

GSS Executive Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2020

Meeting on Zoom <https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/427775966>

- I. Updates from the Graduate College
 - A. Not much going on on campus....
 - B. Lots of work on various topics related to the Coronavirus
 - 1. Working with the Provost's office relating to academic concerns, student process, changing deadlines etc.
 - 2. Lots of FAQs related to graduate education on the Graduate College website under Coronavirus, see <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/coronavirus/faqs>
 - 3. In close contact with the Big Ten academic alliance, graduate deans across the Big Ten to get ideas about what is happening at other Big Ten schools
 - 4. Lots of communication on HR issues
 - 5. President Herald has said that no one will lose employment or health benefits, regardless of what their funding source is
 - 6. Dean Campo is working on possibilities for commencement
 - 7. Dean Keller has been working with the COVID crisis management groups, working closely with the research office
 - 8. The Graduate College is also working closely with the student counseling service to help students
 - 9. S/U grade option is available for students this semester
 - C. Dean Campo has been working on the fellowships
 - 1. For the Graduate College Summer fellowship, if you wrote goals and objectives that cannot be accomplished because of travel, etc., that is okay. You just need to make sufficient scholarly progress.
 - 2. Question about Summer/Fall deadline for the OVPR Fellowship. The Graduate College has not announced a new deadline, not sure that they can award these fellowships for the summer
 - D. There was recently graduate student death. The Graduate College is working with the department and the student will receive a degree posthumously. Please be aware of the mental health of your fellow students and refer to counseling resources
 - E. There are lots of resources available to get help
- II. Suggestions for GSS / GC to further help grad students during COVID-19
 - A. Christian sent an email and a message on Facebook to ask how we can help
 - B. Has not yet received responses
 - C. One idea is to have a virtual coffee hour maybe
 - D. Positive responses from people on the above idea
- III. Shifting allocation to Emergency Fund
 - A. GSS committees have agreed to transfer 80% of the remaining funds to the Emergency Fund
 - B. Jennie and Christian are working with SOBO to transfer the funds
- IV. Grad Student Appreciation Week
 - A. The planning committee is meeting tomorrow to discuss the ideas that are floating around
 - B. Hoping to do some sort of social media campaign?
 - C. Online seminars and workshops?
 - D. The Jakobsen Committee met a few weeks before the Coronavirus
 - E. Had some good ideas for Grad Student Appreciation Week
 - F. What can we do given the current situation?
 - G. The idea is to maybe talk about the Jakobsen during Grad Student Appreciation Week
 - H. There will be more information after the planning committee meets
- V. Jakobsen Conference

- A. Kody wanted some feedback on the different ideas for the conference in the future
 - B. Format of the conference
 - 1. The “lay language” option seems good
 - 2. Grand challenges is also an option, they need to develop this idea more and be more specific
 - a. The grand challenges can be very broad
 - b. Need to create specific examples to describe the grand challenges
 - c. Ideas of grand challenges include water, public health, politics, environment, etc.
 - d. Need to be very clear about how the grand challenges will work
 - 3. Maybe we can get senator feedback on these ideas by using an online survey
 - C. How to entice people to come?
 - 1. Maybe move it out of the IMU
 - 2. Get an area that is not as fragmented
 - 3. No posters
 - D. Might meet virtually with the Jakobsen family sometime in April
- VI. GSS Website Updates
- A. Updating the alternate senators
 - B. Doing some general updates to the website
 - C. We need to reevaluate our roster and check this list with the most recent attendance sheet, Christian will work with Caroline on this task
- VII. Handbook / Constitution?
- A. Presented the amendments at the last meeting
 - B. We could vote virtually at the next meeting, but how will this vote work?
 - 1. Vote on Zoom?
 - 2. Vote on Engage?
 - 3. The Engage option is probably the best option
 - 4. Decided to vote on Engage
 - C. Want to vote on the amendments on Engage for the next meeting
- VIII. Nominations / Elections
- A. For nominations we will still use a Google Doc
 - B. For voting we will use Engage
 - C. Call for nominations via email?
 - D. We will also need to elect a new webmaster
 - E. Christian will work on creating the voting in Engage
 - F. Christian will also send an email to the senators with directions for nominations and voting