

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXIII

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025

Dale 103

Call to Order- 7:00 pm

Opening Roll Call

SGA Mission Statement: The mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association is to support the University's advancement by prioritizing student voices at every degree level; to advocate for the holistic development of each student; and to promote civic engagement and community involvement across campus.

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.

On a motion to approve the minutes Christiansen seconded by Hallum

Approval of Minutes | April 8, 2025

Officer Reports –

- **Chair's Report:** As I hope you all know by now, tonight is my last night as Chair of the Undergraduate Student Congress. I have struggled to write this Chair's report for quite some time. I have struggled so much that I didn't even write it until today. I promise I am going to keep things as brief as I possibly can, and I am going to do my best not to be corny, but really no promises. I started out my undergraduate career interviewing to be an Associate within Congress. The people I interviewed with happen to be the two people I am standing up here with today. Within our interview, I remember thinking, "Wow, these two have way better answers than me, and thank God I didn't get asked about Robert's Rules." After the first meeting, I found myself walking back with Aaron and Chloe, and all three of us came to the conclusion that Congress is a cult. We all hated our first meeting and actively complained about how awful it was. For some odd reason, I always felt this tugging to come back. Slowly, I decided to just keep doing more. I decided to run as a Representative in a now removed district because I was urged by Amelia Landry and I have much of my success due to her. I became the Vice-Chair to one of the best Committee Chairs Congress has ever had, Hudson Haskins. And eventually, I was encouraged by Abby Halsey-Kraus herself to become the Human Diversity Committee Chair, which directly led to me winning my Chair Election. This year for Congress has been the biggest I've ever seen Congress, the happiest I've ever seen Congress, and the most engaged I've ever seen Congress. This success is

largely because I have the best Vice-Chair and Secretary a girl could possibly ask for. The Committee Chairs are by far the best I have seen in my time in Congress, and most of all because of the dedicated members who make up this body and show up for other students every single day. This year has been a particularly stressful year to be Congress Chair. I have chaired the removal of a Vice-Chair and I have become the only Chair in all of OU's history to chair an impeachment trial. Even though there have been times this semester where I have put in 40-hour weeks to be chair, when I've had meetings non-stop, when my hair has fallen out, and I have lost countless hours of sleep, I would not trade my experience for the world. Thank you to George for always giving me advice and always keeping his door open; it means the world to me. I am so thankful for the friendships, the connections, and the changes I have made through student government. Even though I will soon no longer be chair, I am still Hope, so if any of you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out. First we will have senior speeches. Seniors will be allotted 5-minutes to give their speeches. I will recognize all seniors individually. Then we will have the presentation of the Rod Jahromi Award which goes to an outstanding senior. Then we will have a special statement from Chloe which I too have no idea what is. Finally we will have elections. Tonight each nominator will get 2 minutes to give a nomination speech. Following the nomination speech, you, as the candidate, will get 5 minutes to speak. Speeches will go in order of the nominations. After all candidates have spoken, questions may be directed to all candidates for ten (10) minutes. Candidates shall be limited to two (2) minutes per answer. Time for questions can only be extended twice, and after they have been extended twice, they can only be extended to the end of the list, unless there is a suspension of the rules.

- **Vice Chair's Report:** So on a different note that is not as long please make sure that if you have not done your CSP if you are having problems with the CSP form also if you haven't picked up your Congress sweatshirt it looks pretty awesome I am excited to
- **Secretary's Report:** Hi everyone, I will talk a bit more about Congress in my senior speech, but I just want to say thank you all for electing me to this position last Spring. This position has been such an amazing experience, and this role will always hold a place in my heart.

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** COSCO did not meet this past Sunday since it was Easter and we have already wrapped up our projects, with the sole exception of our Puppies with SGA event coming up on Thursday, April 24th from 11AM-2PM in the South Oval. I hope to see all of you there for at least a little bit to come and de-stress as we start heading into finals. This is my final Chair's report, and I just wanted to say that it was a great honor serving as the COSCO Chair this semester; I will certainly miss coming up here and giving these reports, among many other things about Congress.
- **Congressional Administration:** ConAd met officially for the last time this session, and we gave CB-113-34, 35, and 36 a Rec of No Rec. I also want to give a shout-out to everyone in ConAd, especially the secretary, for being the best we have ever had. All of you have been amazing, and I cannot wait to see what the next session looks like.
- **External Affairs:** EA did not meet this Sunday, but we did meet just before this to discuss our final project and event of the year! Our Minimum Wage Forum that we are cohosting with Econ Club is THIS FRIDAY, from 3pm-5pm in Dale Hall 200. We will have panelists Representative Jared Deck, Economist Amber England and Price professor Dr. Samantha Johnson sharing their expertise with the student body. I would love to see a bunch of Congress members there and it is a great way to get a last-minute CSP for this month. We will also have an open Q&A session for the last 30 minutes so please feel free to come to ask your burning questions related to Oklahoma Minimum wage or student wages as well! Thank

you all so much for giving me the pleasure of serving as EA Chair this year and I hope everyone has a great finals and summer!

- **Human Diversity:** HD did not meet on Sunday because of Easter so I have been writing my senior speech you guys will hear it.
- **Sustainability:** Hello everyone this is also my last chair's report. SUSTY did not meet officially this past weekend same reason as other committees. Last Thursday we did an emergency confetti pick up by the Biz and it was somewhat productive but confetti is really out of hand so we only got the front done in an hour. However, we hope to have more confetti pickups soon. This morning we tabled at Green Week's Earth Day Fair from 10-2:30 as the Sustainability committee and we are doing another collaboration over Green Week on Saturday at the Duck Pond. There will be a trash walk, so that's all I have thank you.
- **University Policy:** Hi everyone Upol like everyone else or mostly everybody else sorry ConAd did not meet officially this weekend we did not meet at all because of Easter weekend. Most of our projects are wrapped up for the most part there are one or two members who I think are still working on something so for the most part they are doing that on their own accord so that wont wrap up till the summer, but everything else for the most part has found a stopping point. I just want to take this as a brief opportunity to thank my committee and the rest of you for the work that you have done this semester. I am really proud of all of you. Although a lot of our work sometimes has been disheartening with some of the responses that we get. I really appreciate all the pushing through when we get responses like that so thank you!
- **Ways and Means:** Hey everyone! I'm happy to be giving you the last Ways and Means Committee report of the semester! Yesterday we met and discussed the all-encompassing video that we've been working on and got some more feedback on the outside funding sources document! Thank you to WAM for being such a great committee this weekend you have all been awesome. Thank y'all!

Liaison Reports

- **Cunningham-** I attended an OU environmental science student association meeting before this actually and spoke to them to see what they had to say. They are actually working on a number of projects right now. They recently got done with a bunch of trash pick-ups and stuff so we are definitely going to be working with them as the sustainability committee.

Special Orders

- **Senior Speeches**
 - **Kathuria:** To the folks of the congress I am Shrey Kathuria I am your unofficial pro tempore. In case you are wondering guys I am the most senior member of this body. I actually joined this body my freshman year and golly it has been an adventure. I have gone through 4 different Congress Chairs I have gone through a lot of change you know and I have gotten to work with so many different people, many different committee chairs and all that. But lets start with a story here so I was just this freshman and I was just walking around and you know stuff happens you know I had bid with a fraternity house which I soon get dropped from like 2 hours later and that's something and I was like what the heck am I going to do. My mind is scrambling I don't know what's happening and I'm like lets not run away from them, lets not run away from the student body. Lets run toward them and lets help serve the people and do the will of the people which is why I decided to join the Congress and then let me make sure that I make this very clear. I have become an associate, I

had probably one of the most adventurous elections. I somehow find a way to go out there and WIN an election. And we got out there with welcoming community, igniting change, and notifying you and my question is did we win for the OU student body? Oh yeah we definitely have and you know I have run for everything. I ran for Congress Chair twice and you know I ran for the Student Body Presidency and picked Aniketh who was an outsider to many at first but I saw a lot of potential in him. With Aniketh we hoped to grow we hoped to see beyond the purpose and think of new ideas that go beyond just the ordinary and you know I didn't win in any of those elections. I think the closest I came was in the student body presidential election, but you know there was a choice. Do I have my SGA career end or do I choose to fight for the people? I chose to fight for the people and we have built a lot. 15 pieces of legislation, I have had the best colleagues in student government and I am going to go ahead and say this thank you to all the people who served on all of my campaign staffs. You all mean the world to me. Aniketh you are absolutely a rock star and then last semester was a hard situation for me as one of my roommates passed away and I personally had to take a month off from Congress to heal and get myself to recover and everybody in this Congress was so supportive, everyone was cheering me on and as soon as I came back I felt happier than ever before because I knew I had people who had my back and then thankfully we were able to get three more pieces of legislation completed after I had come back like the Universal TopHat Act, and obviously the George McLaurin Day bill, the Accommodated testing Accessibility for All Act. So you know but here is the thing this is not just about getting something on your resume. You have the chance to make a difference. You have the chance to be what you want to see in this world. You have the opportunity and fight for what you believe in. There is no script that you need to follow, follow what's in your heart because right here if you listen to your heart you can make a difference that you know your friends will be proud of and you know everyday OU students will be proud of. And I can tell you this for all of you who will be in the Congress next year I want you to keep pressing the gas pedal, don't give up, if you get beat one day you get beat, move on. You know just keep pushing and there are people in this Congress who love you and care about you and by the way I want to say thank you to the Vice Chair Rin Ferraro for writing that resolution and I can probably, it made me emotional last Tuesday when everybody in this group co-sponsored the resolution on me. That to me signifies something more. You guys are not just colleagues, you guys are family. You guys are family friends for me for the rest of my life. It is going to be amazing you know getting to hear from all of you and getting to see all the amazing things that you are doing and lastly I am going to say this to my family and my dog Levi I appreciate you for supporting me and lastly be the change you want to see, let's press the gas pedal, let's keep winning for OU students. Thank you so much to all my constituents!

- **Secretary Harris:** Wow I can honestly say that I never would have expected to be on this stage 3 years ago when I first joined Congress, and I never could have imagined the impact that it would have on my life. This organization and the people here have left a mark on my heart that will not soon be forgotten. I won't be the first or even the last to say this, but SGA is truly what you make of it and if you pour your heart and soul into it, you will not regret it. I remember when I first joined Congress I was intimidated, the language that was used was so formal and weird that I felt out of place, so much so that after that first meeting Aaron and I walked around

the South Oval and told anyone we passed that it was a cult. I did not think I would be in Congress long, but then I joined SUSTY and although it was only Aaron, me and Rylee ever consistently at the meetings we kept showing up. And I am so glad we did because it pushed us to get more involved. If there is one piece of advice I would give to you all, it is to reach out to others in the body because if you do you will find a community of people that will be your biggest supporters and best friends. Now on to the people that I have to thank for making this place so special to me. First thank you to Shrey, you made me realize that its ok to have passion for SGA and speak up for what you believe in no matter if anyone agrees with you or not. You truly are the heart of this organization. Jacob, although I didn't really get a chance to know you until this past year, thank you for running against me for secretary, you pushed me to work harder, and I do not think this role would have been what it has been without you. Syed, thank you for making me laugh in the Conoco with your hot takes and sometimes red flag statements. I truly regret not getting to know you well until this semester, but it has been a pleasure to get to work with you and see the work you have poured into COSCO. Caleb, thank you for showing me that its ok to care about Congress and be involved. Your dedication to this organization is unmatched and I cannot thank you enough for how much you were there for me last year and how great of a friend you were. I don't know if I would have pushed myself to go for Congress Secretary without your support. To my sons, Owen and Michael, thank you for making this role so worthwhile and allowing me to be a part of your lives. It has been so rewarding seeing you both grow within Congress and become such dedicated members. I am so excited to see that work that you both do will continue to do. Kyle Martin thank you for bringing a new life to ConAd and building a community within the committee. Also thank you for ranting with me in my office and letting me pick on you. I consider you one of my best friends and am going to miss getting dinner with you before the general body meetings even though you would sometimes make me wait until 6 pm to eat. Kyle Oler, thank you for being the calming presence in my life, without you I think I would have crashed out a long time ago. Your passion for the environment is so inspiring and honestly you are one of the people I look up to most. I am going to miss our long talks where we talk about the future, and where I pressure you to live with me. I love you and I know you are going to do amazing things. Hope, thank you being someone I can depend on and trust. I can honestly say that I am so thankful that I got the opportunity to work with you this year. Finally, Aaron, you are my ride or die and my partner in crime. You are the reason that I am in Congress and have been my biggest supporter throughout my time here. If it was not for you and your amazing nominator speech, I would not be in this position right now. I still remember meeting you in the sensory room during Camp Crimson when you made a noise on the bean bag chair you were sitting in and said I did not fart that was the chair I promise. Little did I know that I would meet you again in the bottom of Couch where we then talked for hours. We applied to Congress together, did our interview together, joined Susty together, and now who would have thought we would be serving on Congress Big 3 together. I am so incredibly proud of you. You are the hardest worker I know, and I am going to miss sharing an office with you so much. You have been there through everything with me in Congress and I cannot thank you enough for your constant support. I love you and I am going to miss you

so so very much, but you are not allowed to get rid of me that easily because I do have your location.

- **Aslam:** Congress, right now, is quite different from how it was when I first joined. I joined Congress during the Fall 2022 semester, the first semester of my freshman year. That was when Lacey Lewis, Bailey Trautman, and Amelia Landry were Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively. That was when we used to meet in Gaylord 2020, a room that is about $\frac{1}{6}$ the size of this one. If we were to meet in that room today, many of you would have to stand; there simply would not be enough room to accommodate us all. Back then, however, that room was able to house all of us with no problems whatsoever. Congress today is bigger than before. It's also a lot better. We actually take initiative and remove individuals who are not doing what is expected of them. We have calls for debate, we have people voting no on certain bills, we have votes of no-confidence. It seems normal now, but it wasn't always like this. During my freshman year, we had very few calls for debate, very few no votes, and nothing even close to a vote of no-confidence or a presidential impeachment. This was a really unprecedented semester, and I encourage all of you to keep doing unprecedented things. If I had to give one piece of advice to you all, it is to stand your ground. Do not let articles by the OU Daily, gasps from other people, or dirty looks from your fellow Congress members ever stop you from voting for what you believe in. I've been through it before, twice actually, when I was the only person to vote against CR-111-03, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matters Act, as well as when I was the only person to vote against CR-113-05, the Women's History Month of 2025 Act. I got lots of interesting looks from my fellow Congress members during the roll call vote for both bills. My name and the way I voted made it to the OU Daily both times. It wasn't all that bad. I would do it again. Abandoning what you stand up for is far, far worse. It creates a Congress that is lame, one that doesn't really stand for anything. As I graduate, I want all of you to keep Congress exciting. Do not purposely create drama, but do not abandon what you believe in simply to maintain conformity. As I leave this body, I just want to say thank you to everyone who has helped keep Congress alive. The OU College of Medicine, where I will be attending next semester, technically has a Student Government Association, but it is a shell of what we see here. Congress was the first club I joined here at OU, and it is the last club that I will be leaving. Working my way up from an Associate, to University College Representative, to Physical Sciences Rep, to Arts and Sciences Rep, to COSCO Vice Chair, to COSCO Chair was quite the journey. It was truly an honor to serve as COSCO Chair this semester, and I hope that I will get similar opportunities in the future. Once again, I thank all of you for being here and making Congress great, and I also thank ChatGPT for helping me write this speech.
- **Duncan:** Congress has been a part of my life since my very first semester of college, and I can honestly say it has played a huge role in shaping the person I am today. It was the very first organization I joined—I still remember walking into that first meeting, completely unsure of what to expect and honestly, a little terrified. Looking back now, I'm so grateful I took that leap. The experiences I've had and the people I've met have made it all so worthwhile. It's wild how fast time has flown. It feels surreal to think that when I return in the fall, I'll have my Tuesday nights free. I honestly don't know what I'll do with myself. I want to thank Hope, Aaron, and Chloe for putting in the extra hours to make Congress run as smoothly as it does. To

my WAM committee—seeing how much we’ve grown over the past year has been incredible. We started as just six, and now we’re a team of nearly 18. I can’t wait to see how the committee continues to thrive. WAM—or as I like to call it, the WAMily—is filled with people I’ll never forget. Some of my favorite memories come from working on Primary. Yes, the weekend is long and exhausting, but I wouldn’t want to go through it with anyone else. I met both Mecca and Jacob on my dorm floor during the first few weeks of school. I never imagined we’d become this close, but I’m so glad we did. Jacob, you’ve been the best WAM chair I could’ve asked for. I can’t picture anyone else I’d rather stay up late with, crunching numbers and updating spreadsheets. You’re such a kind, driven, and genuine person, and I’m proud to call you my friend. Even though I’ll still be in Norman, it’s strange to think I won’t be sitting next to you in Congress anymore. I love you so much, and I’m so thankful for everything we’ve shared. I’ll probably still be at the Conoco all the time—hanging out, playing Just Dance, and being around the people who made Congress feel like home. Pierce, even though you aren’t here right now, I have to say: your chaotic energy has somehow grown on me, and I know I’m going to miss it more than I expected. To Izza and Pierce—working on the Big Event with you and hiding out in the car to stay warm, will always be one of my favorite memories. Congress wasn’t just an organization. It became a part of my college story, my growth, and my heart. Thank you all for being a part of it.

