

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

October 16th 7:00 PM

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93772247533?pwd=sBRbHEL3MOD2aTtpaH9URXpz3t1Fcr.1>

Call to Order

Mission Statement: Graduate Students at the University of Oklahoma have a number of unique concerns and interests requiring a voice separate from the usual instruments that express the will of the faculty and of undergraduates. For this reason, the Graduate Student Senate of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association was established in 1987 to represent all Graduate Students and to serve their needs.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes (minutes from previous meeting:

(<https://www.ou.edu/sga/branches/graduate-student-senate/agendas-and-minutes>)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
- Vice-Chair:
- Secretary:

Committee Reports: (submit your meeting minutes [here](#))

- Academic Affairs:
- Development & Philanthropy:
- External Affairs:
- Internal Affairs:
- International Student Affairs:
- Public Relations:
- Sustainability:
- Ways and Means:

Student Concerns:

Special Orders:

- Guest Speaker: Dr. Sage Mauldin, Director of the Instructional and Professional Development Center (IPDC)

Old Business:

New Business:

- GF25-12 Auxiliary Allocation 3 Act of 2025-2026
- GF25-13 SGA Non-Partisanship Resolution of 2025
- GF25-14 National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2025

Announcements:

Adjournment

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIV

October 21, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF25

October 16, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL BILL AB-114-03

SENATE BILL NO. GF25-12

AS INTRODUCED

An act relating to appropriations; providing for short title; stating purpose; appropriating Auxiliary Funding for the 2025-2026 process; stating appropriation guidelines; establishing expiration deadline; directing transfer of unused funds by deadline; and providing an effective date.

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

Section 1: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Auxiliary Allocation 3 Act of 2025-2026”

Section 2: PURPOSE. The purpose of this act is to appropriate the funds of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to the organizations mentioned within.

Section 3: APPROPRIATION. The following amounts are hereby allocated to

Organization	Programs, Events & Activities	Capital Investments	Office and General Expenses	Total
African Student Association	\$250.00			\$250.00
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi International Sorority Inc.	\$75.00			\$75.00
American Institute of Chemical Engineers	\$50.00			\$50.00

American Marketing Association	\$450.00			\$450.00
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	\$50.00			\$50.00
Asian Pacific American Law Student Association	\$250.00			\$250.00
Believers in Business	\$500.00			\$500.00
Business Law Society	\$150.00			\$150.00
Collegiate National Association for Music Education	\$51.49			\$51.49
Federal Bar Association	\$100.00			\$100.00
First Generation Law Student Association	\$200.00			\$200.00
Health Law Student Association	\$100.00			\$100.00
Indigenous Art Forms	\$500.00			\$500.00
International Advisory Committee	\$250.00			\$250.00
Law Technology and Legal Innovation Society	\$50.00			\$50.00
Oklahoma International Law Society	\$100.00			\$100.00
Outdoor Club		\$500.00		\$500.00
Pre-Medical Professions Club	\$400.00			\$400.00
South Asian Student Association	\$250.00			\$250.00
Sports Business Association	\$500.00			\$500.00
Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society & National Weather Association	\$50.00			\$50.00
Tau Kappa Omega Fraternity	\$200.00			\$200.00
Taylor Swift Fan Club at the University of Oklahoma	\$484.78			\$484.78
The Big Event	\$250.00			\$250.00
TOTAL:				\$5,761.27

Section 4: All guidelines and provisions in Title 10 of the Code Annotated shall apply to all funds appropriated in this act.

Section 5: This fiscal year for the account listed in these sections shall end May 8, 2026.

Section 6: All unspent money remaining in the accounts listed in Section 3 shall revert to the SGA General Account after May 8, 2026, and the remaining appropriations shall be canceled.

Section 7: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Jacob Schonfield, Chair, SGA Budgetary Committee

Co-Author(s): SGA Budgetary Committee

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

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 CXIV

October 7, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

SENATE SESSION GF25

October 16, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-114-05

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GF25-13

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution reaffirming the Student Government Association's commitment to non-partisanship; and providing for distribution.

- Whereas: For 56 years, the University of Oklahoma Student Association, now Student Government Association, has stood as a representative body dedicated to the needs, interests, and welfare of all students, irrespective of political beliefs.¹
- Whereas: The Student Government Association is tasked with serving the entire student body, not any single party, ideology, or political faction.
- Whereas: The Student Government Association's mission statement emphasizes a duty to "prioritize student voices," to "advocate for the holistic development of each student," and to "promote civic engagement and community involvement across campus."²
- Whereas: The health and integrity of student governance as a concept relies on maintaining credibility and fairness.
- Whereas: Students should never feel unwelcome, silenced, or disadvantaged at the University of Oklahoma due to their political affiliation, ideology, or lack thereof.
- Whereas: Partisan alignment, political branding, and ideological signaling within the Student Government Association undermine our credibility and compromise our primary obligation to equitably prioritize student voices.

¹ SGA Constitution, Article XI §1-13.

² SGA Code Annotated, Title I, Chapter 8.

- Whereas: Instances of overt political orientation and motivations within the Student Government Association risk turning the organization into one with de facto party affiliations and detract from our mission to enhance the student experience.
- Whereas: The governing documents of the Student Government Association were never designed to accommodate or favor partisan governance.
- Whereas: The presence of partisan influence in the Student Government Association threatens to alienate significant segments of the student body and discourage participation from those who feel marginalized or misrepresented.
- Whereas: 32% of Americans have little or no confidence in higher education, with 41% of Americans with little confidence in higher education believing it is a result of political agendas and 37% believing that higher education does not focus on the correct issues.³
- Whereas: 68% of Americans believe higher education is headed in the wrong direction.³
- Whereas: The Student Government Association recognizes that these growing negative opinions of higher education are a result of perceived partisanship within these institutions.

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 “SGA Non-Partisanship Resolution of 2025.”
- Section 2:** The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association unequivocally condemns all forms of partisanship, political branding, and ideological alignment within the operations, elections, and appointments of the Student Government Association.
- Section 3:** All elected or appointed members of the Student Government Association are called to maintain organizational integrity by refraining from partisan language, campaign materials, or conduct that implies affiliation with or favoritism toward any political party, ideology, or faction when actively serving in meetings, campaigns, or other official capacities.

³ Jeffrey Jones, “U.S. Confidence in Higher Education Now Closely Divided.” Gallup, July 8, 2024. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/646880/confidence-higher-education-closely-divided.aspx>.

Section 4: The Student Government Association shall take steps to review our governing documents, campaign procedures, and internal practices to ensure mechanisms are in place to guard against partisan influence and reinforce our nonpartisan mission.

Section 5: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- President Joseph Harroz Jr., University of Oklahoma
- Dr. David Surratt, Vice President for Student Affairs
- OU Nightly
- OU Daily

Author(s): Chair Caleb Robinson, Undergraduate Student Congress

Co-Sponsor(s): President Avery Dunlap, Student Government Association
Chief of Staff Ellie Wolthuis, Student Government Association
Chair Carlee Fort, Campus Activities Council
Chair Summer Edwards, Graduate Student Senate

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

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 CXIV
October 21, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF25
October 16, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-114-06
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GF14

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing and protecting
Free Speech and National Freedom of Speech Week;
and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The United States has federally protected the right to free speech through the First Amendment under the Bill of Rights, ratified December 15, 1791; and,

Whereas: The First Amendment⁴ protects peaceful protest, assembly, disagreeable speech, and petition, including the use of posters, signs, flyers, in traditional public forums; and,

Whereas: Actions which violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, such as language that is intended to produce imminent lawless action or violence and is likely to incite or produce imminent lawless action or violence and is likely to incite or produce such action, is unprotected⁵; and,

Whereas: Public universities, such as the University of Oklahoma, are subject to the First Amendment, and cannot withhold awarding students a degree as a direct result of peaceful protest, nor can the President impermissibly restrict peaceful protest in traditional public forums on school grounds⁶.

⁴ “U.S. Constitution - First Amendment .” 1791. Constitution.congress.gov. Library of Congress. December 15, 1791. <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/>.

⁵ United States Courts. 2023. “What Does Free Speech Mean?” United States Courts. 2023. <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/what-does>.

⁶ Forum, By Freedom. 2024. “Protesting on College Campuses: Laws, FAQs and More.” Freedom Forum. May 1, 2024. <https://www.freedomforum.org/protesting-on-college-campuses/>.

