

University of Iowa – Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 5:30-7:00 pm

1. Call to Order – 17:36 (5:36 pm)
2. Introduction of Senators
  - a. Executive Council
    - i. Everyone introduced themselves
    - ii. Emese and Kyleakin introduced on Zoom
  - b. General Assembly
    - i. Everyone introduced themselves
3. Graduate College Welcome and Updates
  - a. Dean Campo – Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs, Grad College
    - i. Dean Thein welcomes everyone for the semester!
    - ii. Increase in international graduate students enrollment this year – Exciting!
    - iii. Deadlines for grad college fellowships are fast approaching!
    - iv. Grad Success - look at programs on the website!
    - v. GSEC – waiting for GPSG to confirm seats
    - vi. Peer mentorship program
      1. Assistant Dean (Grad College) Jen Teitle is working on this
      2. Getting older students to mentor younger students and provide access to resources.
  - b. Dean Getz – Associate Dean for Graduate education and Outreach, CLAS
    - i. 50 students CLAS Career Bootcamp from across the departments this year
    - ii. Reach out to her if you need any help with CLAS related activities!
4. Welcome to GSS
  - a. Tagline – Giving Grad Students a Voice!
  - b. Member government of GPSG
  - c. Future meeting dates – details sent closer to the date
    - i. October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Zoom)
    - ii. November 7<sup>th</sup> (Zoom)
    - iii. December 5<sup>th</sup> (UCC 2520D)
  - d. Role of a senator
    - i. Direct link between department and GSS
    - ii. Attend monthly GA meetings
    - iii. Participate in at least one committee
    - iv. Relay important information from meetings back to the department.
5. Open Positions
  - a. COGS rep
    - i. Executive board member – John Tappen
  - b. UCS Student Advisory Board
    - i. Alyssa Daniel
    - ii. Joseph Small
  - c. Financial Aid Advisory Committee

- i. Nikki Tennessen
  - d. UI First-Generation Task Force
    - i. Valeria Cota
- 6. Committees
  - a. Overview of Committees
    - i. Graduate Teaching
      1. Support Graduate TAs on campus
      2. Equip TAs to be more effective instructors
      3. Collaborate with the Center of Teaching
    - ii. International Student
      1. Bring questions and concerns of international students
      2. World Dance Tour
      3. Specific concerns like the international student fees and international graduate student parents
    - iii. Jakobsen
      1. Chair – Mekhla Singhanian (VP of GSS)
        - a. Work closely with Grad Success
        - b. Trying to get more professional development events
      2. Provide professional development opportunities for graduate students
      3. Three Minute Thesis
      4. Jakobsen Research Showcase – present to the general audience
    - iv. Service and Social
      1. Planning Social and philanthropic events for all Graduate students
      2. GSS Coffee Hour (last semester Thursdays at Cortado from 2:00 – 3:00 pm)
      3. Friday Night Vibes – once a month on Friday nights with GPSG
    - v. Travel Funds – Brooke Yeager (Chair)
      1. Allocates funds from Grad College to student applicants for professional and academic gatherings
      2. 4 application cycles that run throughout the year
      3. Have more than \$75000 to allocate
      4. Members help score these applications.
      5. Have 23 applications to score by the end of the month
      6. Not a lot of work and fun to read other people’s research
    - vi. Graduate Voices
      1. Ad-hoc committee
      2. Showcase graduate excellence on campus
      3. Annual award ceremony last year?
  - b. Committee Expectations
    - i. Relayed to senators
  - c. Joining Committees and choosing a chair
    - i. Done!
- 7. Assign Committees and establish Chairs
- 8. Email to send out to constituents

9. Open Discussion
  - a. Engage – put in events 4 weeks before you wish to start advertising
    - i. Can put in before the budget is approved
  - b. Get your events to Hannah ASAP if you want her to make your fliers
  - c. We have a Twitter account and Instagram account
  - d. A Graduate student (Josie) has proposed recycling e-waste on campus: wants GSS and GPSG to back this proposal
    - i. Find more details soon
10. Adjournment – 18:41 (6:41 pm)

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**OUCOS Student Advisory Board:** “The University Counseling Service Student Advisory Board (SAB) consists of 20-24 undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Iowa who will use their experiences as students to inform and contribute to key initiatives at University Counseling Service (UCS).

This group will meet approximately twice per month (once in person and once virtually) and there will be a half day retreat in mid-September. We are looking to work with students who are passionate about sharing their voices around campus mental health and enjoy working collaboratively to decrease the stigma often associated with seeking mental health support.”

**Financial Aid Advisory Board:** “Charge to the Committee. The committee shall:

Review and make recommendations to the President regarding all forms of student financial aid.

Assist the Office of Student Financial Aid or other university office administering financial aid in communicating all financial aid policies to the university community.”

**UI First-Generation Task Force:** “a group of faculty, staff, and student leaders from across campus. Our focus is the role that faculty and staff have in first-gen student success, and we are also working on building awareness of and celebrating the first-gen identity.”