

# OSGA

# Legislation

## Guide



“Where there are no laws, or individuals have their own rules and laws, there is the least of real democracy.”

– Gen. Henry Martyn Robert

(Robert’s Rules of Order)

The Oklahoma Student Government Association, commonly abbreviated as OSGA, is a non-partisan student advocacy association that exists to serve as the voice of Oklahoma students. Each academic semester, OSGA brings exceptional student leaders of degree-granting institutions from across the state together so they may discuss and work in partnership for the advancement of Oklahoma Higher Education. By drafting their own pieces of legislation, students are able to express their opinions regarding vital issues facing the Oklahoma Higher Education system to the State Regents and the Oklahoma Legislature.



**OSGA**  
OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## **OSGA Legislation:**

Within OSGA there are two (2) forms of legislation that can be used: bills and resolutions. Bills are defined as legislation that establishes OSGA policy. Resolutions are defined as legislation that shall express the will and opinion of the OSGA Congress.

OSGA bills are used to effect change directly to the student organization itself and establish the laws that shall govern OSGA as a student organization. For instance, they should be used to propose new OSGA bylaws or amend existing OSGA bylaws. Bills require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) by the delegates at an OSGA Congress to pass. Bills may also be used to amend the OSGA Constitution. When an OSGA bill amending the constitution passes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the OSGA congress, it shall then be considered a proposed constitutional amendment. For a proposed constitutional amendment to take effect and the constitution to be ratified, at least two-thirds (2/3) of all member institutions present at the OSGA Congress, that the amendment was proposed at, must ratify the proposed constitutional amendment within their respective student governments.

Resolutions are the primary form of legislation that will be used within OSGA, because the purpose of OSGA is to allow students to voice their opinions on matters relating to Oklahoma's Higher Education system. The OSGA Congress may pass a resolution by a simple majority vote. When the OSGA Congress passes a resolution, the delegates are recommending that the Oklahoma Regents and the Oklahoma Legislature implement a new idea to address an issue the students believe is relevant to the Oklahoma Higher Education system. OSGA resolutions can recommend any number of things, and they can be simple or complex depending upon the intended purpose of the author. For instance, a delegate could write a resolution urging the Oklahoma Regents and Oklahoma Legislature to develop new and updated laws relating to sexual education. However, a delegate could also write an in depth resolution that recommends very specific policy changes be made to the Oklahoma Higher Education system regarding sexual assault and sexual violence education for public institutions of higher education. If a delegate's intent is to simply urge a very general idea or change, then they could write a simple resolution doing so (see example on Pg. 4). If a delegate is seeking very specific changes, and they know precisely what they want, then writing a more detailed resolution would be more appropriate. Neither resolution is more correct than the other, but a more detailed resolution does provide the State Regents and the Oklahoma Legislature with more information to work with and will generate more discussion at OSGA Congress.

## OSGA Bill Template:

This template should be used to properly format any bills being presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Congress. Words in **Red** indicate areas that are absolutely necessary and should be changed with each legislation. Words in **Blue** indicate what to do if amending the OSGA Constitution or Bylaws. Words in **Green** indicate the addition of laws to the OSGA Constitution or Bylaws.

Oklahoma Student Government Association  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Congress (Spring 2017)  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

OSGA Bill #001

Author(s): **Your Name (Abr. School)**  
Committee: (Will be assigned)

### AS INTRODUCED

An act relating to **what your legislation is about**; providing a short title; **amending Article (#), Section (#) (This is only necessary if you are amending a current law)**; **providing for codification**; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

Section 1. This act shall be known as the **“Insert Your Short Title Here”**

Section 2. **AMENDATORY** *Article (#), Section (#), is amended to read as follows: Section # Type in the section of the law exactly as it reads right now. Strike out all words that you wish to be removed, and then underline any words that you wish to add in.*

OR

Section 2. **NEW LAW** *A new section of law to be codified in the OSGA (Constitution/Bylaws) as Article # of Section #, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, to read as follows:*

*Insert the text that you want to be your new law.*

Section 3. This act shall become effective (immediately if amending or codifying within the OSGA Bylaws/ once at least two-thirds (2/3) of member institutions present at congress have ratified the proposed constitutional amendment if amending or codifying within the OSGA Constitution.

## **OSGA Resolution Template:**

This template should be used to properly format any resolutions being presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Congress. Words in **Red** indicate areas that are absolutely necessary and should be changed with each legislation. Words in **Blue** indicate optional additional resolution clauses.

Oklahoma Student Government Association  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Congress (Spring 2017)  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

OSGA Resolution #001

Author(s): **Your Name (Abr. School)**  
Committee: (Will be assigned)

### **AS INTRODUCED**

A Resolution (**declaring/calling upon/urging**) the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Oklahoma State Government to (**short description of idea**).

WHEREAS, (**state the problem in one brief sentence**); and

WHEREAS, (describe the scope of the problem cited in the first whereas clause, this clause needs to flow logically from the first); and

WHEREAS, (**explain the impact and harms allowed by the current problem once again, the clause needs to flow in a logical sequence**); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION THAT:

(**State your recommendation for dealing with the problem the resolution should be a clear call for action**); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That (**an optional additional recommendation; if not used, end the previous clause with a period**).