- Whereas: University of Oklahoma President, Joseph Harroz Jr., released a statement stating, “The freedom to speak, inquire, and express strikes at the heart of any great institution of higher learning.”⁷
- Whereas: From October 7, 2023, to May 30, 2024, the Crowd Counting Consortium logged over 3,700 days of protest activity across 525 colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and school district offices across 317 cities in the United States; and,
- Whereas: Nearly 2,200 days of protest activity occurred after April 17, 2024, most remaining entirely non-violent, and
- Whereas: Protests at many other Universities were met with “immediate and aggressive hostility” by police and University officials, with 3,645 arrests occurring since October 7, 2023⁵
- Whereas: We recognize that temporarily occupying educational spaces may be a necessary means to incentivize change, which is permissible, as it helps the campus community in the long term⁸; and,
- Whereas: Having solidified free speech rights encourages a higher degree of expression and advocacy within the University of Oklahoma community, urging a modern environment that consistently works to benefit all those involved; and,
- Whereas: Historically, the University of Oklahoma’s administration has allowed students the right to protest, which has encouraged student involvement and leadership⁹; and,
- Whereas: The continuation of this allowance not only upholds a fundamental constitutional freedom, but also demonstrates an environment of diversity, social evolution, civil service, tolerance, and academic freedom.
- Whereas: The University of Oklahoma Administration has remained steadfast in its commitment to protecting free speech and peaceful protest, while maintaining a neutral stance by ensuring all groups, regardless of viewpoint, are afforded equal opportunities to exercise their right to protest.

⁷ Harroz, Joseph “President Harroz Free Speech Week Remarks” The University of Oklahoma Office of the President. October 11, 2023. <https://www.ou.edu/president/messages-and-statements/2023/free-speech-week>

⁸ Ulfelder, Jay. 2024. “Crowd Counting Consortium: An Empirical Overview of Recent Pro-Palestine Protests at U.S. Schools.” Ash Center. May 30, 2024. <https://ash.harvard.edu/articles/crowd-counting-blog-an-empirical-overview-of-recent-pro-palestine-protests-at-u-s-schools/>.

⁹ “Students protest possible Iraq invasion” OU Daily. October 25, 2002. https://www.oudaily.com/students-protest-possible-iraq-invasion/article_f84d4e33-0571-52f4-84c9-454da3819b64.html; Harkins, Paighen et al. “OU students and administrators join together in protest” OU Daily. March 10, 2015. https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-students-and-administrators-join-together-in-protest/article_3f7a7914-c6b6-11e4-8e82-af8054f903a9.html

Whereas: President Joseph Harroz Jr. recently stated in relation to the protests, “We shouldn't teach students what to think. We should teach students how to think.”¹⁰

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

- Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2025.”
- Section 2:** The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recognizes the third week of October as Free Speech Week¹¹ and supports the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and safe protests within the University of Oklahoma campus.
- Section 3** In accordance with the First Amendment, the Undergraduate Student Congress defines, ‘free speech,’ as the right of the public to express their beliefs and protest with the aim of helping the campus community, through peaceful means in public forums.
- Section 4:** While universities may implement content neutral restrictions and apply those restrictions in a content neutral way, the Undergraduate Student Congress, asks that the University of Oklahoma uphold this resolution and the First Amendment in all policy, allowing for true freedom of speech to be maintained.
- Section 5:** We urge the University of Oklahoma to ensure that students’ right to free speech is not undermined by staying attentive to potential faculty or staff negatively targeting student protesters in a content specific way and to take prompt and decisive action should such incidents arise.
- Section 6:** The Undergraduate Student Congress thanks the University of Oklahoma for allowing peaceful protests to occur on campus, no matter the background or views of the organization. We commend the University of Oklahoma’s commitment to letting student voices be heard.
- Section 7:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
- President Joseph Harroz Jr. of the University of Oklahoma
 - David Surratt, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
 - OU Students for Justice in Palestine
 - Kasi Shelton, Executive Director of OU Hillel

¹⁰ Pablo, Thomas, and Abby Young. “A Year Later: OU Students Walk out in Support of Palestine, Criticize Lack of University Action.” OU Daily, October 9, 2024. https://www.oudaily.com/news/a-year-later-ou-students-walk-out-in-support-of-palestine-criticize-lack-of-university/article_604d87d6-8695-11ef-a597-cbbc7947e737.html.

¹¹ CreationDepot. n.d. “Home.” Free Speech Week. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.freespeechweek.org/>.

- OU Turning Point USA
- OU Daily
- OU Nightly

Author(s): Leo Carter, Fine Arts District Representative

Co-Author(s): Sam Bregnard, Associate

Co-Sponsor(s):

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

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: _____