UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
September 18th, 7:00 PM
Zoom Conference Call
https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93772247533?pwd=sBRbHEL3MOD2aTipaH9URXpz3t1Fcr.1

Call to Order: 7:02

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)

Corrections from 9/4 minutes: Senator Olivia Neeley will serve as chair of Academic Affairs

- Motion to approve: Senator Odunfa (13), Seconded by Senator Catalano (77)

Officer Reports:

- Chair: The website still currently ongoing with updates. At this point, we're waiting for everything to be updated. In the meantime, if you have noticed anything else that has been missed or misspelled or would like a headshot to be added near your name, please go ahead and email those to myself (Summer), Dana, and Libby.
- Vice-Chair:
  - Nothing new to report.
- Secretary:
  - Please submit your committee reports!

Committee Reports: (submit your meeting minutes here)

- Academic Affairs:
  - Senator Neeley (45): Met just before general assembly at 6:30 Reviewed committee responsibilities and hammered out some scheduling conflicts with the executive meeting.
- Development & Philanthropy:
  - Senator Bueltel (7) Meeting directly after the general body meeting and plan to discuss planning for monthly happy hours.
- External and Legislative Affairs:
  - Senator Lancaster (71) Went over presentation on roles and goals for this semester. Main goals for this year is to review relations with SGA and graduate students. The committee is also interested in doing some Capitol Work (state and federal).
- Internal Affairs:
  - Senator Quiros (72) Meet immediately after general assembly and plan to go over ways we can connect with everyone. Email Celina with information about student groups in your college and department. Send web addresses and the committee will get working on connecting within other departments on campus (graduate student association of ____ department, etc.)
- International Student Affairs:
  - Senator Biwa (14): Committee meets right after the general body meeting. Planning around activities and collaborations that we would like to start with both the graduate college and

international student affairs. Most of the discussion will be about supporting graduate students through the proposed rule on duration of status change for international students.

- Public Relations:
    - Senator Chandra (16) Nothing new to report.
- Sustainability:
    - Senator Cavender (49) Met right before and discussed reaching out to the congress sustainability chair about collaborating and a few other goals for the rest of this semester: like organizing some cleanups.
- Ways and Means:
    - Senator Jensen (3) WAM will be meeting immediately after general assembly. Discussing when to open grant applications for this semester. Please publicize this information to your departments when it is announced. WAM will also host a general information session right before or soon after the grants are open on the website. Senators: please forward the draft email to your departments when you receive it to publicize the GSS grants!

Student Concerns:

Special Orders:

Old Business:

New Business:

- GF25-03 : Campaign Period Reduction Act
    - Motion to move GS25-03 to the floor by Senator Williams (58), seconded by Senator Alarcon (25).
    - Author, Caleb, Chair of Undergraduate Student Congress: This bill addresses the length of our campaign period for SGA offices which is currently much longer than our SEC counterparts. The bill also moves the elections to Thursdays and Fridays. We are hoping that these changes to the campaign period will increase voter turnout. The bill also increases the election commission to seven members.
    - Author yields time for questions
    - Senator Jensen (3): Motion to pass via unanimous consent.
    - No objections.
    - Motion passes.

Announcements:

- 3 Minute Thesis Submissions: due September 26
    - Cash prizes!

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Lancaster (71), seconded by Senator Bueltel (7).

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIV
September 7, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

SENATE SESSION GF25

September 18, 2025

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-114-07

SENATE BILL NO. GF25-03

AS INTRODUCED
A Congressional Act of Legislation amending the Code Annotated to reduce campaign windows; 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 "Campaign Period Reduction Act."

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act is to reduce the campaign period and reschedule election days.

Section 3: AMENDATORY: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Code Annotated Title VI is amended as follows. For the purposes of this bill, all items removed shall be denoted with a ~~strikethrough~~. All items added shall be denoted with an underline.

Chapter VI-1 General Provisions

1. **Definitions**
    1. **Academic Week** - Any week (Monday - Friday) during which the University holds classes for at least one (1) day.
    2. **Campaign Spending** – The value of any products, services, or expenses incurred by the campaign. "Value" should not include any discounts, which are not available to the general public, but should include the value of any services or products donated. This shall not include the value of any non-professional services performed by students.
    3. **Campaign Time Frame** – The time between the first class day of the ninth (9th) ~~eighth (8th)~~ Academic Week and the validation of the election.
    4. **Campaigning** – Working in an organized and active way to promote a candidate as a representative of or at the directive of that candidate. Campaigning shall not be constructed to include any public campaign materials disseminated during the signature collection period, statements made about one's platform, or any solicitation for votes in the election shall always be considered campaigning.

5. **Class Day** - The Period of time from 8 AM to 5 PM on a day in which classes are held.
6. **Designated Agent** – A person chosen and registered by a candidate with the ability to represent the candidate in any official capacity.
7. **Election Fraud** – Any act or omission completed or attempted with the intent to deprive a candidate or voter of their rights.
8. **Information on Candidates Booklet** - A booklet published by the Election Commissioner on the first day of the Ninth (9th) Academic Week containing a statement from the Election Commissioner, a list of all candidates, and the pieces of literature from the candidates who submitted them.
9. ~~**Eighth (8th)**~~ **Ninth (9th) Academic Week** - The Academic Week in which Candidates may begin campaigning. Campaigning shall only begin at the start of the first Class Day of the given Academic Week. The Academic Week in which the Information on Candidates Booklet shall be published in the given week of the Fall and Spring Semesters.
10. ~~**Eleventh (11th)**~~ **Tenth (10th) Academic Week** - The Academic Week in which Fall and Spring Elections shall occur. Voting days shall be the Thursday and Friday ~~Tuesday and Wednesday~~ of the given week of the semester.
11. **Member of a Campaign** - Any SGA Member who publicly or privately works with a candidate.
12. ~~**Ninth (9th) Academic Week** - The Academic Week in which the Information on Candidates Booklet shall be published in the given week of the Fall and Spring Semesters.~~
13. **Publicly Posted** – Conspicuously posted in the SGA Office & on the SGA website under the Election's tab.
14. ~~**Seventh (7th)**~~ **Eighth (8th) Academic Week** - The Academic Week in which Mandatory Candidates Meetings shall be held.
15. **SGA Presidential Race** – The SGA Presidential race includes candidates for SGA President and SGA Vice President running together as one (1) ticket.
16. **Signatures** – Signatures required for Presidential and CAC Chair petitions may be collected physically or online. Physical signatures must include the following information: OU ID number, name, and signature. Digital signatures must be authenticated through an online platform that can be integrated with OU's single sign-on (SSO). The process for digital signatures must be jointly approved by the Election Commissioner and the Office of Student Affairs.
17. ~~**Sixth (6th)**~~ **Seventh (7th) Academic Week** - The Academic Week in which filing for Candidates wishing to run in the upcoming election closes. Filing shall close at the end of the last Class Day of the given week.
18. **Unsolicited** – Any unrequested electronic message sent through an OU-maintained service (eg. OU email, Canvas, etc.), for the purpose of explicitly requesting a vote or support.

2. **Applicability of Election Rules**. The policies, regulations, and stipulations in this Title shall be applicable only to candidates for positions that are named in sections four (4) and five (5) hereinafter. All other campus organizations and bodies wishing to conduct an election may individually establish procedures for that election.
3. **Purpose of Election Rules**. The provisions governing elections are intended to provide for the fairness, equitability, and efficiency of all SGA elections with respect to both candidates and voters. In the absence of established guidelines, rulings concerning elections should be made with this principle in mind.
4. **Spring General Election**. The following shall be elected in the Spring General Election:
    1. the Campus Activities Council (CAC) Chair,
    2. Undergraduate Student Congress Representative Seats, and
    3. the Student Bar Association (SBA) President.
5. **Fall General Election**. The following shall be elected in the Fall General Election:
    1. The SGA President and Vice-President;
    2. Undergraduate Student Congress Representative Seats.

