

Handy Session Reminders

If a bill has been on the floor *way* too long

- Yell “previous question on the bill as a whole” to try to move straight to a vote on the bill.
- Move to table the bill indefinitely or postpone the bill to a definite time. You can postpone it to a time after session ends and people might not notice.

If people are being really annoying (if you start to wish you were in class instead of at OIL)

- Yell “orders of the day,” which will force us to focus on our main business.
- Yell “on privilege,” and when you’re called on, say you are here for a learning experience and you aren’t learning anything or something to that effect.
- Make a motion to suspend the rules and revoke that person or people’s speaking privileges for a specific amount of time. It will get the point across.

How to work like a team

- Try to keep OU bills on the floor as long as possible.
 - Ask questions, call for debate, and ask people from other schools to debate. Make amendments to improve the legislation.
 - Find out why people are against the bill and either try to find a compromise through amendments, or try to convince them why the bill is good.
 - Vote against previous question.
 - Caucus with other schools.
- Bring good legislation. On the first day, the floor leaders will be announced. Pay attention to who they are. Get to know them.
 - Try to get your legislation on the floor by talking to floor leaders and trying to get other schools to talk to the floor leaders. Get people excited about your legislation.
 - If you get done with that and still want to help, caucus other OU legislation.

How to win points if that’s your thing

- ALWAYS raise your hand when someone asks for volunteers.
- Every time they ask for questions to the author, every OU placard should be up. Even if you don't have a question, you may think of one and by then you'll be 100th on the list. If you never think of a question, say "asked and answered" when they call your name.
- Make amendments. Make motions. Always be the first one to hop up when the speaker calls for standing seconds. Always say your name and school name before you start to speak. Get noticed on the floor.
- Work behind the scenes. Talk to people, especially ones at other schools.
- In committee, volunteer to chair or act as reading clerk or time keeper. No one will care if you don’t know what you’re doing. They’ll help you.
- Socialize with people from other schools at the capitol, at dinner, at the hotel, at parties, whenever! Always say you are from OU when you introduce yourself.
- When orders of the day are read, look through all the bills we'll be going over that day and write all your amendments early so you can get them in as soon as the bill gets on the floor.

We rarely get past the first few amendments, so getting them up there early will help you get on the floor.

- Bring lots of canned food or give money for canned food.
- Sign up for the leadership intern program.
- Get to know the people on the rules committee. They decide who gets the individual awards.
- Have statistics from respectable sources to back up your bills. Use visual aids like charts and pictures. In the past, people have used buttons and stickers to promote their bills. Find people with similar bills to yours and have them coauthor your bill or vice-versa to get support from their school.
- Move to suspend the rules and change people's names from other schools, or change the name of another school.
- Use unusual parlpro, especially if you're a freshman. Call for a teller vote on a bill. Object to consideration of a bill (which you have to do before the authors are recognized). Set up a filibuster. Set up a committee.
- Sit at the front of the room. It's easier for the chair to see you and you will get recognized more often. It also ensures that the rest of the body sees you. But don't always be in your seat. Move around. And if you don't get a seat in the front, just walk up there when you need to talk.

Etiquette

- **Don't walk on the Oklahoma Seal** right in front of the podium. You'll probably be forced to sing in front of everyone and will be ridiculed for the rest of session.
- Don't walk in front of people who are talking or between people who are talking to each other. Crouch down or walk around.
- Don't talk loudly in chambers. If you need to talk loudly, go outside for a while.
- Do not under any circumstances curse or insult government officials on the microphones. Actual state congressmen are in their offices and might hear you.

**Always remember... On final passage of a bill, always vote your conscience.
You can be against an OU bill.**