- **Oler:** Before I joined congress a little over a year ago, I thought that SGA didn't actually do anything and that it was full of people who just wanted to hear themselves speak. Now that I've had the opportunity to be a representative, and to meet and work with all of you - especially those of you who I've had the pleasure of serving on the sustainability committee with - I can confidently say that I was mostly wrong. In all seriousness though, I'm really really glad that I gave SGA a chance. I remember approaching my senior year of college and struggling with that gut feeling of not having done enough in college. Despite being involved in several campus orgs, I was caught in the loop of classes, job, homework, repeat, and I felt disconnected from OU and campus in general. Joining congress brought the connection that I was looking for. Not to glaze, but i was immediately inspired by the extremely driven, capable, and invested people that I found here. You might not feel like you're doing much, but I promise you that your involvement here is meaningful. It's organizations like SGA that make this university what it is. A place to connect with others, to find friends, to challenge and strengthen your mind and your views, and to create a second home. Even though the market is shit, I don't have a job lined up, and these next few months are surely to be the most stressful of my life, I find myself completely content as I transition out of college life. I'm content because of the people I've surrounded myself with here, in SGA and elsewhere, who have made sure that OU will have a lasting impact on my life. Thank you all for being involved in your university and for being involved in SGA. I hope you all have a productive finals season and a great summer. Follow me on LinkedIn. Thank you.
- **Koneru:** This is going to be a last one but sad one :(If you don’t know who I am, my name is Aniketh Koneru and I am the Human Diversity Committee Chair. We’ve been through so much this semester and I couldn’t be more happy to have done with you all. Now I was wondering how I should do my senior speech and I thought the best way to do it without crying was by telling my journey with SGA. So let’s

begin. I first heard of SGA when a good friend of mine, you may know him, Shrey Kathuria, asked me to be his running mate for the Student Body President and Vice President election. I thought he was crazy at first but then something in me compelled myself to do it for the students, for my community, and to represent something bigger. You see, growing up in Oklahoma I never saw Indian or South Asian people run for leadership positions so I thought it wasn't something I could achieve. Going into it, win or lose, I wanted to show other students that you don't have to act a certain way or come from a certain background to do this type of stuff. Shrey, you've been an amazing friend and leader to OU. Your outspokenness and compassion parallels none to the student body. I'm so glad to have met you and will truly miss you once we're gone, and most importantly...no more Shartys. During our campaign we met so many amazing student organizations and leaders, one of which included Hope Rhoads. This was back in her red head era. Hope, you're one of the most kindest people I've met and idk where Congress would be without you. You've made strides in Congress, I've never seen Congress be so happy and welcoming to people, please continue being yourself, the world needs it. I also met a stranger named George back in Fall 2023 who advised me to join SGA, so I pondered about it... best decision of my life. I'm proud to stand in a room full of people who are so passionate about the work you do for OU. Thank you all.

- **Rod Jahromi Award Presentation**

- **Vice Chair Gilson-Bond-** It's always a special moment when we get to honor someone whose quiet consistency and impactful leadership have shaped the very spirit of our Student Government Association. The ROD JAHROMI Award recognizes outstanding dedication to advancing the mission of SGA—something that tonight's honoree has embodied every single day they've served. Now, I want to take a moment to walk you through the kind of leader we're celebrating. This individual has been a part of Congress for at least three academic years. That's three years of showing up, speaking up, and lifting others up. In that time, they haven't just left a mark—they've left a legacy of empowerment. They've guided others with kindness, encouraged ideas to grow, and made sure their committee wasn't just functional—it was thriving. Those who've worked with this person will tell you: they don't lead for recognition. They lead so others feel recognized. So others feel capable. So others feel like they belong. They currently serve as the Vice Chair of their committee. If you've ever seen them in action, you know they're thoughtful, driven, and an absolute force when it comes to making things better—not just louder. And SHE'S not done yet. While graduating this semester, this individual is continuing her journey right here at OU by pursuing a master's degree—still bringing that same heart and commitment to our community. It is my absolute honor to present the ROD JAHROMI Award for Outstanding Dedication to Advancing the Mission of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association to someone who truly exemplifies what it means to serve—**Elizabeth Duncan**.

- **Statement from Secretary Harris**

- **Vice Chair Gilson-Bond-** Let me take you back for a moment—a quick flash of history from the fall of 2022, back when everything still felt like it was filmed in black and white. Chloe and I were just two hopefuls interviewing to become associates. We made our way to the Conoco to the conference room—now just George's office. On the way, there was this girl walking ahead of us. We didn't know

her yet, but when we finally got the chance to talk to her, she lit up the room. She was bright, confident, and somehow managed to answer every question like she had been doing this forever. That girl was Hope. And from that moment on, she's been an absolute rockstar. Watching Hope grow has been one of the greatest joys of my life. It's surreal looking back at that meeting; me, Chloe, and Hope sitting nervously across from the "Big Three", and now, here we are. We became what we once looked up to. I could stand up here all-day listing everything Hope's done, but we'd be here till next Tuesday. She's helpful to a fault, always jumping in even when she technically shouldn't have to. She never wants to inconvenience anyone—especially not the people whose **LITERAL JOB** it is to be inconvenienced. That's dedication on expert mode. But here's the thing; Hope isn't just a phenomenal leader. She's also an incredible friend: the kind who hypes you up, has your back, and will absolutely pretend to be just as confused as you are, even when she already knows the answer. We love you, Hope. You make all of us better.

- **Secretary Harris-** God where do I begin, Hope I said it earlier, but I am beyond grateful that I got the opportunity to work with you this past year. You have constantly impressed me with your professionalism in the face of strife and adversity. In times that I would have lost my patience you kept your composure and always responded kindly and respectfully. I have never seen someone take on the role of Chair with as much grace and dignity as you have and I can honestly say that the person who comes after you will have very big shoes to fill. I will never forget showing up to interviews and being scared shitless because every time a question was directed toward you, you would answer more eloquently than I could have ever conjured up. And you kept that confidence with you throughout your entire time within Congress. Not only did you win a seat in University College within our first semester, but you also stepped up into the role of Vice Chair for Cosco right away. You wrote some of the first pieces of legislation that Cosco had seen in years and made it look easy. But did you stop there? No of course not, you stepped up again and took on the role of Human Diversity Chair with having no experience within the committee and you took it from a place that was lacking productivity to a place that wrote legislation and held onto dedicated members while also serving in a very time-consuming role of CLA co-chair. While serving as Chair, you have increased member retention within the body and filled more seats than have been filled in years. You have proven everyone who has ever doubted you wrong and you have shown everyone time and time again what it means to be a strong leader. I am beyond impressed with the work and dedication that you have put into SGA. There is no one that has put in more hours into this organization than you and has done so without ever complaining and always with a smile on your face. You have inspired me and countless others within the body to be better people who work to serve our constituents better. Getting to know you better this year and become friends with you has been the absolute best, I could not think of anyone I would have rather had by my side through everything that has happened within the past year than you. You are someone that I am proud to call my friend, and I cannot wait to see the amazing things you go on to do in the future.

- **Elections**

- **Chair**
- Caleb Robinson Nomination and Speech

2:00 for nominator speech

- **Nominator Christiansen-** Good evening, everyone! I am here to nominate Caleb Robinson, an esteemed colleague of mine, for position of Congress Chair for the upcoming year. I am nominating Caleb not just because he is the best UPOL chair a student body could ask for. Not just because Caleb knows how to ask the tough questions & advocate for OU student's best interests. I am nominating him because I believe in what he stands for - building a student government that is visible, responsive, and inclusive - and believe he would be the best person to succeed our wonderful current Chair, Hope Rhoads, and ensure that the success we have seen under her tenure will continue to grow and our body will continue to thrive. In his time in Congress, Caleb has accomplished numerous things that give me full confidence that his tenure as Congress Chair will be one of success and growth. As UPOL chair, Caleb led a complete overhaul of our congressional redistricting, ensuring that all students across campus have equal and complete representation, no matter their major. This also ensured that congress maintained a well-balanced & engaging representative pool, which has already been paying dividends by increasing the engagement we have seen across our weekly meetings. He has also demonstrated a commitment to all students at our University through his & others work to provide access to differentiable and easy to find Finals Schedules on our one.ou page, a resources I and most of you will be taking advantage of in just a couple of weeks. Caleb has been a vital member of our body since joining in 2022, and his continued service to our body & our student government association as a whole will be vital in accomplishing the work ahead. His CARE platform is one I am proud to stand behind, recognizing the continual need for us to provide transparency, accessibility, and accountability to our constituents, no matter what position we hold. With pleasure, I strongly advocate for electing Caleb Robinson as Congress Chair for the upcoming year. I yield my time.

5:00 for nomination speech

- **Robinson-** Good evening everyone I want to start with something simple. Thank you. Thank you for being here, thank you for being a member of this body and thank you for still believing that student government can make a difference. My name is Caleb Robinson and I am going to be your next Congress Chair. Not for the opportunity but for the opportunity to serve because I believe in Congress because I believe in each and every one of you. Since 2018 I have carried a small part of my wallet that I promise to make a difference because I said I would. I wrote these words in a moment where I didn't know where my path would take me, but I knew exactly the type of person I wanted to be. And this card has guided me in every single decision I have made in leadership up until now. This role that I hope to undertake is not just about procedure it is about people. It is about ensuring there is space for voices that often go unheard. It is about turning frustration into policy, questions into legislation and ideas into action. And that is something that I think we can all do together. When I first joined this body I thought I had to have the perfect question, the perfect motion, and the perfect language. But in my time in leadership I found that this is not just about perfection it's

about presence. It is about listening when you don't have a solution. It is about showing up when things are difficult, and it is about trust. Not just between us and the student body but among one another. Now I am not here to promise perfection, I am here to promise transparency, consistency, and accountability. I want Congress to be a place for students to not just pass through they grow, they lead, and they leave with something tangible to show for it. I am running on a platform based on 4 core values, clarity, access, representation and engagement. Those aren't just bullet points on a platform that I sent to you. Those are my promise to you, to every single student at the University of Oklahoma. Clarity means not leading behind open doors it means keeping you guys in the know not just in legislation, but in meetings with the legislatures. In fee allocations, in committee appointments because I want you to have the space to hold me accountable and I want you to because that is how we grow as leaders. Access means opening more doors, not just when an application is due but all semester long and doing so with intention. Through mock congress, through shadowing programs and through class visits to unrepresented districts. I want to make sure that students know they can and should belong in this body. Representation means taking a look for where I am and seeing who is in the body and reflecting on who is not. Ensuring that we have space for those who are not represented. I want to analyze committee placements, survey member experiences and listen to folks who are often overlooked and spoken over. I want our body to reflect the university that we are, create diverse and complex. Engagement that is the fun part that is where we build not just policy but it is where we build community. Through legislative gaps, partnering with RSO's and inviting to co create solutions rather than just submit complaints. I think we can lead and be proactive on the issues that matter most to students and again these are not just platform points this is about service, being Chair does not mean standing above the body, although I physically am right now. Anything rooted within it, while we discover what Congress can be at its best and while I think we are close. I don't think we are there just yet, but we can continue getting closer. So together I think we can be a Congress that CARES. One that clearly communicates, one that welcomes broadly, represents honestly, and engages both. So tonight, if you believe in that vision if you see the path that I have just laid out before you. If you believe in a Congress that leads with heart, with action with clarity, than I would be honored to have your support. Not just for the title but for the opportunity to serve the body that has given so much to me over these last 3 years.

- Jacob Schonfield

2:00 for nominator speech

- **Nominator Duncan-** Good evening everyone, I am honored to stand before you today to nominate Jacob, who has truly transformed the WAM Committee this past year. Under Jacob's leadership as Chair, the WAM Committee has seen significant improvements in both efficiency and engagement. What was once a tedious and time-consuming process for reviewing budgetary requests has become streamlined and transparent. Jacob

took the initiative to develop a comprehensive master Excel sheet that tracks every organization's fiscal history. This wasn't a simple task — it took days of meticulous work and unwavering dedication. But he did it selflessly, all to make the committee's job easier and more effective during both of the funding cycles. Jacob's commitment goes far beyond spreadsheets. He is someone you'll often find late at night in the Conoco, tirelessly working, not for recognition, but because he genuinely cares about making our student government better. As WAM Chair, he has gone above and beyond in engaging with the student body, regularly meeting with students and organizations to listen, to support, and to act. Thanks to Jacob's leadership, WAM has evolved. We've moved from just approving funding to actively educating and empowering student organizations. This year alone, we hosted workshops, produced educational videos to demystify the funding process, and even passed three bills improving the code annotated. These accomplishments didn't happen by chance — they happened because Jacob empowered our team to think bigger and do more. He encourages creativity and initiative. Under his leadership, committee members have started passion projects, and our overall engagement has increased dramatically compared to previous years. Serving as Vice Chair alongside Jacob has been a genuine joy. He brings out the best in everyone he works with, and his vision, dedication, and work ethic inspire all of us to aim higher. I have no doubt that Jacob is the right person to be the next Chair of Congress. He has already proven himself an exceptional leader, and I know he will continue to serve with integrity, passion, and a relentless drive to improve our student government. Thank you.

5:00 for nomination speech

- **Schonfield-** Hey guys most of you know me but for those of you who are new to the body, my name is Jacob Schonfield and I am running to be the next chair of Congress. So I am just going to walk you through my platform. First is future this point is about building on the progress to be made in improvement and retention as well as keeping and improving on the positive environment being created in Congress and ensuring that our body continues to increase in size. The first thing that I want to focus on when it comes to future is getting our executive committee to engage more in tabling and information sessions more so that we have more engagement and more awareness with student body. I am sure that most of you have friends that have no idea what SGA was until the Impeachment came up and I think we should take this opportunity to engage with the student body to raise our awareness and let them know who we are what we do, and what they can do to engage with SGA as well. In the same vein, y'all are the future of Congress and the best way to keep each of you in Congress is by boosting morale and keeping friendships and making friendships that make you want to come to Congress. As your Chair I will encourage these relationships by hosting socials and educational events for the whole of Congress to have the opportunity to connect across committees. I don't know about you guys, but I know it is a lot easier to come to these meetings if I know I am going to have friendly faces to come interact with. My next point organization. As you

Chair, I will create a one stop shop for all of our resources that you need as Congress members. This link will bring you to the links that we already have like bill formats and other resources that I will implement like bill writing night and a parliamentary procedure writing guide. I also want to create a Congress calendar or an SGA calendar because I want to interact with GSS and the Executive Branch to make sure that every event you could possibly imagine is right there accessible both to you and the student body. As your chair I will also make sure that all the resources are easily accessible to empower each member to succeed and grow. Then collaboration, collaboration is about fostering an environment about teamwork and inclusivity. Every voice matters and as your Chair I will ensure that all members regardless of experience are encouraged to contribute to discussions and decision making especially when it comes to bills and other initiatives. I will implement an anonymous feedback form and will always be the last to leave congress every night. I want to make sure that even if you cant come to my office hours you have access to me and my time personally every single Tuesday night. As we have seen this year it is also important that leadership has ample opportunities to have their performance reviewed. So I would implement a mid-semester review for Congress exec meaning that we would have peer reviews essentially just giving everyone an automatic opportunity to grow and learn in their position rather than letting it get to the very end whenever they didn't do their job and we have to remove them from their position. Next step understanding. It is important that all members have a thorough understanding of parliamentary procedure, bill writing, and how our branch interacts with others. By reviving Code Club, the workshop provided by the ConAd Chair to teach parliamentary procedure and the code Annotated ins and outs. This would mean that every single member of the body would have access to information that I have, that our vice chair, or secretary and all of exec. I want to make sure that all of you have the same tools that I do to make sure that you're successful. I also want to focus on working with committee chairs to make sure that they are subject matter experts on everything to do with Congress. I love our committee chairs and I have to agree that I think this is the best set of committee chairs that we have ever had, but I think it is really important to make sure that they know everything about Congress and not just everything about their committee. And finally Streamlining. I plan on adopting a new system for recognizing questions and generally chairing as efficiently as possible. The new system of question recognition would essentially make it to where you would be able to raise your hand, have your name placed on a questions list and be recognized in the order that I see your hand. This would just make things run a little smoother and you wouldn't have to worry about getting your hand up first whenever it is time for the next question. I would also institute a voice/hand votes for votes and motions that just generally would the body move faster so we could hopefully get out of here before 12 o clock tonight. Finally I will do everything that I can to ensure that our body continues to grow that every member of Congress is given a voice. That you are each given the tools that you need to succeed over the coming year and that we ensure that each and every one of you is able to go home as early as

possible. I am dedicated to receiving and implementing as much input from you as possible and I hope to earn your vote thank you.

10:00 remaining for questions

- **Kathuria**- What does it mean in your view to win for Congress and to win for the everyday OU students?

