

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA
February 12, 2026, 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>)

Motion to approve: Senator Fellman (55), Seconded by Senator Jensen (3)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - We have been approved for a raise of \$10,000 to our travel grants in order to help cover the taxes on the graduate student grants for international students
 - Report from the GSS Meeting with University of Oklahoma Leadership: This Tuesday, GSS Executive members and I met with the University Provost, the Dean of Students, the Dean of the Graduate College, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to discuss the removal of Mel Curth and the ongoing impacts this decision has had across campus. Our goal was to begin an open dialogue with the administrators involved in this case and to share the real experiences of students and faculty following her removal. We emphasized the lack of trust many graduate students are feeling, along with safety concerns, fear surrounding grading, and a broader sense of powerlessness. I believe we communicated these concerns clearly and thoughtfully. Another key objective of this meeting was to seek clarity regarding the policies and laws that guided the decision-making process. Because the religious discrimination investigation remains ongoing through the Office of Institutional Equity, there are still many details that neither students nor administrators can access until the investigation is completed. However, we were informed that the standard academic appeals procedure within the College of Arts and Sciences was followed regarding the grade complaint. University leadership acknowledged that this situation is highly unusual. Several individuals present shared that they have never encountered a case like this. Typically, academic appeals are handled internally among teaching assistants, faculty members, and academic leadership. In this instance, however, the situation escalated rapidly due to widespread media attention and involvement from state-level officials. We were told that the decision to place Mel Curth on Academic Leave was made, in part, as a protective measure in response to the scale and intensity of public attention. We were also informed that multiple university bodies contributed to this decision, including the Provost, Academic Deans, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Grade Appeals Committee,

and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. To support greater transparency and rebuild trust, the Provost has invited the Graduate Student Senate to participate in continued discussions related to this case. Additionally, the Graduate College is planning a moderated webinar focused on classroom challenges and student conduct, expanding GTA workshops and teaching boot camps, and reviewing instructor-of-record classifications for graduate assistants. While these steps represent meaningful efforts by the University, it is important to recognize that campus tensions cannot be resolved in a single meeting, and several important topics remain unaddressed. As members of the Graduate Student Senate, it is critical that we continue advocating for graduate student protections and representation. This meeting marked the beginning of what we expect to be ongoing conversations with University leadership.

- Questions? No questions
- Vice-Chair:
 - Faculty Senate General body meeting report (Sam and Dana attending);
 - Potential bill endorsing our resolution and the AAUP Resolution
 - Has been tabled for now, need to sort out parliamentary process
 - GSS Exec and Sam has been talking about a town hall in light of recent events. Space for grad students (not just senators) to talk about issues relating to graduate assistants. Interest Form linked here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6svGHh9e5NELMV7y5IEGytS3mT3aBU0KMEi168NS3R-dhiQ/viewform>
- Secretary: Please turn in your committee reports on engage!

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

- Academic Affairs: Nothing new to report.
- Development & Philanthropy:
 - Cold weather clothing drive ongoing
 - Partnering with women's gymnastics for an event for the clothing drive. The event will be on February 27 at the women's gymnastics meet against Auburn (meet starts at 6:30)
 - Register for the Big event! OU Graduate Student Senate is our team name, April 11, 10am-2pm: <https://www.givepulse.com/event/695728-register-to-volunteer-for-the-big-event-2026>
- External Affairs:
 - OU Capitol Day! Please fill out the interest forms
 - March 31st
 - Link for Senators: <https://forms.gle/CNW1CM17WpoQWpMb6>
 - Link for non-senators: <https://forms.gle/BQff4WjA2NTYgagZ9>
 - Committee is planning a newsletter for current bills on the house and senate floor to stay up to date on bills that may affect our community.
- Internal Affairs:
 - Nothing new to report.
- International Student Affairs:
 - Shaghayegh Ahmadi is the new chair for the International Student Affairs Committee
 - Survey for international students
 - Issue with 39 banned countries prevented from obtaining OPT/visas with the recent congress bill (Oklahoma congress)

- Public Relations:
 - Andrea made Winter Clothes Donation Drive flyer. Helen starting Graduate Student Senate Nominations flyer. Emma starting OU Women's Gym flyer. Emma proposes creating a form to request flyer designs in the future.
- Sustainability:
 - Events in Norman...broader impact with engagement
 - Discussed Protecting chalk on campus due to other SEC schools banning the use
 - Found out about City of Norman's Earth Day festival in April mentioned looking into any existing Earth Day activities on campus, and following up with Nova
 - Anna proposed fundraising ideas for our committee this semester, or tabling events to provide information on sustainability to students (asked about resources for tabling- table fee is \$100)
- Ways and Means:
 - Spring grant applications are open
 - Grant applications are due on March 23 by 11:59pm
 - WAM has received some emails from students encountering a technical issue on the dynamic form...have those students email the GSS WAM email.

Student Concerns:

- Senator Cavender (49): Discontinuance of the Landscape architecture program. Petition is linked here: [Save the OU Landscape Architecture Program!](#)
- Summer: US citizenship and policy memorandum
 - <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-alerts/PM-602-0194-PendingApplicationsAdditionalHighRiskCountries-20260101.pdf>
- Senator Akbari (36): bill regarding the banned 39 countries from the recent executive order. This will not allow students from the listed countries to enroll or participate in graduate studies.

Special Orders:

- Cybersecurity Engagement Survey
 - Cybersecurity training is an annual requirement that helps OU faculty, staff, and students stay cybersafe throughout their time at the University.
 - This year, we've taken a step back to ask: What's working? What's not? Your feedback will help us answer those questions and improve the experience for everyone.
 - Whether you've found the training helpful or felt it could be more relevant to your role, this is your chance to shape the future of OU's cybersecurity awareness program.
 - Please share your feedback and take the Cybersecurity Training Feedback Survey. Your voice helps build a stronger, more informed campus community.
 - The survey has just 8 questions and takes about 5 minutes. Your responses will directly influence how we design future training, making it more useful and more engaging.
 - https://qualtrics.ou.edu/jfe/form/SV_08mJOt0jCz3O0yq
- OU Athletics/Women's Gymnastics
 - Not present today due to travel, but they will be here at the next the meeting to talk about our joint clothing drive event.
 - Gymnastics meets are free to attend!

Old Business:

New Business:

- **GS26-04:** SGA Transparency in Compensation Adjustments Act (Do Pass)
 - Motion to move to the floor by Senator Hurst (59), Seconded by Senator Bueltel (7)
 - Sam presenting: this is an attempt by Sam and Cole to satisfy the concerns that congress had regarding conflict of interest as well as GSS concerns of timeliness of stipend.

- No questions.
- Motion to pass via unanimous consent. Senator Cunningham (82), No objections. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Adjournment: 7:33

Motion for adjournment by Senator Wilson (79), Seconded by Senator Bueltel (7)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXV
February 3, 2026

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS26
February 12, 2026

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-115-06
SENATE BILL NO. GS26-04

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Legislation amending SGA Code Annotated
§X.5 to create a provision requiring raises to have
stipulated start date; create a provision requiring benefited
parties to abstain from voting on raises; create a provision
requiring a report detailing new allocations of funds be
provided to Congress and GSS; 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 Transparency in Compensation Adjustments 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 changes to the compensation of the SGA President, SGA Vice President, Undergraduate Student Congress officers, Graduate Student Senate officers, or any other elected or appointed committee Chair position shall be made in a transparent manner. The stipulations of this bill will allow for members of the Undergraduate Student Congress and the Graduate Student Senate to better understand how raises will be administered, how their value was determined, and the potential needs for changes in compensation. Finally, it will also add guardrails against potential corruption, ensuring that changes to compensation benefit the general student body and not just particular individuals.

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).

Section 4:

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/month
- Chair of Congress: \$435/month
- Chair of Senate: \$435/month
- Chair of SGA Budgetary Committee: \$350/month
- Secretary of Congress: \$350/month
- Secretary of Senate: \$350/month
- Student Bar Association President: \$350/month
- SGA President: \$520/month
- SGA Vice President: \$435/month
- Vice Chair of Congress: \$350/month
- Vice Chair of Senate: \$350/month
- 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 through the end of their term.
- The SGA President and SGA Vice President shall be compensated monthly with compensation periods beginning January 1st through the end of their term.
- 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 with their term.
- The GSS Ways and Means Chair shall be compensated 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 their staff advisor in Student Affairs, 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 by their staff advisor in Student Affairs, with the consent of the SGA President, GSS Chair, and Congress Chair. These salaries will come from "The Office of Student Government and Organization Services" (SGOS) which will be allocated to in the salaries and stipends act of their term: two full-time staff, Associates of General Counsel, General Counsel, Chief of Staff, Election Commissioner, SGA Student Assistants.

The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the SGA President following an open application process.

Any position not enumerated above shall not receive a salary/stipend.

- a. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Requirements for Stipend Alterations. Any alteration to a salary/stipend amount that is applicable to one or more of the SGA President, SGA Vice President, Undergraduate Student Congress officer(s), Graduate Student Senate officer(s), or any other elected or appointed committee Chair position, is required to contain sections providing the following materials when presented to the Undergraduate Student Congress and the Graduate Student Senate:
 - a. A specific start date for the adjusted stipend.
 - b. A brief and detailed section specifying the following information:
 - i. The needs, circumstances, and/or reasoning justifying the alteration to the relevant stipends.
 - ii. The methods and reasoning for determining the value of the adjustments.
 - iii. A justification for the timing of the relevant stipend adjustments.
 - iv. An explanation of what funds will be used to make the relevant stipend adjustments, and
 - v. A justification for why the proposed funds should be used for the purposes of stipend adjustments.
 - c. An affirmation by the authors of the required report that the information contained in the report is accurate and has been prepared in a good-faith effort to provide transparency and justification to the legislative bodies of the SGA.
5. Committee Requirements for Seeing Stipend Adjustments. Any legislation adjusting SGA stipends must be seen by the Executive Committees of both the Undergraduate Congress and Graduate Student Senate before it can be brought before the general body of both chambers.
6. Voting Restrictions for Stipend Adjustments. No individual who both receives an SGA stipend and occupies a position that would vote on legislation adjusting SGA stipends is permitted to vote on the legislation adjusting SGA stipends. Any individual with a potential conflict of interest caused by voting on legislation that would affect their own SGA stipend is required to abstain from voting on the relevant legislation, excepting the Chairs of the

Undergraduate Student Congress and the Graduate Student Senate in the case that a tie-breaking vote is required.

7. In the event a salary or stipend is adjusted, the Chair of the originating house must contact the relevant University Administrative Services and provide them with the alteration and date for which said alteration is to take place within seven days of the SGA President signing the Act of Legislation.

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

Author(s): Samuel Jensen, GSS Ways and Means Committee Chair
Coleman Morgan, Congressional Administration Committee Chair

Co-Author(s):

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: