

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CVIII
General Body Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 8th, 2022
Gaylord 2020

Call to Order - 7:06 pm Opening Roll Call

Mission Statement: The mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Undergraduate Student Congress is to represent the interests of undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic and individual achievement. The Undergraduate Student Congress is committed to building a strong campus community, promoting civic engagement, and enhancing the quality of the undergraduate experience at the University of Oklahoma.

Moment of Silence: 20 Second Moment of Silence to allow an opportunity for reflection.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes

Representative Payson seconded by Representative Reynolds

Officer Reports -

- O Chair's Report: Happy Election Day! Thank you to Representative Reynolds for bringing us cupcakes. Also a special shoutout to OU Aviation for being the #1 program in the nation. Today we will hear a presentation from a group of practicum students with OU Higher Education and Prevention Services. We are seeing two pieces of legislation. The Big Red Rally was a huge success and thank you to everyone who volunteered. If anyone would like their headshot to be posted to the SGA website, please email that to me. We were working earlier this semester to incorporate the food pantry's resources into the syllabi, and we met with the intergovernance council and faculty senate, and they heard a presentation from the food pantry last night. The next step would be to write legislation. Another project is DrinkSafe, which are coasters that test your drinks for drugs. We will have a one-time purchase of these and pass them out.
- O Vice Chair's Report: Hello everybody! Thanks again to Representative Reynolds. When the new members come into the body, I will be hosting a mini orientation for those members so that they know what's going on. If you have any questions let me know. If your role is changing you can keep your name tag but please don't take it if you aren't changing roles. Voting in today's election will not count as a constituent service point. We will give a food pantry presentation to the body soon which might be coupled with a food drive. Lastly we had a resolution passed last semester where students could pay part of their parking ticket by donating to the food pantry, and now parking services is denying that they had knowledge of this so I will be working with emeritus chair South and chair Lewis to try to get that resolved.

O Secretary's Report: Hi y'all. This is your reminder that if you are an outgoing rep next week will be your last meeting and we would really appreciate if you could be there to cheer on our new reps as they are sworn in. I would also like to direct your attention to the rolling reapplication form for anyone who would like to become an associate or if they didn't win their seat would like to apply for an open rep seat. This also counts for current associates wanting to be appointed to a rep position. Next week I will updated the list of what seats are available. Thanks!

Committee Reports-

- o **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** COSCO met unofficially this weekend. Ben and I did meet with the Director of Food Services yesterday, thank you George! We are also working on legislation with the SGA General Counsel to add some information about them as a resource to the student syllabus.
- O Congressional Administration: ConAd did not meet as we did not have quorum. We did wrap up our work with the election commission. The official report came out today and should be getting verified by the supreme court tomorrow. The reapplication form deadline has been extended to the 18th and we will see that legislation on the 22nd.
- External Affairs: Hey y'all, EA met officially and sat CR-108-19 and gave it a rec of do pass. Thanks to those who voted today. If you encountered any troubles let me know. EA will do election reports and work on getting contacts of new electorates to do forums.
- Human Diversity: HD met unofficially on Thursday, and we are still having our donation drive. Also, don't forget about Friendsgiving next Thursday. Please bring a dish to get your CSP.
- o Sustainability:
- O University Policy: Hey guys! UPOL met officially and saw CR-108-18 and CR-108-20. We will be that king CR-108-20 till next week. We found more data to support and just want to make sure we have it all. We will be seeing CR-108-18 tonight, which we have a rec of Do Pass. UPOL is in a brainstorming phase right now. We will be meeting officially this Sunday at 1 PM. That's it! Thanks.
- Ways and Means: WAM did not meet last week, and we will meet this Thursday to see AUX 6.

Liaison Reports Special Orders

- NCHA Survey & Presentation
- Friendsgiving Volunteer QR

Student Concern Link

Items to Be Considered

-CR-108-18 "Salute to Veterans Parking Act" (Reynolds/Kathuria) (U-Pol, Rec of Do Pass) *Motion to see CR-108-18*

Representative Griffin seconded by Representative Reese

• <u>Author's Explanation (Reynolds):</u> This is my first bill. There are only four parking spaces for veterans on campus including north and south campus. We are trying to see if we can increase the parking spaces for student veterans because a lot of them don't have handicap stickers and they may have PTSD. They have already served the country. We are requesting nine more spots to represent 13 for the 13 stripes in the flag. We are also we requesting that if they are a student veteran they have a designated parking tag.

