Engage page and I will be putting the link in the groupme. Finally, I'm very excited to announce that after a vote by the Senior SGA Leadership (President, Congress Chair, GSS Chair, CAC Chair, and Dr. Surratt) and pending approval from the regents, money from the Student Activity Fund will be allocated to several campus departments serving students on a daily basis. These include the Gender and Equality Center, Student Media, the office of the Dean of Students, and funding to improve and reform the student conduct office. Perhaps most excitingly, money will also be going towards two new counseling positions at the University Counseling Center, which will improve quality of care provided by the counseling center and will move the University closer to the recommended counselor to student ratio, hopefully reducing wait times to get appointments. These funding initiatives will allow the student body to be better served and I'm immensely proud of every member of our student government for the consistent advocacy that made this possible.

Secretary's Report – Hi everyone! I hope you all had a safe and restful break, and I can't wait to hit the ground running this semester! Constituent service requirements will begin starting in February, and I've made a list of constituent service opportunities that will be accepted, as well as solidifying some of the requirements for if you want to make class visits or social media graphics your service hour for the month. I'll be sending that list out biweekly at the same time as the Google Form, so keep an eye out for that in February. With this, I hope that we can work towards making service opportunities more focused on connecting with our constituents and ensure that we keep opening those lines of communication with them. Other than that, my office hours will be MW 12-2 and TR 11-1 if you want to stop by, either on Zoom, or if you make an appointment, in person. I hope you all have a great start to the beginning of the semester, and let me know if you need anything!

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** Hi everyone. My exec and I met over the break and we wanted to discuss goals and a mission statement. We've gotten suggestions that might be able to go to other places. We want to solidify the difference between COSCO and UPol. We're more infrastructure based to help student concerns. We were really productive over the break. We're excited to hit the ground running.
- **Congressional Administration:** Hello friends, welcome back to Zoom. We hope you had a restful winter break. We've been working on restructuring ConAd as a whole. Please check the GroupMe or Zoom chat for election guidelines for tonight. We're restarting Code Club soon. I have a note for that – Rep. Halsey-Kraus will be leading it from now on! Also, the general application is open now until Friday. Interviews are the 31st. We're looking for reps and associates, and exec is looking for department chairs. There's also the talent bank. DM me on Zoom for questions about the election.
- **External Affairs:** EA met unofficially this Sunday. Friday night we have a Zoom forum for city council candidates. Starts at 6:30. If you're interested and want a say in local government, I would come. We have a place for questions to submit to ask the candidates. We're really excited to put this on. Also, we have Higher Education Day, virtually February 16. I'll keep you updated with updates.
- **Human Diversity:** Hope you all had a wonderful and safe break. My committee didn't meet Sunday. Hopefully we have the newsletter in the OUMM soon. Next, HD constituent service hours will start up soon. Other than that, if you need me, you can reach out.
- **Sustainability:** Haven't met with my committee over the break, but we're laying groundwork to finish the projects we started last semester. We've been working with SEC and Treefest, to try and begin working on things we'll see this semester outside of Susty itself. Big things, volunteers to help clean up Kessler Farms creek, badly ridden with trash from the ice storm. SEC is trying to put together a series of speakers. If it happens, I'll invite you all to come. We're planning a game day trash pick up for the Red and White game. Hopefully we can get that solidified soon. Any questions, feel free to reach out.
- **University Policy:** UPol met unofficially Sunday. Projects from last semester are carrying on this semester. Something new, to better organize the work between UPol and COSCO. Categories academics, student employment, weekly policy reports, etc. There will be collab between COSCO and UPol.
- **Ways and Means:** Hi, we haven't met. We're going to start soon again. I'll have a thing at orientation for the semester.

Liaison Reports

Marvin: PRRSA, job fair coming up. \$25 to go, I'll send out info.

Kerr: Blood drive in union this week, winter welcome back to school drive. If you want to stop by to donate or volunteer, you can walk in or make an appointment 11-4 Wednesday through Friday in

Tucker: Write Club this Thursday at 8:30 on Zoom! Also, please reach out if you're interested in canvassing for some of the campaigns for city council ahead of the election on February 9.

