

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGENDA  
December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 7:30 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:**

- GSS Speaker Series: Dr. Sage Mauldin
- GF25-20: “Fall 2025 Departmental Status Act”
- GF25-21: “Call to Action regarding the University’s responsibilities to students in investigations”

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

- GF25-19: “Spring 2026 SGA Election Commissioner Appointment Act” (Do Pass)

**Announcements:**

**Adjournment**

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIV  
December 2, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GF25  
December 4, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-114-28  
SENATE BILL GF25-19

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Legislation appointing the Election  
Commissioner for the remainder of the 2025-2026 term;  
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 “Spring 2026 SGA Election  
Commissioner Appointment Act.”

**Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act is inherent in the title.

**Section 3:** In accordance with §Title IV Chapter 6, Section 2, which delineates the appointment process  
for the position, the following student shall thus be appointed:

- Andy Wang

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

Author(s): President Avery Dunlap, Student Government Association  
Vice President Joseph Harroz III, Student Government Association  
Chair Caleb Robinson, Undergraduate Student Congress

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  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GF25  
December, 2025

SENATE BILL NO. GF25-20

AS INTRODUCED

An Act to declare certain Departments as in ‘Bad Standing’  
and on ‘Probation’.

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

**Section 1:** This act may be known and cited as the “Fall 2025 Departmental Status Act.”

**Section 2:** Purpose: To update Graduate Student Senate Department status for the full academic year 2025-2026.

**Section 3:** AMENDATORY: For the purpose of this Act, Departments now in ‘Bad Standing’ will be found under the ‘Bad Standing’ column; Departments now on ‘probation’ will be found under the ‘Probation’ column; and Departments now in ‘Good Standing’ will be found under the ‘Good Standing’ column.

**Section 5:** Departments with status changes:

Department Status Changes		
Good Standing	Probation	Bad Standing
Aerospace and Mech. Eng.*		Accounting
Anthropology		Educational Lead. & Policy Studies
Architecture		Engineering Physics
Biology		Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
Biomedical Engineering		General Engineering
Business Administration*		Management Information Systems
Chemistry and Biochemistry		Native American Studies
Civil Eng. & Environmental Science*		Social Work
Communication		
Computer Science		
Construction Science		
Data Science and Analytics*		
Economics		
Educational Psychology		
Electrical and Computer Engineering		
Eng. Leadership and Management		
English*		
Finance		

Geography & Environmental Sustainability		
Geology and GeoPhysics		
Geosciences		
Health and Exercise Science		
History of Science, Technology & Medicine		
History		
Human Relations		
Industrial & Systems Engineering		
Instructional Lead. & Acad. Curriculum		
Interior Design		
International and Area Studies		
Journalism and Mass Communication		
Landscape Architecture		
Law		
Library & Information Studies		
Mathematics		
Meteorology		
Modern Languages, Lit. & Linguistics		
Music		
Petroleum & Geological Engineering		
Petroleum & Geological Engineering		
Philosophy		
Physics & Astronomy and Engineering Physics*		
Political Science		
Psychology		
Public Administration*		
Regional & City Planning		
Sociology		
Sustainable Chemical, Biological & Material Eng.		
Visual Arts		
Women & Gender Studies*		

*Note.* \* indicates the department changed status this semester.

**Section 5:** This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Summer Edwards, GSS Chair  
Dana Mahmoud, GSS Vice Chair  
Libby Ryan, GSS Secretary

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

SENATE SESSION GF25

December 4, 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION GF25-21

AS INTRODUCED

A Senatorial Resolution calling on the University and its administration to provide additional transparency regarding administrative leave for graduate teaching assistants; calling on the University to provide additional protection for graduate teaching assistants in the course of investigations; and providing for distribution.

- Whereas: The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) at the University of Oklahoma was established to represent the interests of graduate students at the university and to serve their needs.
- Whereas: On November 25, 2025, news articles and social media posts began circulating with reports that a graduate student instructor at the University had been placed on leave after having assigned a failing grade to an undergraduate student's assignment.<sup>1</sup>
- Whereas: The undergraduate student alleges that she was given a failing grade because she had cited the Bible in her paper, accusing the graduate instructor of religious discrimination.
- Whereas: Following these initial reports, The Oklahoman newspaper published the undergraduate's assignment along with the assignment instructions, graduate instructor's comments on the grade, and the comments of another OU faculty member who had been consulted on the grade.<sup>2</sup>
- Whereas: Following the media attention garnered by this case, many hateful and abusive comments have been posted online in a clear campaign to bully and harass the graduate student instructor.
- Whereas: Many of these bullying and harassing comments have been actively stoked by the undergraduate student, her mother, and Turning Point USA, a politically oriented organization that has a registered chapter at OU.

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<sup>1</sup> Armour, Natalie. "OU Puts Graduate Instructor on Leave after Student Claims Discrimination on Bible-Based Essay Grade." *The OU Daily*, November 30, 2025. Accessed December 1, 2025. [https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-statement-student-failing-grade-bible-psychology-essay-discrimination-first-amendment/article\\_306d35a7-ac6a-433f-9ff9-8dad255b1b72.html](https://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-statement-student-failing-grade-bible-psychology-essay-discrimination-first-amendment/article_306d35a7-ac6a-433f-9ff9-8dad255b1b72.html).

<sup>2</sup> The Oklahoman Staff. "OU Student Says Essay Grade Was a Violation of Her Rights. Read the Essay." November 25, 2025. Accessed December 1, 2025. <https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/education/2025/11/25/ou-oklahoma-samantha-fulnecky-read-essay-gender-bible/87463858007/>.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE THAT:

**Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “Call to Action regarding the University’s responsibilities to students in investigations.”

**Section 2:** GSS asserts that, based on our reading of published documents, *the graduate instructor was fully justified in assigning a failing grade to the assignment*<sup>2</sup>. Rather than responding to the assigned prompt, the undergraduate student submitted an extended exposition of her own interpretation of the Bible in language that appears to have been intentionally inflammatory and hateful. While *GSS fully supports the First Amendment* rights of all students to believe, worship, and practice their religion in accordance with their personal convictions, and to exercise their freedom of speech, *this does not entitle any student to a certain grade on an assignment*. Regardless of a student’s individual beliefs, they are required to submit assignments that respond to the assigned prompts and that follow the provided rubrics. When failing to do so, the student should receive failing grades on the corresponding assignments.

**Section 3:** GSS maintains that dismissing the accusations against the graduate instructor is essential to preserving the University’s academic integrity. Allowing these claims to stand would cause lasting harm to both students and the institution’s reputation. It would create a precedent in which any student could insert a statement of personal religious belief into an assignment, *regardless of its relevance*, and then allege religious discrimination if the content is graded according to the rubric. Such a precedent would discourage graduate instructors and faculty from evaluating work based on established academic standards, ultimately undermining the quality of instruction students pay for. Moreover, if these accusations were upheld, external employers and academic institutions could reasonably conclude that OU grants grades and degrees without requiring students to demonstrate genuine learning through coursework, exams, and honest evaluation. *Upholding these claims would call into questions the value and credibility of an OU degree, suggesting that academic outcomes can be influenced by unfounded accusations rather than merit*.

**Section 4:** GSS is concerned for the *physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing* of the graduate student instructor given the level and intensity of harassing and bullying comments that have been made online. These comments are completely inappropriate and potentially interfere with the integrity of the University’s process for investigating the claims made by the undergraduate student. It is the responsibility of the University and its administration to condemn such comments and to protect their students and employees from this type of harassment. The University and its administration have utterly failed to curtail this harassment in any way.

**Section 5:** Given the facts, assertions, and concerns above, *GSS calls on the University of Oklahoma* and its administration to do the following:

1. Within the bounds of the law, provide a detailed, written explanation of the policies and procedures that were followed and continue to be followed as this case is investigated. If the law prevents the disclosure of any of this information, the

University and its administration should provide a written explanation detailing which law prevents the disclosure.

2. Within the bounds of the law, provide a detailed explanation and rationale for why the graduate instructor was placed on administrative leave. If the law prevents the disclosure of any of this information, the University and its administration should provide a written explanation detailing which law prevents the disclosure.
3. Provide a formal, public apology to the graduate instructor for the University's failure to protect them from the bullying and harassment the attention on this case has garnered.
4. Provide a specific and detailed plan for how the University will provide protection against bullying and harassment towards the graduate instructor moving forward.
5. Provide a public condemnation of the bullying and harassment that has been directed toward the graduate instructor, including a specific condemnation of all harassing behavior exhibited by the undergraduate student, her mother, and Turning Point USA.
6. Provide a clear and specific list of what actions will be taken by the University if such harassing behavior continues towards the graduate instructor and all other members of the University community.
7. A swift and fair resolution to the University's investigation, including a final decision on the graduate instructor's position within the University.
8. Initiate a process involving GSS to establish a formal set of guidelines, applicable to all Graduate Teaching Assistants and OU faculty, for how to manage and design classroom discussions and assignments that deal with sensitive topics following similar guidelines adopted by other peer R1 universities.<sup>3</sup>

**Section 6:** GSS implores the University's administration to carefully consider what precedent their decision will set for the academic integrity of this University, the safety of its students, and the ability of the University to serve the students who have entrusted their education to OU.

**Section 7:** GSS condemns, in no uncertain terms, the harassment that has been directed towards the graduate instructor.

**Section 8:** In making this appeal to the University's administration, GSS stands in solidarity with the graduate student instructor and will continue to advocate for their rights, their safety, and their wellbeing. GSS will advocate of the rights, safety, and wellbeing of all OU graduate students.

**Section 9:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Joseph Harroz, Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma
- André-Denis Wright, Senior Vice President and Provost of the University of Oklahoma

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<sup>3</sup> A good example to use as a model would be the University of Michigan, who has published their guidelines at <https://crlt.umich.edu/publinks/generalguidelines>.



- David Surratt, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the University of Oklahoma
- Michael Markham, Dean of the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma
- Randall Hewes, Dean of the Graduate College at the University of Oklahoma
- Lara Mayeux, Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma
- *OU Daily*
- *OU Nightly*
- *The Oklahoman*

Author(s): Sam Jensen, Graduate Student Senate Ways and Means Chair

Co-Author(s): Dana Mahmoud, Graduate Student Senate Vice Chair

Co-Sponsor(s): Libby Ryan, Graduate Student Senate Secretary  
Jacob Schoffield, Undergraduate Student Congress Ways and Means Chair

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

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