

GSS Executive Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019

This meeting was different than the usual Executive Council meeting. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Jacobsen Conference and the structure that it will take this year. This meeting was a meeting with the Executive Council, the Jacobsen Committee, and the Student Success Committee.

1. **Updates from Dean Varga**
 - a. Three Minute Thesis was last week, very excited about the winners
 - b. Kognito Training
 - i. New training module that the University has bought into
 - ii. At risk suicide prevention training platform
 - iii. Online
 - iv. Takes about 30 minutes to complete
 - v. Go through various scenarios and respond, learn about how to deal with distressed colleagues
 - vi. The Graduate College can work with us to implement this training

Evan's Notes on Jakobsen

2. **Layout of IMU for Jakobsen 2020** – Evan Krasner (3 mins.)
 - a. met w/John Cory from IMU to reserve space
 - i. we have most of 2nd & 3rd floor reserved for evening of Friday, March 27th, 2020 (before conference) & day of Jakobsen, March, 28th 2020
 - ii. modifications from last year's conference (2019)
 1. might not need grand ballroom or one of larger spaces
 - a. Use for "Lunch & Learn w/Dean Keller"
 - i. His discussion @ lunch will most likely be how to integrate Grad Students' Interdisciplinary Research w/Professional Development
3. **How to Incorporate Grad Appreciation Week into Jakobsen 2020** – Evan (3 mins.)
 - a. Important Dates for Grad Appreciation Week
 - i. This year Grad Appreciation Week is after Jakobsen Conference:
 1. National Grad Appreciation Week (4/6/20 – 4/10/20)
 2. Jakobsen Conference (3/28/19)
 3. **We want to have UI's Grad Appreciation Week before Jakobsen, on week of 3/20/19; this will help promote both events**
 - b. Student Success Committee (integrating Grad Appreciation Week & Professional Development Series) into 2020 Jakobsen Conference
 - i. Integrating Professional Development Series into Jakobsen
 1. In past, this committee has helped organize & advertise this component of the conference
4. **Challenge of integrating grad students' research @ Jakobsen into societal issues (medicine, tech, geopolitical, etc.)** – Evan (5 mins.)

- a. We want to emphasize how grad students' research is applicable to the "real world;" another words "why are these issues relevant today? How do we go about approaching/solving these problems?"
 - i. Potential Conference Themes for Jakobsen Committee
 - ii. Significant change from previous years' conferences
 - 1. Conference needs to more have of an interdisciplinary feel
 - 2. ****FORMAT FOR PRESENTATIONS; POTENTIALLY ELIMINATING POSTERS FOR NON-SCIENCE GRAD STUDENTS****
 - iii. Overlap w/professional development series
 - 1. Jakobsen Committee & Student Success Committee should be in discussion about this; work out details
- 5. **"Grand Challenges" & Having UI Faculty Play more Active Role in Jakobsen – Evan (5 mins.)**
 - a. Jenn Teitle proposed including "Grand Challenges" into 2020 Jakobsen
 - i. The "challenge" component is how to solve (and impact) contemporary societal issues through interdisciplinary research
 - 1. Several universities have links (UNI, U of Minnesota, etc.)
 - ii. It's a way to include a variety of disciplines under overarching issues
 - 1. Example: Biological Sciences & Humanities in a session on Current Environmental Issues
 - iii. Past conferences have been somewhat disjointed; this should help bring them all together
 - b. All three committees (Jakobsen, Exec, & Student Success) should start brainstorming on potential UI professors who they would like to see play a significant role in these "Grand Challenges"
 - i. Professors might give short lectures on how their research & how it pertains to the topic
 - ii. They should be somewhat interdisciplinary in their research
 - iii. Be comfortable leading discussion w/everyone in attendance @ Grand Challenges; how to address these issues
- 6. **Q & A; Finding Replacement for GSS's VP – All Three Committees (5-10 mins.)**

Discussion about the Jakobsen Conference

7. Questions

- a. What is the definition of this conference?
 - i. This question still needs to be answered precisely
- b. Possible selling points compared to other conferences
 - i. Professional Development
 - ii. Interdisciplinary Approach
 - 1. Could be hard to implement
 - iii. Communicating research to others that are not in your field
 - iv. Could be more discipline specific, that is, senators should choose how to communicate the benefit of the conference to their constituents based on their own department

- c. Why are we pushing professional development at this conference?
 - i. Maybe trying to do too much for a conference that is small scale

8. **Ideas**

- a. Incorporate MFA students
- b. Can we have some art display?
- c. Can we have some 3MT type style of presentations?
 - i. More relaxed 3MT format
 - ii. Could emphasize practice for next year's 3MT competition
 - iii. 7 minutes for talks and 3 minutes for questions
- d. How to encourage first and second year students to participate
- e. Emphasis that it is a good opportunity to practice
- f. Grand Challenges
 - i. Big umbrella topics
 - ii. You can be creative and tie your research to the topic in some way
 - iii. Have to work hard to come up with good and effective Grand Challenges
 - iv. Have to work hard to communicate what this actually means effectively

9. **Things to Work On**

- a. Jakobsen Committee
 - i. Evan will work with them
- b. Student Success
 - i. Figure out how to integrate Grad Appreciation Week with Jakobsen
 - ii. How to sell this whole thing?
 - iii. What is the overlap with Jakobsen?
 - iv. Evan will send out an email to the committee after talking to Christian