

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA
March 12, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Zoom Conference Call

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93772247533?pwd=sBRbHEL3MOD2aTipaH9URXpz3t1Fcr.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>)

Motion to approve Senator Fellman (55), seconded by Senator Bueltel (7)

Officer Reports:

- Chair:
 - Officer Nominations
 - The officer nomination form is live on engage! Please submit a nomination form and nominate your friends. Senators cannot nominate themselves for a position.
 - [Officer Nomination Form](#)
 - Nomination forms are due by March 26th
 - Higher education day
 - Due to the amount of interest, GSS has opted to attend Higher Ed day separate from SGA
 - Please use the GSS form to RSVP for higher education day. [RSVP to Higher Ed day here!](#) GSS will not be providing transportation, but the GSS event will provide more flexibility to Senators wanting to attend portions of the day instead of the entire event. The External Affairs committee is organizing meetings with legislators, so please let us know which topics you are most passionate about on the RSVP form. Caroline will present on this during officer reports
 - Graduate housing
 - Due to the planned closing of Walker and Couch towers, Traditions will be used as Freshman housing
 - Resources for finding off campus housing:
 - Off campus housing marketplace <http://offcampushousing.ou.edu/>
 - CAC Housing and Hotdogs event, April 8, 10-2 (hotdogs for the first 200 attendees) [sign up for Housing and Hotdogs here](#)
 - OU daily story: [Navigating 'New Everything': International Students Discuss Housing, Transportation Challenges](#)
 - Public transit survey
 - https://qualtrics.ou.edu/jfe/form/SV_29ahGIUmKKdXjz8
 - Parking survey
 - https://qualtrics.ou.edu/jfe/form/SV_3frk82xooQiaQXI
- Vice-Chair:
 - Nothing new to report

- Secretary:
 - Please submit your committee reports on engage!

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

- Academic Affairs:
 - Outstanding graduate student awards are open for nominations, spread the news to your departments
- Development & Philanthropy:
 - Big event registration final date is tomorrow at midnight: [Register for the Big Event Team name: Graduate Student Senate](#)
- External Affairs:
 - Higher Education day!
 - Please sign up through engage to attend [RSVP to Higher Ed day here!](#)
 - We have meetings scheduled throughout the day, so we will use the RSVPs to connect Senators with meeting
 - Writing memos for the representatives we are meeting with
 - Memos for the bills to have talking points for each bill
 - Higher education day: engage link is being sent out
 - If you have representatives you want to talk to, please email Caroline
 - Letters of impact (from you and your departments)
 - Zoom information meeting might be happening
 - Collaboration with grad students and k-12 schools
- Internal Affairs:
 - Planning an Interorganizational event for graduate student organizations
 - Send an email to gssinternal if you know of a graduate org that should be involved
- International Student Affairs:
 - Survey for International Students is completed and linked here: https://qualtrics.ou.edu/jfe/form/SV_4UcV2iKwpmWrSPs
 - Summer can email it directly to all senators to forward to the departments
- Public Relations:
 - Flyer request form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/GuSwQimpRZ>
- Sustainability:
 - Norman Earth day
 - April 26th 12-5pm
 - SES department on campus collaboration
 - Undergrad congress collaboration
- Ways and Means:
 - Please remember that grant applications are due the week after next, the application and the letters of rec are due midnight on the 23rd
 - Met this weekend with the SGA budgetary committee
 - Should see the bill next meeting
 - All RSOs should have received an email re: funding

Student Concerns:

Special Orders:

Old Business:

New Business:

- **GS26-12:** Cabinet Revision Act of 2026 (Do Pass)
 - Motion: Senator Jensen (3), Seconded by Senator Lancaster (71)
 - Motion to table: Senator Jensen (3), seconded by Senator Fullerton (2)
- **GS26-13:** Save the Scribbles (Do Pass)
 - Motion Senator Jensen (3), seconded by Senator Cunningham (82)
 - 3 pass via unanimous consent
- **GS26-14:** Endometriosis Awareness Month Resolution (Do Pass)
 - Motion Senator Lancaster (71), Seconded by Senator Jensen (3)
 - Senator Hurst (59) pass via unanimous consent

Announcements:

Congrats to Ben and Tatiana on their first bill!

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Lancaster (71), seconded by Senator Hurst (59)

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXV

March 3, 2026

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GS26

March 12, 2026

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-115-12
SENATE BILL GS26-12

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Legislation to amend the SGACA; 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 “Cabinet Revision Act of 2026.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to amend to amend the SGA Code Annotated to better accommodate the regular executive cabinet structure in modern administrations.

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).

- 1) **Executive Cabinet Members.** The members of the Executive Cabinet shall consist of the Chief of Staff, and any other coordinators, assistants, and liaisons deemed necessary by the President and appropriate by the Legislative houses through advice and consent. The duties of the Executive Cabinet should and can reflect the needs of the President and the administration, including but not limited to: special projects, constituent relations, media relations, legislative affairs, academic affairs. The cabinet structure, position names, and total members shall be left to the discretion of the President. ~~The following, but certainly not limited to, positions must be included as part of the Executive Cabinet:~~

- a) ~~**Communications Coordinator.** The coordinator will be responsible for promoting the interests, programs, and positions of the OU SGA. The coordinator will chair meetings with the Congress Vice Chair, Senate Public Relations Committee Chair, the CAC Public Relations Coordinator, and the SGA Webmaster to discuss matter pertaining to social media, media relations, photography, tabling, and other means of advertisement and message distribution.~~

- b) ~~**International Affairs Coordinator.** The coordinator shall be responsible for voicing the concerns for the international student population overall and take necessary steps to improve the welfare for these students, and the student body overall. The appointment process shall include communication with the International Advisory Committee.~~

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

Author(s): Josephine Nicholson, SGA Vice President
Henry Christiansen, SGA Chief of Staff
Mercer Martin, SGA President

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 CXV
March 3, 2026

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX
March 12, 2026

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-115-04
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GF26-13

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution that protects the use of chalk by student organizations at the University of Oklahoma; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: “Chalking” is defined as the act of using chalk to display messages regarding events, meetings, and other information.¹ Chalking is usually done on sidewalks in high-trafficked areas by people to receive such messages.

Whereas: Chalking is commonly used on university campuses for student organizations to communicate with others regarding hosted events, meeting times, and other information. Numerous requests from student organizations to chalk messages on campus are made at the University of Oklahoma.

Whereas: Over the last several years, several colleges have taken the action of banning chalk on campus^{2,3}. For example, in 2020, Texas A&M banned chalk from their campuses. They stated “the need for chalking as a communications channel in 2020 is no longer as important for message distribution.”².

Whereas: Chalking is an additional freedom of speech that individuals can partake in, and thus this bill serves a critical purpose of protecting a unique way that ALL RSOs at the University of Oklahoma can practice free speech.

¹chalking, 2026. Accessed 19 February 2026, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/chalking>.

²Hoffman, A., 2025: Ohio State students react to ‘chalking’ ban. <https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/ohio-state-university/ohio-state-students-react-to-chalking-ban/>.

³Rodriguez, M., 2020: Texas A&M bans use of chalk as form of messaging on campus. *My Aggie Nation*. Accessed 19 February 2026, https://myaggienation.com/am_news/texas-a-m-bans-use-of-chalk-as-form-of-messaging-on-campus/article_66da239d-495d-5bf9-a462-b39872c6c29c.html.

Whereas: Even with the rise of social media, students may lack access to social media or may not be aware of these social media accounts. This could result in missed opportunities to be a part of the University of Oklahoma student organizations. With chalking, messages in a frequently trafficked area by students allow for better reach to a greater audience.

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma has measures in place regarding chalking to ensure that those who want to participate do so in a responsible and controlled manner. Such measures include, but are not limited to⁴:

- Pre-approval for chalking must be obtained by completing the RSO Publicity Request Form in ENGAGE.
- Any chalking placed improperly is subject to removal by campus personnel at the registered student organization's expense.

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 “**Save the Scribbles**”

Section 2: In this resolution, we seek **to ensure that chalking will remain a legal and protected activity on campus without any potential of being banned. Given the current protections and safeguards that have been put into place, such as requesting approval and not being able to use insoluble chalk, OU has taken steps to ensure students are responsibly using chalk in a manner that is more environmentally conscientious.**

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association commends the university for upholding Free Speech for students on campus over the last several months. As a result, it is critical that these efforts continue in upholding and supporting the use of chalk on campus as an alternative form of free speech.

Section 4: 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
- David Surratt, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the University of Oklahoma
- Dr. Matthew Rom, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management
- Brian Holderread, Vice President for Campus Operations

⁴Policies, Accessed 19 February 2026, <http://www.ou.edu/operations/resources/policies.html>.

Author(s): Tatiana Esteva-Ingram, Graduate Student Senate External and Legislative Affairs Committee
Vice Chair
Benjamin Fellman, Graduate Student Senate Sustainability Committee Chair

Co-Sponsor(s): Jaycee Gideon, Undergraduate Congress Dodge Family Colleges of Arts and Science
Representative
Kayla Hawley, Undergraduate Congress Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass
Communications Representative
Hope Rhoads, Undergraduate Congress External Affairs Chair
Baylor Savage, Undergraduate Congress Congressional Outreach, Safety, and Concerns
Committee Chair
Hayden Vedra, Undergraduate Congress University Policy Committee Chair

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Cox seconded Representative Vedra

Action taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 39-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by: Senator Jensen (3), seconded by Senator Cunningham (82)

Action taken by Senate: Passed via unanimous consent.

Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXV

March 3, 2026

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX

March 12, 2026

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-115-05
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GS26-14

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the month of March
as Endometriosis Awareness Month; and providing for
distribution.

- Whereas: Endometriosis is a chronic disease where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus, causing inflammation and scar tissue formation¹; and
- Whereas: This condition affects an estimated 10% (approximately 190 million) of reproductive-age women and girls globally²; and
- Whereas: It can take between four and 11 years to receive a correct endometriosis diagnosis³; and
- Whereas: This condition can severely impact a person's physical and mental health; and
- Whereas: There is currently no known cure for endometriosis, and treatment focuses on controlling symptoms and limiting long-term impacts; and
- Whereas: Stigmatization of this illness and chronic pain leads to delays in diagnosis and negatively affects the well-being of those living with this disease; and
- Whereas: March is recognized as Endometriosis Awareness Month to provide an opportunity for all people to learn about and understand the condition.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
CONGRESS THAT:

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the "Endometriosis Awareness Month Resolution."

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association will recognize the month of March as Endometriosis Awareness Month.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association suggests the following ways to recognize Endometriosis Awareness Month:

- Wear yellow clothing, accessories, or ribbons throughout March
- Educate yourself about endometriosis
- Donate to Endometriosis Charities and Research Organizations
- Share your story
- Spread awareness on social media and through word of mouth
- Talk to your health provider if you feel you could have endometriosis
- Support people with endometriosis

Section 4: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Joseph Harroz Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma
- David A. Surratt, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- William Wayne, Ph.D., Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Health Services
- Gary E. Raskob, Ph.D., Provost of the Health Campus
- Lee A. Jennings, M.D., Director of Health Services
- Carolyn Kloek, M.D., MBA, Chief of Medical Staff

Author(s): Kayla Hawley, Journalism and Mass Communication Representative

Co-Sponsor(s): Delia Benitez-Mendoza, Business Representative
Owen Cunningham, Arts and Science Representative
Coleman Morgan, Engineering Representative
Jayden Bass, Arts and Sciences Representative
Alexandra Toyos-Perez, Arts and Sciences Representative

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Morgan, seconded by Representative Toyos

Action taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 39-0-0

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: _____