6. **Vacancies.** The SGA President shall be notified in writing of any vacancy that occurs in the positions listed in sections 4 and 5, above. If the SGA President resigns, they shall notify the Chairs of both Houses of the Legislative Branch. The number of seats available for election shall not change after the filing period begins.
    1. **Election to Fill Vacancy**. Should a Congressional Seat become vacant after filing has opened, so long as a vacancy in that district was already made public and was included on the filing form during filing for candidates to apply, that new vacant seat may be filled at the time of election using the point tabulation system. If the district was never included initially on the filing form, then that seat shall not be filled during the active general election.
    2. **Appointment to Fill Vacancy**. For each position listed in sections 4 and 5 above, other than SGA President, Vice President, and CAC Chair, the organization of which the appointment is needed to be made, that organization shall determine their own appointment qualifications. Those listed in the aforementioned sentence, shall be up for election in the next possible general election.
7. **Uncontested Elections**. All positions for which one has filed for election, they must be placed on the ballot in the respective district, even if the position is uncontested. In an uncontested election, the candidate shall win if they receive more votes than the "prefer not to vote" option.

Section 4: AMENDATORY: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Code Annotated Title VI, Chapter 2 is amended as follows. For the purposes of this bill, all items removed shall be denoted with a ~~strikethrough~~. All items added shall be denoted with an underline.

Chapter VI-2 Election Rules

1. **Electorate.** The electorate of the SGA Presidential and the CAC Chair races shall consist of all members of the SGA. Subject to any applicable provisions of the SGA Constitution, the Legislative Branch shall establish the electorate for all other races in General and/or Special Elections. In the absence of any guidance from the Legislative Branch, the Election Commission may adopt any rules established by the affected organization to determine the electorate for a specific race.
2. **Election Dates**. The sections below shall be the dates of the general elections, unless the Legislative Branch changes the date by an Act of the Legislative Branch at least three (3) weeks before the week of the date proposed by the legislation. The Election Commissioner shall have the power to waive this three (3) week requirement if they deem that exceptional circumstances warrant a waiver. Any special election, referendum, or initiatives shall be passed by an Act of the Legislative Branch at least three (3) weeks before the week of the date proposed by the legislation. This requirement cannot be waived.
    1. **Fall General Election**. The Fall General Election shall be held the Thursday and Friday ~~Tuesday and Wednesday~~ of the ~~eleventh (11th~~) tenth (10th) academic week of the fall semester. Voting shall open at 8am on Thursday ~~Tuesday~~ and shall close at 8pm on Friday ~~Wednesday~~.
    2. **Spring General Election**. The Spring General Election shall be held the Thursday ~~Tuesday~~ and Friday ~~Wednesday~~ of the ~~eleventh (11th)~~ tenth (10th) Academic Week of the spring semester. Voting shall open at 8am on Thursday ~~Tuesday~~ and shall close at 8pm on Friday ~~Wednesday~~.
3. **Deadline Requirements**. Any deadline within this Title, except those noted, may be implicitly suspended by the Election Commissioner with the advice and consent of the Election Commission.
4. **Election Funding**. The SGA Budgetary Committee shall allocate sufficient funds in each Administrative Appropriations Act to conduct two General Elections, two (2) run-off elections, and at least one (1) special election, including the compensation of all eligible Election Commission members for each election and sufficient publicity for filing and voting.

5. **Polling.** If an SGA member cannot vote through the online voting software implemented by the Elections Commission, they shall request a ballot from the Election Commission in person in the SGA Office or over the OU-maintained email service. In doing so, the SGA member shall provide their OU ID as sufficient identification. The ballot may be requested any time after the publishing of the Information on Candidates booklet and shall be sent when the online polls open. The alternative ballot must be accepted during the online polling days and normal business hours of the Student Life office. The Election Commission shall ensure that any person that used an alternative ballot cannot and did not vote more than once (1) in any election.
6. **Voter's Rights**. The following rights should not be infringed upon:
    1. The right of the student to vote by secret ballot shall not be infringed. The right of the student to arrive at a voting decision free from undue influence shall not be infringed.
    2. No person(s), group(s), or organization(s), regardless of their affiliation, shall require any student(s) to vote, or shall require any student(s) to vote either for or against any proposal, candidate, or candidates in any SGA sanctioned election.
    3. Any SGA member has the right to request, in writing, a ruling of the Election Commissioner at any time during the campaign period. The Election Commissioner shall make a written ruling on any such petition within twenty-four (24) hours of its submission.
7. **Procedure for Run-off**.
    1. The Presidential, SBA, and CAC races shall be popularly elected by a simple majority vote (fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) vote) of the ballots cast for that purpose. In any of the aforementioned races, should no candidate receive a simple majority vote (fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) vote), the top two candidates shall be placed on the ballot for a runoff election to occur on the <u>Thursday</u> ~~Tuesday~~ immediately following the original election date. The top vote-recipient of the runoff election shall be declared the winner.
    2. The Congressional Representative Seats shall be popularly elected. If in any of the Congressional Representative Seat races, any of the candidates with the least amount of winning popular votes shall tie for an open seat, the candidates shall be placed on the ballot for a run-off election to occur on the <u>Thursday</u> ~~Tuesday~~ immediately following the original election date. The top-vote recipient of the run-off election shall be declared the winner.

Section 5: AMENDATORY: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Code Annotated Title VI, Chapter 2 is amended as follows. For the purposes of this bill, all items removed shall be denoted with a ~~strikethrough~~. All items added shall be denoted with an <u>underline</u>.

Chapter IV-6 The SGA Elections Commission

1. **Power.** The Election Commission shall be responsible for overseeing and enforcing all provisions of Title VI of the Code Annotated and ensuring fair elections.
2. **Composition.** The Election Commission shall consist of the Election Commissioner, the Election Staff, and a non-voting ex-officio officer of the Congressional Administration Committee of Congress. No member of the Election Commission shall commit election fraud; evidence of fraud shall be presented to the General Council, as provided for in Title VI. Any member of the Election Staff may be removed by recommendation from the SGA President or Election Commissioner with the advice and consent of the Legislative Branch. No member of the Election Commission shall be a candidate or a member of a team campaigning in any election for which they are appointed to work. The Election Commissioner and Staff shall be SGA members and serve from the beginning of the fall semester to the end of the spring semester of a given academic year.
    1. **Election Commissioner**. The Election Commissioner shall serve as the chairperson of the Election Commission. They shall only vote in the event of a tie between voting members of

the Election Commission Staff. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the SGA President with the advice and consent of the Legislative Branch. The appointee must be submitted to the Legislative Branch for advice and consent after the Spring election.

1. **Vacancy.** If the position of Election Commissioner is not filled in accordance with the legislative advising and consenting process, the General Council shall fulfill all duties of the Election Commissioner until one is officially appointed.
2. **Appointing the Election Commission Staff**. The Election Commissioner shall appoint the Election Commission Staff with the advice and consent of the Legislative Branch.

2. **Election Commission**. The Election Commission shall consist of a maximum of <u>seven (7)</u> ~~five (5)~~ SGA members. The membership of the Election Commission shall be posted in a public place. The Election Commission shall be responsible for conducting the election and enforcing the election rules as established by this Title.
3. **Non-Voting Ex-Officio Officer of the Congressional Administration Committee.** A member of the Congressional Administration Committee chosen by the Chair of the committee shall oversee the Election Commission. They shall have no voting power.

3. **Quorum.** A majority of the Election Commission voting members shall constitute a Quorum to conduct business.

Section 6: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Chair Caleb Robinson, Undergraduate Student Congress
Baylor Savage, Election Commissioner

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Hallum seconded by Representative Hawkins
Action taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 34-0-0
Verified by Chair: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a Motion by: Senator Williams (58), seconded by Senator Alarcon (25)
Action taken by Senate: Pass via unanimous consent.

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date:_____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date:_____