- **Schonfield**- I would say that as far as what define winning for Congress and the student body. I would say that the best way that we can win for the student body is by interacting with them as much as possible. That is a big part of what I was discussing in regard to tabling. I want to make sure that we have every opportunity, especially for exec to communicate with the student body, but generally for us to interact with everyone as much as possible, get feedback from our students and overall know exactly what they are passionate about and what they would like to see so that we know what we need to be doing. Additionally I don't know about you guys but I like meetings and everything really to run as smooth as possible. So I just want to do everything that I can to make sure that every process in Congress meetings, every process in committee meetings and everything is between for Congress runs as efficiently and as smooth as possible so that is what I would define as winning.
- **Robinson**- I think winning for the student body is about listening it is about being intentional it is about actually meeting with them. Like he mentioned I think we have some different approaches to this. I think for the most part we do need to focus on tabling intentionally and tabling regularly. I mentioned this just recently in my speech but going out there whenever applications aren't due, not going out there just election cycles because when we are out there during election cycles they see that we are there and we are asking them to do something for us. We are not sitting there asking them what their problems are and showing what we have done. So what I would like to do is meet with every committee chair, compile a list of projects, compile a list of legislation and give that list so that we can show that list while we are tabling and doing this at least once a month. One this provides a great CSP opportunity for all of you and number two that gets out there pretty regularly and of course a lot of these approaches are kind of double pronged so while we are out there, they see that we are being intentional, they know about us they are seeing that we are actually doing things. We don't have the questions of what does SGA do because we are out there actually advocating for what we do regularly. And so when people are interested this will also boost our recruitment and then at the same time, I would also look at doing bimonthly town halls this would be two per semester. I had a sheet that I would like to send to you all after these questions. This has some of the themes some of the dates and this would give us an opportunity to bring in people from the executive branch, to bring in administration, certain faculty all of these would be themed like in November for example would be about mental health because I think helping provide these resources while also giving them an opportunity to voice some of their issues and ask us some questions. It's a great double effect and then for winning for Congress. One of the biggest things that I wanted to do, hitting on efficiency as well is implement an electronic voting system with the option at the very end of would anyone like to change their vote, just in case the second issues. If you a nerd like me, if you've looked at some of our peer SEC schools, most of them do have electronic voting systems, faculty senate has

electronic voting systems, so I think this would speed up the process especially as our body continues to grow as it has over the past two years.

- **Koneru-** What do you think is the biggest problem that Congress is facing right now? To clarify if there is multiple what would be your priority to address?
 - **Robinson-** I think one of the biggest issues we have faced right now is this crisis among the student body of what does student congress do. So in the wake of the impeachment, in the wake of the no confidence vote, a lot of the members of the student body, a lot of the students just kind of had the name SGA or had the name Congress or had President thrown at them from the OU Daily or through certain social media apps but there was not much discussion over what we actually did. Most people said they didn't know where to find our minutes, how to find bills, how to see agendas, who their representatives were, so I have heard a lot of talk in the office about some people who here recently had an uptick in people ask who is my representative, how do I contact them. So I think that really is one of the biggest issues. It is not transparency, it is accessibility. I think we as a body are already pretty transparent. The issue that we run into is I don't think we are very clear and I don't think that a lot of our things are openly accessible. I mean most students don't really know where to look. We have them on the SGA website, we have them on Engage, but people aren't really familiar with those, how to navigate those, or even knowing that they exist. So I think advertising those and putting more work into both focusing on recruitment and at the same time this is where you can find our resources. I think that is a very important thing for us to focus on right now.
 - **Schonfield-** I kind of have to second as what he sees as the most important issue facing us as Congress and SGA generally. It is definitely a problem whenever what everyone associates what we are doing is this one big glaring thing called an impeachment. I think what we can do to combat that is on some level is really I have to agree with Caleb on most of it. It is really a big problem, not regarding transparency. You can find our agendas and minutes online it is really not that difficult to type in OU SGA. It is really a matter of making sure that they know who we are and what we are doing. And like I said in my speech earlier, I think tabling and info sessions are a big part of that. I think that is very important. Part of what I do to address that and make sure that we are out there and everyone knows who we are and what we are doing is by requiring every member of the executive committee including committee chairs and big 3 to have a higher threshold, a higher level of requirement regarding tabling and otherwise as much as tabling you know providing tabling opportunities for people is really useful. We have done tabling before in Congress and just not gotten a lot of engagement with members regardless of whether or not they needed a CSP. So my solution to that is you know still offering it to the general body to go out and table to make sure that people know who we are what we are doing and what we can do for them, but also making sure that we do have people that are both knowledgeable, confident, and willing to show up at those tables and are making sure that they are interacting with the student body.
- **Cunningham-** As members of Congress a lot of us are involved in other RSOs and organizations I am wondering what are your involvements on campus? How would you rank them including Congress?
 - **Schonfield-** I am only in the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature and Congress. These are the only two things that I am a part of on campus. I would absolutely have

to rank Congress higher on my list of priorities. I was just recently elected the Governor of the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature meaning that I am in charge of the entire statewide competition, but I would like to point out with that, that it is not a paid position, and it also is not one that takes a lot of time. All I have to do in that position in that role is to essentially book hotel dates and session dates and then I go to session for 5 days which doesn't even overlap with Tuesdays. So super easy hands-off position that I managed to win, managed, and honestly, I would absolutely say that it ranks lower. I have gotten a lot of good experience with OIL, and I really love it but absolutely Congress is more important to me. We have a real impact here; we actually do things and I am getting paid to be the WAM Chair and hopefully would be getting paid to be your Congress Chair.

- **Robinson-** I don't have a ton of engagements anymore. Freshman year I came in I was gung-ho I came from big pasture that was my high school there were 12 people in my graduating class we did not have a ton to do. So when I got here and saw that there were actual options and I felt like I had to do everything, that just is not effective it means that you are just trying to put a little bit into everything, and I think it is just more effective for me personally to put everything into one specific organization. So right now, my primary focus outside of Congress because we are familiar on Engage, I am a member. This is the only RSO that I am truly engaged with, outside of my academics and my work, I do work with the registrar. This is something that should I be elected I would of course leave that position because this is something that I would like to continue putting my all into so this is my primary engagement and to rank them Congress and then work of course, but that is not something I would be involved in, but going back to what we saw in the previous Vice Chair elections of course my academics do come first. I am interested in going to graduate school, so I want to continue maintaining my grades, putting in that work, so of course my academics do come first but other than that I am not involved in any other RSOs.

On a motion to extend time for questions by 30 minutes Vedra seconded by Hallum

- **Bento-** I know while both of you will strive to hit every single point in your platform, if you could only get one thing done on your platform, what would that be?
 - **Robinson-** One thing. Okay so, I think I really want to break it down to the bi-monthly town halls. So, this is something that we often see people campaign on, but it's not something that is often executed because there's a lot of time requirements in this position. And that's why this is something that I'm looking at, one, just doing bimonthly, this is twice a semester, because this allows me how to encompass a lot of parts of my platform. So, I have the you said we did tracker, which is focused on ensuring students are aware of where their student concerns are at in the process, what committee it is being referred to for the sake of transparency same thing with the bill dock, the bi-monthly town halls allow me to just say that to people. That allows me to still get the information out there while using this as an opportunity to promote certain services from the ADRC, from the University Council Center. So I think this is going to be that would be my go to is the bi-monthly town hall because I think it's something especially in the way like we've mentioned the impeachment so many people are aware of what student government is. I think having this opportunity to engage with this us one on one to engage with professionals, to engage with administrators and faculty is something that would really benefit the

student body a lot. So using this as an opportunity to kind of push the rest of parts of my platform without directly implementing them, I think that would be my go to.

- **Schonfield**- If I had to choose one to focus on and I guess make sure that I accomplish if I am not going to do that rest. I would have to say that future point specifically tabling, information session, and generally focusing on recruitment and retention and generally creating a positive environment in Congress. I think one of the most important things that we can do is like Caleb said creating more awareness and interaction with the student body and that is a big thing that I want to do with tabling and information sessions that I have drafted there. Actually having a process by which to get those tables to have good members behind the table, getting that interaction face to face with the student body, getting opportunities not just to do improvement but to do you know ask questions about what we can do for them and show them what we have done. I think that is probably the most important part of my platform because it is about the future and what the future of Congress is going to look like and although I do plan on accomplishing every single one of my points that one has the most long term effect and that's why I think that would be the one I chose over the rest of them.
- **Donald**- If you had to rank committees in terms of which ones is most important how would you?
 - **Schonfield**- I am going to be a coward and say that I am going to refuse to rank them. Every single committee in Congress brings something extremely important to the table and we could not be a successful Congress without a single committee.
 - **Robinson**- Yeah so I am going to go and follow his coat tails on that one. I saw the vice chair election I am not falling into that trap. Like he said there is a lot that each committee does, you know HD you guys specifically in the wake of general global political scale right now. There is a lot going on right now. SUSTY following the same kind of root of accord there is a lot going on with the EPA. There is a lot that you all have to take on now. Every single one of you serve in extremely important and distinct purposes because all of these are completely different spectrums. To compare what Upol does, what ConAd does, what COSCO does, they are completely different things, completely different projects, different areas so I think they are all the best in their area absolutely. But I think its kind of hard to compare them on the exact same spectrum.
- **Keupen**- What are your plans to hold yourself accountable to those promises?
 - **Robinson**- One thing that I would like to do, and of course, I said I got this. I will send this as soon as we're done with questions. I have about a four-page sheet that outlines dates that I'd like to have things implemented, I have the descriptions for all of these, and then for two trackers to bill tracker, the bill docket, and you said we did tracker, I have examples of Google sheets of what those would look like, how those would be implemented. Those are ready to go. For the most part without any major refinements over the summer, I check dates for those which I think August 25th, which is our first day of classes. Those two things are pretty straightforward things that we put out there. so giving you access to those is one way that you guys can look at this and say, you said you would do this, and these are the specific details. Why didn't you do this? Why didn't you act on this? And giving you dates also allows you to hold me accountable on bit more of the chronological scale, and then at the same time implementing and I think this is in my platform, bringing back general

discussion, this is something that used to be on the agenda. I think bringing that back as an opportunity for you guys to hold me accountable in front of the body, on the record in front of OU. This isn't something that I'm talking about where we all sit around and discuss our projects, you are all more than welcome to do that, but this is something that I want to provide to you guys as an opportunity to publicly hold me accountable, because you can take me to a corner and you can ask me hey, how do you planning on doing this? And not, of course, not saying I would, but the opportunity is there for someone to say, I never said that. So, if you have this in a general discussion and you say, you know, how's your platform going? I see you haven't accomplished this yet, but you have a date set for it. Why not? Is there something that's causing that to be pushed back? That just gives you opportunity to hold me accountable on the record so that I can't ever go back on that. It's right there before the entire body.

- **Schonfield-** I think as far as accountability goes with regard to my platform and everything. So the first thing that I plan on doing after the meeting concludes, should I be elected, is creating a feedback form similar to what Aaron has on his window. Essentially, I want to make it so that anyone in the body, anyone passing by in the Conoco, can scan that QR code and give me immediate feedback that goes straight to my phone and my device, et cetera, telling me what they don't or do like, generally just having the ability to have a direct line to me and like access to me, regardless of whether or not they're comfortable having that one another conversation or having that discussion generally. I think that's a really important thing. That's a resource that I implemented day one, whenever I was selected speaker for OIL, and I will admit I didn't get a lot of engagement with it, but it is still a very important resource, and I think I can see a lot more from this body seeing as we're actually in session throughout the year, throughout the semester. Actually, you guys might really have feedback for me in the in every in between every week and over the summer, et cetera. Additionally, I want to implement a mid-semester review for example. So that means me, the rest of big three, as well as the committee Chairs, will have the opportunity to give feedback on both my performance, their performance, everyone in the team, an anonymous peer review process where essentially they would fill out a form saying, you know, what they like about, like what I'm doing, what they don't like about, what I'm doing, what I can do to fix whatever I'm doing. that would be a great opportunity for them to bring that up, and that would be the same would go for the vice chair and the secretary, making sure that everyone is held accountable, not just myself. And additionally, I want to make sure that I'm sticking around after every Congress meeting, like I said earlier, and I want to make sure that if someone does have a complaint about me the way I've been conducting myself or the way I haven't been conducting myself, they can address that to me immediately after the meeting or in my office hours.
- **Harris-** In your opinion what is the purpose of Congress?
 - **Schonfield-** So, I think the purpose of Congress is to represent our student body. I think there's a lot of things that we do, we have the ability to do, that the administration doesn't have the ability to do, that other RSO's don't have ability to do. We are elected representatives of the student body who are meant to be their voices. So, I think it's very important that we do everything here as intentionally as possible, and that we are providing real service to the student body. I want to make

sure that we're getting as much information from them and interacting with them as much as possible, so that we're representing them the best that we can. In that vein, I also think it's important that we make these meetings as efficient as possible and we do everything that we can without using our or anyone else's time, and that's a big part of why I want to focus on streamlining, which is my last point, just making sure that these meetings and every other part of Congress goes well. So, I think really I want to move back. It's the point of Congress is to represent the student body, represent their interests, both to the administration and abroad. So that's what I would say Congress represents.

- **Robinson-** Yeah, so I completely agree with that statement. I think I put this in my very first committee presentation for Orientation when I first took over as Upol Chair. We as the body are essentially microphones for everybody else. What I kind of compared it to is when you look at many students, it's kind of like they have a microphone, but it's unplugged. They're talking into it, but they don't feel like they're being heard. And so it's our job to kind of walk up and say this is plugged in I promise, to listen to what they're saying and then take that and translate it into action, translate it into change just as I mentioned in my speech. It's important for us to sit down and listen, whether it's through surveys or interpersonal interactions one on one with tabling with townhalls. It is important with things like that that we get feedback and we use that to amplify it to administrators, like Jacob mentioned. It's important for us to sit here and recognize that we are a body, but again, we are only one of four branches in SGA. We have to work with the executive branch with the judicial branch, with the programming branch because we are just 25% of this entire organization. So working alongside those branches and working with students to get them to recognize that this bond is open. They're welcome to come in, and they're welcome to voice their concerns. And so that's something that I think is incredibly important. I think that's really embodies what we are, is we are a one large microphone for the entire student body.
- **Radzanowski-** What is one area that you feel you struggle in leadership and how do you plan to improve upon that as Chair?
 - **Robinson-** I think one area that I have struggled with in the past initially was and this is something I'm still working on, and this is that's that kind of interpersonal relationship with my committee members. So when I first took over as you Upol chair, I kind of came in as like a coach, but not like a super friendly coach it was more of like I want to get meetings done, I want us to see legislation, I want to get projects over with, and there is no time for any sort of discussion within these committee meetings. That's something that I've been trying to work on a lot more, and I think my committee and I want to think them and take this opportunity to thank them has grown in a bit more kind of like the WAMily. I love that name. I think that's something that we have really focused on and that's something that I've been trying to work on, but it's something I definitely have room to continue addressing this ability to recognize that I am both a coach and a mentor and a friend to these people. I'm not just someone who needs to show up and say this meeting needs to be done in you know 45 minutes because we've gotten a point where Upol meetings and granted, this is not something I'm going to do for general body. These meetings are pushing an hour and a half now, but this is because we have developed and we have pushed for so much communication on our projects, and that's

something that I think I could definitely continue working on, is this sort of getting down to nitty gritty of like, who everybody is and getting these friendships rather than just some sort of an acquaintance level relationship with everybody.

- **Schonfield-** As far as leadership qualities that maybe I haven't been the strongest on. I think I would have to say I am going to be honest with you I had an answer in my head and then I was listening so intently to what he was saying that I totally forgot what I was thinking. I would have to say as far as things that I may have struggled with in the past with regard to leadership. I can be a stubborn person at times and it used to be very difficult for me to listen to other people's opinions especially when they were off of the plan. This is something that I would like to think I have grown out of. I make a lot of effort to listen to other people's opinions and give them the real time of day and actually improve those things when I can. I would like to think that there are at least a few of you in the body who can attest to the fact that I have come over this hump and come to realize the value of other people's input because that is something that I am actively wanting to run on and make sure that you all know it's very important to me that I get your input and that you have a voice and not just Congress, but SGA as a whole. So that's I guess that's what I have to say.
- **Toyos-** If you don't win this position would you still implement your platform and how would you go about it in a smaller role?
 - **Schonfield-** I think as far as how I would go about implementing my platform, should I be in a smaller role. I would definitely still want to make all the improvements that are in my platform, something that, like Caleb has the ability to do in his administration because regardless of whether or not I'm the person making these changes, these are changes that I think are very important and that we should be leaning into more. As far as how I would hope that to happen, I guess I would just make myself as available to him as I've made myself to Hope as the WAM Chair. Regardless of whether or not I'm the next WAM chair, and just making sure that he knows he has me as a resource.
 - **Robinson-** So that's kind of in a similar vein. I think sitting down immediately after this, because it's either me or you. So, if I'm not elected into this position, sitting down with Jacob offering to have a meeting and kind of run through some of the background on my points saying this is exactly why I was kind of going for this, this is what I hope to achieve in implementing this, would you be willing to do this, because our platforms are very similar. We want to accomplish the same goals, although we may have similar projects and the things that we want to implement to get there, we're all walking the same path, to get to the same goals. So having a sit down meeting with him saying, this is what I want to do, this is why I wanted to do it, would you be willing? I don't think it clashes too much with what you're doing and like you said, sitting down and being available. I'm always around he's got my phone number, so always shoot me a text if there's anything, hey, we're still having an issue this, would you be open to allowing me to implement this? I have no problem with that. And I'm going to say now this is probably one of my biggest regrets, not having a sit down meeting with Hope right after last year's election is sitting down and saying this was my platform, of course she saw it, but I don't think she got the whole background on why I wanted to implement it, and I never openly made that available

to her to say, I really want you to implement these, would you be willing to? And should I lose this election that's something I'd be willing to do.

- **Oler-** Would you each explain the differences in your platform, the major points, where you see that there is not that same kind of overlap and maybe the difference is in how you would implement your platform since they are so similar?
 - **Robinson-** I think one of the biggest things that we kind of differentiate on is the routes in which we would make the body a bit more effective to make these meetings go quicker. He puts a lot of emphasis on the use of parliamentary procedure, and that's to be expected from the former Speaker of the House in OIL, right. But I think that's one place where we differentiate that is something that I just personally have a little bit of concern about. I didn't want to touch too big on. I mean, I talked to people about this in personal meetings that I would like to jump into some semi-specific member things of parliamentary procedure, maybe working with Vice Chair, whoever that will be, to implement some sort of deeper understanding of what parliamentary procedure we pretty regularly use so that they can learn how to use it, how we use it, there's a difference in those two.. So, looking at that, I think there's a different route which we'd like to go. Again, I think we overlap in that. I think there could be a bit more knowledge of parliamentary procedure. I think that the difference may be in how specific and how we get there. Beyond that, I think implementing our platforms, I really can't see if there's any way that be too different. And we're going to sit down and I again, won't speak for you about the opportunity, but meeting with all of you guys who are in these roles, sitting down, saying what kind of changes would you like to see? How do you think I would like to implement this? Because you guys are on an executive committee just because your chair doesn't mean you're not just chairing the body, you're also chairing executive committee and so sitting down with all the committee chairs and saying, how would you implement this? How would you go about this? Because I want to give you guys that voice to.
 - **Schonfield-** Cheers to that. I think I'll agree with him. I think a big part of like where we disagree in regards to making things a bit more effective and more efficient during Congress is parliamentary procedure. I have a lot of experience with parliamentary procedure as the Speaker of the House in the previous year for Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature. So, I've had a lot of experience working on teaching other people how to do parliamentary procedure and you know making sure that they have easy access to both guides and other resources that make it extremely easy for them to both understand what they're doing and how to do it in a way that's effective and keeps the body moving. I something I will actually steal from you is that there is a way to there's a way to use parliamentary procedure but not use parliamentary procedure and I think that some of the like one that's now there are a lot of other lessons I think people learn from OIL, but that is one of my favorite things is getting to teach people how to use it effectively to both make sure that things are moving along quickly while not skipping over anything important or silencing anyone's voices. And like I said, I have a lot of experience with that, and that's something that I would really like to bring more of to Congress. Not because parliamentary procedure is like this scary thing that any of any of us need to be worried about. It's because it's something that is a tool that is meant to make parliamentary bodies such as ourselves a legislative body, move along quickly and

effectively. So, I just want to make sure that we're using that to the best of our abilities so that, you know, everything runs smoothly and effectively.

- **Fisher-** What would you say is the most significant thing that you have done for the student body?
 - **Schonfield-** So as far as the most significant thing that I've done for the student body, I would say our workshops that we created this semester, this year. I had over 50 people who came to the one budgetary process workshop that we hosted. I got a lot of positive feedback. We already know a lot of ways that we want to improve that, and I've gotten a lot, there were a lot better requests in primary this year than we saw even just last year, just from that one experience. So, I want to do more things like that focus on giving everyone in in the student body, not just, you know, members of the Congress, the opportunity to learn about SGA and how we operate, and what we do for them. That's just one example of something that I've gotten to do this year that made that impact. There were also changes to the like, I really was proud of the bills that I got to pass last week through Congress and then hopefully we'll pass GSS this week, that improved the process a little bit for us and students in the body.
 - **Robinson-** Yeah, so, although it may seem a little dull at first, I think one of the most important things that I was able to accomplish for the student body was modifying the final schedule in the view that you see on one. So, I was contacted by an advisor who had been asking administration to make these changes for five years. She had been begging, email after email after email to make these changes for five years, nothing was done. She reported to me and I talked to another advisor who confirmed, they're getting hundreds of emails from freshmen who are coming in, they don't know when their finals are, they see this big block of, oh, why do I have an 8 AM? I don't actually have a class scheduled then do I? And then they show up and there's nothing there. Because there's a misconception as to when their finals are. So they're looking at these and they were completely lost. And so I was contacted, I met with the registrar at the time that was Casey, I think. and I met with her and this is actually how I got my student job now, and we talked with Aaron Biggs, Vice President for academic technology or Vice Provost. We made these changes, they were implemented almost immediately, and now regularly the registrar's office every time your enrollment cycle opens, she sends out a PDF outlining exactly how to view One and how to view banner. So all of this has been changed, and then on top of that, although it's not specifically for my role right now, last fall, I had to take over the redistricting for ConAd, and this is something that I did when I was Vice Chair of ConAd as well, which is why they came to me. And that's why many of the changes you see now, we no longer have social sciences, we have Arts and Sciences, many of you saw that. And then I think that another thing, although it may be slightly tangential, this is something that now students seem to have more representation. I think that in conjunction with of course Congress's recruitment efforts has made a lot of difference for the body and the student body as well helping improve that representation.
- **Vedra-** How have you designed your schedules for next year to allow for these office hours?
 - **Robinson-** Next year schedules is pretty easy, I have my honor's thesis, that's not something I have to meet regularly for and then I have an online class, and I believe I have two more classes, one of which is online, so I have I believe one or two. No, I

have two in person classes. Both of those are Monday Wednesday, Fridays, so my Tuesday, Thursdays are entirely open, and that also leaves me with a pretty significant chunk I think, up until noon on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, to fill these office hours. So my schedule is pretty well designed to hold office hours on either Tuesday, Thursday or to spread them out pretty evenly throughout the rest of the week.

- **Schonfield-** Having been WAM chair this year. I am already pretty used to working my schedule around office hours. I will say that it is a lot easier to make a schedule whenever you are not having to deal with ROTC and the classes and waking up at 5am on Monday, Wednesday, Friday for PT, but I have two online courses, two Tuesday Thursday classes and then I have to take Latin every day but it shouldn't be a difficult process to make sure that there is time in the morning and the afternoon and pretty much every day. I do want to leave my Fridays without an office hour because who wouldn't.
- **Hallum-** How do you plan on increasing SGA recruitment in the less active colleges like education or architecture?
 - **Schonfield-** So something that has been pitched to me previously was making sure that whenever we are tabling, we are doing that outside of colleges where we have had less engagement. I also have connections with education majors, and I know one or two architectural majors that haven't personally expressed interest, but have talked to other people about possible joining Congress in the future and you know fostering those relationships and making sure to make connections even with the individuals that I know or that they know don't immediately join Congress. Just getting the word spread in those colleges not just you know architecture and education but you know every college that may not have representatives is something that is very important to me and I want to do everything that I can to implement changes that could bring more people in and if anything that I didn't mention is something that you think would be a good idea I am more than happy spending my time implementing anything that you think is going to bring more people to represent the unrepresented in our student body.
 - **Robinson-** One of the biggest things that I think I would like to focus on is targeting the underrepresented districts, like you mentioned architecture, and we've recently just gotten academic affairs but academic affairs pre-health two-year, architecture, education, things like that, architecture is a two-seat district, education is one seat district. These aren't hard to fill. If we can find one person in one class who's willing to run for that seat, that's a representative. So, in the past, what we've done is we've addressed gen ed classes, I would like us to kind of shift those addresses specific to classes two classes within these colleges. So what I've done, and I've been recently looking at some of the degree sheets, most we do have looked at those when you're scheduling your own classes. I think my second wife, I was supposed to be an advisor, because I love looking at. So, I've been looking at degree sheets within four majors within these colleges to see which are the most prevalent classes. So what do architecture majors, people within the architecture college have to take the most and then part of those classes go to class now, find the largest sections of those classes and go address those, instead of focusing on gen eds, and then second looking at coming in orientation and you have freshmen who come in, having a survey that's kind of like whenever you visit a website, how did you hear

about this? Having something like that, that outline like, what was it, was it word of mouth, was it tabling, was it town halls, was it us coming in your class and addressing it? What brought you into the body so that we can better tailor our recruitment efforts come next cycle? Because if we're doing things that aren't working, then we need to stop doing those and we need to shift. So having some sort of survey like that that allows us to kind of quantitatively gauge the differences in why people came into the body so that we can consider those efforts, as well as a recruitment and retention task force. This would be composed of one member from every district, plus an associate who I would be able to get feedback from so that I can kind of tailor those strategies, because I as political science major will not ever attempt to say, this is what's going to get a chemical engineer to want to join. I would never be able to tell you. So, having somebody in this formal session where we can all sit together and they can say, I think this would work for me, I'm in these classes, I think this is what brought me in, so can we try implementing that within the college more broadly? I think getting that feedback so that we're able to tailor these approaches is most important thing because there's not one size fits all solution to recruitment.

- **Cunningham-** How is your attendance been in both in general body meetings and executive committee meetings?
 - **Robinson-** Over this past session, I think I might have missed one meeting I believe early, but I was here for the first half of it. I will address, many of you probably know, I wasn't here for much of last session and that may come up. I was in a field methodologist classes taught once every two years during in general elections and midterms. So I was not here at all last session, and I would briefly come in during meetings, but this was a one day a week class from 5 to 7:45. So this was not something that I could pass up for my future, I would like to focus on field work within the political sphere, and this is something I'm pretty interested in trying to do serving and things like that. So this is not something that I was able to pass up at that time. So this session has been great last session of course, due to academic obligations. I was not able to do that. And my committee they have probably heard this a million times, we're student leaders in that order, so if any of one have other classes around that time, I would expect you to put those first before coming to Congress, because especially if its something like that that's so important to you, jump on that opportunity when you can.
 - **Schonfield-** Yeah, so with regard to attendance, I will admit I don't have a great memory, so I'm not going to try to tell you an exact percentage or number of meetings or anything to that effect, but it is my understanding that I've been to pretty much every general body. I will admit that I did have a few a few commitments primarily with ROTC last semester, that I think I did miss one or two general body meetings for, but there were also a lot of executive committee meetings that I had to this primarily for the National Guard and for ROTC again. But with regard to like, any issues that might cause next upcoming year should I be elected Chair I think you being in general, I mean this is absolutely, like, very, very, very important, and I would make this probably my number one priority as far as what I'm going to do with my Tuesday evenings. As far as missing executive committee meetings, if there's something important that I need to be there for, I'll make sure that I move things around or even move the executive committee so that I can be at

that meeting, but otherwise, usually exec is not considering terribly urgent things that whoever the next vice Chair is couldn't Chair executive should I have to be a drill.

On a motion to extend time for questions by 15 minutes Morgan seconded by Vedra

- **Kathuria-** Alongside working on improving to Congress, what's a specific university policy or set of issues you would like to address when you are congress chair?
 - **Schonfield-** Something that is particularly of interest to need is um a student activity fee that every single undergrad, graduate, and law student pays here at the University of Oklahoma. I don't know, if you guys are aware, but you pay \$5.60 for every credit hour that you are enrolled in that goes to student activity fee. This breaks down a lot to where, you know, it goes to a number of different things that SGA is, I think like, I want to say 30 or 40 cents of that for every time that you're paying that. So, something that I think is very important is making sure that all, you know, related parties are part of the discussion that allocates those funds and something that I would like to see and like to make sure is that the SGA Budgetary Chair has a seat at the table whenever it comes to the student activity fee allocation committee. Right now, it's not something that they are, you know, I don't want them to be a voting member to be clear. I just want them to be in the room because it's important that someone who is so directly engaged in the funding process actually is a part of that discussion because right now, it's only the heads of these different branches that almost all have had no interaction with the funding process at any stage. So, as something that's close to my heart, is money and making sure that you guys' money goes where it gets you. So that's we're probably going to be my number one thing. But again, I would take any important things that any members in the body have and make sure to project our end of our fellow interest, fellow students interests to administration.
 - **Robinson-** So thank you as the University Policy Chair, I love this question. To kind of take some hints from what we've been working on the committee, I think one of my favorite things that we've been working on right now, that I think will end up being a bit more a long term project is the meal swipes project. I would like to address the cost of meal swipes and what we're getting in return. Some of the research that my vice chair has done on this shows that we are near the bottom in SEC schools, and how much we're paying, so we're paying significantly more than peer SEC schools. We're getting significantly less in return than peer SEC schools. They offer significantly more franchises, significantly more dining hall options. some of them, I believe it is Auburn, I could be incorrect, offer the ability to go off of campus and use your meal swipes or your points at some franchises near campus. So if we could look at doing something like that, this is something that of course UPOL is already working on, but I think using this position to kind of hyper speed that, if it's something that we can bring up in Big Exec whenever they're having those conversations. It's something that I think is really important to me, especially after the last Board of Regents meeting, where they actually just increased the prices of our meal plans, and we expect that peer SEC schools will likely do the same, so it's not something that we're really going to fall behind on because they're going to continue raising these prices for meal plans. Thankfully, the Oklahoma State legislature is passing a piece of legislation I believe has already passed to no longer require freshmen to have meal plans when they come to college. This is something at higher ed day they spoke with Speaker Hilbert about and this is something he's very

proud of, and it's something that whenever he asked me, he said, what's going to this legislation that following, that was exactly what it was, because that's something that I think is important both to me and to me and you, specifically. And so that's something I would like to really continue focusing on, especially as inflation increases and what we're getting in return increases.

- **Hallum-** Why would you vote for your opponent?
 - **Robinson-** Yeah, is my favorite question they ask every single election I love this question. Jacob is an excellent member of the body. He's an excellent WAM chair, absolutely phenomenal. Anytime I walk into the Conoco, he's either doing that or he's playing CP3. I can't hate he is playing computer games, but Jacob is an excellent person. He's incredibly friendly. This is kind of the same thing that I focus on, like, Hope and Jacob in my eyes are very similar and how welcoming they are. I when I first came to the body was kind of like super reclusive and I like, I don't really what to do it and Jacob pushed back and said, I think one of the first light walks I went on, it was Jacob and I, and we were walking down the South Oval, and this is kind of one of this same instances where I finally felt like I was welcome, I found someone who kind of matched my interests, I think at the time you were talking about being a constitutional studies major we were talking about Con studies and that's something that really keeps my interest in this is I felt welcome. I felt like I had a friend. I felt like I had someone kind of valued my presence even if it was because it felt like it was more than just an acquaintance level type thing as I had kind of often experienced outside of Hope in our first general body meeting and we first joined the body. In those meetings it was kind of like I don't really know who to talk to there were people that were kind of scary and Jacob just kind broke that open I think at that time considering we were both new it was pretty easy for him to do, but it was just like scary to me. And so I absolutely would implore you if that's something that's heavy on you, if that's something that's really important and that's something you put forth, and that's something I kind of reflected on in the past few months.
 - **Schonfield-** Yeah, I mean hard follow up to such a good answer to the question. But I think if I were to vote for Caleb, I absolutely I think Caleb is one of the most dedicated members in the body that I've seen I mean, Caleb ran for chair last year, he puts a lot of work into his position as you Upol chair, and you can really see the difference between what Upol used to be and something that a lot of you may not know is that the first committee I was ever part of here in Congress was Upol. I hated it. It was awful. Super glad that I changed WAM. Wamily, the point being, I think Upol has come a very long way, and I think a lot of that is owed to Caleb, and the dedication and the care that he puts into everything that he does with his committee. And really, I just I just think he will probably do the same thing if he gets elected chair.
- **Kathuria-** How do you plan on trying to sweeten it up and making sure that you know, the executive branch and Congress are working in cohesion together and serving the interests of the student body?
 - **Schonfield-** I think something that's very important is just making sure that everyone across every branch is on the same page, and there's a lot of intercommunication between branches. I consider myself a friend to both the chief of staff and the president in the executive branch and maybe the same could be said about the VP one day, I don't know, but I feel very confident that regardless of

whether it's me, that's chairing or Caleb, I think either way there's going to be plenty of open lines of communication between us and the Executive branch.

- **Robinson-** Yeah, to kind of add to that. I agree. In the same vein, I think the chief of staff and I are pretty good friends. The president and I, of course, becoming relatively new to one another, now that she's assumed this role, but we've had a good communication, and I think this is something that we all need to focus on. They have Big Exec meetings pretty regularly. I think there is an opportunity where we share the same office space the first floor of the Conoco, using that, keeping my door open, we're always open to talk. I think the, I won't speak on behalf of the president, but I think a lot of us recognize that the executive branch is going to have to put their best foot forward, like there's been a lot of precedent set to where there is probably a bit more at stake, and I think they recognize that, and so I think this is something that both us are willing to do, because one it's not something I ever want to have to do as Chair. I don't want to have to do what Hope has done, because that's just a lot of stress, and I think it is a lot of work. It's not something that we ever want to do. That's not the first focus, so I think putting my best foot forward, and I can go ahead and spin my hand here and assume that the executive branch will continue, put their best foot forward into it. And so having these sit downs, and like I said, bringing back the town halls. I think both of us sitting together or anybody from the executive branch, for that matter doesn't have to the president, Chief of Staff literally, anybody in the branch sitting down and hearing the same concerns at the same time with students being able to address them as a team rather than as this branch and this branch, but as one or equal, because we are all equal branches. So addressing those as co-equal branches, when people bring those concerns to us rather than independently saying the executive branch is working on this, we as Congress are working on this, I think doing those together is going to bring us a lot more growth.

On a motion to end time for questions Toyos seconded by Cunningham

On a motion to enter into executive session Hallum seconded by Vedra

On a motion to exit executive session Toyos seconded by Vedra

21-12 Caleb Robinson is elected Chair

- **Vice Chair**
- Aaron Gilson-Bond Nomination and Speech

2:00 for nominator speech

- **Nominator Cade Walker-** Good evening, everyone. It's my pleasure to speak to you guys tonight in support of Aaron Gilson-Bond as he seeks to continue his service as Vice Chair during our 114th session of Congress. For nearly three years, Aaron has been a constant, reassuring presence in this body, a steady hand, a thoughtful leader, and someone whose commitment to service speaks louder than any previous title. Whether it's as a Representative, Vice Chair, or Chair of Susty, or now as Congress Vice Chair, Aaron has brought the same energy, thoughtfulness, and purpose to every role he's held. His leadership isn't about titles, it's about showing up, following through, and being present where it counts. That's why you've seen Aaron at most, if not all, committee meetings, doing what he can to support ongoing work and staying engaged with every part of this student organization. I first met Aaron during our freshman year in an Intro to

Engineering class, where we were partnered for a design project. Without being asked, Aaron took the time to teach himself a new CAD program, designed a part for our project, and even went to 3D print it all on his own initiative. He put in the work without hesitation, and it was clear from the beginning that he was someone you could count on. Now, a few years later, we're lab partners in our fluid mechanics course, and he's still the same dependable, driven teammate. He's always the first to step up during labs, offering to lead and support the group however he can. And in the classroom, he's consistently asking thoughtful questions and raising concerns with professors. It's just who he is: engaged, prepared, and not afraid to speak up when something needs to be said. Aaron's platform, Continuation, Accountability, and Next Steps, reflects the kind of leader he already is. He believes in protecting and building on progress, holding this body to a standard of transparency, and supporting intentional leadership development that will help Congress thrive well beyond his term. His experience and dedication make him well-suited to continue supporting this Congress. I'm proud to nominate Aaron Gilson-Bond for another term as Vice Chair, and I hope you'll join me in supporting him for this important role.

5:00 for nomination speech

- **Gilson-Bond-** Howdy y'all my name is Aaron Gilson-Bond. I am currently the Vice Chair of Congress. This is my platform its about what now we can do I together essentially, but next. So I have three points I want to talk about. It's going to be continuation, accountability, and next steps. I sent out to quite a few of y'all, why this is important specifically, but I didn't go into how how exactly I want to go about that, because I wanted to show this with you today, so we can go through the though process together with that. But first thing continuation, I want to keep maintaining the work that I did through my FIT platform. All I points, I did hit in one way or another, I talked about being flexible for everybody with office hours. I very beginning that first week literally the next day, I set my form for you to create my office hours, even if it was inconvenient for me. I said from the very beginning, if you wanted office hours at 6 AM, I was willing to do it. And I know I wake up early quite often. I'm not not accustomed to it. So, I wanted to make sure that I can still be open to you whenever you wanted, but being flexible impactful and showing our internal progress is fundamental to helping the campus experience. I think it is very important for everyone at campus to know what we do here. I think that semester we've done very well, with that, I think the previous election we just had debuted that in a way also, and so I think it's very important. And then I just like I said, although each point has been, hit it is important to keep on going. Next, my favorite point accountability, I think it is very important that we, with our resolutions that we have follow through. Since I've been in the body, often we write resolutions, for a plan, for administration to make, and we often don't follow through, make sure they actually do it. So I wanted to make sure that we can have regular check ins with people who write legislation. So they know it is what they are going to do, whether it's going to talk to administration after showcasing that, hey, the general body of Congress, you know, the student

body believes in this. We have done a lot of surveys this year, I want to take the data we get from those and actually make change at this institution rather than just setting out a survey and then not following through on that. I think it's very important to continue going. As well, follow the standard by holding myself to the same expectations that I set for y'all for myself. I asked to go with letting committee chairs know when I'm not going to be there. Obviously, it's very easy to get an unexcused absence. One thing that I disagree with with the Vice Chair role personally is that whenever you don't show up to meetings, you're automatically excused, I don't think that should be a thing. I think that if I'm not going to reach out to you saying I'm not going to be there, it makes it to where you feel almost forgotten. That was how I felt whenever I was an associate in SUSTY, that was a thing I felt as Chair of SUSTY, when the Vice Chair doesn't show up and there was no notification then I felt forgotten about even when the Vice Chair was literally in my committee. And then yeah, and then just pretty much staying responsive with y'all. I made sure that I responded to emails pretty quickly, For one time, I am going to use Lorelai as an example, she sent me, her bill and she sent it to me super late. I scheduled sent it for the next morning, but I saw that immediately. I literally responded when I was bed, just finished a project, was ready to go sleep and I was like, I need do this right now, it is literally legislation. But next one. The next steps, I want to codify the duties in our governing documents to ensure continuity and clarity. I think that progress shouldn't stop with one person. I think for next Vice Chairs, I think it's important to have those duties more outlined inside of our bylaws. I think that things can be forgotten, we have seen that in the past, people kind of stop doing what they're supposed to be doing. I want to make sure that people do go to those meetings with, you know, the committee meetings or making sure they are having Comms meetings things like that, to make sure they're not just not doing their job and getting paid essentially. And then I like I said, prepare future Vice Chairs on necessities of their position. There is a very great like turnover document, but I want to make sure we can iron it out a bit more. There's a lot of things in there that don't really, like matter anymore, as far as how it's in there, it's like really four pages long, and it took me so long to read and I was like, we don't do this, and it's not really necessary anymore. So I want to make sure that we can make sure that document can evolve to help people in the future. I mean, build a relationship between Congress and faculty. I think that I've done that kind of a little bit in one way, but I definitely want to hone on that more. Obviously, we can say that we want to change, but it's up to administration for that actually to happen. I think that if we have a great relationship with them, there would be more open to changing. We've seen that in the past with things that are changed. We can build a rapport with administration to just make them more open to the things we want to do in the first place. But together, we can make Congress FIT for the future. My name is Aaron Gilson-Bond and I yield my time.

- Leo Carter Nomination and Speech

2:00 for nominator speech

- **Nominator Ball-** Hi, everyone, my name is Reese Ball, and I have the honor of nominating Leo Carter for the Vice Chair. From the moment I met Leo, I knew she was someone who led not just with her voice, but with her values. She balances empathy with passion, listens with purpose, and works tirelessly behind the scenes to make others feel seen and heard. You might know Leo as a the Fine Arts Representative or as the Internal liaison for External affairs. But what you may may not see is how she is often the first to volunteer for new projects, and because she leads the way, others feel empowered to step up to. In just her first year, Leo has already written multiple pieces of legislation and met with over 30 members of city and the state government, as well as community leaders. She played a key role in the Narcan initiative, working to bring lifesaving resources to OU students. She is also a central part of the home together initiative helping lead efforts to address homelessness in our community throughout with outreach, research, and policy development. And she's done all this while balancing research, engineering, and advocacy. Leo doesn't just get things done, she inspires action and brings people together across disciplines, backgrounds and experiences. She's reliable and never loses sight of the human impact behind every initiative. And I know that as Vice Chair she would help us build a Congress rooted in both structure and spirit. Will you join me in supporting someone I trust and believe in Leo Carter. Thank you for your time.

5:00 for nomination speech

- **Carter-** I am extremely nervous right now, but thank you for all being here. So, where we've been, where we are, and where we're going? Where we've been? Since 1969, Congress has been a place for the students, a place of connection, a resource, and an inclusive environment to enact change for the student body and beyond. Where we are? Today on this day, fueled by a growing body of eager, passionate students, being asked the question of the kind of leadership we want for the future of Congress. Members are collaborating more, we are starting to connect with the student body, we are finding who we need for our values, and how keep this momentum going. As a Vice Chair candidate, I could have sent out a campaign and left it at that, but I started by sending you a letter because I want to ensure that my campaign who align with your needs as a student body member. I am proud to say that I received an overwhelming number of results like responses more than I could have ever imagined, that have done truly shaped the campaign I brought to you today. Firstly, collaboration, monthly committee reports. I have an example up here. I with committee reports, I want to make sure that you, as a member, feeling connected with rest of the student body. I know it's really easy to get lost in your committee and what you're doing, but chair reports don't necessarily include everything, all the details, and trying to get involved just based off the committee report. So I make sure that I'm offering you more details as you can see the ways to get involved, it's more bullet points where you can get involved, contact information, really collaboration across the Congress body. Second thing a resources page, I want to kind of provide more information to you as a student body member as Perla Gruenstein, I have a quote from her that she responded to my letter

with “As a poli-sci major I am interested in policy work and how I can help uplift the voices of those not often heard. Part of the reason I am part of HD and why I also love what EA does is helping those outside of the OU community. I love being part of OU, part of the change in serving those around me and hope to do what I can find by being part of Congress.” It's easy to say that you want to help OU and you want help the student body, but it's hard to do that without having resources at your disposal, so I want to offer a resources page, that offer's contact information to organizations and individuals within and outside of OU. Engagement, I want to engage in every single committee meeting, I want to be asking questions, I want to be offering my help. I want to be as involved as I can be because I don't want to just be sitting there in the back. I want to be involved as an executive member. I want to build a Congress that is involved across campus. I truly believe that we're stronger when all of SGA is united. As such, I plan to attend judiciary, legislative, executive, and programming branch meetings as often as I can to really act as a liaison between Congress and the rest of SGA. I plan to do that same with RSO's, reaching out to them, inviting us to join us and doing as much as I can to encourage Congress outreach throughout the rest of the school. Understanding. Running Congress is scary, writing legislation can be terrifying. And really getting up on stage can be an incredibly intimidating task. Brocke actually, he gave me this quote, he said “new members do need guidance and this sole focus, because we all know how it can feel to be thrown into Congress it is quite chaotic and stressful, coming from someone who gave up their rep seat freshman year because of the stress.” It is hard but it shouldn't have to be, no one should feel lost or stressed in Congress ever like absolutely that's unacceptable. To counteract this, I want to implement one on one meetings with new authors to provide time to gain feedback, I answer questions, make sure that they feel prepared to get on stage for the first time. Further, I want to be hands on with ensuring that Chloe's legislation digitalization project continues, that's a great resource for new members to learn how to write legislation, have a reference and everything that they need. I also understand that outreach is hard so again when I'm in committee meetings, I want to be offering that resource page as much as I can. Culture, Transparency, Servant leadership, and Understanding. I vow to you that I don't continue to be transparent by leadership. I vow to you that I will continue to be transparent in my leadership. I will communicate I will vow to serve you as dedicated members through your needs and foster environment of belonging, understanding, and care. We as a body cannot create a change, we cannot create the change we want to see, we cannot do the most that we can do, if we do not take care of ourselves. I don't have all the answers, but I can promise you this. I will listen above all else. I will consistently reevaluate our needs as a student body and create an environment that values your efforts, earns your respect and rewards your dedication no matter the cost. You deserve everything the world can give you. I truly mean that.

10:00 remaining for questions

- **Secretary Harris-** What experience do you think makes you best qualified for this role?

- **Carter-** Yeah I have always been super involved in high school and at OU. Currently, I'm part of OU Prosthetics club, Eclub, I am now the programming Chair of OKVotes, WHA, Congress and CLA very varying degrees of impact. I will definitely say that Congress is my main priority. I'd think my biggest skill is time management. I'm currently taking 24 hours this semester, double major and I'm on the pre-med track and trying to be involved as I can be in every single student organization. If I was to get the Vice Chair position that would be my main priority, 100% but with all those different places of involvement, I always make sure that Congress comes first, and obviously I have passed pieces of legislatures and tried to be as helpful as I can to my committee because it is my number one priority so time management is definitely my most helpful skill.
- **Gilson-Bond-** Okay, I think the main experience is being Vice Chair that definitely is a big contributing thing, but I also think that complacency can be dangerous, so going to previous experience also being the Vice Chair of sustainability, being the Chair of Sustainability. I've had multiple leadership positions and the one that I love also the other thing I love ROTC. So there's lots of different things, specifically in student government I would say Vice Chair of a committee, Chair of a committee, Vice Chair of Congress that would be my experience.
- **Donald-** I will be asking you to rank the committees.
 - **Gilson-Bond-** I'm not doing that again. Last time that happened it was literally a slaughter you know how it was not the greatest experience in the world, so I will decline to answer that question.
 - **Carter-** I believe the Code Annotated says that WAM is ranked highest, then ConAd then Upol but to me they all obviously create a huge impact and connect with different areas of campus.
- **Hallum-** Why would you vote for the other opponent?
 - **Carter-** I think the current Vice chair has done a great job with creating a campaign that was relevant to the body when he first ran. He's done a great job of making CSPs he's more of a priority and being more communicative about all that, and being overall more involved. So yeah, I think the next steps for his campaign and the continuation for his campaign is a big factor in terms of that.
 - **Gilson-Bond-** I think the biggest thing that would make me vote for Leo is not necessarily her campaign, but it's just how she's in the body in general. As someone who goes to committee meetings, I see how y'all are. I see Leo's dedication to being in the body in general. I think that's definitely a very powerful thing I think there are some members who maybe have fallen out of love over time. There's some that have fall way more into love and Leo is somebody that ever since day one, we have seen her here and she's been dedicated, so I think that's a big contributing factor.
- **Kathuria-** Do you believe that the role of Vice Chair should be more defined in the Code Annotated?
 - **Gilson-bond-** I 100% believe that. I think that it not necessarily the most vaguest position in the world, but I think that, if everything is outlined, at least to the best of our ability, it makes people be held accountable later more. You can really be like, direct reference like, you did not do this. and then that could be helpful for making sure that next person isn't not doing well. So I think that it definitely needs to be outlined.

- **Carter-** Yeah absolutely, I can say as someone that was trying to prepare to speak up here what the Code Annotated says and the Constitution is not as clear as it could be about what the roles of Vice Chair is so I definitely want to expand on that to get any of the next Vice Chair's more prepared and more confident in what they are chairing for.
- **Granato-** When did you guys decide to run for Vice Chair like when did it first pop into your head to be running for Vice Chair?
 - **Carter-** Yeah I was considering it for a while. I originally decided not to run. Honestly, I didn't want to make any enemies with anyone. I want to be up here feeling confident, and I do feel confident, but I knew that would be a factor. I decided eventually to finalize that decision to run for Congress, the day before, I communicated with some of my committee members and then communicated to more of our members Tuesday. So I think to other people it may have felt a little bit last minute, but I felt prepared in what I was going to run for, even if the finalization of that decision was a little bit last minute
 - **Gilson-Bond-** Okay, so, uh first, I'll get your question in one second. I don't want you to think that there is any sort of enemies to be made at all. Congress is Congress. If someone wants a position, you've got to go for it. Doesn't matter if someone is already in that position. So, regardless, no hard feelings on that. But to answer your question, literally probably like almost immediately me being Vice Chair probably like a week after that was when I was fully engulfed in all the responsibilities, what it takes, going to all the committee meetings too, has been a really kind of thing that's helped a lot more. I love going to all the committee meetings. Sometimes it's hard because, I have to leave something I'm really enjoying to make sure I get to the next one, but I think that that's definitely made me like it for about three months now.

On a motion to extend time for questions by 10 minutes Hallum seconded by Vedra

- **Iglehart-** How do you tend to balance to the time commitment required of being Vice Chair with your academics and extracurricular activities?
 - **Gilson-Bond-** The same way I have. Something that makes it a little bit easier for this semester. I mean, first thing, I go to all committee meetings, I go to my office hours, I go to a million other things it feels like, regularly I'm in the office at like 1 AM.. I've been caught there before putting in the work. But time management wise next semester, I was actually able to make my schedule a little bit more easier for the role, because obviously when I stepped in I already had a schedule set. So I didn't really get to have a little feng sui whenever it came to making my schedule when stepping into the position. So obviously I was planning on running for it, so my schedule last semester was able to open that up. I've also historically taken a lot of credits, taking 17 this semester. I'm taking 17 next semester, I'm taking six the semester after that, I'm excited for that. So, I have plenty of time on my hands to make sure I can get the roles and responsibilities done as well as to incorporate other things if necessary.
 - **Carter-** Yeah, I really want to expand on the role of Vice Chair as it right now. So I have been taking 24 hours this semester, next semester I'm planning to 17. I also want to prioritize the what I'm involved in on campus, so Congress has already been a responsibility, it'll be my responsibility or like, my number one priority even more than that next semester and so yeah I am confident I will have the time I need to dedicate to Congress and that role.

- **Kathuria-** What is a specific university or external policy issue that you want to address alongside the Congress Chair?
 - **Carter-** Okay, thank you. I think my main thing is increasing Congress's Outreach that something has been communicated by the nominee and current Vice Chair. There has been a little bit more university policy about the way we communicate with the outside body and student government poses us all publicly I would say. So I want to expand on that.
 - **Gilson-Bond-** One thing that I really want to hit on the most, and this was kind of said more by Jacob, no shade, but something that I was always found fascinating was the funding behind the student activity fee. It is something that I bought up a few different times. I think that's something that's very important for RSOs and for outreach, which is something that Caleb talked about, is for them to have whatever they need necessary. To make sure the funding that receive is a little bit more transparent, I kind of disagree with the percentage of how much the student activity fee is allocated to RSO's that is something that I want to make sure that we can get more funding so they can have more outreach because something that makes organizations dislike SGA is the leaders of these orgs. They see that they requested a certain amount of funding they see that they only got half of it or less and it makes them absolutely hate us. It is not our fault necessarily, but I think that we can kind of do a little bit more to help them by trying to get them more funding in the first place. I know WAM loved that answer.
- **Granato-** What is one thing that you want to implement for meeting with other Vice Chairs?
 - **Gilson-Bond-** So the thing that I did the worst with meeting with Vice Chairs and everybody Vice Chair in this room can attest to this is I send an email and say let me know you have a time to meet. I need to just figure out a When2Meet or something because it has been conflicting with, it makes me so confused. I'm like sitting there trying to send this email but I just refuse to make a When2meet or like a SignUp Genuis because I have heard so many bad things about it and then I'm like you know what I am going to do this but it just does not work. So I am going to try and get a form whenever it comes to meeting with them. Something that I did differently when it comes to the first meeting I had to the second meeting was actually let people know these are the points that I do want to hit. So it lets them know what I can be thinking about before I show up and it's just a weird conversation. I want them to be productive, me and Owen have a habit about just talking about food for instance. He knows what I like I guess, but I think that is a big thing being able to make sure that they can come prepared to know what they actually talk about
 - **Carter-** Yeah I really want to listen. I feel that Vice Chairs have a unique perspective about committee meetings, but they still play one of the most important parts in managing the meeting so I just want to be able to listen to them whenever there need to know perspective what can I do to help them. What do they feel like they are missing for their committee and just being there as a support system for them. It can be really hard to be a Vice Chair depending on your strength side and I know I can attest to that, but to all of you thank you for taking on that position and making Congress what it because just because you don't get on stage and share a committee report doesn't mean that your role in the body isn't incredibly valuable.
- **Cunningham-** Is there a time that you have had to deal with conflict or adversity in Congress? How did you overcome it and how will you do so in the future?

- **Carter-** Absolutely. I know that session 113 has been a crazy semester for all of us. I think you just have to attack everything with understanding, knowing that just because we disagree with people, and knowing that they see things doesn't have to be the end of the world, we can still come to a consensus and support one another because if we support one another, I mean, in our united as a body, that's when we can create change. If we are meeting with each other with constant conflict you just can't create the change we want to, because we can't work together as a team. Congress has grown so much over the past couple years, I know so many different ideas coming from different places, I love the diversity, but we need to codify a little bit and ensure that we're understanding people where they're coming from, and that they're understanding us from where we are coming from so that we can create the biggest change we hope to have.
- **Gilson-Bond-** So I don't want to like, name any names, but this conversation came up recently about people thinking that I dislike, I don't want anyone to think like that is a big conflict thing right there. People being like oh my gosh, Gilson-Bond hates me, I don't hate anybody. I don't have the time for it I just don't to hate anybody. So I think that's a big thing is that conversation that's how you past it, people realizing like, hey, you got a problem, we are adult let's talk. And I think that that conversation completely gets rid of, like 90% of conflicts. Obviously, sometimes there's a little bit more that happens, but I haven't ran into that personally. Everything that I have ever dealt with whenever it comes to someone thinking that I have a certain feeling about each other it always ends in a conversation.
- **Kathuria-** Can you confirm from this student body whether you can chair either an executive committee meeting or an undergraduate congress general body meeting?
 - **Gilson-Bond-** I think without a doubt I can say yes. We saw that last week. I also have chaired meeting before in the committee that I was a Chair of so that it something that I am ready to step up for.
 - **Carter-** Yeah absolutely. I am here every week, every committee meeting, taking notes trying to learn what I can from my committee chair and the chair of Congress. I feel more than prepared to step into that role if I needed to.
- **Kathuria-** What do you think is the most important part of your platform that you want to accomplish in regard to winning for Congress and the student body?
 - **Carter-** Yeah for me I think the biggest part is the culture as I said if we are united as a whole then I think we can create the most impact, but I also know it is easy to say here is what I want to do without actually having tangible ideas of how to get there. So I really try to include tangible solutions like committee reports. I think that is the most helpful idea for ensuring that makes congress a more collaborative environment to be in.
 - **Gilson-Bond-** I could take the cheap way out and be like oh continuation because it technically holds three points in it. But I am going to go with accountability, the reason why this is, is because obviously the people I have seen this semester have held people accountable at least helped facilitate that process so I think it is very important for me to be able to hold myself accountable also. I think that me being able to go up to people and being like oh you are done. I am literally going to impeach you tomorrow like at this point it is not fair for me to bring up other people's shortfalls if I am not willing to acknowledge my own so that is a huge point.

I think is accountability and doing that through trying to codifying duties to make it easier to do that

On a motion to enter into executive session Hallum seconded by Duncan

On a motion to exit executive session Schonfield seconded by Vedra

2-29-1 Gilson-Bond is elected as Vice Chair

- **Secretary**

- Michael Wintory Nomination and Speech

2:00 for nominator speech

- **Nominator Martin-** Good evening, everyone. For the final race tonight, I am honored to present to you, Michael Wintory, for the position of Secretary. Michael, for the past year, has put in the dedicated time, work, and effort to have the opportunity to be before you all this evening. When I first met Michael, he was a determined freshman who wanted to make an impact in Congress and the student body. Michael initially joined UPOL to work on student wages with the amazing Cody Walker and Kayla Hawley. To what may be a surprise to many in the room, he also aspired to be the secretary of UPOL. Unfortunately, given that the secretary position was already filled by our past UPOL secretary, he was not able to take on that role. Nevertheless, Michael continued to stay involved and contribute significantly as a Representative for the College of Arts and Sciences. If many of you do not know, Michael is also a student in the College of International Studies, majoring in International Security Studies. He is also very involved on campus, taking on leadership roles in the International Security Student Association and Rugby. His academic dedication is truly commendable, balancing two majors while actively participating in Congress. This semester, I was ecstatic that Michael joined CONAD, where he brought great ideas, humor, and connectivity. One thing you will quickly learn about Michael, when you ever have a conversation with him, is that he has a great sense of humor and is always up for a friendly roast. This may seem like a quirky detail, but it speaks volumes about his approachable and transparent nature, which aligns perfectly well with his platform of TYPE: Transparent and Timely, Your Representative, Preservation, and Efficient Execution. Michael's commitment to transparency and timely communication ensures that he will keep everyone informed and engaged. As Your Representative, he is dedicated to listening to and advocating for the needs of the student body. His focus on Preservation highlights his intent to maintain the integrity of our policies and traditions. Lastly, his emphasis on Efficient Execution guarantees that tasks will be handled promptly and effectively. I wholeheartedly support Michael Wintory for the position of Secretary. His dedication, vision, and proven track record make him the ideal candidate for this role. Together with our Congress Chair and Vice Chair, we can achieve great things with his leadership.

5:00 for nomination speech

- **Wintory-** Hello Student Congress, for those who don't know me, my name is Michael Wintory, and I'm excited to be running for Secretary. I'm a Political Science and International Security Studies major, with minors in French and Economics. Over the past year, I've had the distinct pleasure of

serving as a representative on both the Upol and ConAd committees. SGA has given me countless opportunities to make a real difference on this beautiful campus and to meet some truly incredible people. I've made some of my closest friends through this organization—and that's a huge part of why I want to be your Secretary. I want to help every member find their place in Congress and keep building something meaningful together. Now, the second reason I'm running? I realized, wow, I have a really fast typing speed—so not running would just be selfish! Okay, jokes aside, my real second reason is my love for ConAd. As Secretary of the General Body, you serve as an ex officio member of ConAd, which honestly sounds like a dream to me. I've come to really enjoy the administrative side of things—making sure everything runs smoothly, efficiently, and on time. While ConAd is my first love, I'm genuinely excited to learn more about the other six equally important committees. Although I've experience the joy that are trash and light walks, I haven't been able to attend as many other committee meetings as I would like. When we're back from break, I plan on familiarizing myself with each committee to ensure a holistic understanding of congress. I plan to meet with the other secretaries to build a stronger, more coordinated team—one that keeps the wheels of legislation turning smoothly. I haven't held a formal secretary position before—but not for lack of interest! That title was tragically and unjustly claimed by a much more capable member of Upol my first semester. However, I have been actively practicing: I've taken minutes at the last two General Body meetings and several recent ConAd meetings. With guidance from my incredible predecessor, I'm confident in my ability to deliver high-quality minutes the very next day—just like she did. Tonight, you'll hear about my fellow nominee's prior experience as secretary. But I encourage you to ask: what results has that experience produced? If the answer is anything short of exceptional, it might be time to consider someone who, while newer to the role, brings a fresh perspective, deep commitment, and a strong track record of involvement. If you choose me, I promise I won't let you down. I'll continue to show up, work hard, and support each of you every single week. What I may lack in official experience, I make up for with focus, precision, and genuine passion for this work. I hope you give me the opportunity to work for every single one of you. Thank you.

- Ava Burnett Nomination and Speech

2:00 for nominator speech

- **Nominator Harris-** To my fellow members of Congress. My name is Hudson Harris, and I'm an incredibly proud to nominate a Ava Burnett for the position of secretary. From the very first week of this semester, Ava has hit the ground running. She has stepped into the role of external affairs secretary and immediately made herself an essential part of our committee. To make sure she would fully uphold the duties of secretary, she not just showed up, she asked how she could help and then took action. What sets Ava apart isn't just her work ethic. It's her energy. She has this rare ability to make people feel welcome the second they walk into a room. She is the kind of leader who will sit down with a new member after their first meeting, walk

them through her project and make sure that they know that they belong. Whether we were preparing for big events, organizing community outreach, or brainstorming legislation, Ava was there engaged, dependable and focused. She brings consistency to chaos, keeps every everyone on track and somehow still finds the time to check in on how we're doing. Ava doesn't just care about the work. She cares about the people doing it and that's exactly the kind of person you want as your secretary. Someone who's organized, invested, and always ready. Please join me in supporting someone who leads with both heart and drive Ava Burnett thank you.

5:00 for nomination speech

- **Burnett-** Hello everyone my name is Ava Burnett and I am a political science pre-law science student here at OU and I am also minoring in international studies and History. Before I set foot on our beautiful campus during move in day, I knew that I intended to fill out an application to be a part of the OU SGA Undergraduate Congress. My general application interview was scary, but I felt a sense of warmth and tenderness radiate from our current secretary Chloe Harris and our previous Chair Hope Rhoads. Being welcomed with open arms from such strong female leads made me as a freshman girl, feel like I had a place in this body. And that is when I knew that SGA was so BRAT. When I went to my first external affairs meeting, I knew I wanted to be a part of the amazing projects and community work that EA was going to do. Applying for secretary of EA felt like a reach for me as I had only been in Congress for a couple of weeks. When I got the position, I knew that it would be an opportunity for me to grow and learn essential skills that I would use for the rest of my life. As EA secretary, I have achieved things that I have never dreamed of. I have laughed and cried in equal measure, but most importantly I have made mistakes and learned from them. I believe every single one of those mistakes led me to where I am right now as a nominee for your secretary of Congress. Months of thought and care have been leading up to this moment and I am so excited to share what I have planned for you guys. My platform is Burnett is Brat. Yes, I know that Brat is not a conventional platform, but I truly believe this platform was the best to not only communicate my ideas and dedications to you but my interests, personality and love for authenticity. Brat embodies nothing less than being authentic to yourself. First, B stands for background. As I have mentioned before, I have been the secretary for EA for two semesters. This experience how set me up for the basic tasks that come with being secretary, and I've made myself very familiar with what would be expected of me as congress secretary under the bylaws. As a representative from the arts and sciences district, I have been equipped with skills such as writing bills, organization, attention to detail and adapting to complicated and unforeseen situations. Like back in February when I had to leave for a family emergency, in the middle of planning for a higher education day. I did not let that throw me off, however, and we had a very successful higher education day last week. I know that this background is essential for a dedicated and hardworking secretary to have. I feel that this experience should be heavily considered. Next, our stand for reachability, having a leader who is successful

in the first step is the first step to having a healthy and operational body. I want every single person inside and outside of this community to feel like they have a safe place. I am committed to being a warm and approachable in my interactions with all members of the body. I will never let personal opinion interfere with my responsibilities or my efforts to develop constructive relationships with as many of you as I can. I really value the relationships I have with those of you in Congress and I have always opened the feedback on how I can best serve you and the student body. At the same time, I've pledge to always attend office hours and be available over the phone or email. Next, A stands for accuracy. I've historically taken detailed and accurate minutes. As the secretary of Congress, I intend to expand that within the best of my ability. Accuracy takes commitment and care, and I have to offer nothing less than that. Regardless of unforeseen circumstances in the past academic year, I have taken the initiative to make sure that there are minimal disruptions in my duty as EA secretary and I want to continue that within this role. And finally, T stands for teachability. As secretary, I want to build upon the set precedent when it comes to building a strong and enjoyable secretary community. I want achieve this by setting up secretary meetings, having weekly checkups, posting secretary bonding nights and becoming a mentor and resource to all committee secretaries. And to build on existing initiatives, I propose on doing coffee one on ones with any member of Congress, and by the way, that coffee will be on me. I believe fostering a joyful environment for secretaries, not on these ensures, good morale, but accuracy in the minutes among the entirety of the body. I also want to extend these relationships to Committee Chairs to allow them to voice their concerns to me in a safe space. Building relationships ensures that someone struggling feels like they have someone to lean on for help and I have every intention to be the rock for our secretaries, committee chairs, and every member of this body. With that, Burnett is BRAT encapsulates what I believe we are as the body deserve and need in a secretary. Someone who's authentic, committed and caring. Thank you all for your time and consideration and I love and appreciate every single one of you the way you have appreciated me.

10:00 remaining for questions

- **Morgan-** What do you think the most important quality in a secretary would be?
 - **Burnett-** I believe the most important quality is dedication. I feel like you cannot do this role without being absolutely dedicated to the role. It is a huge time commitment. It takes a lot of effort to encapsulate every single part of this role, and I feel you if you don't have that drive and dedication, you just can't perform to the best of abilities.
 - **Wintory-** I would say the most important part is understanding your position within the Congress. Look that Big 3 are paid to be here, they are paid by each student to be here. It is your job to do everything as Secretary well. It is to get the minutes out on time. It's too meet with everyone. It is to make sure that there is a good community so I think the most important part of being a secretary is understanding your role and knowing that you are paid and required to do that.
- **Granato-** Why would you vote for the other candidate?

- **Wintory-** So, I think Ava is a really high-quality individual I think that she does a great job as secretary. I meant in no way to attack her in my speech. And I would probably vote for her because she has shown that she has a very strong and committed personality. I know that she would treasure this position and complete it to the best of her ability, no matter what.
- **Burnett-** I would vote for Michael because I feel like he has a really amazing personality. I feel like I can relate to him on that. I love talking with Michael. I think he's a very open person and I think that's something really important to have within these Big 3 positions is somebody that you want to come talk to. Someone you want to be a part of their life and ask you how your day is going and all the things and he does that and I really appreciate that about him
- **Kathuria-** How do you making sure that we are reducing the number of expulsion bills which are bring written?
 - **Burnett-** I think the most important thing when it comes to attendance is not only being flexible but being open minded. I feel like the first step in being able to reach out to somebody and be flexible with them is when they reach out to you. I know that all these expulsion bills have mostly been centered around people just not reaching back out to Chloe and being completely absent and not following thorough with that. What I want to do is I want to try to engage as many people as I possibly can and just be an open door for people. I think that is really important to build those kinds of relationships and I think that in itself will be able to decrease those expulsion bills.
 - **Wintory-** That's actually a big part of my platform. I think a shared attendance document like I mentioned would be a really great way for people to keep track of their attendance to avoid expulsion. However, I think another major factor in that is making people want to come to Congress. I think continuing to build upon what the previous Big 3 have done of making this a true community and including as many people in that as possible, I think that we can avoid absences and expulsions because people just want to come, they want to see their friends, they want to see the people they hang out with and who they work together and contribute to this student body.
- **Toyos-** How do you plan to withhold your personal political views as we are a nonpartisan organization?
 - **Wintory-** I think that we all I tend to do that every day no matter what my position is I think right now when we're in Student Congress, our beliefs don't matter, we're representing the people., so there's just no place for your political beliefs, in the Conoco, outside the Conoco. We have to remember that representatives, associates, officers, we represent the people, and we can't do that if we're focusing on certain issues on either side of the aisle.
 - **Burnett-** I think that is important because we are both polisci majors. I think I've had experience within first year of Congress being able to withhold those political thoughts and whatever I believe. I think just continuing that and trying to be as impartial as we possibly can and is so hard to do that, but it's such an important skill for everybody to have in this body and especially for the big 3. Impartiality is something that we hold very true to us and I think the continuation of that and me recognizing that in myself, recognizing that I have those beliefs, but also at the same time recognizing that, that is a really important part of my job. And it's very internal.

I think that question is very internal and just how you decide to go about that. I would go and go about that by doing internal work.

- **Kathuria-** Do you plan on building off the work done by our previous secretary in providing general public access to pieces of legislation that have been signed?
 - **Burnett-** That is a really great question and a really great thing to point out. I think that Chloe has done an amazing job in her role and to continue that and making that stuff extremely available for not only us as a body but everybody on campus is really important that we have that transparency that we feel that we have kind of lost that connection with the student body and SGA given this past semester. I will do everything in my soul to uphold that and I know that is a very big part of the role and I am fully committed to doing that.
 - **Wintory-** Like Ava mentioned Chloe has really kind of revolutionized the position, and her most important improvement in student Congress is, giving her the access to update the municode where you can view every piece of legislation, how people vote on it and she does that pretty promptly, and I want to continue, that's part of my, you know, preservation platform. Is that I just want to continue what she's doing by making sure that the that we can and that the student body can easily see what we work on and making that accessible to all.
- **Bento-** During your time in congress please talk about a time that you faced a significant challenge or obstacle and what you did best to mitigate this challenge and serve in your respect.
 - **Wintory-** In my first semester I mentioned I worked in Upol, and unfortunately, those of you in UPol, you can relate that the biggest issue is just getting people to care. And working on the meal swipe donation program was a big issue because I would email people and I just wouldn't get anything back. But I think the biggest representation of overcoming that is just keep working the problem. Elias has done a great job in just reaching out in other avenues, going to the students. So the way that this relates to me personally is that I will never get stuck on if one person says no to something, I will never just get stuck on that. I will always look for other avenues. I'll always look to collaborate with other people in accomplishing these goals.
 - **Burnett-** Twice within my time of being EA secretary, I have to leave unexpectedly for family issues. I have family in Tulsa and we have a lot to stuff go on, but each time I knew I was going to be absent from EA. I have my chair or anybody else available to record that meeting and make sure that was sent to me, and I still make sure that I was able to do the minutes on time as accurate as I could from that voice recording. I think that's the main thing that I've been able to do mitigate disruption in my role as EA secretary.

On a motion to extend time for questions by 15 minutes Vedra seconded by Hallum

- **Hallum-** What was the turnaround time for taking minutes?
 - **Burnett-** That is a really good question, I know that my turn around time for EA specifically I would usually get it out between Wednesday and Thursday of the week. So we would have meetings on Sunday. There was one time that I had to unfortunately get the minutes out late because of a lot of circumstances that I was surrounded by, but I do recognize that the expectation of this role within Secretary are out that night or the next day and I am completely committed to making sure that you guys are holding me to that standard and I will hold myself to that as well.

- **Wintory-** So for the committee meetings, we usually meet on Sunday, Chloe and I actually work at the law library the next day and I was able to work on them and finalize them that night and get them to her and then obviously she didn't use those minutes because she was secretary she can use her own minutes. I'm sure hers are far better than mine. But I feel confident in my ability to get them out in the next day just because I've been doing that in for the committee meetings. The general body endings are obviously going to be a little bit more extensive and there will be a learning curve. However, I plan on scheduling having my schedule where, for instance, I have stacked on my class basically on Tuesday, Thursday, so that Wednesday after our general body meetings, I will have the entire day to get them ready to send them out to you guys.
- **Chief of Staff Wolthuis-** Do you want to do verbatim minutes?
 - **Wintory-** Part of my platform is actually making sure to keep minutes verbatim especially for general body because the transparency should be one of the biggest focuses of secretary and of the officer position as a whole. The ability for us and the student body to see exactly what we said, when we said it and to be able to read the minutes like they were there is extremely important to me because it just ensures the most transparency and so yeah in answer I would keep them verbatim. I would use a recording system as she does and I tend to get down most of stuff during the meeting so it shouldn't be a problem.
 - **Burnett-** Yeah, that's a really good thing to bring up. I currently in committee meetings, we generally have a lot more general discussion especially with external affairs because we discuss our projects. Everything above general discussion that you see on the agenda is supposed to be verbatim minutes, and I always record and keep everything on my phone to make sure I don't make any mistakes. I've checked through it multiple times to make sure that those are verbatim and that everything in general discussion has been summarized to the ability where it's very understandable if somebody's reading the minutes. I understand that the current Chair wants to bring back general discussion and I have that experience in making sure that general discussion is summarized in a good enough way to where there is a good enough understanding from somebody on the outside who is reading those minutes.
- **Harris-** As we have all experienced there has been a drastic rise in artificial intelligence do you plan on implementing any of that new technology to make sure that your minutes are verbatim and out quick?
 - **Burnett-** I believe in my ability of taking verbatim minutes regardless because I have the recording on my phone. I am not a big AI person I don't use AI that much in my work outside and I think its really important that you have a person still there, rechecking them to make sure they are the best quality so I am not going to use AI.
 - **Wintory-** I completely agree with her. I mean, with the recording all it takes is more time to make sure the minutes are accurate and if they're complete and that's what that's what the job description is, and I see no reason why we need to risk the integrity of our minutes just to make our jobs easier when we knew what we were signing up for.
- **Iglehart-** If elected as Secretary would you consider continuing digitizing past legislation of Congress and GSS?
 - **Wintory-** I mentioned that part about her updating the Municode so the way it works now is she uploads the legislation for the undergraduate student congress and

then the GSS secretary updates the Municode for their legislation so I would continue that process. In terms of my priority the minutes come first because those are important for transparency but also seeing what the bills are and how people votes that is almost as equally important. So I intend on getting those legislations uploaded to the platform I mean easily within the week could be sooner depending on how much we talk.

- **Burnett-** Yeah I think digitizing bills and minutes is really important and that is now a staple of the secretary role. I want it to be known that I will give every single portion and role that I am expected of the same amount of consideration as I do the minutes, or as I do roll call, or attendance, or expulsion bills I want it to be known that I care about every single role and I want it to be done as the best of its abilities and I'm committed to make sure of that.
- **Schonfield-** Would you please rank the committees in order of importance?
 - **Burnett-** Yeah so I will follow the precedent before this and I don't think I am going to do that right now but I love all of you equally and you all do amazing work.
 - **Wintory-** I am going to echo Caleb's here. Its impossible to rank the committees because they just do different things, if there was overlap to rank them it would just be ineffective but our Congress was set up in a way where each committee fulfills its role and each role is equally important. So I will not be ranking the committees.
- **Fisher-** What would you say are your biggest accomplishments that you have done within SGA?
 - **Wintory-** So my concrete results took place in ConAd. I was unfortunately only able to write one bill. However, ConAd sees a lot of stuff so I think fulfilling my duty as a representative in ConAd and making sure that everything we see here is the best version of it so we don't have to waste times in these meetings updating you know small errors and small inconsistencies. So, while I don't have a lot of concrete legislation to be proud of, I am proud of my upholding the commitment to make sure everything we do here is efficient and well run.
 - **Burnett-** Yeah, as we know in EA, one of our main goals is to accomplish projects, and one of my main reasons why I joined EA was because of Higher Education Day. And as we all know we had a big setback when higher education day was rescheduled due to weather, I think my ability to help out and help the committee bounce back from that has been my biggest accomplishment. It took a lot of work, it took a lot of tears and having to talk to a lot of people when my throat was sore and blah blah blah but at the end of the day, I thought we have a really, really successful Higher education day and just getting students out there to talk to their legislators has been a goal of mine since I was in high school when I tried went to the capitol.
- **Vice Chair Gilson-Bond-** What is word count?
 - **Burnett-** My word per minute count is averaging 70-80 which I think is pretty good for a person and I have been growing that since I have been EA secretary. I will say that I am doing a shorthand course right now on typing and that can multiply your count by about 5 minutes.
 - **Wintory-** Over the past couple months when I realized I wanted to run I have been practicing typing tests and I have screenshots on my phone I would be happy to show any of you. Over 100 test I average about 93 words per minute with with a max of 107.
- **Cunningham-** How do you deal with stress?

- **Wintory-** So I am a people person so I think the best stress reliever is just being around people that care about you, care about what you are going through and talking with them about it. That's part of the reason why I love going to the Conoco because I have made some great friends there and people the Big 3 are in their offices they always will hear you out and I really want to continue that acting as a stress reliever for anybody. Student government related or academically related
- **Burnett-** I would like to bounce off of that I love to lean on the people that I have closest to me every time that I am dying of anxiety like I don't know what to do. I always sit down and call my grandma because she always has the best advice and I mean she has been here for a while she has that wisdom. She always has my back and then after that I feel a lot more comfortable and I feel like just doing that itself has helped me in so many different ways to just bounce back.

On a motion to enter into executive session Hallum seconded by Duncan

On a motion to exit executive session Duncan seconded by Morgan

12-20 Michael Wintory is elected as Secretary

Student Concerns

- **Finley-** Okay, this is something I noticed actually, like, tonight, and a couple, like, a little bit last week, but I know we have the light bulbs and everything, but, like, lately, like, last week or so, I've noticed that at night, I go for runs night, because I'm a weirdo, but I've noticed that a lot of the lights have been off, and, like, the lights between Couch and McCasland Hall are out right now. You know where the Sooner Shop is? The lights on that side, there's like two or three of them that are out. And then if you know where Goddard is, that street, there's a couple of lights that are out. I noticed that last week when I was running, it was like 11 p. m. at night, and I was like, that's really weird. But tonight I noticed the one on Couch was out, so I was like, that's like three different times that I've noticed that. So that's one thing I noticed as a girl who runs.

Items to Be Considered

On a motion to see CB-113-34 Vedra seconded by Morgan

- CB-113-34 "The Vice President Appointment Act of 2025." (Dunlap) (Rec of No Rec)

Authors Explanation:

President Dunlap- Okay, hello everyone. Thank you all for staying so late. I really appreciate it. For an overview of how the application and interview process went, in compliance with the Constitution, there were five days of application of on Engage. We posted it to the OU Daily website, on our Instagram, and I announced it before you all a couple weeks ago when it was open. And from those applications, it was closed after five school days. From those applications, I had the Congress chair, Hope Rhoades, the GSS graduate student senate chair, Jordan Norris, and the campus activities council chair, Kennedy Corbin, review the applications and grade the applications based on a 20- point grading scale on their three essays and their resume. From there, I took the top four applicants after averaging their scores onto the interview route. From there, I was the only one conducting interviews. In a regular vice president race or something of the sort, it's a highly personal role between the two of us, so it would be who works well with me or what exactly I'm looking for. And so, going into the interviews, there were a completely different set of questions, different things I was looking for from the applications and interviews. Applications were more experience- based, more SGA- based. Interviews were more future- focused- based and vision- based. So, Joseph, do you want to introduce yourself?

Harroz- Yeah, my name is Joseph Harroz, if we haven't met. I study finance and economics. I'm a junior, and I look forward to answering your questions.

6:25 remaining for questions

- **Harris-** How many total applications were there?
 - **President Dunlap-** 9
- **Finley-** I know the nominee was the Secretary of Development, how would you plan to fill that role?
 - **Dunlap-** So in the Code Annotated, there is no specified need for secretaries, aside from a secretary of inclusivity or student belonging, as we call it. And so outside of that, we would be reworking how the current secretaries work. We have a secretary of strategic initiatives, Mohammed who has done an incredible job as strategic initiatives, who would mostly be taking in a lot of Joseph's role, but also, as the vice president, one of your main jobs is to work with the EOP and encourage the EOP and also run your own task forces. And so Joseph could continue his work through external development as the VP.
- **Granato-** What experience do you have with CLA in the past?
 - **Harroz-** So I was not a member of CLA. Neither was Cyrus, the past VP. But I have gotten to meet Alex and Zaber. And we're having lunch next week. And we've been on a text string. And so I've got some experience helping with interviews. I was an IBC CEO. So I did 45 interviews in two days there. And then I also interviewed the new candidate associates in the JC Penney leadership program, along with the director Rhea Clark. And so, yeah, so I have that experience there. It's experience in public speaking and other areas. And I look forward to helping the co-chairs out in whatever ways possible.
- **Kathuria-** Could you please explain why you chose the nominee that you chose, even as there were probably some other individuals who were arguably probably just as qualified as the one you selected?
 - **President Dunlap-** Yeah, so the first thing I'll say is a little bit about that last half about qualifications. I think everyone that I interviewed was highly qualified. I mean, you can ask anyone there wasn't a wrong choice based on experience and qualifications. And they all are amazingly smart individuals. And in a big picture view would have excelled in this position. I chose Joseph because of his future focus. I think we can all agree that the past few months, weeks in the executive branch have been a little tough and a little bit and Joseph really stood out to me because he didn't mention any of that. He was so future focused on his vision and his platform point that he brought up that diminishing the past few weeks of the executive branch didn't come up. And that really stuck out too and why I ended up choosing him is I want to move forward. President Strickland was the 59th president. I'm the 60th, it's a different administration. It's a different set of goals. Obviously, the R.E.A.L. platform is still at my forefront. But Carter ran a different administration than I'm going to run. And I am done talking about our old administration. I'm ready to move forward and ready to go into my administration and hopefully the administration that Joseph will be a part of. And so that's why I ended up choosing him because he didn't mention anything to do with the impeachment trial.
- **Kathuria-** Could you please elaborate what you mean specifically what you mean being future oriented?

- **President Dunlap-** Yeah, absolutely. So Joseph came in with a lot of ideas for how to encourage the EOP, a lot of ideas on his own platform that I hope he gets to explain to you all today. And looking into what the two of us wanted to do in the short eight months that we do have left in this position. Hopefully, he will join me in that. And so I think that's what I mean by future focus is not looking in the rear-view mirror of what just happened, but his mindset was purely all forces ahead.
- **Toyos-** What are some goals you have both for EOP and CLA as you will now help oversee them as well as the Crimson Leadership Association?
 - **Harroz-** Yeah, definitely. With EOP, with my position as Secretary of External Development, I was working on a speaker series, student government speaker series. We were looking at getting Representative Daniel Pay to come in and talk to us about politics and how you can get involved in politics after college and what the future in that looks like. And with everything that happened these last couple of months, we didn't end up like, we're not able to make that happen. And so we're going to move that to fall. It's going to be in the first few weeks of the fall semester. I'm still in contact with Rep Pay. And then we're hoping to look to do a bigger speaker series there after that with someone, another Rep of some sort, maybe a Rep Cole or something like that, if we could handle that. And so, looking to go forward with that. And then in addition to that, I'm looking to aid EOP in whatever way is possible. And however I can help with that. And with CLA, I'm just looking to help you guys as much as much as possible. I know Cyrus kind of rewrote the whole curriculum last year. So I'm looking to take kind of a hands-off approach, but be there when y' all need me.
- **Kathuria-** As you may know, there are a lot of ideas that have been presented by a wide variety of different campaigns. Have you had the chance to study elements of the REAL platform or the BLOOM platform? And the BLOOM platform and the WIN platform from the year 2023?
 - **Harroz-** Yeah, so I was able to help a little bit with Caden, Cyrus and the BLOOM. As kind of just someone who's getting messages out to group meetings and getting involved with Caden and Cyrus. They're kind of the people who just introduced me to SGA. And then I was helping Avery and Carter out on their campaign as well. And so I got some experience there.
- **Kathuria-** If you were to somehow have to step in, you know, as the role of president, whether it's temporary or permanent, tell me, what would you do to ensure the student body knows that you are there to serve the interests of the everyday OU student?
 - **Harroz-** Yeah, well, I created a mock platform when I was interviewing with President Dunlap, and it was RISE. So it's helping OU students rise above post-graduation. It kind of stems from resumes, interviews, strength in alumni connections, which all lead to enhanced job opportunities out of And I was hoping to do workshops in, like, career readiness centers and with the Career Center to really help people tailor their resumes specifically to their given majors in their colleges. Because you see that in places like Price and Gaylord, but you don't tend to see resume critiques in a lot of these other colleges, which is what people need to get these internships and job opportunities. The issue isn't that people don't have the opportunity and the things to go on the resume, it's that they don't know what to put

and how to style and format their resume. I think that could help a lot. And also doing, like, mock interview workshops.

- **Cade Walker-** What do you believe are the biggest issues that students face on campus right now, and how do you plan on facing them?
 - **Harroz-** Yeah, definitely. Well, that was kind of what my platform was about. It was really based on post- graduation. But a big issue that students are facing, and I see in Greek life, is that Greek life kind of is its own deal. And it's not really with all these other clubs and SGA and things like that. As someone who is kind of on both sides of that aisle, I really think that it would be a good opportunity for people in Greek life to branch out and see what's going on in places like SGA, because while I'm getting involved late as a junior, it's already been so impactful to me, and I hope that others can see this.

29-0-0 unanimous pass

On a motion to see CB-113-35 Vedra seconded by Fischer

- CB-113-35 “SGA Election Commissioner Appointment Act)
(Dunlap/Rhoads/Wolthuis)(Rec of No Rec)

Authors Explanation:

Rhoads- I'd just like to start this off with, we all went through biased training. Obviously, I did not talk much about this appointment because of my personal relationship with the election commissioner.

Chief of Staff Wolthuis- I want to say that she didn't talk much. She did not talk at all. It was the same process last year as well. After former election commissioner Savage and nominee Savage went through, she did not speak. She said, 'You all know my biases here.' I'll talk about the other candidates. We can talk about their strengths and weaknesses. I'm pulling myself out of this one. So Avery and I had taken the helm. Ultimately, Baylor does his stuff. He has handled every election extremely well and extremely timely, and that has been a huge strength of Baylor's. He's got many, many others.

President Dunlap- Just an overview of the process. We had four applicants. We took all four interviews. The interviews were held in succession. Yeah, he killed it. He explained his past experience with SGA and his understanding of the code annotated in the Constitution, but also his experience dealing with some election violations this past year as election commissioner really stood out to us and how he dealt with it. So, yes, other applicants were great as well. However, experience just trumped all. He obviously had the experience necessary. But, Baylor, do you want to introduce yourself?

Savage- Cool, yeah. Baylor Savage, junior economic and accounting, year as election commissioner. Two years in CAC. CLA for two years as well, both as Co-Chair and member. The only branch I haven't served in is legislative, but I have wrote bills and come to most of your meetings. So, that has to count for something.

6:09 remaining for questions

- **Cunningham-** Would you be willing to accept a friendly amendment adding the words 'most exalted' to the title?
 - **Chief of Staff Wolthuis-** We would not. You're going to have to hostile that one.
- **Aslam-** Nominee, do you plan on using my campaign poster once again for the sample for the new candidates?
 - **Savage-** Yeah, so for anyone who is not as familiar with my mandatory meetings, just for context on this, the code annotated already has a lot of rules and stuff like that. What I do with the mandatory meetings is I make a more condensed and

digestible version of these rules and stuff like that. I put examples. The main one being a picture that Syed Aslam had as his representative thing. It has some really good things in it. It also has some really horrible things in it. So I like to use it as an example of what to do and what not to do. And with your consent, yes, I will be using them.

- **Kathuria-** In your honest opinion what do you think is the biggest strength of Mr. Savage?
 - **Rhoads-** I would say from working with Baylor as Chair and Election commissioner, and as a close friend, I would say that he is a very focused individual. He sets his eyes on the task. He really simply said, honestly, goes above and beyond.
 - **President Dunlap-** My compliment to him would be his drive and assertiveness. I think he's someone who gets his opinion heard. Not that his opinions are super opinionated, but they're usually just along with the code and his service as election commissioner. And he's very fact-based, which is a really good thing to have in an election commissioner. You're very assertive with the facts. So, I appreciate that.
 - **Chief of Staff Wolthuis-** He just works hard. Baylor is anything, he is a hard worker. He will do what is expected of him, and he will do it well, and he will do it in a timely manner. And with the election commissioner, that's kind of the number one priority. He wants someone that gets the work done, and they do it well. He is prompt in his responses. He's prompt in his emails. He's prompt with violations in the meetings. He expects a lot of people, so we expect a lot of him, and he has exceeded any expectations.
- **Kathuria-** Why are you choosing to appoint an election commissioner now compared to what other administrations have done by appointing an election commissioner one week before filing week starts?
 - **Savage-** So this is actually a big thing for me this year. I want to thank them because I felt the most experience with stuff like that. Something that the election commissioner - in a lot of ways, I feel like I do a good job. That's up to you guys more than me. But something I didn't feel like I did a great job of this year is setting up the future of the election commission and really getting that well. Obviously, that starts with having an election commissioner so I know I'm going to take my position next year and stuff like that. At this point, I don't think I have that. The best way to do that is to have a commissioner who's really passionate, who's getting in there and at least loving it. Like, you know what? I want to take that role. I want to do that next year. I want to be that guy. I want to be the success we started this year. Um, so with that, we thought it would just be better for you to have this time now having the general application that's going to be opening in the fall, have the commission on it give me more time to kind of meet with people, kind of tell them hey, you guys can actually do that. Fun fact about you guys if you're not running for a seat, it's not a high office on the commission so as long as you're not running for a representative seat, you can serve on my commission as well and stuff like that, so just keep that in mind as well, shameless plug but that's kind of the reason I just wanted more time to get that done.
- **Kathuria-** Are you aware of the fact that someone could actually flag a prospective candidate during any point of the year? For example, if they are accused of committing a violation.
 - **Savage-** Yeah, absolutely. Honestly, my job; people, they've had to call me 'Member Savage' for a few weeks. That's not really the case. I've still been handling stuff,

especially with this election. There's a whole lot of things I've been grateful for that, but there have been a couple things here and there, and just having someone there full-time that can say, even if I'm not doing just reports, doing something like that, just like, hey, go this way, maybe don't go that way. Kind of that guiding hand, that reassurance, constantly there in the office, stuff like that. I think that's something helpful.

- **Kathuria-** What are some changes you would like to see to our SGA election laws?
 - **Savage-** We kind of talked about with the ConAd chair. What prefer not to vote actually means and what the rules and procedures are going to be like that moving forward. The actual process isn't really set in stone. Obviously, like, you know, you have to win and stuff like that. And if you don't, it's kind of like those runoff rules and stuff. How to do it, like the actual process isn't really set in stone yet. My job as part of the judicial branch is just kind of to do what you guys decided when you do stuff like that. So I'd love to work with you guys. Like, hey, this is what you need to do with these decisions. So I just have that guideline. In the future, at least, I have that guideline to go off of in those cases.

29-0-0 unanimous pass

On a motion to see CB-113-36 Vedra seconded by Fischer

- CB-113-36 “Spring 2025 Superior Court Appointment Act.”
(Dunlap/Rhoads/Norris/Grace/Wolthuis) (Rec of No Rec)

Authors Explanation:

President Dunlap- This is the appointment for Superior Court. We had one justice opening this year. We interviewed four applicants again. We had a lot of applicants, but we only took those prospective for law school. What we hope to do with the court is to shift it to more of a graduate situation so students who are on specifically the law school track or currently in law school when they apply. So the way we cut that down is if you were not in law school or attending law school in fall of '25, we did not offer them an interview. We only took those who were going to law school starting in the fall or already in law school for an interview.

Chief of Staff Wolthuis- Just wanted to offer that clarification because we did actually receive quite a few really qualified individuals this year. People really put a lot of effort into their applications. So ultimately, we really want to narrow it down into those who are either actively in law school or going to law school, as Avery mentioned. Former Secretary Harris is fantastic. Her interview was phenomenal. Her application was phenomenal. She's got deep knowledge about the code annotated, the Constitution, our governing docs, and that is really what she wants to see for Superior Court.

Rhoads- And something about Chloe is that she does have experience interning in her County clerk's office, and she's been doing that for a couple of summers now, and so she's very familiar with law; recently accepted into OU law. She knows her code probably better than anybody. And so when it came to the decision, it was an easy one for us.

Harris- You know me. I'm sad if you don't know me at this point. But I'm Chloe Harris. I was your former secretary. I am going to OU law, as we said, in the fall. And being part of ConAd has made me very familiar with the code and the bylaws and how to do all those procedures.

5:55 remaining for questions

- **Savage-** You said you are very familiar with the code. I do remember in the first semester, you actually sent several candidates to me with incorrect information that could have led them to infractions. Have you taken another look at Section 6 about it and kind of, you know, reacquainted yourself with that part of the code and elections?

- **Harris-** I have. What I was talking of was a place after a bill that we had just written about elections. That's where I had meant. It was then taken out of context by those people that came to you and asked about those infractions. But now I am way more familiar. I was in Susty before, okay? So now I'm in ConAd. So I do know those a lot better than I did previously.
- **Kathuria-** Is it in your opinion that the superior court should be diverse in terms of undergraduate students, graduate students, and of people of different majors?
 - **Chief of Staff Wolthuis-** Yes, absolutely. We do have quite a few undergrads that are on there; hence why there was only one seat opening up this year because a lot of undergrads are still there. We have a pretty healthy mix, I would say, right now with current law students and undergrads. But given the experience that the applicants showed, we decided that those who are in law school or are going to be attending law school in the fall just had bolstering resumes. They just showed a lot of legal experience; able to interpret different codes in that way. So we had decided that with that one open seat, we wanted to give an opportunity to law school students.
- **Kathuria-** In regards to future Superior Court nominees, will you be more willing to probably appoint an undergraduate to the Superior Court if another seat were to open up, like, let's say next semester?
 - **Chief of Staff Wolthuis-** Yes, if someone had applied. It was not an end-all, be-all rule. We had read through every single application, and genuinely, the strongest applications happened to be those that were going to law school or are currently in law school as well. That's another point to add. If there was an undergrad student who had applied and had a super, super detailed application and had tons of experience that we thought were going to be applicable to the Superior Court, we absolutely would have still offered them an interview. It's not an end-all, be-all, just kind of the way that things should have this year.
- **Kathuria-** After you graduate law school, what type of law do you want to practice?
 - **Harris:** I actually want to go into environmental law, and I owe that all to the Susty committee. I have a passion for the environment that I didn't necessarily have before, and also I took an environmental law class in my undergrad, and there's a lot of restoration that happens with, they're called Superfund sites, those are really places with a lot of pollution, and I would really love to help with getting more laws in place to clean up those areas.
- **Vedra-** In your explanation, you said you wanted to focus on law students with the Superior Court. Can you explain kind of what that means going forward in the future?
 - **President Dunlap-** Yeah, so I would apologize for my author's opening, and I misspoke a lot in my author's opening. I think looking at applicants and looking at experiences and taking into account what the court, how the court serves, Law experience sticks out more in those applications. Just like if an undergrad has interns like Chloe for a county clerk but isn't law school or is a sophomore in law in undergrad, that court experience sticks out. So, I apologize. I did misspeak. I would say law understanding and law experience in some sense sticks out more.

29-0-0 unanimous pass

Follow-Up Reports

- **Kathuria-** The accommodated testing of Accessibility for All Act, I might have fumbled the words, because I am exhausted right now. That bill did pass in the GSS exec committee with

unanimous consent. And it's going to be seen this Thursday. And it will hopefully pass. And it will be on President Dunlap's desk before you know it.

Announcements and Comments

- **Keupen-** All right, everybody. I know we're all tired. I mean, I have an 8 AM tomorrow, so anyways. But this is kind of a big deal for me. Thursday at 7 PM, I'll be giving an oral argument in front of the Superior Court over impeachment stuff. And I believe that this is the first time that the Superior Court has held a hearing in like 4 and a half years. It'll be in the Dell courtroom in the law school. So please be there.
- **Vice Chair Gilson-Bond-** Tomorrow I will be leaving my office hours 30 minutes earlier, but I'll be arriving 30 minutes earlier. I will be in my office so if you need something.
- **Kathuria:** I'm going to inform the body of John Manziel is going to be speaking in CAC, at Speakers Bureau on Thursday. The door's open at 6 PM. It's going to be at Holmberg Hall. Tickets are free. And you can get a CSP if you show up. I'll be there. I'd love to have a few awesome friends from Congress tag along with me.
- **Harris-** Oklahoma Minimum Wage Forum, Friday at 3pm.

Final Roll Call

On a motion to Adjourn Sine Die Morgan Seconded by Fisher

Adjourn-Sine Die

Chair: Hope Rhoads

Vice Chair: Aaron Gilson-Bond

Secretary: Chloe Harris

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXIII

April 22, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

SENATE SESSION GFXF/GSXX

Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-113-34

SENATE BILL NO. GSXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of legislation appointing the Vice President of
the Executive Branch; providing for short title, and
providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION:

Section 1: Title: This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the “The Vice President
Appointment Act of 2025.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to appoint the Vice President of the Dunlap
Administration within the Executive Branch.

Section 3: In accordance with the SGA Code Annotated §Title III, Chapter 1, Section 3.A, which
delineates the appointment process for the Vice President position, the following student
shall thus be appointed:

- Joseph Harroz

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

Author(s): Avery Dunlap, SGA President

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Hallum seconded by Representative Morgan

Action taken by Congress: 29-0-0 unanimous pass

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 CXIII

April 22, 2025

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

SENATE SESSION GSXX/GFXX

Month DD, YYYY

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-113-35

SENATE BILL GSXX-XX/GFXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Legislation appointing the 2025-2026 SGA
Election Commissioner; 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 “2025-2026 SGA Election
Commissioner Appointment Act.”

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to appoint the 2025-2026 Election
Commissioner.

Section 3: In accordance with §Title IV Chapter 6, Section 2, which delineates the appointment
process for the position, the following student shall thus be appointed:

- Baylor Savage

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

Author(s): President Avery Dunlap, Student Government Association
Chair Hope Rhoads, Undergraduate Student Congress
Chief of Staff Ellie Wolthuis, Student Government Association

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Vedra seconded by Representative Fischer

Action taken by Congress: 29-0-0 unanimous pass

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 CXIII

April 22, 2025

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

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-113-36
SENATE BILL GSXX-XX/GFXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of legislation appointing justices to the SGA
Superior Court; 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 “Spring 2025 Superior Court Appointment Act.”
- Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to name and appoint a Superior Court Justice.
- Section 3: In accordance with SGACA Title IV, Chapter 2, section b, subsections iii and iv, Superior Court Justices will be appointed by a majority vote of the panelists [the SGA President, the GSS Chair, the Congress Chair, and the General Counsel]. The Chief Justice of Superior Court is one of the panelists, however they will only vote in the event of the tie.
- Chloe Harris
- Section 4: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.
- Authors: President Avery Dunlap, Student Government Association
Chair Hope Rhoads, Undergraduate Student Congress
Chair Jordan Norris, Graduate Student Senate
Chief Justice Claire Grace, Superior Court
General Counsel Maddie Taylor, Student Government Association
Chief of Staff Ellie Wolthuis, Student Government Association

Co-Sponsor(s): Michael Wintory, Associate

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Vedra seconded by Representative Fischer

Action taken by Congress: 29-0-0 unanimous pass

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 _____

[illegible]

A	B	C	D
			22-Apr
Last	First	Initial	Final
Ball	Reese	x	x
Beasley	William	x	x
Bertotti	Hayden	x	x
Burnett	Ava	x	a
Carter	Leo	x	x
Christiansen	Henry	x	x
Cunningham	Owen	x	x
Dailey	Keeley	ex	ex
Duncan	Elizabeth	x	x
Estrada	Nicole	ex	x
Evans	Alexis	ex	ex
Finley	Jael	x	x
Fisher	Mecca	a	x
Glaza	Ava	x	x
Graham	Brocke	ex	x
Hallum	Elias	x	x
Harris	Hudson	x	x
Hawkins	Da'juan	x	ex
Hawley	Kayla	x	x
Higareda Castillo	Lilian	a	x
Lapp	Bridget	a	a
Lartey	Ominy	ex	ex
Martin	Kyle	x	x
Means	Parker	x	x
Morgan	Coleman	x	x
Prajapati	Himani	ex	ex
Pruitt	Aydan	x	x
Quinones	Estrella	ex	x
Radzanowski	Lorelai	x	x
Rapp	Madeline	x	x
Robinson	Caleb	x	
Schonfield	Jacob	x	x
Toyos	Alexandra	x	x
Vedra	Hayden	x	x
Walker	Cade	x	x
Walker	Cody	x	x
Wang	Andy	x	x
Wick	Isaiah	ex	a
PRESENT		27	29
ABSENT		3	3
EXCUSED		8	5

Last	First	Chair		Last	First	VC		Last	First	Secretary
Ball	Reese	r		Ball	Reese	g		Ball	Reese	b
Beasley	William	r		Beasley	William	g		Beasley	William	w
Bertotti	Hayden	r		Bertotti	Hayden	g		Bertotti	Hayden	b
Burnett	Ava	s		Burnett	Ava	g		Burnett	Ava	b
Carter	Leo	s		Carter	Leo	ab		Carter	Leo	b
Christiansen	Henry	r		Christiansen	Henry	g		Christiansen	Henry	w
Cunningham	Owen	r		Cunningham	Owen	g		Cunningham	Owen	w
Dailey	Keeley			Dailey	Keeley			Dailey	Keeley	
Duncan	Elizabeth	s		Duncan	Elizabeth	g		Duncan	Elizabeth	w
Estrada	Nicole	r		Estrada	Nicole	g		Estrada	Nicole	w
Evans	Alexis			Evans	Alexis			Evans	Alexis	
Finley	Jael	s		Finley	Jael	g		Finley	Jael	w
Fisher	Mecca	s		Fisher	Mecca	c		Fisher	Mecca	b
Glaza	Ava	r		Glaza	Ava	g		Glaza	Ava	w
Graham	Brocke	r		Graham	Brocke	g		Graham	Brocke	w
Hallum	Elias	r		Hallum	Elias	g		Hallum	Elias	w
Harris	Hudson	s		Harris	Hudson	c		Harris	Hudson	b
Hawkins	Da'juan			Hawkins	Da'juan			Hawkins	Da'juan	
Hawley	Kayla	r		Hawley	Kayla	g		Hawley	Kayla	w
Higareda Castillo	Lilian	r		Higareda Castillo	Lilian	g		Higareda Castillo	Lilian	b
Lapp	Bridget	s		Lapp	Bridget	g		Lapp	Bridget	b
Lartey	Ominy			Lartey	Ominy			Lartey	Ominy	
Martin	Kyle	r		Martin	Kyle	g		Martin	Kyle	w
Means	Parker	r		Means	Parker	g		Means	Parker	w
Morgan	Coleman	r		Morgan	Coleman	g		Morgan	Coleman	w
Prajapati	Himani			Prajapati	Himani			Prajapati	Himani	
Pruitt	Aydan	s		Pruitt	Aydan	g		Pruitt	Aydan	w
Quinones	Estrella	r		Quinones	Estrella	g		Quinones	Estrella	b
Radzanowski	Lorelai	r		Radzanowski	Lorelai	g		Radzanowski	Lorelai	b
Rapp	Madeline	s		Rapp	Madeline	g		Rapp	Madeline	w
Robinson	Caleb	r								
Schonfield	Jacob	s		Schonfield	Jacob	g		Schonfield	Jacob	w
Toyos	Alexandra	r		Toyos	Alexandra	g		Toyos	Alexandra	w
Vedra	Hayden	r		Vedra	Hayden	g		Vedra	Hayden	w
Walker	Cade	r		Walker	Cade	g		Walker	Cade	w
Walker	Cody	r		Walker	Cody	g		Walker	Cody	w
Wang	Andy	s		Wang	Andy	g		Wang	Andy	b
Wick	Isaiah	s		Wick	Isaiah	g		Wick	Isaiah	b
Robinson		21		Carter		2		Burnett		12
Schonfield		12		Gilson-Bond		29		Wintory		20
Abstain		0		Abstain		1		Abstain		0