Merchant: GEC is getting events ready for Women's History Month, Black History Month, others. Reach out if you want to help co-program on any of those.

Special Orders

- Officer Elections: Vice Chair

Flaggert: I'm Jayke. Exciting that we have two women running. I'm nominating Broadbent. We disagree on things, but in EA as chair, Taylor has built a good opportunity for conversation. She's also very idealist. Taylor knows it takes hard work to attain ideals. Hard work is a privilege and not an inhibitor. She also goes the extra mile, the previous chair left little guidance or transition material. She was nervous, but she was ready. She saw it as a blank canvas, I admire that she put in the hard work. She's determined. With her commitment and love with EA, some say why leave, I say why not? Taylor has laid the groundwork for EA to succeed after her.

Broadbent: Hello all. I received an email on Sept 19 2019 that read congratulations, you've been selected to be a representative. When I looked back on those names, we didn't know we would be embarking on a

journey to lead us here. We are all impassioned. We are each here for a purpose. When I considered what my passion was, I realized it was you all. The real reason isn't the quotes in the daily, but it's you all. I've put so much work into the committee because I wanted them to be proud of it and call it family. I'm so sad to possibly leave EA tonight, but I am excited to revitalize the position. Community. We should create spaces to foster relationships beyond your last day here. I want to reach out to each of you to provide you with the best support system to succeed. Collaboration across the body as a whole. Outreach is an important part of their roles. It's tough to connect during COVID, so I want to build a list of contacts in districts so they know where to go to reach out to constituents. We need you to get connected to the largest groups on campus. They help us reach out to the student body to know what they need from us. Sometimes, the problems are bigger than us or our campus. International students faced difficulties with their visas due to the pandemic. Big 12 is an opportunity to advocate for our students, whether title 9 or visas. We can tackle larger issues at Big 12. I hope you put your trust in me to elect me as your Vice Chair.

May: I'm Sidney. I served as secretary of COSCO under Alexis Marvin. On the surface anyone can see her dedication to Congress as a whole. She has deep respect to others professionally while valuing their opinions. Our organization can fall victim to partisanship sometimes. From my experience in the organization, Alexis has never belittled anyone for their beliefs. She always respects others whether their opinions align or not. She ensures we have a connection with those we represent. Some members feel uncomfortable in the body, but she believes they should feel comfortable expressing what they believe. Her engagement to improve Congress and the university shows she cares. She cares about each and every member and wants to hear everyone's voices to exceed what the position entails.

Marvin: My name is Alexis Marvin. I've been an associate, representative, COSCO vice chair and chair. I've spent every second working for this body. It's what I prioritize most. Congress should function together to advocate for and connect the student body. I want to effectively connect our members. Many have felt ignored in the body. I want to use orientation to help associates know they have power in this body. Introducing this in orientation will help associates in Congress to build community. I want to connect them to others in the body. Through increased personal relations we can have respect to one another. I also want to use PR to reach out to the community to show them what we do for them. I spoke with Gabriela Tumani to see how we can strengthen our relationship to the OU Daily. I want to go towards press releases and events, and town halls and events with the Daily. If I'm elected I'll meet with the PR team immediately. Congress does an excellent job at social media and I want to continue that. Also, Big 12 and Big 12 on the Hill. We want more transparency and dedicated research. I want to use discussion for possible solutions. I also want to explore issues we're all experiencing collectively. For orientation, I want to host it on Zoom. First, I want to include a parli pro workshop independent of ConAd. I want to utilize breakout rooms to help members get to know each other. I want committee presentations to be in breakout rooms. Goal is to be informative as possible while being interactive enough to make people comfortable in the body. I want to strengthen and define this position. VC has opportunity to bring change to the university.

Time for Questions

Patton: What's something you want to do as VC that you can't do as committee chair?

Marvin: I think there's a lot COSCO does to help the community, but VC can help Congress internally and externally. VC helps committee chairs and associateship as well as connecting with RSOs. I can't connect with associates as well in my current position. Advocating for students on a larger scale with Big 12.

Broadbent: 2 things. First, setting up orientation to be more in line to better help the students and members of Congress to know what's going on. Big thing is breakout rooms. Gives you all opportunity to move around so things don't seem so stagnant and have a more structured and informative day. Second, being able to do better outreach. Running for humanities rep last time, some RSOs hadn't ever been talked to. History Club was excited to know they had a rep for them. I think that will help us with funding too because if RSOs know who to talk to it'll help Congress overall.

Merchant: What is your biggest anticipated challenge and how to combat?

Broadbent: Overcoming distance between us, having to be socially distant. We need to overcome community in these times. Bringing back some biweekly activities to build a better community as well as finding time to connect with reps on an individual level to know they have someone in their corner.

Marvin: Orientation coming quick, Big 12 quick, and April quick. Timing, getting things done. Some things I've done, I've already made an RSO guide. Less hours to spend on that. Planned out orientation schedule, won't have to make another orientation schedule, already prepared. PR takes time too, with a schedule right off the bat it will help.

Tesfaselassie: Talked about this, but what will you do to help introduce new reps and associates?

Marvin: I want to start with breakout rooms in orientation. Breakout rooms and get to know you activities. Rest of the semester, I want to do Zoom and small sign up in person thing. I want to work with Emily to promote service opportunities. Assisting the student body is a good way too to bond.

Broadbent: Get to know you game. You submit a random fact about you and people guess who that is. Getting to know each other is a battle. Working to get to know you all personally and introducing you to people you may like. There are more things in common between committees than what we see. Kerr is VP of OU College Dems, and that might align with EA. Organize community building events, Zoom or in person, and how we're meeting as Congress. Dinner, bring dinner to Zoom, movies, Kahoots, things to help break the ice even over Zoom format.

Grebe: Plans on enhancing associate position?

Broadbent: Associate position is sometimes left out of the conversation. Associates are reps of the student body as a whole, maybe larger organizations to help them feel more prepared to connect with reps. Also, working to make sure that associates are valued as much as regular members. Sometimes we've been limiting capacity for in person thing for an equitable system.

Marvin: Associates have felt pushed to the side, but I want to explain that they're more than the things they can't do. They count towards quorum and vote and make motions in committee. If we focus on the things they can do, it will be better. My vice chair has been so helpful, and she's an associate. Focusing on committee time would be helpful.

Suspend the rules and extend time for questions by 10 minutes Representative Merchant seconded by Representative Grebe

Marvin: Another thing, associates GroupMe to plan events. Also informational sessions like with Code Club. Also elections. Associates didn't know until they were happening. I want to take that seriously and provide info prior. Fundraising money for elections is confusing. I want Peyton Nees to explain the finances of elections. I also want get togethers outside of Congress meetings in a way that keeps people safe.

Poupore: Integrated with your former committee?

Marvin: Chair meets with committee chairs and they're very busy, but VC helps committee chairs in any way possible. My committee doesn't usually do legislation, but if we work with chairs to implement things to stay invested there in regards to legislation. With COSCO, I want to stay involved and go to meetings, but I want to go to every committee meetings, with a couple here or there throughout the semester to stay connected.

Broadbent: First, I want to open dialogue about when and where they need support. VC is ex officio member for every committee for quorum and moving smoother. I want to reach out to the chairs every week to ask if they need support. Like Alexis, I would attend them on a schedule instead of going to all of them every single week. Giving the opportunity to give the committee chairs to say when and where they want the VC. Leaving EA, I've been working to develop all of EA to be new committee chairs, even if you move committees. You're all prepared to be leaders in any branch. Working with all individual members to develop future leaders of Congress and make sure current chairs can transition easily. I want to keep our legacy going past when either of us are VC.

Merchant: Both are very involved. How will you use your experience in other RSOs to involve your service as VC?

Broadbent: As coalition chair for OK Votes, I've already established relationships with big RSOs as well as smaller ones like my sorority and OU History Club. A lot of people don't know what we do, so taking that step of connecting that rep with the groups is important. We're almost there, and if we make those connections, Congress will be more effective on campus.

Marvin: I've been part of PRSSA and Congress. I went to them every meeting and talked about Congress and funding. That's something effective we could implement with all RSOs. Other things, how to do events and

how to do get to know you things. In mock trial we were very close. Even with COVID we did a lot of stuff and were able to have fun which was very important. While we're not competing in Congress, it's still very serious work. I want to take some of the things from mock trial here.

Tesfaselassie: What are your number one priorities if you could only do one thing?

Marvin: Bringing more community and unity in Congress. It's something I've felt in the past and is number one for me.

Broadbent: Building community. Without it we can't do the other steps like getting to know each other. I think communication and having fun in Congress is number one priority.

Merchant: Had to describe potential tenure with one word?

Broadbent: Integrity. I want to be someone you can rely on and know will be there.

Marvin: Precedent. VC has more potential and I want to define it and leave a legacy on how it can operate.

- **Executive Session**

Enter Executive Session

Representative Kerr seconded by Representative Lynskey

Exit Executive Session

Representative Merchant seconded by Representative Angstadt

Student Concerns

Merchant: Greek life is still having parties, which is gross and disgusting.

South: I'll talk with our prospective COSCO and UPol chairs, as well as our EA chair.

Hillis: Concern from myself and constituents, winter welcome week is doing lunch and breakfast pass outs and are using very loud speakers. Some classes are hearing the music from the South Oval.

South: I'll reach out to CAC to see if we can take care of that.

Bryant: Don't know if the tweet was someone in Congress, but some students were concerned that professors were pulling their masks down in class. We're still in a pandemic, 400,000 people have died, we should be holding our professors accountable.

South: UPol Academics.

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

Follow-Up Reports

Items for Future Agenda

Announcements and Comments

Marvin: Wanted to say thank you to everyone. Broadbent, I'm very happy to have gotten to know you, and I'm very excited to serve the body in this way. I think we can make a difference.

Kerr: Blood drive this week! I'll send a flier in the GroupMe.

Merchant: Student Success Center through CAS is looking for spring interns with graphic design, planning conferences, it's paid.

Poupore: As you know, I'm working on the Norman city council forum Friday 6:30. We need all the questions we can get. I'll send the form again tomorrow. Any and every question, fill it out so we can choose from a broad list of questions.

Harman: If you skip over OUMMs, CASH is extended for February 15, yay for us procrastinators! Also, if you have recommendations for the February newsletter for movies/podcasts/books, I'd love to hear them!

Tesfaselassie: Thank you to both candidates for being such diligent members in their service of our community, I look forward to working with Vice Chair Marvin.

Hillis: General Application! 12 applicants just for Congress. Side, we have 2 grad students who used the general application! Due this Friday at 5pm. It will not be extended. Send the link to all your friends.

Bryant: I work at the OU Law School in the library. It's work study, but they've opened it up to everyone who wants to apply for it. We're taking people because COVID hit us hard last semester. I'll buy you snacks. It's a great place.

Broadbent: Congratulations to Alexis Marvin, she will do a great job as your Vice Chair, she has amazing things planned. My sorority Gamma Delta Pi has applications open. Soon, Sigma Nu Alpha Gamma will have

applications so you can be a brother to Chair South. I appreciate all of you for all of your support and I look forward to seeing where you go from here.

Hong: Sooners Helping Sooners application just opened for their grant. We should publicize it.

Harman: Free menstrual cups coming up! Look out for that.

South: Office hours! Zoom or committee chairs can drop in. Available on the SGA website under contact tab. Mondays 11-2, Tuesdays 1-2 and 3:30-5, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays. Also, committee chair applications. UPol and COSCO are open. I'll put application link in the Congress GroupMe. Closing Friday at 5pm. Saturday morning interviews. I can set up another time if that doesn't work for you. Also, applications for Sigma Nu Alpha Gamma fraternity are open now. Also, go see Tavana and Alex and the unofficial mascot of SGA Chicken Nugget the dog.

Final Roll Call

Adjourn 9:09pm

Broadbent seconded by Representative Kerr

Chair: Crispin South

Vice Chair:

Secretary: Emily Tucker

Session 105	General
Alcala, Talon	x
Alfaro Sandi, Jafet	x
Angstadt, Kennedy	x
Beltz, Katie	x
Broadbent, Taylor	x
Bryant, Maegan	x
Carmona, Ismael	x
Chenevey, Brandon	x
<i>Cotton, Chad</i>	abs
Dao, Audrey	x
Dobson, Jessica	abs
Douglas, Zoe	x
Flaggert, Jayke	x
Garg, Nishit	x
Grebe, Jordan	x
Griffin, Weslie	x
Halsey-Kraus, Abby	x
Hong, Anna	x
Kerr, Susan	x
Kevric, Hanna	x
Lange, Jake	x
Lewis, Lacey	x
Loayza, Robert	x
Lynskey, Graeson	x
Marvin, Alexis	x
May, Sidney	x
Merchant, Mahak	x
Miller, Summer	x
Mojekwu, Peace	x

Papahronis, Demetri	x
Poupore, Carson	x
Raymundi Pinheiro, Natalia	x
Roberts, Lauren	ex
Rosen, Ashley	x
Sertovic, Aida	ex
Shelton, Jackson	x
Smail, Taylor	ex
Smith, Kennedy	x
Tesfaselassie, Robel	x
Thompson, Faith	x
Present	35
Absent	2
Excused	3

Session 105	Suspend rules, extend time 10min
Alcala, Talon	y
Alfaro, Jafet	y
Angstadt, Kennedy	y
Beltz, Katie	y
Broadbent, Taylor	y
Bryant, Maegan	y
Carmona, Ismael	y
Chenevey, Brandon	y
Cotton, Chad	
Dao, Audrey	y
Dobson, Jessica	
Douglas, Zoe	y
Flaggert, Jayke	y
Garg, Nishit	
Grebe, Jordan	y

Griffin, Weslie	y
Halsey-Kraus, Abby	y
Hong, Anna	y
Kerr, Susan	y
Kevric, Hanna	y
Lange, Jake	y
Lewis, Lacey	y
Loayza, Robert	y
Lynskey, Graeson	y
Marvin, Alexis	y
May, Sidney	y
Merchant, Mahak	y
Miller, Summer	y
Mojekwu, Peace	y
Papahronis, Demetri	y
Poupore, Carson	y
Raymundi, Natalia	y
Roberts, Lauren	
	y
Sertovic, Aida	
Shelton, Jackson	y
Smail, Taylor	y
Smith, Kennedy	y
Tesfaselassie, Robel	y
Thompson, Faith	y
	35
	0
	0

Session 105	Vice Chair

Alcala, Talon	m
Alfaro Sandi, Jafet	m
Angstadt, Kennedy	m
Beltz, Katie	b
Broadbent, Taylor	b
Bryant, Maegan	b
Carmona, Ismael	b
Chenevey, Brandon	m
<i>Cotton, Chad</i>	
Dao, Audrey	m
Dobson, Jessica	
Douglas, Zoe	b
Flaggert, Jayke	b
Garg, Nishit	m
Grebe, Jordan	b
Griffin, Weslie	b
Halsey-Kraus, Abby	m
Hong, Anna	b
Kerr, Susan	b
Kevric, Hanna	m
Lange, Jake	m
Lewis, Lacey	b
Loayza, Robert	m
Lynskey, Graeson	b
Marvin, Alexis	m
May, Sidney	m
Merchant, Mahak	m
Miller, Summer	m
Mojekwu, Peace	m
Papahronis, Demetri	m
Poupore, Carson	b
Raymundi Pinheiro, Natalia	m
Roberts, Lauren	

Rosen, Ashley	b
Sertovic, Aida	
Shelton, Jackson	m
Smail, Taylor	
Smith, Kennedy	m
Tesfaselassie, Robel	b
Thompson, Faith	m
Marvin	20
Broadbent	15
Abstain	0