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=fz4XbkkZpA6EVERf4i8lT2aIxIvJMX.1

Call to Order: 7:06

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 by Senator 13, seconded by Senator 8

Officer Reports:

- Chair: Hi everyone! The reason we have a separate zoom link this week is due to being out of town. Next week we will return to the usual calendar invite.
- Vice-Chair: Nothing new to report.
- Secretary: Please submit your committee reports.

Committee Reports: (submit your meeting minutes <u>here</u>)

- Academic Affairs: Senator Baskin (69): leadership change, Hannah Baskin will step up as chair and the vice chair position is vacant.
- Development & Philanthropy: Senator Dietrich (59) Food drive is still going on...check your departments boxes and spread the word.
- External and Legislative Affairs: Senator Esteva-Ingram (22): Committee is organizing OU capitol day and plans to meet with Summer as well as other graduate students/groups to see what matters we can bring to the state legislators. Caroline (71) has also met with a Tennessee SGA member to find out more about what they do. The committee also discussed our bylaws and how GSS relates to the SGA constitution.
- Internal Affairs: Senator Quiros (75): Internal Affairs is holding an in person meeting this week instead of on zoom. They will continue the discussion of Graduate Student RSOs and reach out providing information about GSS and the value of representation.
- International Student Affairs: Senator Biwa (14) ISA is hoping to have the survey ready by the end of this week. Appointed a subcommittee. Will be reaching out to PR to help spread the request to fill out the survey. ISA is also brainstorming for an intercultural potluck possibly for Spring semester and hopes to collaborate with international student services for the event. Discussion of International Student Visas, status is unchanged. [Duration of Status (D/S) to Fixed Admission Period & Extension of Stay. More information can be found at: https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/dhs-proposal-replace-duration-status OU's Response Grad College & ISS d. Way Forward/Feedback Comment period ended September 29, 2025. It is currently in proposal status; it is not yet in effect iii. It will undergo further review, and after DHS considers public comments, it may be published as a final rule with a future effective date]
- Public Relations: Senator Chandra (16) Flyers for the food drive and happy hour are completed.

- Sustainability: Senator Fellman (55) Sustainability with working on alternatives to plastic bags on campus. Created a document highlighting these differences between the options, including cost. Also noted that some places on campus use coffee cups that are made of paper, but the lid is made of plastic. Seen this in most of the cases. April maybe we can have an opportunity after meeting with Nova to see if Heather can talk about sustainability initiatives during the spring. Ben will reach out again to the Undergraduate Sustainability Club President to see what future collaborations we may be able to do together.
- Ways and Means: (Sam) GGS Fall cycle grant deadline is 10/31. Grading will be held on Nov. 9 starting at 9am in Dale hall. Coffee and pastries will be provided.
 - o Q: Senator Chandra (37) When are we expecting results?
 - Senator Jensen (3): If we can get everything graded on Nov. 9, We will vote to approve in the following GSS meeting
 - O Q: Senator (37) Can anyone grade?
 - Senator Jensen (3) Any active GSS member can participate.

Student Concerns:

- Senator (14): We had a committee member last week ask about the recycling program in university housing that has been suspended. How could we go about asking for the recycling program to be reinstated?
 - o GSS Chair Summer: Connect with GSS sustainability and we will also look at it
 - Senator Fellman (55): [Sustainability chair] Please send an email to the sustainability committee for discussion at the next meeting.

Special Orders:

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jaimalene Hough, Tom Love Innovation Hub:

- Also known as "IHUB"
 - Suite of programs under the innovation hub umbrella [Startup OU, OK Catalyst, Fabrication Lab, OKBioStart]
 - Fab lab: sheet metal workshop, 3d printing, woodworking, electronic component fabrication, laser machinery
 - Intended to support "product prototyping, from initial design to final build"
 - Don't need to have a business
 - Must certify for each piece of machinery you will be using through a canvas course
 - O Startup OU: Helps businesses start from the first investment
 - Idea Accelerator Program
 - o OK catalyst
 - Non discretionary funds...SBIR any US government entity that has access to this funding must set a certain percentage of the fuds aside for this program
 - o Ihub works with professors and post docs in addition to graduate students
 - O Please connect with Dr. Hough if you are interested in any of the programs or resources and spread the word about IHUB and its programs to your departments.

Old Business:

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

- O Motion: Senator Hurst (59), seconded by Senator (37)
- o Presented by Leo:
 - This bill recognizes free speech on campus and urges the university to continue supporting free speech in public forums on campus.
- O Senator Hurst (59): Motion to pass via unanimous consent
- o No objections. Bill Passes.

New Business:

- GF25-15: SGA Compensation Alteration Delay Act
 - Motion: Senator Baskin 69, seconded by Senator Biwa (14)
- Bill presented by the author, Coleman: The bill intends to remove conflict of interest for paid positions in SGA (including the SGA president, Vice president, Chair of GSS etc.) by delaying any voted upon salary increase to the following election cycle.
- Questions:
 - Vice-Chair Dana: Raises have to pass through both houses. Understand no conflict
 of interest in wanting to nominate someone for a raise. What addition does the
 delay add so
 - O Summer: follow up question: would they even get the raise
 - O Senator (37): justification for the raises? And how do we determine which committee chair gets a stipend
 - Senator Jensen (3): might requiring people to abstain from the vote instead of requiring a delay?
 - Colman: this comes from the bodies wanting to go oversight.
 - Senator Jensen (3) both chambers already have to look at the bill before this passes, what history are you referring to?
 - Coleman: not the individual, difference between giving the individual a raise and giving the person a raise.
 - Senator (68): couldn't we just bar the person the person getting the raise?
 - Senator Ward (34) Is there a way for a happy medium? Not assigning a merit raise vs. a title raise
 - Senator Estava-Ingram (56) The stipends are based on the amount of time dedicated to the position. If we give the raise based on the amount of time this person dedicates, does that make sense.
 - Colman: If we strike the code, this would be increasing the next person's work load in related to the work load for the entire position.
 - Vice-Chair Dana: Why don't we just write into the code as the raises come instead of adding extra restrictions.
 - o Senator (56) Motion to extend the questioning period. Seconded by Senator (14).
 - Senator (34): Would there be a way to just cap the maximum office hours?
 - Coleman: doesn't want to put a cap on the stipend.
 - O Chair Summer: Seeing no more questions, we are now opening the debate floor:
 - Senator Lancaster (71): Why don't you want to cap it [stipends]?
 - Senator Jensen (3) We shouldn't expect that of the next person. We want
 to be able to reward particular people for a job well done. The people in
 the current position have the experience to know how many hours the job
 entails
 - Coleman: there is no way without changing our code or bylaws
 - Senator (3): Why don't we write into the bill that the people that would benefit from a raise must obstain?
 - Coleman: specific office hours

- Senator (34): I still think that trying to come to a happy medium would go
 into effect- we can have the people for which a conflict of interest presents
 abstain from the vote.
- Vice-Chair Dana: Asked to clarify the SGOS office bill question of raises and changes in the hourly rate.
- Answer: SGOS changes how the hourly employees and advisor are paid, but the salaried officers are unaffected by the former bill other than allowing George some power to pay students wishing to work in their position for summer.
- O Motion: Senator Jensen (3) motions to move to a roll call vote. Seconded by Senator (13)

Roll call vote:

Pass: 22, 17, 04, 28, 15, 26,

Not pass

64, 69, 70, 37, 13, 55, 3, 34, 45, 52, 59, 50, 71, 6, 48, 14, 67, 75, 58, 69, 29, 65, 82, 73, 56, 57, 11, 38, 49, 47, 53, 81, 8, 80, 24, 23, 16, 79, 60, 51, 66, 36, 41, 33, 11, 36, 30, 50, 35, 36, 9, 42

Bill does not pass and will move to a joint committee for revisions.

Announcements: No announcements.

Adjournment:

• Motion for adjournment: Senator (13), Seconded by Senator (37)

Meeting adjourned: 8:26

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 Oklahon	na President, Joseph Harroz	Jr., released a statement stating, "I	Γhe
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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

term⁵; 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, Paighten 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."

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			
	Congress: Passed unanimously 35-0-0			
Verified by Chair of Congress: Date:				

Verified by Chair of Senate: ______ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: ______ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by: Senator Hurst (59), seconded by Senator Nora (37)

Action taken by Senate: Passed via unanimous consent.

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 occured; 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 aforenoted) • 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 aforenoted) • 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 per6 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 Representation taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 35-0-0	resentative Beasley
Verified by Chair:	_ Date:
Submitted on a motion by: Senator Baskin (69), seconded by Senator Action taken by Senate: 6-47-29	Biwa (14)
Verified by Chair of Senate:	Date:
Approved by SGA President:	Date: