

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE GF08**

MINUTES

October 05, 2008

Adams Hall, Room 255

Call to order: 7:03 PM

Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2008.

Motion to approve the meeting by Sen. Diaz, seconded by Sen. Miller. No objections.

Officers' Reports:

Chair (Susan Adams-Johnson):

- i. Welcome Debra Engel, Associate Dean of Libraries for Public Services, and Dr. T. H. Lee Williams, Dean of the Graduate College and Vice-president for Research at the University of Oklahoma. They will be doing presentations for us tonight.

Vice-Chair: (None)

Secretary (Frank Yopez Castillo)

- i. Secretary (Frank Yopez Castillo): Thank you everyone for turning in your credential forms. Please make sure you turn in your Committee Meeting Minute Report and that you sign the sign-in sheet before you leave the meeting tonight since that is the only record we have of you attending this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs: (Klaudia Lorinczova) Brain-stormed ideas on things that they can work on during this semester, as well as the continuation of projects from the previous academic year: Graduate Student Survey and the English Assessment Program.

External Affairs: An email has been sent out to every senator regarding the Beat Texas Bikebuzz 2008 sponsored by the OU bicycle initiative to raise safety and awareness for bicyclist on Campus. They'll have a tent on the South Oval on October 7, 2008. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Bryan Burkholder.

Report on the Ad Hoc committee for emergency allocations. The budgetary committee is composed by the Ways and Means committee from the Undergraduate Student Congress and the Ways and Means committee and a Liaison from the Graduate Student Senate and this committee has the task to allocate the money that comes from the Student Activity Fee. This money (a total of about \$600,000) is allocated in three distinct processes. The primary allocation process occurs every spring. Through this process most of the money is allocated to UOSA, CAC and various student organizations. The subsidiary allocation process occurs in the fall and right now it involves \$24,000. Finally, emergency allocations, with a total budget of \$6,000, is there to help new student organizations that are not eligible to participate in the primary process and it also

provides a safety net for student organization that are changing leadership. Especially in those cases in which the outgoing leadership did not turn in a great budget that can potentially hinder the incoming leadership. The committee recognizes that this produces an extra amount of paperwork that have to brought forth in order to allocate this emergency money. If you have any ideas or comments on how to improve this process please contact Bryan Burkholder. The Ad Hoc committee has met on September 28, 2008 so far the work has been positive.

Human Diversity: The committee has met and discussed ideas about the film festival that they want to put together for the spring semester that they have started to work on it by recognizing the different tasks that need to be accomplished for this program to be a success. They will need a planning phase, a preparation phase, publicity, for which we will work together with the Public Relations committee, and finally the actual event itself. They have decided to name James Miller as the chair for this event. So please, contact him if you have any suggestion or comments regarding the film festival. They will have senators searching for rooms for the event, what types of films we are going to show and coordinating with other organizations on campus. The committee is excited about this film festival and they will report back to the senate about the different options available to us for this festival.

Internal Affairs: The committee discussed two issues. One of them is the upcoming Vice-chair elections that will be discussed in special orders. The other issue is the position of the parliamentarian, whose job is to coordinate the activities during the general meetings of the Senate to make sure that all the rules are being followed as outlined in our by-laws and standing rules of order. As of right now, without a parliamentarian, everyone is responsible for keeping up with the rules. So we want to designate a couple of individuals who would specialize on that particular responsibility. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions, please make sure to contact Michael Ukpog, chair of the Internal Affairs committee.

Problems and Projects: The committee has turned in the paperwork for GSS to participate in the Homecoming parade.

Public Relations: The committee is still thinking on ways that they can work and service the Senate and the graduate student body more effectively. They've have completed a master list for advertising events organized or sponsored by this body and convey other important information.

Ways & Means: The grant application packet should be available online this next week. Applications are due on November 5, 2008.

Q: (Michael Ukpog) Can you explain for those senators with less experience what these grants are for?

