

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Session CXV

General Body Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Call to Order: 7:01 PM

Opening Roll Call

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

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

On a motion to approve the minutes Rboads seconded Vedra

Approval of Minutes | December 2, 2025

Officer Reports -

- **Chair's Report:** Hi, all! I am happy to have you all back, even if virtually. Today, we will see three bills, all various appointment bills, with two of them coming from the Executive Branch and one appointing/reappointing our committee chairs for this session. I will also be giving a presentation on the changes to our bill submission process. I know this is not the most entertaining topic, but I strongly encourage you to pay close attention during this presentation. Next week, we will hold our regularly scheduled votes of no confidence. For our new members, this is something we do at the second meeting of each odd-numbered session, and it is essentially used as an opportunity to review the performance of your three elected Congress Officers (me, Aaron, and Michael). I do want to note, for both our committee chair appointment bill tonight and for the votes of no confidence next week, these processes are not the time for you to voice new concerns. We three officers, as well as 4 of the 7 committee chairs, have served since April and August, respectively. Without giving your committee chairs, your Congress Officers, or even your other peers the necessary constructive criticism and feedback over the duration of their terms, they cannot make appropriate changes. I encourage you all to take these seriously and to apply appropriate scrutiny, but I also encourage you to consider whether you have voiced those concerns or if you have let them sit silently
- **Vice Chair's Report:** Alrighty. So this is going to be my vice chair's report right here. So happy to see y'all, obviously, but I'll can I have some QR codes. If you're watching the Zoom on your phone, you need to take a screenshot, and then you can do your stuff with it later. But right here, here's the group me. I'm doing things kind of differently. I have three different tabs. One is just announcements and comments. Mainly, there's going to be committee chairs talking about things that they're doing versus I have actually a dedicated

chat for CSPs. That was a big concern people had before was saying that there's not enough opportunities. There's tons of opportunities. People are talking about them, but then it gets kind of off to the side. People can't see it. And then there's obviously the general discussion where people just talk about literally random stuff all the time. Right here, please scan this QR code. It's a Google form. It's for you to input your name and email. If you do not do this, you will not receive emails. This is the only way for you to do it. Our email chain is horrible. There's people who are getting it from they've been in congress for three years. I got an email earlier last semester. It was like a grad student. We're also going to be able to update our engage page with this. Our engage page is a little outdated. We want to make sure that everyone inside of the body is actually inside of that engage. That's important because this next form right here, this is your CSP submission. This opened up nine minutes ago. So if you already done stuff for February, February would be the first month that's required, not requiring January, then you can go ahead and submit, you know, certain things if you've done it. So I approved some stuff like last semester if you did it already. You can go and submit it there. But this will be on Engage. So if you're not in the Engage right now, you won't be able to do it. If you're not in the Engage, that's okay. You filled out the last form, which all the stuff will be sent out later. You'll be able to actually complete it by the end of the month. Now orientation. So turns out I have orientation on the fifteenth. I will be out of town on the fifteenth. I obviously do not want to not be there for orientation, So I'm going to give you guys the option. So one, we're going to continue the fifteenth, and there'll be someone else in exec that will actually be the main front header for it. I want to reschedule for the eighth. That's what I'd prefer to do. So I'm going to give you guys a poll in a second once I'm done with all these options for you guys to decide. Now granted, the orientation will be done well before the Super Bowl starts, so there's no concerns there. But then the final option, this is something that GSS, I've noticed that they do. It is an online version. Well, I'm not going to just give you guys a video and for y'all just to say you watched it. There will be a pretty in-depth quiz after. I don't want you y'all have to do that, but that's something that I want to throw as an option on there just in case. So, hopefully, everyone chooses option two. Here's the orientation RSVP. Please RSVP. If you have not been to an orientation before, you need to complete this form. I'm also opening the option for members who are returning, who've already been to an orientation to be able to attend as well. Obviously, some things have, you know, been updated as far as different points and fractions we do, but also just our new process of legislation as well if you want to know a little bit of a refresher. It's also a good opportunity for you to be able to meet new members and actually get to talk to them a little bit more. These new members, not only ones who were sworn in towards the end of last semester, but these will also be the ones from our GenApp that will be doing interviews this week. These are my my current office hours. Once we get everyone from GenApp, I will be sending out a form so we can update them. I'm free, like, all Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays pretty much. But I'll send out an email to everyone with that. I'll also send out another RSVP thing. Like I said, if you have not been to orientation before, you are required to be there. But if you have been to orientation before, you are offered the option to be there for the full duration, meaning you get pizza, all that stuff, and everything.

- **Secretary's Report:** Hey, everyone. I'm glad to see you guys. I wish more people had their camera on, but I see how it is. I don't have much for you. I put the associate attendance form in the chat. Please don't cheese it. I'll know. I'm going to give you guys a refresher on the attendance policy because a lot of people, were confused in our last meeting. You have four unexcused absences before you are expelled. An unexcused absence is when you either

miss a committee meeting, a general body meeting. If you're an associate, you're only required to do the first one every month. If you're a rep, it's every week. You miss a general body meeting or you don't do a CSP without emailing either your committee secretaries for committee meetings or me for the general body meetings. All you have to do is email, and it'll get excused. But if you reach four, I'm going to try to do better about reminding people. But if you reach 4, I'll draft up stuff for expulsion. I had to do a bunch last semester. It was ugly. I'd really rather not do that. So I'm not even asking you guys to show up more. I'm just asking you to communicate more. Showing up more would be great. That mean we'd have a better, more well functioning congress, but you have to communicate more or this thing just doesn't work. So, I'll be doing another presentation on that at orientation because, apparently, people didn't get the memo last orientation. I just really want us to, you know, be here together and work better together and not have to worry about, ugly stuff like, expulsions. But, yeah, that's all I have for you.

Committee Reports-

- **Campus Outreach, Safety, and Concerns:** Yeah. Hi, everyone. My name is Baylor Savage. I'm hopefully excited to serve as the new Costco chair. Guess you guys will decide that tonight or not. No hard feelings either way. But you guys probably know me. I was the election commissioner last semester. I've been looking to join congress for a while. Talked to Caleb about it. I want to put myself out there and apply for it, so super excited. Yeah. That's a little bit about me. I'm a senior, so this will be my last semester, studying accounting and economics. Yeah.
- **Congressional Administration:** Hi everybody, I'm happy to be here tonight. I was the ConAd vice chair last year. I'm excited to step into this role. I'm a sophomore aerospace engineer major, and I'm just looking forward to getting started this weekend. Thanks, everybody.
- **External Affairs:** Hi, everyone. I'm Hope Rhodes. I hope that person gets their chips. I served as the external affairs chair last semester. And before that, I was chair of congress. And before that, I was human diversity committee chair. I've been around the block. So, yeah, please vote for me.
- **Human Diversity:** Hi, guys. My name is Lorelei. I served as committee chair last session, and I am hopeful to be voted back in this session. I wanted to mention that I will have my vice chair position open. Xander is going to be on the appointment act under the chief of staff bill tonight. Very excited for him. So if you're interested in applying for that, that will be out this weekend for applications. Other than that, I can't wait for another great semester.
- **Sustainability:** Hello, everyone. I'm Owen. I'm a sophomore who served as the sustainability committee chair last semester, and I, hopefully, after tonight, will be able to do it for this next semester. I look forward to working with you all.
- **University Policy:** Hey, everyone. For those that don't know me, I am Hayden Vedra. I am a junior. I've spent several years here at UPol and I've really loved the community that we built. And so I'm really hoping to look forward to getting to continue that and getting to work on some really important projects with y'all.
- **Ways and Means: Hey, guys. My name is Jacob Schonfield. I've been the WAM Chair for a year and a half. Looking forward to doing primary with you guys this semester. Can't wait to dive in.**

Liaison Reports

Special Orders

- Bill Process Presentation

On a motion to enter committee of the whole by unanimous consent Vedra seconded Morgan: Passed

- Committee of the Whole

On a motion to see CB-115-01 Gideon seconded Hawkins

- CB-115-01 “Session CXV Committee Chair Appointment Act” (Robinson/Gilson-Bond/Wintory)

Author’s Explanation:

Chair Robinson: Hey, everyone. I'm going to use this as an opportunity to tell you, please don't ask any of your actual substantive questions during committee of the whole. Please save those for when we actually see the bill. This is kind of not vice chair Gilson-Bond's job. So I will give you my actual author's exx right now, and that is four of these seven are returning, and that would be, Hope Rhodes, Lorelei Radzanowski, Owen Cunningham, and Jacob Schonfield. Those are our four returning applicants. The other three, two of them were interviewed last semester. That was Cole Morgan and Hayden Vedra. We interviewed them at the end of last semester in November, December. And we thought that they were both great fits for their position. Cole Morgan being the vice chair of ConAd, he's taken to the role pretty quickly. And I think he has exhibited a pretty substantive understanding of the code, the bylaws, and he's caught on to it pretty quickly. No. And then university policy, Hayden Vedra, I personally have served in the university policy committee. His application was great. And back when I was UPOL chair, he was excellent in his position. He's put up with a lot of incredibly difficult projects. He's taken on a lot onto his plate because of that committee that he hasn't really been asked to do. This is something he's done in his own accord. And so I think that's also really good for UPol. And then Baylor Savage, you all know Baylor. He's great. Although he's never actually been a member of congress, I think he's probably one of the most experienced members of SGA just in general. He's incredibly well connected within the organization, within campus, within Norman broadly. I think he's got a lot of connections with the organizations that are necessary considering part of his role is outreach. So, yeah, I'm excited to see all of them, and I yield my time.

Secretary Wintory: Just to add, for our for our decision making process, it is all points based. So we grade the application based on passion, cause, and vision. And then we have the same nine interview questions that we ask everyone, and the three of us, graded it. And you know? So it wasn't just like, oh, we liked Baylor the best. He, unfortunately, got the most amount of points.

5:45 Time remaining for questions

On a motion to give CB-115-01 a recommendation of no recommendation Evans seconded Pitts

On a motion to see CB-115-03 Vedra seconded Bass

- CB-115-03 “The Chief of Staff Appointment Act of 2026” (Martin/Nicholson)

Author’s Explanation:

President Martin: This is our chief of staff appointment bill. So we are trying to appoint Henry Christiansen as the chief of staff. You guys all know Henry. He served as the COSCO chair last year. He did an amazing job there. Like I said, we've gotten number of very qualified applicants, and we went through an application much like how Michael described there and scored them all in points and then interviewed everyone and did the same grading scale for that. And Henry, like that, just came out with the most amount of points. We really believe his vision, his ability to execute this role very effectively and to serve, SGA at its highest level.

7:15 Time remaining for questions

On a motion to give CB-115-03 a recommendation of no recommendation Donald seconded Vedra

On a motion to see CB-115-04 Cox seconded Hicks

- CB-115-04 “SGA Executive Cabinet Appointment Act of 2026” (Martin/Nicholson)

Author’s Explanation:

President Martin: So kind of the same thing. We had a grading scale for this one as well as an interview process, slightly different metrics because they are all different roles. But, again, I was so impressed with the quality and quantity of applicants we had. They're just truly in another caliber, and we have a lot of different, new positions. And I'm really excited to see how they take these positions and just flourish in them. I'm very excited and believe in all of them wholeheartedly. So I'm excited for any questions you guys may have.

7:31 time remaining for questions

On a motion to give CB-114-04 a recommendation of no recommendation Radzanowski seconded Cunningham

On a motion to exit committee of the whole Morgan seconded Vedra by unanimous consent: Passed

Student Concerns

Old Business

Items to Be Considered

On a motion to see CB-115-01 Cox seconded Pitts

- CB-115-01 “Session CXV Committee Chair Appointment Act” (Robinson/Gilson-Bond/Wintory)

Author’s Explanation:

Chair Robinson: Great. Yeah. This is the same bill that we saw in committee of the whole. I welcome you for actual questions this time.

7:55 time remaining for questions

- **Representative Toyos:** Author, how many total, applications did you receive? You don't have to do it for each one, just the whole number.
 - **Chair Robinson:** I think for the for the most recent cycle of interviews, so for the non ConAd and UPolones, I think we had eight. And then for ConAd and UPol, I think there were three or four, I think, for those two. So, like, 11 ish, eleven, twelve total.

Passed unanimously 29-0-4

On a motion to see CB-115-03 Vedra seconded Cox

- CB-115-03 “The Chief of Staff Appointment Act of 2026” (Martin/Nicholson)

Author’s Explanation

President Martin: I'll keep the shorter. I just kind of gave my spiel. But, yeah, like I said, Henry's track record not only in this organization but outside is just impeccable and I think really speaks to his skills and his character. And I'm excited to handle any questions that you guys might have about this. Thank you.

7:44 time remaining for questions

- **Representative Vedra:** Author, do you know how many applicants you had and how many applicants you interviewed?
 - **President Martin:** 4.

- **Representative Morgan:** Author, do you know when the, chief of staff or, I guess, future, hopefully, chief of staff would graduate?
 - **President Martin:** In December, aligning right when our administration would end.

Passed unanimously 35-0-0

On information, Secretary Wintory: Is the chair aware that associates we can see if you're leaving the Zoom call? And if I see that you're leaving early, I'm just going to count you absent?

On a motion to see CB-115-04 Cox seconded Bass

- CB-115-04 “SGA Executive Cabinet Appointment Act of 2026” (Martin/Nicholson)

Author’s Explanation:

President Martin: Thank you. Yeah. Like I touched on before, we have a lot of new positions this year, a lot of new, projects and spaces. Most people are very uniquely positioned with their skills and their talent to take advantage of them. I think really flourish in these roles, and I'm really excited to see what they do.

7:45 time remaining for questions

- **Representative Vedra:** Author, do you know the total number of applicants you had and then the total number of interviews you conducted?
 - **President Martin:** I know we had 18 applicants, and I cannot right now, if you give me two minutes, I can figure out the same number of interviews, but I want to say around 16 to 18.
- **Representative Hawkins:** Author, I see that these are well, I would say, well qualified people to fit for the job. When you kind of went through this interview process, what kind of checklist did you look for, when choosing these members?
 - **President Martin:** Yeah. So we had a checklist that ranked things like passion, ranked things like general SGA knowledge, communication, things like that through the written interview, and we reapplied that standard to their interviews.
- **Representative Rhoads:** Could the appointees introduce themselves if they're here and just kind of what their position does?
 - **Abbey Gross:** Hi. I'm Abby. I'll hopefully be serving as the director of technology. In this role, basically, what we'll be doing is it's a little bit different than last year, but I'll have two people under me serving, to help enable, communication on all of our platforms. And then we're also going to be reaching out to the OU daily to write kind of updates about what's going on in SGA and just ensure a lot of outreach throughout, SGA as a whole to the student body.
 - **Jada Cannon:** My name is Jada Cannon. I will hopefully be the director of student betterment. My job is really to focus on how I can make the students better in personal, mental, and academic ways, trying to bring in more of initiative of support and help throughout their care throughout this. I'll have two people working underneath me, hopefully. And yes.
 - **Ava Burnett:** I'm Ava. I'm sure a lot of you know who I am. I am hopefully going to be the director of external affairs. If you guys haven't known, I've been the secretary of external affairs. This will be coming on, I think, a year and a half. But, basically, what I'm hoping to do in this role is I'll oversee two people, one being, the secretary of, the speaker series, which would do something similar for the executive branch

that we've done in, external affairs as the civic engagement forum, and then also the secretary of liberty representation who's going to be involved with, government like the city of Norman, involved in congress, and other aspects of representing the executive branch within different communities in OU and Norman.

- **Xander Donald:** I guess that's me. Hi. I'm Xander Donald. I will hopefully be serving as the director of internal affairs. I'm going to be helping lead the registered student organization liaison and the student government association branch liaison. I'm also going to be helping coordinate between exec and CAC, SGA, and RSOs, a lot of just the internal workings of exec.
- **Jemay Leow:** I would hopefully be serving as the secretary of student services and working under Jada, And my goal would just be, to help connect OU students to all the great resources we have here at OU.
- **Garrett Brooks:** I'm Garrett, and I will hopefully be serving as the liaison. I will be working closely with the director of internal and basically working on bridging the gap between SGA and all of our registered organizations.
- **Stephan Pendley:** Hello. My name is Steven Penley. I will hopefully be serving as secretary of the press, and I'll be working under, Abby Gross as hopefully director of tech. My role would be to be the medium between SGA and the media. So, hopefully, I would be I'll be writing articles that would go into the OU daily, and hopefully I would be able to better communicate what SGA is doing to the student body.
- **Kaela Theuri:** Hi I'm Kaela Theuri, I will hopefully be serving as the secretary of liberty and representation. This is a newer position, and I just hope to be a bridge between the student body, the city of Norman, and also organizations within OU. And I hope that this position will continue to grow as we learn more about it. I will be working under Ava Burnett. So, yes, hi. I'm excited to be here.

On a motion to extend time for questions by 10 minutes Gilson-Bond seconded by Hawkins

- **Vice Chair Gilson-Bond:** Author, can you just explain the structure a little bit? This is very different than what I've seen in the past. It looks like having people working for other people. I haven't seen that before. Can you just explain why you decided to move about this way?
 - **President Martin:** Yeah. So me and Joey obviously came from Cabinet. And while it was an amazing great experience, I definitely feel like the structure limited a little bit more when reflecting on other student government structures that definitely have, like, bigger executive branch. We felt like this size and format was the best to move very efficiently, not be too big and bloated and not overcross into any other branches, but keep it very uniform. And I know it kind of looks with all the words. And so we did draw a flowchart, but like Caleb's, my flowchart was very ugly, so we have not been using it. So just imagine, like I'm just using Ava because she's first Ava, director of external affairs, and two lines coming off of this, and then it's the two people underneath her. Everybody has two people underneath them to better help them as a team and push their joint goals moving forward, but then also so tasks are more easily broken down, and they have very direct measures of what they're supposed to do. Did that answer your question?

- **Vice Chair Gilson-Bond:** So my question is about accountability then after that. So let's say that, I'll use I'll use I'm going to change it up. I'm going to use, Xander as my example. Let's say one of Xander's people is messing up and doing a horrible job. Who's kept accountable in that? Obviously, is it going to be Xander? Is it going to be, Joey? Is it going to be you? Like, who would it be?
 - **President Martin:** So there's two accountability structures already built in. The director is meeting with their team members weekly, and then we are meeting with the directors. So if Xander first can't solve the issue, he'll escalate it to us. And if we can't solve the issue on that level, then it would escalate it to staff adviser level.
- **Representative Gideon:** You discussed that there was new positions. Can you just discuss which one of these positions are new and why you chose to implement them?
 - **President Martin:** So starting out with the Ava and the External Affairs directorship. The civic engagement should be in charge of facilitating a lot of the Norman, OU connections and then secretary of speaker series. So speaker series is something that was started in the Dunlap, Harroz administration. We had a very successful David Pay award David Pay kind of series, and we're hoping to expand that to make that more so the students can be more engaged, not just like another speaker series, but something more focused on the student government side. RSO liaison, something that we heard a lot was that RSOs don't really understand what SGA is, and they don't feel like they have a contact. So the RSO liaison would be the point of contact, kind of help with RSOs. And Garrett had amazing point in his interview. His point was not just to bridge SGA and RSOs together, but see where he can pair RSOs together. I think that's just the kind of innovative thinking that really shines on this cabinet. And then the SGA in, interbranch liaison, that is so that we can be ever connected. I think last year, we experienced a real divide between the executive branch and then the other branches. This person would be made aware and made it her job to go and find out what's happening on all the other branches, making sure that no one feels like this legislation is coming out of the dark or CAC has a new event that's launching that we didn't know about. They'd also work hand in hand with the next position, which is press secretary. And so press secretary would be in charge of putting out a monthly newsletter. This newsletter would not just have executive branch updates, but have updates from all the branches so that all the students can be made better aware of all the amazing updates we're doing of the bills, the legislation, the resolution that many people beyond this bubble don't really see. So we're hoping to push that out further. The social media coordinator, they would work with Aaron on the Instagram, putting out graphics, designing new materials, things like that. And then the secretary of student services, like I said, this is kind of a breakdown of the student betterment, really focusing on not just, like, the overall betterment of the students, not just overall mental health, but what specific services do we have that we can help mental health, like like, timely care or something like that? And then the international student liaison, Nicholas is an international student, and his job is going to be kind of to get a wide berth of international student concerns and making sure that they're being heard and represented not only in our cabinet but across SGA.
- **Representative Morgan:** You had mentioned that the reason for the kind of, I don't want to say expansion of your executive cabinet was to be in line with other SGAs or across maybe the SEC or the nation. Most other SGAs don't have a programming branch and

therefore, a Campus Activities Council. So what is the rationale for expanding the executive branch and often crossing paths with our fourth branch being the Programming branch.

- **President Martin:** Yeah. 100%. We really took that into consideration. There was other positions that we had maybe had originally in our plan or a different position that we took out for the reason of not crossing over for anything else. I've had a lot of talks with CAC chair, Carlee Forte. And I assume that you're referencing the speaker series and then the speaker series. So those are going to be two differently focused events, while speaker series is more for, like, student I don't see the word enjoyment because I hope they enjoy both, but more, like, fun people, some would say. This one wouldn't just be serious people, but maybe more intellectual conversations like David Pay, a representative. I know there's been in forums before where people have gotten representative, Forrest Bennett to come. Something more in line with our student government focus rather than more of a social focus. But to put it, in perspective for the other SEC schools, this is still not even half of sometimes what is their executive branch. We are not the other SEC schools were not as big as half of them, and I didn't feel like we needed a super bloated executive branch to prove that.
- **Representative Morgan:** So you have this distinction between, I'll we'll say fun speakers and educational speakers. Is that something you don't think CAC could do, or is that not something you could have worked with Carlee on? I'm just I guess I'm not seeing the real need to add a speaker series when we already have a speakers bureau inside of our programming branch.
 - **President Martin:** For sure. From my conversations, there isn't a desire to move away from the structure that speaker series has already had. They enjoy bringing people like Ryan Bagara, people more that people can have fun with or something like that that if they enjoy them more in a social sense. I don't think I'm finding the right words for that, but not someone so much so that you would go to, like, a forum or something like that. But for my conversations with the CAC branch, there was no real desire for them to change from their previous structure, and I wouldn't ask them to change. When I we saw a need that this would be well received and this was well wanted by the student body, I thought believed it was our job to implement that.
 - **Vice President Nicholson:** Just to add to that a little bit, another thing to note is that we did also have the speaker series in this administration already, and that's just now a role for the event. That wasn't there before, but this isn't something new. It's something that was started last year that we are obviously hoping and will be continuing. And we just thought that it's a bigger role now, and so we wanted to actually have a position for that, but this is not a new initiative.
- **Representative Morgan:** Are are you saying that this is now, like, a liaison to the speakers bureau? I guess that comment just kind of confuses me.
 - **President Martin:** No. They're not. This is a separate thing. What she was talking about is the speaker series event that happened in the last administration.
- **Representative Benitez-Mendoza:** Author, can you, like, get a little bit more into detail on what will be, the general duties and, like, the general role of the international liaison? Especially because I don't think the person is present in this meeting. So if you can, like, expand a little bit more in that, it'd really helpful.

- **President Martin:** So our idea with them was to first set them as with a liaison with OU Cousins, an already established program that already has a lot of wealth of international students in their pen and their concerns are very well put on. Get them to liaison with that group to really hear their concerns. Concerns that we've already started fielding that we would give to Nicholas first would be the housing crisis and traditions that a lot of students are dealing with. He even lives in traditions himself. And so really figuring out what the concerns are with international students. And then from there, we're going to go to see how SGA can help with that.

On a motion to extend time for questions by 45 minutes Morgan seconded Vedra

- **Representative Benitez-Mendoza:** The thing is, I just have, a really complex question, but, like, in my understanding, the appointee is an exchange student. He's not enrolled in a four year program here at the university. So the interest and concerns of an exchange students are really different to the concerns that someone some that international students that have to, like, deal with situations like the a lot of, like, the visa crisis are more focused on the F-1 visas and the J-1s are the ones that usually exchange students have to go through. So I'm just kind of curious about is the appointee going to be present during both semesters of this administration, or it's only, like, a one semester position, then you will be looking to reappoint someone next semester. How will that procedure go?
 - **President Martin:** To my knowledge, he is an exchange student from Bolivia. And during the interview, he impressed upon me that he would be here for both semesters. So if that's not the case, then we would he would cross that bridge when we get there, but the initial thought right now is to reopen up the application like it would go. But I'm under the impression that he's been there for both semesters. And for the differences, like, for exchange students versus international students, I would never think that all international students are a monolith represented by one person from one country with one experience. That's why we're making him priority for him to be a voice to go out and gather opinions from other international students. We're making that a priority on day one when he gets appointed because you'd never really know what's going on unless you seek out a multitude of opinions.
- **Representative Hawkins:** Without vision, things will perish. So I kind of want to just hear I know for your administration as well as you and the vice president have a great administration you're trying to build. I just kind of want to hear from the candidates that are here what kind of vision they want to see for the student body as a whole.
 - **Abbey Gross:** My vision, I want to reorganize everything. I want to be able to just communicate a lot clearer, kind of show what we're doing instead of posting graphics and really just capitalize on what every branch of student government is doing, not just certain branches and just hitting that communication branch and making sure it gets out to a broader audience through, the OU daily and stuff like that.
 - **Jada Cannon:** I can go next. As hopefully the director of student betterment, my main goal is to make sure that every student kind of feels heard and seen. I feel like we've kind of lost the idea of the student voice on campus, and I want to kind of bring that back by making students feel better not by just giving free food, but also giving resources to them and kind of showing them where they can go for things. I feel like mental health is taken very serious on this campus, but sometimes all of our students don't even know where Goddard is on campus. I want to kind of give that voice back and kind of see where the students are feeling and how they really want to go about our school and our communication. I feel like if we open this up in this

conversation about do you see for your next four years, how can we get you better to your path of your career or whatever you choose to do with the rest of your next life and your next stage, how can we get you there, and what resources can we give to you?

- **Ava Burnett:** For my position, I believe there's two really important things that go into it. The first one being I want to be able to represent the student body, in places where students might not normally be, when it comes to the Norman city government, when it comes to involvement with other RSOs or DSOs or student life or congress or any other part of SGA. I think I really want to be able to represent, the student body as a whole and be able to communicate ideas that we might have, especially within the executive branch. My other part of it is I want to be able to encourage students to get involved in those communities as well, be involved within the city of Norman. Oh, you wouldn't be here without Norman. The city does so much for us. And I have over my time here at OU built so many connections with people within the city of Norman. So I really want to encourage other people to do the same because I think it's really important.
- **Xander Donald:** So as, hopefully, the next directive internal affairs, I really want to make sure, like there's not a whole lot of communication per se between, like, RSOs and student government. I want to kind of foster that. Like, one of my favorite projects I worked on, in my time as HD device chair was a shout out thing where different organizations could shout themselves out on the OU SGA pages and draw attention to themselves that way. And I just thought that was a really good thing that we did, and I want to kind of expand that with the help of my RSO liaison and make sure that all members of student government can work together.
- **Stephan Pendley:** So as secretary of the press, which I hopefully, is the position I am able to get, something that I want to highlight. In recent months, I feel like the reputation of the credibility of this campus has taken a hit. So what I want to do as in my position is help bring that credibility back to the other 30,000 students that deserve to be accredited in their best light. I want to, find ways to showcase the best and brightest of our campus and also showcase the best and brightest of SGA and show that we're all working effectively and, show that, you know, if you want to come and you want to get a proper education, this is the place to be and really paint the narrative that OU is a great campus to be part of.
- **Garrett Brooks:** One of my primary goals for RSO liaison is, as Xander said, also working on the shout outs, and then as Mercer said, connecting those RSOs with both SGA and each other so then they can all partner with certain events and be able to have events where they're able to partner with each other and understand fully that we all have connections within RSOs and then also partnering with SGA so they're educated with what we do as well as what we can do what we can do to help them accomplish their goals and whatever pain points that they have.
- **Kaela Theuri:** Okay. I hopefully hope to serve as the secretary of liberty and representation just again. And I really see this role, you know, as a bridge between student government, the students, and the city of Norman. I've only been here a few months, but I've already seen how wonderful of a city it is. And I believe that it's really important to have that intentional outreach and collaboration between student organizations and the greater city beyond. And I really see this position as a position of advocacy where I'm actively prioritizing student perspectives within the executive decision making process. So that is kind of the vision with which I hope to serve.

- **Jemay Leow:** And then for my position, yes. I really think President Martin laid out that our positions are, like, really well defined, and the goals are well defined because of they've been broken down to this level. So my goal would just be to support, support my team, support Jada, in better connecting OU students with the wealth of resources we have here. Just, working to put, really connect, the people with resources, helping them understand what resources we have, and, working through all the channels we have to better connect OU students to these resources.
- **Representative Hawkins:** I think I've heard a lot of great things, especially from the structure, from what we were able to hear from the candidates about building the bridges. And, in my, in my way, I believe that we've all built bridges, but it's I believe it's time to cross those bridges. For the author, and I guess as well as President and Vice President to answer this as well, how does your structure in this administration how do you believe, that it will differentiate from the last administration to build that bridge and then walk bridge?
 - **President Martin:** Yeah. For sure. I can just speak to you as being in the cabinet last year and doing rather big bigger project like Mental Health Week. The efficiency that just comes with having more people to double check-in manpower is just simply unmatched. If you're one person trying to do a bigger project, then it's hard to keep up with everything. It's hard to maybe ask for help. I know it was hard for me, and having the structure built in would guarantee that. But it's also there to double check, to make sure that things are going on schedule. If something goes wrong, I'm not having to call my roommates to come help me. You have a team around you built in as a support system to just get things done to the utmost degree of excellence, but also more efficiently.
 - **President Nicholson:** Yeah. And to add to that as well, a a lot of the way we structured this was really based on clear communication of what all of their roles were going to be, and I think they all have great understandings of what they're expected to do, and we have full faith they will be able to do everything they're expected to do. But that also will play into the efficiency part of everyone knows exactly what is expected of them, and you pick people who are qualified enough, which we obviously did, they're qualified and more. It it creates clearer boundary or not boundaries. It creates clearer lines of communication and exactly what needs to get done will get done
- **Vice Chair Gilson-Bond:** Author, what was your reason for, that you gave us for Nicholas not being able to be here today?
 - **President Martin:** We asked everyone to be here as much as they could. This morning, we sent out an email. There's a couple people who reached out with me for class. I'm not exactly sure what Nicholas' exact reason for not being here today is.
 - **Jada Cannon:** Nicholas actually had work tonight. He works for food services. They did put them on a quick shift, so he did have work tonight.

Passed unanimously 34-0-0

Follow-Up Reports

Announcements and Comments

Representative Benitez Mendoza: On February 4, the Venezuelan association is going to have a panel with a lot of international relations experts about what happened and what comes next, which I think is, like, a really relevant thing to be informed about. It's open to all community. We're going to have a couple of really interesting speakers because they are one of one of the professors are

going to be presenting their niche of their research, specifically, like, Latin American conflicts, I think, is going to a really good opportunity. And I think it's the CSP Point.

Representative Morgan: Vice Chair application for ConAd. Look out for those.

Representative Gideon: CAC Application closes on Friday. If you're interested, apply for it.

Representative Radzanowski: I just want everybody know that our committee time next semester to move our meeting time to 3PM to not overlap with another committee meeting in the Conoco during that time. I understand that there are other committees that meet during this time, but, we did our best to fit in there so that most people can attend as many meetings as possible and not directly overlap. So that will be, our new meeting time, 3PM.

General Discussion

Final Roll Call

On a motion to adjourn Bass seconded Vedra

Adjourn: 8:33 PM

Chair: Caleb Robinson

Vice Chair: Aaron Gilson-Bond

Secretary: Michael Wintory

Zoom Invite Link:

Topic: Undergraduate Student Congress Meeting - 1.27

Time: Jan 27, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93040072011?pwd=oSKFy2wAuyoFUaNbqxm2Q3CULgoBGd.1>

Meeting ID: 930 4007 2011

Passcode: 83159567

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,93040072011#,,,,*83159567# US (San Jose)

+17209289299,,93040072011#,,,,*83159567# US (Denver)

Join by SIP

• 93040072011@zoomcrc.com

Passcode: 83159567

Join instructions

https://oklahoma.zoom.us/meetings/93040072011/invitations?signature=hBT0NtgbSE_VjG0P3_V7HwicewJO5tf41XT54w92PaM

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXV

January 27, 2026

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

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-115-03
SENATE BILL NO. GFXX-XX/GSXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Legislation appointing the Chief of Staff 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 legislation shall be known and may be cited as the “The Chief of Staff Appointment Act of 2026.”
- Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to appoint the Chief of Staff of the Martin-Nicholson administration within the Executive Branch.
- Section 3:** In accordance with the SGA Code Annotated §Title X, Chapter 5, Section 2, which delineates the appointment process for the Chief of Staff position, the following student shall thus be appointed:
- Henry Christiansen
- Section 4:** This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the SGA Constitution.

Author(s): Mercer Martin, SGA President
Josephine Nicholson, SGA Vice President

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Vedra seconded Representative Cox
Action taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 35-0-0
Verified by Chair of Congress: _____ Date: _____

Submitted on a motion by:
Action taken by Senate:
Verified by Chair of Senate: _____ Date: _____

Approved by SGA President: _____ Date: _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION CXV
January 27, 2026

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

CONGRESSIONAL BILL CB-115-04
SENATE BILL GSXX-XX/GFXX-XX

AS INTRODUCED

An Act of Procedure appointing the SGA Executive Cabinet; 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 “SGA Executive Cabinet Appointment Act of 2026.”
- Section 2:** Purpose: The purpose of this act shall be to appoint the SGA Directors & Cabinet positions for the Martin-Nicholson administration.
- Section 3:** In accordance with Title III, Chapter 1, Section 5, Subsection C(i) of the SGA Code Annotated, “The members of the Executive Cabinet shall consist of the Chief of Staff, and any other coordinators, assistants, and liaisons deemed necessary by the President and appropriate by the Legislative houses through advice and consent.”

The following students shall be appointed as Director to their respective posts:

Director of External Affairs – Ava Burnett
Director of Internal Affairs – Xander Donald
Director of Technology – Abby Gross
Director of Student Betterment – Jada Cannon

The following students shall be appointed to their respective positions.

Secretary of Speaker Series – Reese Walsh
Secretary of Liberty & Representation – Kaela Theuri
RSO Liaison – Garret Brooks
SGA Interbranch Liaison – Alaina Jawed
Press Secretary – Stephen Pendely
Social Media Coordinator – Hannah Hamby
Secretary of Student Services – Jemay Leow
International Student Liaison – Nicolas Suarez-Antelo

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

Authors: President Mercer Martin, Student Government Association

Vice President Josephine Nicholson, Student Government Association

Submitted on a Motion by: Representative Cox seconded Representative Bass

Action taken by Congress: Passed unanimously 34-0-0

Verified by Chair of Congress:

Date:

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate

Verified by Chair of Senate:

Date: _

Approved by SGA President:

Date: