

University of Central Oklahoma Student Congress
4th Meeting of the Spring Session of the 27th Legislature (2024)

CR24-201

Author: Senator Wehrenberg
Co-Author: Senator Bolt
Co-Sponsors: Senator Payne

AS INTRODUCED

A resolution declaring the position of the UCO Student Association on the continued employment of Kato Buss within the University of Central Oklahoma College of Fine Arts and Design.

WHEREAS, In May 2021, the lawsuit *Summar vs. the University of Central Oklahoma* was filed by a total of six women whom were students of Buss, and

WHEREAS, The lawsuit in question was in regards to the University's "failing to adequately intervene and investigate Buss after they filed Title IX complaints", and

WHEREAS, Buss made frequent sexual comments to young women, touched them in ways that were "offensive and made them uncomfortable," and groomed young women as they entered the UCO theater program, and

WHEREAS, Buss currently serves as the Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design and a professor of Performance in the Theatre Department, and

WHEREAS, A university spokesperson confirmed Buss has been recommended for a promotion from associate professor to full professor through UCO's tenure and promotions process and

WHEREAS, During the Fall 2023 semester, Kato Buss continued to teach in an online capacity and continues to do so in Spring 2024; and

WHEREAS, Current students within the UCO Theatre Arts Department continue to feel uneasy and unsafe at Buss' continued involvement within their education; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UCO STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Section 1. The official recommendation of the University of Central Oklahoma Student Congress is to indefinitely ensure that no courses are being taught by Kato Buss, due to safety concerns for students, and for the University to reevaluate any attempt to promote or tenure Kato Buss citing the above information.

Section 2. This legislation shall be distributed to the following.

Todd Lamb, President of the University of Central Oklahoma

Charleen Weidell, Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design
Charlotte Simmons, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Diane Feinberg, Vice President for People and Culture

Reviewing Committee(s): Academic Affairs

Committee Recommendation: DO PASS

Action Taken by Congress: [PASSED / FAILED]

Izzi Barry, Chair of the UCO Student Congress Date

Sources and Published Background Information:

- [1] Martinez-Keel, Nuria. "UCO Students Protest Faculty Cuts amid \$15 Million Budget Shortfall." *The Oklahoman*, Oklahoman, 7 Apr. 2022, www.oklahoman.com/story/news/education/2022/04/07/university-central-oklahoma-uco-student-s-protest-faculty-cuts-layoffs/9488460002/.
- [2] Tomlinson, Joe. "UCO Facing Three Title IX Lawsuits, Two Others Dismissed." *NonDoc*, 27 Nov. 2022, nondoc.com/2022/11/21/uco-title-ix-lawsuits/.
- [3] Scavelli, Melissa. "UCO Students Allege University Didn't Protect Them from Sexual Harassment by Professor." KOKH, okcfox.com/news/local/uco-students-allege-university-didnt-protect-them-from-sexual-harassment-by-professor.
- [4] Kato Buss, UCO Faculty Directory Profile <https://www3.uco.edu/centraldirectory/profiles/833035>