A: Basically, if any graduate students wants to do research or attend conferences they would need funds to do it. GSS has funds to help graduate students do so. Theirs is this formal application process and more details are going to be available in the GSS website (<http://gss.ou.edu/grants.html>) .

Comment: (Susan Adams-Johnson) Each senator should send the information regarding the grant application process to the graduate liaison in their respective department as soon as this information becomes available. The Graduate College has informed us that they will send out an OUMM message regarding the application process as well.

Special Orders:

Motion to move GF08-02 to Old Business by Sen. Averbek, seconded by Sen. Bernard.

GF08-02. An act of legislation amending Congressional Bill No. 780309 and Senate Bill No. GF07-25, “The Revised Legislative Process Act of 2007”

Presentation by Debra Engel, Associate Dean of Libraries for Public Services.

(This presentation is available online at <http://gss.ou.edu/documents/GSSPPT100508.pptm>)

OU Libraries tries to visit GSS once a year to give an update on the new expanded resources they have, the new services, some of them include the construction projects (Fire Protection Program) that have been going on during the last year.

The number one request the Library as received from graduate students and faculty across campus is to expand the availability of resources online and they have been working on that. Also, it is important that you communicate to your Subject Librarian any changes in the type of material needed for the classes that TAs are teaching.

Textbook initiative has doubled the number of courses supported this fall through this program thanks to the efforts of President David Boren and Dean T. H. Lee Williams

Q: (Marilyn Krell) Does the library have a place in which you can quietly read with Wi-Fi access?

A: Yes, until the construction is completed, the Great Reading Room is the best quiet study area with Wi-Fi access. If you are not able to get wireless in a particular area is probably because there's a lot of people using the service at the same time. If the Great Reading Room is not quiet enough for you, you can try going to Government Documents on the forth floor of the Library.

Q: (Bryan Burkholder) Where is the book sale?

A: The book sale is outside of the 1982 building addition, on the sidewalk, on the south side of the building, a week from Friday (October 17, 2008)

Q: (Nicholas Harrison) Where can you go to use the textbooks reserved program?

A: You can get a complete list of textbooks from the library website under resources/textbooks (<http://libraries.ou.edu/content/dynpage.asp?pid=68&eid=64&uid=2&page=0&preview=1>) and to use it you can go to the main circulation desk near the west entrance of Bizzell Memorial Library.

Q: (Armando Diaz) Have you considered expanding the extended operation hours during finals week to other library branches?

A: This has been requested probably during the last four years and it comes down to a resource issue because the Library has to provide security personnel and staff to keep the library open, and the library system does not ask the students they employ to work during finals weeks because they should be studying for the finals. Fine arts and Engineering are probably the branches that most people requests to have open 24/7 during the finals week

Q: Is there a catalog of multimedia resources in the Library (Video, Documentaries, etc.)?

A: OU Libraries have a small collection of video and DVDs. However, they don't provide streaming content, with the exception of some audio.

Q: How does the library decides what books to buy?

A: Dialog with Faculty and Graduate Students and researching what other libraries are collecting in any particular area. The main purpose of the Library system is to support the research and teaching programs available at OU. If you feel like there are some materials that the library is lacking, please contact your discipline's librarian.

Presentation by Dr. T. H. Lee Williams, Dean of the Graduate College and Vice-President for Research

1) What's the role of the Graduate College?

Rule keepers and maintenance and standards across the different academic programs but more than that it is the one voice over all the academic programs. The Graduate College is working on actively helping Departments with student. Helping them devise ways to approach students, working on retention of these students within their programs and towards graduation. The Graduate College started the graduate enrollment management program a year ago. This program is funded by your graduate advising fees. The program started last year with 30 pilot academic departments and has been expanded to all the graduate programs on campus this year.

