

**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: 7:01

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>)

Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting: Senator 13, Seconded by Senator 63

Officer Reports:

- Chair: Please bring any concerns or questions to office hours! Also if you have any information to pass along to the other senators, don't be afraid to bring that to Summer (or any other officer) as well.
- Vice-Chair: (absent)
- Secretary: Send any committee reports/proxy forms my way!

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

- Academic Affairs: Senator Neeley (45): please email us for any collaborations.
- Development & Philanthropy: Senator Bueltel (7): The food drive is starting next week. Please contact D&P if you would like a donation box within your college. For now, that's all.
 - Question: Senator Biwa (14): Do we have advertising for the food drive out yet?
 - A: Still waiting on PR to finish those up and then we will disperse accordingly
- External Affairs: Senator Esteva-Ingram (56): We will be meeting after this meeting and plan to break into subgroups to focus on outside legislation/advocacy and school legislation.
- Internal Affairs: Senator Quiros (72): reached out to CAC to get a list of RSOs for graduate student organizations. The RSO count keeps going up and now we have over 700. We plan to divide and conquer to get all of the RSOs connected to internal affairs and also connected with each other.
- International Student Affairs: Senator Biwa (14): Not much for ISA, working on continuity. Getting ready to send out the survey for international students. Should be ready for next general assembly for people to share with their departments.
- Public Relations: Senator Chandra (16): We are working on a flyer for Brandon for the food drive.
- Sustainability: Senator Cavender (49): We are researching what kind of single use containers and whatnot that are being used by campus restaurants as well as looking into a couple other recycling initiatives happening on campus.
- Ways and Means: Senator Jensen (03) grant applications are due on October 31st which includes the the letters of rec, so be sure that you departments are aware. The only other announcement is that our grading day is set for November 9th. Please keep an eye on your mails we will be working with executive officers to send an announcement requesting volunteers from GSS to come grade on that day.
 - GSS Chair Summer: everyone grading will be fed!

Student Concerns: no student concerns

Special Orders:

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

Old Business:

New Business:

- GF25-12 Auxiliary Allocation 3 Act of 2025-2026 (Do Pass).
 - Motion to move to the floor by Senator Alvarez (57), seconded by Senator Hurst (59)
 - Presented by Jacob Schoenfeld: allocation criteria was discussed in the previous aux bills. This bill allocated all of the funds that we have available to allocate for the year. All other groups who have sent in an application as of this afternoon have been contacted. We will be reopening the application process again if we receive more funds to allocate. But as of right now, this is giving out the last of SGA's funding.
 - Senator Fellman (55): Is this funding for the semester or for the entire academic year?
 - Jacob: With the SGA funds, there are two funding processes. There's the primary funding process and the auxiliary. Primary is what is provided to SGA to give out directly from the student activity fee, whereas auxiliary comes from what doesn't get spent in the year previous. Because the funds come from what doesn't get spent in the year prior, the number can fluctuate quite a bit. We've come to expect that it's a larger number than we had this year, but nonetheless, this year we had \$22,272 to allocate, whereas last year, which would have been considered, like a sparse year on aux allocation, we had \$159,000. So this is the aux allocation for the year.
 - Senator Fellman (55): Second question, is for any application that are currently like, not being looked at now, will they get priority if there are other funds introduced?
 - Jacob: Yes, if any organization has an application that has already been given to us, once I know that we are going to have another ways and means meeting, I'm going to be sending email to anyone that has a pending application and asking them to opt in to consideration. Specifically so that were not giving money to any organizations that no longer need it. So if an organization has a pending application and we do have more funds going forward, they'll be getting an email from me, essentially asking if they still want their application to be considered, if they say yes, then we'll consider their application first in order of chronological order, and assuming in all likelihood, I'm imagining we won't get through all of the applications that we have with whatever funding we do receive throughout the year. But if we end up with more money, then we do, like, the amount of money that we give out to the remaining applicants, then I'll have to reopen the auxiliary application process because it is now closed.
 - Senator Biwa (14): When did the cutoff happen?
 - Jacob: I was reviewing how much money there was left to be allocated, I was talking with the SGA advisor Geore, and basically, I decided that we needed to go ahead and close applications just so that no one else applied, assuming that they would have their applications considered, just because, like. I said earlier, I don't expect that the applications we currently have pending will be able to all be considered with funds to be allocated. So I went ahead and closed the application process today.
 - Senator Biwa (14): So as a point of information, is it possible for the ways and means committee to perhaps look at organizations who haven't necessarily had or might have missed the budget applications, budget funding applications into maybe help prioritize those

organizations so that weren't having organizations, in essence, can't double dip on this, or is that just not possible

- Jacob: So the way we have gone about allocations, and this is a big part of, like what my explanation was during our last aux Bill presentation, is essentially that whenever considering applications the committee has been keeping in mind, primarily, you know, have we already given them money this year in primary? Are they going to be able to function without SGA funding. There's especially smaller organizations that really don't have another source of funding other than SGA. You know, trying to keep in mind generally, like, what is what all are people going to receive from us and in comparison to what they need from us specifically, etc. But on that not, we do still, for the sake of fairness, consider each application in chronological order. A lot of these application got \$50 from us. Those are organizations that more often than not, had already received money from us in primary or hefty sums from us in primary, oftentimes, or that otherwise, maybe had bad fiscal histories and had proven that they wouldn't spend it.
- Senator Jensen (3): moves to pass via unanimous consent. No objections.
- GF25-13 SGA Non-Partisanship Resolution of 2025 (Do Pass)
 - Motion to move to the floor by Senator Odunfa (13), seconded by Senator Dietrich (60)
 - Presented by Summer: This bill explains that people in offices such as the SGA president and chairs are here to promote students, not promote a party or sway students to join one political party or the other.
 - In the past we have had external parties from actual national levels of government come in and try to bribe students with money, especially students in SGA with money to then join their political party. This bill clarifies we are in offices for students, not to be a party.
 - Senator Biwa (14): motion to pass via unanimous consent.
 - No objections.
- GF25-14 National Freedom of Speech Week Resolution of 2025 (Do Pass)
 - Motion to move to the floor by Senator Neeley (45), seconded by Senator Haghghi (4)
 - Motion to table (until the author is present) Senator Dulal (22), seconded by Senator Neeley (45).

Announcements:

Adjournment: Senator Jensen (3), Senator Bueltel (7)

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.

⁷Harroz, 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: _____