2:00 yielded to questions

o George: Did you ask Chris?

- I did, and he said no. He said there was already enough. One in one garage, one by the north oval, and two over by the union.
- o **Robinson:** How many veterans do we have on campus?
 - We have 1,200+.
- O Haskins: Do you intend for the parking spaces to be spread out?
 - Yes I want them spread out. There should even be some at our north campus since there are veterans out there flying.
- Lewis: Did you talk to parking services about the pass as well or just the spots?
 - Just the spots, which is why this would be sent to parking services.

17-0-0 unanimous pass

-CR-108-19 "Voicing Our Thoughts Electorally/V.O.T.E Act" (Lewis/Lissau/Griffin) (EA, Rec of Do Pass)

Motion to see CR-108-19

Representative Griffin seconded by Representative Reynolds

• <u>Author's Explanation (Lewis)</u>: This calls on the administration and the university to recognize voting exemptions for students who may not have the means to miss class. There was positive feedback from administration, and we want to keep the door open. It was a bit too close to election time when we first started having these conversations. This could open the door for it being added to the faculty handbook.

1:45 yielded to questions

- o Kathuria: Would voting exemptions count for elections outside of November?
 - Yes
- o **Reynolds**: Are you thinking about a voting holiday for main elections?
 - This would not be a holiday but give people a chance to have an excused absence for classes.
- O **Trautman**: Can you please explain why this bill was not presented before this election?
 - This has been in the works for a long time. We wanted to get support from the administration when presenting our statement and we felt that as SGA we should see this resolution after our statement. We did not want to upset them before putting this resolution out there.
- o **Kathuria:** Is it in your opinion that the president-elect should be sent a copy of this resolution as well?
 - Yes, I would be in favor of an amendment for that.
- **Kathuria:** Would you be in favor of a friendly amendment to section 7 adding President-Elect Chris Firch.
 - Yes.
- o Haskins: Is the plan to bring polling locations to campus still a thing?
 - Yes, and there is so much that goes into that. The Cleveland Election Board must notify people 30 days before an election that their precinct site is changing. We were 8 days from that window and felt it was too little time. They are open for doing it next semester.
- o **Griffin:** Why did you feel it was the best decision not to go into a voting holiday.
 - After talking to further directors, it seemed as though voting holidays would encourage them to talk to us less because they would see it as though we are asking for too much. Holidays are placed in the calendar years in advance.

That would be more of a conversation to have OU/TX become a fall break so that SGA can use that holiday for election day.

Motion to extend time for questions

Representative Kathuria seconded by Representative Reynolds

- o Halsey-Kraus: Will you accept me as a co-sponsor?
 - Yes.
- o **Kathuria:** There have been limitations in polling sites for some individuals. Do you believe professors are aware of the implications of having limited polling sites
 - Yes, I think professors recognize that and in my opinion it's not about faculty pushback its more about the logistics of what goes into it. It's more about the messaging because nobody wants to tell faculty what they have to excuse.

17-0-0 unanimous pass

-CR-108-20 "Workforce Action and Gainful Employment (WAGE) Act of 2022"

(Mullins/Dodd/Halsey-Kraus) (U-Pol, Rec of Do Pass)

Motion to commit CR-108-20 to the University Policy Committee

Representative Griffin seconded by Representative Reynolds

Follow-Up Reports

- **Kathuria:** "The Save Bedlam Act" was passed in GSS and is heading to president Lissau's desk.
- Landry: "The Confetti Makes Me Upsetti" Bill also passed GSS and is waiting to be signed.
- **Robinson:** "The Informed Voter Act" passed GSS 39-12-4.

Items for Future Agenda

• **Reynolds:** I am working on a resolution for the 3 meteorology students that passed away last year with Chair Mullins.

Announcements and Comments

- Landry: We have really cute OU "I Voted" stickers so please come get one if you voted!
- Mullins: I really want people to come to friendsgiving. It would be really cool.
- **Griffin:** Thanks for voting today. If you encountered any issues at all, please let us know so we can make our elections a bit better.
- **Reynolds:** I am thinking about making a shrimp cornbread dressing for friendsgiving.