Tina Marie Franks: Last year the program focused on phase 1, recruiting, working with 27 graduate programs developing strategies to recruit students to come to OU for their graduate studies. These departments will be implementing these recruitment plans this year, while the Graduate College work on phase 2 of this program, retention. The first event of this phase was the Graduate Student Orientation earlier this semester. Our next goal is to get in touch with three graduate students in each of these 27 pilot departments (one first year student-started in 2008, one in the middle of its academic program –completed have of their hours by the summer 2008 semester, and one that will be graduating either this fall or during the spring semester). The graduate college wants to know what the concerns are, what suggestions these students have and they thought that GSS would be the ideal place to start an effort to identify these students.

2) Responsible Conduct of Research, morphed into Professional Ethics

National agencies, i.e. the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, are now moving to require that everyone working on a grant funded project has to have

Responsible Conduct of Research or Research ethics training. OU is ahead of the curve, thanks to the research of Dr. Michael Mumford. This research has developed a training program that provides graduate students with a toolbox of resources and procedures so that you can make your own best ethical decisions.

OU wants to require every incoming graduate student this training. The costs associated with this training course will likely be addressed by a fee. The cost will be \$100.00 for Master students and \$200.00 for Doctoral students. A decision has not been made as to the Graduate College offering this training for credit or if this is just going to be a requirement as a check-box in the graduate college for students that want to defend their General Exams.

Q: (Chintan Barbhaya) Is there a timeline as to when this requirement will be set?

A: The earliest that we can do that, once it has been approved by all the different offices of the administration, would be for students starting in the fall semester of 2009.

Q: (Nicholas Harrison) I know a lot of people that is in scholarships or are GAs or TAs or whatever, and get tuition waivers and stuff like that, and I'm kind of curious as to what exactly does tuition go for and why we can't wrap in some of these things into it so that a scholarship can pay for it, so I mean, does it really have to be a separate fee that students will have to pay out-of-pocket and stuff like that or like tuition, can it be part of that whole. Because there's a lot of advantages to have it as part of the tuition for people in different programs that would pay for their tuition.

A: If you do it for credit, then the unit cost would then end up costing more. If you do it for credit, then GAs can use their tuition waiver to pay for part the cost (tuition waivers are not applied towards fees), the downside of that is that we've got around 4,500 graduate students on campus and only 1,500 are GAs, then around 2/3 of the graduate students would not be able to get advantage of it as a tuition waiver and it would end up costing the students more anyway.

Q: (Nicholas Harrison) I guess, this would be a follow up, what I'm asking is not necessarily if you can offer this for credit or not, what I'm asking is if instead of having a separate fee can you just, less say, raise the tuition cost by a percent or something like that and then use that money, I mean, what exactly is the tuition bill for if we then have all these different fees for different services provided.

A: Tuition goes into a centralized tuition revenue and then it becomes more difficult, once you do that, to then pull out to pay for all these specific causes. That was actually, I (Dean T. H. Lee Williams) thought of when I went through it, but that is more difficult. The whole idea is that if we are going to do this, we are going to try to minimize the total cost, and doing by tuition, however you cut it, it ends costing students more. The fee or the registration for the training course was the least cost option.

Q: Will there be a modification to the mandated, online, IRB training in the event that this ethics material becomes a requirement, given that the IRB training -a lot of it- is centered around the question of ethics and how to approach that.

A: That's a really good question, the IRB is the board that oversees the research with human subjects. The IRB is a federally mandated program, that has a federally mandated requirement for specific instruction in Human Research Protocol. Unfortunately, a lot of the IRB training involves a "this-are-the-rules-do-not-break-them" kind of training and this is ultimately distinctively different. If we try to incorporate the IRB training into this program, then it will end up being too long and too expensive and we will still need to have a separate IRB training. So it would work best if you do them as complementary courses.

Q: (follow up) so there may be some overlap of materials and goals from this ethics program and the IRB training?

A: No, it turns out that if you this ethics training then the IRB training makes a lot more sense and seems a lot easier.

Motion to consider GF08-14 due to time and consideration to the authors of this bill by Sen. Burkholder, seconded by Sen. Krell

GF08-14. 2008 Emergency allocation #1

Motioned by Sen. Burkholder, seconded by Sen. Krell

Passed by Consent

Motion to suspend the rules so that election of the vice-chair can take place by Sen. Phelps, seconded by Sen. Bernard. No objections

Michael Upkong presides the election.

The Internal Affairs Committee has overviewed all the applicants and we have an applicant for the position of vice-chair. The applicant is Olanna Goudeau, who was not present in the meeting.

Sen. Nicholas Harrison called a point of information: There was another candidate, who was present in the meeting here, that has been supposedly disqualified by the internal affairs committee, so Sen. Harrison made a motion for the senate to reject the committee report to include this candidate.

According to Sen. Nicholas Harrison, the internal affairs committee has looked to a list of candidates and Sen. Nicholas guessed that there is a qualification that a Senator has to have been a senator for at least one full semester. He claimed that the bylaws do not say one fall semester, or one spring semester, so summer semester counts, but the committee decided (according to Sen. Harrison) to exclude this one other candidate to, in lack of a better term, from that election process. So at that time Sen. Harrison wanted to look into that eligibility requirement. This motion was seconded by Sen. Felix De La Cruz.

Sen. Bryan Burkholder objected to the motion.

The motion introduced by Sen. Harrison was then debated.

Sen. Harrison: I all dressed-up and I uses you are all looking at my credentials and resume and you are wondering why do we have that in front of us? What are we discussing, legislation wise? My name is

Nicholas Harrison, I was election chair last year for UOSA and basically, I couldn't be member of the body while I was election chair so, at the end of the spring semester, what happened was that there was vacancy in the college of business and they couldn't fill that vacancy within the college of business student association, so they allowed me to take that seat then and I was also in the summer legislative council and the actual committee rule that they are looking at as far as you are eligible to be a candidate to be an officer, and it actually says, one full semester, doesn't say one fall semester, doesn't say one spring semester, doesn't say one summer semester, it just says one semester, and the summer semester is used repeatedly throughout the bylaws in different places. It says that the Chair of the Graduate Student Senate takes office, and the other officers of the Graduate Student Senate take office during the summer semester, they serve during the summer semester, they actually draw stipends during the summer semester so this serving on the legislative council, having been elected in the fall, having served during the summer semester, my appreciation is that I should completely qualify for that.

Sen. Yepez raised a point of information regarding the stipends, officers don't get paid during the entire summer semester, officers get paid during the last two weeks of May.

Sen. Harrison claims that this is incorrect and states that all officers get paid a stipend, albeit a reduced one, during the entire summer semester.

Sen. Ukpong, as chair of the internal affairs committee reported that they particularly discussed the request to review this matter and the bylaws as a whole. The bylaws state that a senator must be a senator for a full semester. The committee went through a long and elaborate debate during their second meeting as a committee over this particular issue. The decision was not made lightly. Every member of the committee had a chance to have an input on this debate and, basically we reached the conclusion that the spirit of the bylaw is that a certain amount of experience is necessary, meaning that serving a full semester while the senate was in session was necessary. The senate meets during the fall and during the spring and the committee decided that this semester count towards the eligibility of a senator to run for office, because it is attendance to these meetings that counts towards your attendance record, it is attendance to these sessions which counts towards your eligibility. It is during the fall and spring semester that the committees meet. This interpretation was put to a vote by the committee as a whole, the committee decided that the candidate in question, which remained anonymous during this whole process was not eligible to run for office based on this requirements.

Sen. Harrison requested a point of information: What other candidates are there for this position?

Sen. Ukpong: Olanna Goudeau is the only other candidate.

Sen. Harrison requested a point of information.

Sen. Pembleton wanted to participate in the debate: Sen. Pembleton did not see how the number of candidates has anything to do with the interpretation of the bylaws, we should not be setting statutory precedent for a . . . , it should be done for the letter of the law. The legislators intent for this was that you have elections at the end of the spring semester for the next academic year, if there are people that have not been a senator before are not considered eligible for this election because they have not had experience in the senate. It does say one full semester, and it says that the officers (Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary) are elected to serve during the summer semester and the following academic year. Those position are specifically at that time for the experience in the previous two semesters, both fall and

spring. It is correct, it does not say anything about the summer semester, but the summer semester is a truncated semester. During the summer semester you can't have the full class workload, you can't do the same activities. We do not meet as a body during the summer and I believe Sen. Harrison should not be considered for those reasons.

Sen. Burkholder wanted to participate in the debate: He added that the summer council is much different than the general meetings. The Summer Council cannot pass any binding legislation. They can meet to discuss issues and they can wait until the next session to pass binding legislation. So Sen. Burkholder sees the summer semester as something entirely different than the fall and the spring semester. If the senate cannot pass any legislation during the summer semester, there's no point to consider the summer as a semester for GSS.

Sen. Bernard: Is the summer considered a semester or is it considered a session? It is summer session

Sen. Ukpong: Just as a clarification, the issue is considering only the wording within the bylaws, where the summer is treated as a semester.

Sen. Dhanens: Is that the only difference between the summer semester and the fall and the spring semester? That the senate can't pass any binding legislation?

Sen. Yepez raised a point of information: The Senate is not in session during the summer semester.

Sen. Ukpong: The summer council is appointed by the chair at the end of the spring to seat during the summer.

Sen. Dhanens: Was the candidate appointed as a member of the summer council?

Sen. Ukpong: Yes. Now the question that the Internal affairs discussed, at length, was the nature of the council was and the experience of that council and eligibility to serve in that committee towards running for that office.

Sen. Dhanens: In regards with the eligibility, did the summer council do similar things than this body does?

Sen. Ukpong: No. In respect with the fact that the main responsibility of this body is passing laws. And secondary is the work in committees and in that respect, No.

Sen. Burkholder: Point of order, time for debate is up.

Sen. Harrison: Can I get a minute or two to explain my position?

Sen. Ukpong: Call for vote to end debate.

The tally for the vote follows. A list of Senators, including their seat number, is available online at <http://gss.ou.edu>

For ending debate: Total 27

17, 23, 76, 55, 22 73, 81, 50, 91, 21, 77, 10, 20, 86, 82, 33, 56, 4, 87, 88, 66, 48, 47, 43, 98, 6, 18

Against ending debate: Total 28

90, 89, 67, 83, 92, 85, 32, 3, 9, 37, 12, 51, 38, 59, 60, 14, 5, 97, 75, 98, 36, 53, 15, 16, 45, 46, 44, 24

Abstentions: Total 6

65, 25, 53, 57, 71, 72

Sen. De La Cruz: What's the difference between the eligibility to be in the summer session for the senate and that to run for vice-chair?

Sen. Ukpong: The eligibility to be in the summer session is only to be a senator.

Sen. Yepez: A point of information. The whole point of having a summer council is to have continuity within the senate. The chair tends to appoint people that had been elected to be in the Senate for the next Academic Year along with people that was already in the senate. So that they can communicate what work was done so that you don't start with a complete blank slate. And that you are ware of what the issues were in the previous year and all that. That is the whole purpose of that, and that is reason for which Sen. Harrison was appointed for the summer council.

Sen. Ukpong: The issue is a question of the interpretation of our bylaws, you can easily just that that anyone can run, but that would mean that law would be circumvented because of any situation. That's the reason why I'm holding it before the whole body.

Sen. Harrison: I've served as the election chair last year, and that's why I couldn't serve in this body for the full semester. I attended most of the meetings and I sat right there, and I interjected every time election things came up. You have my resume and I have an enormous amount of different qualifications. I actually ran for the state house of representatives at the age of 21, I've chair two senate bodies and that is another qualification and what is strange is what really are you looking for. The principle that, whenever you are in an election and if you look at the election laws down at the law school, is that if any doubt arise about the qualifications of a candidate should resolved in favor of the candidate to allow them to run. That's a basic principle of the American principle of democracy. It's that you allow the candidates to get out there. If there's any doubt, if there's any possible question as if does he have qualifications or not, the principle here established by law in the United States and in the American Government System is to put he candidate on the ballot and you let the voters decide.

Sen. Ukpong: I want just to answer that as the chair. This is not a vote on the candidate. This is not a vote on whether Nicholas Harrison is qualified for the office. I made that clear. I personally think he is a highly qualified individual, but this is not what it's been voted on. This is a vote on precedence, this isn't a vote on what does it take to be an officer. This is a vote on whether you would allow some one to come fresh in and sit down for an office. That's what we are voting on. Not the qualifications of any particular individual. This is not a vote of no confidence, this is not something like that. So we are not measuring the individual. We are voting on whether or not it is fair or right to allow somebody with no experience in this Senate, not with no experience as a whole, but in the senate, run for an office.

Sen. Diaz: The whole that you are saying here is that Sen. Harrison is not qualified because he hasn't been a senator for a whole semester, but he actually said he was election chair, and he was attending the meetings if that doesn't qualify a senator with time and experience then what works.

Sen. Ukpong: as a point of clarification. Being the election chair is not being part of the senate.

Sen. Diaz: Sure, but he attended the meetings.

Sen. Ukpong: it is just like you being, I really hate to use analogies, but even though he attended the sessions, every graduate student can attend the sessions. Any graduate student can attend the sessions, so just attending sessions is not being a member of this body.

Sen. Beainy: Since the bylaws are not clear, and it is a wording problem it should be fair for him to run for vice-chair.

Vote to uphold the decision of the Internal affairs committee:

The tally for the vote follows. A list of Senators, including their seat number, is available online at <http://gss.ou.edu>

For upholding the decision of the Internal Affairs Committee: Total 27

43, 76, 55, 22, 21, 77, 73, 81, 50, 10, 85, 86, 32, 9, 82, 33, 56, 4, 51, 65, 71, 72, 66, 47, 43, 98, 6

Against upholding the decision of the Internal Affairs Committee: Total 23

57, 83, 62, 92, 3, 12, 88, 36, 38, 59, 60, 14, 5, 24, 44, 46, 45, 15, 16, 75, 96, 36, 53

Abstentions: Total 10

67, 90, 89, 17, 95, 35, 91, 87, 37, 48

The decision of the internal affairs committee to disqualify Nicholas Harrison as a candidate for the office of Vice-chair upholds.

Motion to postpone consideration of the vote until Olanna Goudeau is present, by Sen. Harrison.

Seconded by Sen. Diaz. No objections.

Old Business:

- GF08-02** “An act of legislation amending Congressional Bill No. 780309 and Senate Bill No. GF07-25, ‘The Revised Legislative Process Act of 2007’ ”
Motioned by Sen. Averbeck, seconded by Sen. Bernard.
Passed by Consent.

New Business

- GF08-11.** An act of legislation appointing members of the student superior court.
Motioned by Sen. Burkholder, seconded by Sen. Bernard
Passed by Consent
- GF08-12.** An act relating to the Department of Student Organizations; amending the UOSACA Title 3, Chapter 9, Section 52, Paragraph a, which concerns meeting space of student organizations; adding additional meeting space; deleting obsolete language; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.
Motioned by Sen. Averbeck, seconded by Sen. Legere.

Passed by Consent

GF08-13. An act establishing polling sites for the 2008 UOSA Fall General Election.

Motioned by Sen. Averbek, seconded by Sen. Harrison

Sen. Harrison proposed a friendly amendment to include University Housing as one of the polling site list, it was accepted by the author.

Passed by Consent

Announcements

Clarke Stroud took the floor to address the Graduate Student Senate. Followed by a brief Q&A section.

Presentation about OU Libraries and their services for graduate students by Debra Engel,
Associate Dean of Libraries for Public Services

Presentation by Dr. Michael Mumford on the Responsible Conduct of Research

Next Meeting October 19th, 2008

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Sen. Burkholder, seconded by Sen. Tucker. No objections

Meeting adjourned