

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA
October 30th, 2025, 7:00 PM**

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/98731853501?pwd=fz4XbkkZpA6EVERf4i8lT2aIxIyJMX.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:

Old Business:

- GF25-14: National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2025

New Business:

- GF25-15: SGA Compensation Alteration Delay Act

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 30, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-114-06

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GF25-14

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 Amendment¹ 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 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 unprotected²; 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 grounds³.

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

²United 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>.

³Forum, 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.”⁴
- 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 incentivizing change, which is permissible, as it helps the campus community in the long term⁶; 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 leadership⁶; and,
- Whereas: The continuation of this allowance not only upholds a fundamental constitutional freedom, but 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

⁴Harroz, 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>

⁵ 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/>.

⁶ “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, Paigheten 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

all groups, regardless of viewpoint, are afforded equal opportunities to exercise their right to protest.

Whereas: President Joseph Harroz Jr. recently stated in relation to the protests, “Wen shouldn't teach students what to think. We should teach students how to think.”⁷

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 Week⁸ 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 Student Government Association 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 Student Government Association 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 Student Government Association urges the University of Oklahoma to continue to allow 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸CreationDepot. n.d. “Home.” Free Speech Week. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.freespeechweek.org/>.

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 Chabad
- OU Turning Point USA
- OU Daily
- OU Nightly
- OU College Democrats
- OU College Republicans

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

Co-Author(s): Sam Bregnard, Associate

Co-Sponsor(s):

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Rhoads seconded by Representative Wang

Action taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 35-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIV
October 21, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GF25
October 30, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-114-13
SENATE BILL NO. GF25-15

AS INTRODUCED

A Congressional Act of Procedure amending SGA Code
Annotated §X.5 to create a provision preventing
compensation alterations from taking into effect until
regular election or appointment of certain positions has
occurred; providing short title; and providing an effective
date.

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

- Section 1:** Title: This act shall be known and may be cited as the “SGA Compensation Alteration Delay Act”
- Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to update Title X Chapter 5 of the Code Annotated to ensure that any alteration to the compensation of Undergraduate Student Congress officers, Graduate Student Senate officers, the SGA President or Vice President, or any other elected or appointed committee Chair position shall not go in to effect until a regular election of the respective position shall have occurred.
- Section 3:** AMENDATORY: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Code Annotated Title X Chapter 5 is amended as follows. For the purposes of this bill, all items removed shall be denoted with a strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~) and all items added shall be denoted with an underline (underline).

Chapter X-5 Salaries And Stipends

1. Positions Receiving a Salary/Stipend.

Section 1: The following positions shall receive a stipend:

- Campus Activities Council Chair: \$435/month¹
- Chair of Congress: \$435/month¹
- Chair of Senate: \$435/month¹
- Chair of SGA Budgetary Committee: \$350/month¹

- Secretary of Congress: \$350/month²
- Secretary of Senate: \$350/month²
- Student Bar Association President: \$350/month¹
- SGA President: \$520/month¹
- SGA Vice President: \$435/month¹
- Vice Chair of Congress: \$350/month¹
- Vice Chair of Senate: \$350/month¹
- Graduate Student Senate Ways and Means Chair: \$350/Fall Grant Cycle \$350/Spring Grant Cycle

The pay periods of the above positions will be designated as follows:

- Campus Activities Council Chair, Chair of Congress, Chair of Senate, Secretary of Congress, Secretary of Senate, Student Bar Association President, Vice Chair of Congress, and Vice Chair of Senate shall be compensated monthly with compensation periods beginning August 1st and perpetuating monthly until April 30th.
- The SGA President and SGA Vice President shall be compensated monthly with compensation periods beginning December 1st and perpetuating monthly until November 30th.
- The Chair of SGA Budgetary Committee shall be compensated monthly with compensation periods beginning the month of their appointment by the SGA Congress and ending April 30th.³
- The GSS Ways and Means Chair stipend is to be paid out at the end of October and February, corresponding with the deadlines for the Fall and Spring grant deadlines.
- All SGA officers who receive a stipend or salary shall be eligible to receive compensation at their usual rates of pay during the summer, which shall consist of the months June, July. This pay will be given at the discretion of Student Affairs Staff, within the parameters of the budget. The SGA officers who receive a stipend shall only be eligible to receive such compensation while executing their official duties in the course of fulfilling their office hours.

Stipends are reflective of the weekly office hour requirement for each position. Stipends are based on performing the appropriate number of weekly office hours, as follows:

- All positions receiving \$520 per month are expected twelve office hours.
- All positions receiving \$435 per month are expected ten office hours.
- All positions receiving \$350 per month are expected eight office hours.

Section 2: The following positions shall receive a salary at a rate determined in the salaries and stipends act of their term: SGA Staff Assistant, SGA Budget and Account Representative, OU Student Legal Services Staff Attorney.

- Associates of General Counsel: \$11.00 x 25 hours/week x 34 weeks • General Counsel: \$12.00 x 25 hours/ week x 48 weeks • Chief of Staff: \$10.00 x 10 hours/week¹

The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the SGA President following an open application process. • Election Commission Staff: \$50x5 persons x 2 general elections; plus, if needed, \$20x5 people for any runoff or special election (up to three of the aforementioned) • Election Commissioner: \$500/Spring General Election, \$500/Fall General Election; plus, if needed, \$50 for any runoff or special election (up to three of the aforementioned) • SGA Staff Assistant • SGA Budget and Account Representative

The above positions are selected based upon applications received through the HR website, jobs.ou.edu. Selections are made by the SGA President, SGA Vice President, Congress Chair, Senate Chair, and CAC Chair, as well as their staff supervisor in Student Affairs. Increases in pay are given at the discretion of the aforementioned officials. Additionally, if university wide raises are mandated, the above positions shall receive those increases. • Student Organization Resource Officers: \$102 x 10 hours/week per 6 officers • SGA Graphic Designer/Webmaster: \$106 x 10 hours/ week x 34 weeks⁵

The above positions are selected based upon applications received through the HR website, jobs.ou.edu. Selections are made by the SGA President, SGA Vice President, Congress Chair, Senate Chair, and CAC Chair.

The OU SLS Staff Attorney shall be hired according to the policies outlined in Title XI. The staff attorney shall be eligible for benefits at a value of the current fringe benefits rate per OU HR policy. Any position not enumerated above shall not receive a salary/stipend.⁷

1. **Student Parking Appeals Board Judges.** The Student Parking Appeals Board Judges are appointed at minimum wage, but not funded by SGA; the positions are reimbursed through the Parking and Transit Office.⁸
2. **SGA Graphic Designer/Webmaster.** The duties of the SGA Graphic Designer/Webmaster will be to assist the all branches of SGA to create design products, including web graphics, posters, and flyers, and to maintain and update their respective websites as well as any other online content that may be asked of them.⁹
2. **Payment of Stipend.** All stipend positions are prorated during the months of January, May, August, and December. Stipends begin the first day of regular classes and end the last day of regular classes for fall, spring, and summer, semesters. Time sheets are required on all hourly positions. Time sheets are not required for monthly stipend positions.¹²
3. **Suspension of Stipend.** Any allegation regarding the fulfillment or lack of thereof of an officer's duty (provided there is some support for such allegation) is sufficient to bring that officer before the Student Activity Fee Reserve Committee. It is an issue of fact for the Committee to make their determination whether the officer's stipend should be suspended.¹³
4. **Other Employment.** No employee in a SGA Stipend position shall be employed by the University of Oklahoma in a position that could be considered a conflict of interest. Neither shall they accept any special favors or privileges from any University employee or student or outside source which might in any way compromise their position and responsibilities while in office. This does not intend to include traditional or recognized academic and athletic compensation in the form of scholarships, fellowships, grants, of other similar aid, or employment, which clearly does not represent a conflict of interest. Notification of other employment shall be submitted to the office of the SGA General Counsel prior to elections for purpose of determining a conflict of interest.¹⁴
5. **Stipend Alteration Delay.** Any alteration to a salary/stipend amount, enacted in accordance with the SGA Constitution and Code Annotated, that is applicable to one or more Undergraduate Student Congress officer(s), Graduate Student Senate officer(s), the SGA President or Vice President, or any other elected or appointed committee Chair position, shall not go into effect until a regular election or appointment of the respective position has occurred.

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

Author(s): Coleman Morgan, Engineering District Representative
Henry Christiansen, COSCO Committee Chair

Co-Author(s):

Co-Sponsor(s):

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Rhoads seconded by Representative Beasley

Action taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 35-0-0

Verified by Chair: _____ Date: _____