Final Roll Call

Motion to adjourn
Representative Griffin seconded by Representative Payson
Adjourn – 8:00pm

Chair: Lacey Lewis

Vice-Chair: Bailey Trautman Secretary: Amelia Landry

	8-Nov-22		Date of Session:		8-Nov-22	
	Initial	Final	Last Name:	First Name:	CR-108-18	CR-108-19
Baca	x	х	Baca	Danielle	у	у
Barnett	ex	ex	Barnett	Ryan		
Binger	х	х	Binger	Christian	у	у
Brown	x	х	Brown	Jordan	у	у
Cantu	a	а	Cantu	Cole		
Cappleman	х	х	Cappleman	Austin	у	y
Chaman	a	a	Chaman	Arin		
Chiariello	ex	ex	Chiariello	Clayton		
Dao	ex	ex	Dao	Audrey		
Dodd	а	а	Dodd	Aiden		
Ghazal	x	х	Ghazal	Razann	у	у
Glasscock	x	х	Glasscock	Caden	у	у
Griffin	х	х	Griffin	Weslie	у	у
Haskins	х	х	Haskins	Hudson	у	у
Hedrick	ex	х	Hedrick	Ethan	у	у
Houston	ex	ex		Rylee	,	,
Kathuria	x	х	Houston		у	у
Ketaneh	а	а	Kathuria	Shrey	,	,
McCall	х	х	Ketaneh	Yara		
Nguyen	ex	х	McCall	Will	у	у
Papahronis	x	х	Nguyen	Nhi	У	у
Payson	x	х	Papahronis	Demitri	У	у
Reese	x	х	Payson	Olivia	у	у
Reynolds	х	х	Reese	Nathaniel	у	у
Stoyak	а	a	Reynolds	Michael	У	у
White	ex	a	Stoyak	Michael		
Zaqout	х	х	White	Ben		
PRESENT	15	17	Zaqout	Mahmoud	у	у
ABSENT	5	6		Yes No	17 0	
EXCUSED	7	4		No Abstain	0	

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION 108 November 8th, 2022

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-108-18 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recommending OU parking services to increase the number of veteran parking spaces on campus; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: As of today, there are only 4 total parking spaces available for students who are

veterans; and

Whereas: Veterans deserve to be treated with the utmost respect for the services they have

provided to our country and the community; therefore

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 "Salute to Veterans Parking Act."
- **Section 2:** The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends that OU parking services do the following:
 - 1. Increase the number of designated parking spaces to thirteen spots to represent the thirteen stripes of the American flag.
 - a. Designated parking spots should be placed in any parking garage or parking space on campus.
 - 2. Have a designated commuter parking tag for each qualified student veteran on campus.
- **Section 3:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
 - OU Daily
 - OU Parking Services
 - OU Veteran Services
 - Kris Glenn Director of Parking Services

Author(s):	Michael T. Reynolds Sr., College of Aviation Studies, Shrey Kathuria, U	Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences School of niversity College Representative
Co-Author(s):	:	
Co-Sponsor(s	:): Lacey Lewis, Chair of the USC	
Action taken l	a motion by: Representative Griffin s by Congress: 17-0-0 hair of Congress:	
Submitted on Action taken l Verified by Cl	,	Date:
Approved by	SGA President:	Date:

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CVIII November 8th, 2022

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE SENATE SESSION GF22 November XX, 2022

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-108-19 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution to encourage the University of Oklahoma to recognize voting exemptions for students; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma's Strategic plan makes frequent references to the

promotion of civic participation and engagement to create a more democratic

society¹; Therefore

Whereas: It is important that the University of Oklahoma and the Student Government

Association partner together to encourage civic engagement amongst students; and

Whereas: Students historically have made up a very small percentage when compared to the

number of eligible voters who actively participate in voting²; and

Whereas: We have the unique opportunity to make a significant change and allow students to

have a voice in the 2022 midterm elections; and

Whereas: The University has recognized the importance for Staff to vote by granting them

two-hour voting exemptions from work³; and

Whereas: Administration should recognize the same rights for students; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS AND THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE, CONCURRING THEREIN THAT:

¹ https://www.ou.edu/leadon/pillars/pillar2

The University of Oklahoma's Second Pillar serves to, "Prepare Students for a Life of Success, Meaning, Service, and Positive Impact." This pillar closely relates to the promotion of Civic Engagement. Under the strategies used to preserve Oklahoma's Second Pillar strategy 4, tactic reads:

[&]quot;Tactic 3: Set clear service learning, volunteerism, and leadership expectations in the student experience for everyone¹." Voting is the most basic leadership and service expectation that one can fulfill as a student.

² https://www.campusvoteproject.org/why-student-voters-matter

³ https://apps.hr.ou.edu/staffhandbook#3.10.4

- **Section 1:** Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the "Voicing Our Thoughts Electorally Act."
- Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association strongly encourages the creation of Voting Exemptions for students for future elections. Voting exemptions are needed for a multitude of reasons that include:
 - 1. Forty-four percent of students are non-residents, and 5,669 of these students who vote in Texas.⁴
 - 2. Casting a ballot may take hours because of long poll lines.⁵
 - 3. Many students prefer to vote in person.
- Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association suggests creating new university policy, modeled on Section 3.15.2 of the Faculty Handbook, to permanently protect the civic responsibilities of students from adverse academic consequences, to be added as section 3.15.3 of the faculty handbook as follows:

"It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from civic participation, such as voting and participation in jury duty, and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on days of civic duty."

- **Section 4:** The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association also recommends leaving any requirement regarding presenting proof of voting to the discretion of the faculty member.
- **Section 5:** Student employees should be entitled to a similar exemption as enumerated below in the Staff Handbook:

"Every employee shall be allowed two hours of time during the period when an election is open in which to vote. If an employee lives at such a distance from his or her voting precinct that more than two hours are required to attend the election, then the employee shall be allowed sufficient time to cast a ballot. Employees shall only be provided this time to vote upon oral or written notification to a supervisor on the day preceding the election. Upon proof of voting, no employee shall lose compensation or otherwise be penalized for the absence."

Section 6: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association urges the Faculty Senate to create a resolution of support for the adoption of voting exemptions for students.

⁴ https://ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/Fact%20Book/fact-book-2020/20 2 35 USmap.pdf

⁵ https://oklahomawatch.org/2020/11/03/election-2020-live-updates-will-these-precincts-look-the-same-this-time/

⁶ https://apps.hr.ou.edu/staffhandbook#3.10.4

Section 7:	Copies of this resolution will be sent to:						
	The OU Daily						
	The OU NightlyGovernor Stitt						
	Faculty Senate ChairStaff Senate Chair						
	President Harroz						
	Vice President David Surratt						
	Provost Wright						
	President-Elect Chris Firch						
Author(s):	Lacey Lewis, Chairwoman of the USC						
Co-Author(s):	: Weslie Griffin, Chair of the External Affairs Committee Zack Lissau, SGA President						
Co-Sponsor(s):	Abby Halsey-Kraus, Chair of the Congressional Administration Committee						
Action taken b	motion by: Representative Griffin seconded by Representative Reynolds y Congress: 17-0-0						
Verified by Ch	air of Congress: Date:						
Submitted on a Action taken b	•						
Verified by Chair of Senate: Date:							
Approved by S	GA President: Date:						

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CVIII November 8th, 2022

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE SENATE SESSION GFXX/GSXX Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CR-108-20 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recommending the raise of student wages across University employment; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma student wages are currently between \$7.25 - \$10

depending on the area of employment⁷;

Whereas: According to Living Wage Calculator from the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology, the livable wage for a single adult in the State of Oklahoma is \$15.758;

Whereas: According to the 2021 Census, 16.9% of the Norman population is below the

poverty line;

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma is the largest employer in the City of Norman⁹;

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma has struggled to maintain consistent numbers of

student employees throughout the 2021-2022 Academic Year;

Whereas: Universities such as University of Maryland, University of Notre Dame, and Johns

Hopkins University have raised student wages to reflect a more sustainable

living wage;

Whereas: According to Pew Research, two-thirds of Americans (67%) support raising the

minimum wage to \$15 an hour¹⁰;

Whereas: The University of Maryland raised the student wage from \$12.50 to \$15, with 30,000

students enrolled and average tuition of \$38,000¹¹;

⁷ https://ou.taleo.net/careersection/stu/jobsearch.ftl?lang=en

⁸ https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/40

⁹ (https://www.selectnorman.com/existing-industry/major-employers/).

¹⁰ https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/06/PP_2019.06.19_Political-Discourse_TOPLINE.pdf

^{11 (}https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/09/03/university-of-maryland-minimum-wage)

Whereas:	The University	of Notre Dame	raised the student	t wage from \$11 to	\$15, with 9,000
willcreas.	THE CHIVETSILY	or rout Dame	raised the student	. wase mom and to	will 2,000

students enrolled and average tuition being \$58,000¹²;

Whereas: John Hopkins University raising the student wage to \$15, with 23,000 students

enrolled and average tuition being \$58,000¹³;

Whereas: According to the Federal Reserve Economic Data, the federal minimum wage has

remained stagnant for the past twelve years¹⁴;

Whereas: The minimum wage in the State of Oklahoma has maintained a consistent minimum

wage of \$7.25 since 2009;

Whereas: According to The Hill, most students believe a \$15 minimum wage would "improve

standards, increase financial freedom, increase the ability to save, easier student loans

payoff, and affording better food15;"

Whereas: The number of student employees has significantly dropped, with 4,275 student

employees working in 2017¹⁶;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 3,758 student employees in 2018¹⁷;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 3,500 student employees in 2019¹⁸;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 2,569 student employees in 2020¹⁹;

Whereas: With the University of Oklahoma employing 2,812 student employees in 2021²⁰;

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 "Workforce Action and Gainful Employment (WAGE) Act of 2022."

¹² (https://ndsmcobserver.com/2022/08/university-wage-increase-takes-

effect/#:~:text=Notre%20Dame%20implemented%20a%20new,starting%20rate%20for%20student%20employees.)

¹³ https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/newsroom/news-releases/johns-hopkins-university-and-johns-hopkins-health-system-to-adopt-15-minimum-wage-florida-and-maryland-employees-will-receive-wage-increases-years-ahead-of-statewide-requirements

¹⁴ https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/FEDMINNFRWG#

¹⁵ https://thehill.com/changing-america/enrichment/education/568078-college-students-believe-they-will-benefit-the-most/

¹⁶ https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202017.pdf

¹⁷ https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202018.pdf

¹⁸ https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202019.pdf

¹⁹ https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202020.pdf

²⁰ https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/irr/docs/faculty-&-staff-reports/Staff%20Matrix%202021.pdf

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Government Association recommends the raising of student wages to \$15 across all OU campuses.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma should follow other universities across the nation with similar student populations and increase the minimum wages for student employees.

Section 4: The Student Government Association encourages the adoption of similar resolutions' from Faculty and Staff Senates.

Section 5: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:

- Joseph Harroz, University of Oklahoma President
- Dr. David Surratt, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- Dr. Andre-Dennis Wright, Senior Vice President & Provost
- Quy Nguyen, Director of Student Life & Assistant Dean of Students
- Youssef Kamel, Director of International Student Programs Coordinator
- Nima Zecavati, Interim Director of International Student Services
- Kristen Partridge, Associate Vice President & Associate Dean of Students
- Azra Fific, International Advisory Committee President
- Dr. Jaime Hough, Director of Graduate Student & Postdoc Retention and Support
- Sean Burrage, Vice President of Executive Affairs
- Christopher Firch, SGA President-Elect
- Zach Lissau, SGA President
- OU Board of Regents
- OU Staff Senate
- OU Faculty Senate
- OU Housing & Food
- Frank Henry, Director of Food Services
- Mike McKee, Director of Housing Operations
- Dorothy Anderson, Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer
- Stewart Berkinshaw, Associate Vice President & Chief Budget Officer
- The OU Daily

Author(s): Chair Annie Mullins, University Policy Committee
Representative Aiden Dodd, University College
Parliamentarian Abby Halsey-Kraus, Congressional Administration Committee

Co-Sponsor(s): Chair Lacey Lewis, Undergraduate Student Congress Chair Carolyn Berggern, Human Diversity Committee

Represenative Emeritus Eilean Hale, Socia	l Science District
Associate Caleb Robinson	
Associate Michael Marah	
Associate Isabel York	
Representative Nathanael Reese, Engineeri	ing District
Associate Nick Divirgilio	
Representative Michael Reynolds, Atmospl	heric and Geographic Science District
Representative Razann Ghazal, Social Scien	nce District
Associate Aaron Lopez	
Represenative Shrey Kathuria, University (College District
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: _____

Chair Hudson Haskins, Campus Outreach and Safety Committee

Secretary Amelia Landry, Undergraduate Student Congress Vice Chair Bailey Trautman, Undergraduate Student Congress

Chair Weslie Griffin, External Affairs Committee

Superior Court Justice Crispin South