

University of Iowa – Graduate Student Senate  
General Assembly

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30 pm (Zoom)

1. Call to order – 17:32 (5:32 pm)
2. Approval of October Minutes – voted on and approved!
3. Graduate College Updates
  - a. Dean Getz, GPEC alternate
    - i. CLAS Dissertation Fellowship goes from Summer to Fall - call for application coming shortly.
    - ii. Looking for CLAS representative who wants to serve in GPEC, please reach out to Dean Getz.
  - b. Dean Campo
    - i. Doctoral students that need to travel outside the country, please apply to T. Anne Cleary Fellowship and receive up to \$5000
    - ii. Re-open call for tuition support in the Spring, up to \$6000 dollars.
    - iii. Summer fellowship (<https://grad.uiowa.edu/funding/fellowships>)
      1. Digital studio fellowship
      2. Doctoral summer post-comps fellowships
  - c. Dean Thein
    - i. External Advisory Board Meeting (made up of recent alumni and grad college) was in October – successful!
      1. Talked about P2P mentorship program
      2. Building community in grad school - Interdisciplinary Grad program of Neuroscience student
    - ii. 3MT finals this Friday (11/10) in Art Building at 1 pm.
    - iii. Commencement at Hancher (Dec 15<sup>th</sup>)
    - iv. Doctoral ceremony at 9 am
    - v. Master's ceremony at 7 pm.
4. SLS Presentation (20 minutes) - Amanda Elkins and Alyssa Pomponio
  - a. Appointment-only service by email or call, but quick turnaround!
  - b. Services provided
    - i. Limited scope representation – make aware of the laws and guide through the process
    - ii. Full scope representation – do the advocacy and directly represent
    - iii. Immigration consultation
    - iv. Mediation
    - v. Notary – for students, staff and faculty.
    - vi. Resources and Referrals
  - c. Practice areas
    - i. Tenant rights (ESA, lease termination, sublease etc.) - top case types
    - ii. Expungement, Traffic tickets, Divorce, other civil (tax issues, scams etc.)
    - iii. Contract reviews, Lease reviews, Consumer issues, Living wills/POA
    - iv. Do not deal with Taxes – should approach VITA office (<https://www.biz.uiowa.edu/vita>)

- d. Access to justice
  - i. Imbalance of power and resources
  - ii. Students are brought into the legal system
  - iii. Students lack other free options (public defenders are not free!)
  - iv. Without SLS, students won't pursue valid legal issues and the abuse will continue.
  - v. Law school does has a legal clinic (but limited practice areas that don't overlap with SLS)
  - vi. Also, Iowa Legal Aid provides free resources; difficult as under resourced.
- e. Criminal Defense
  - i. Everyone is entitled to a defense; Criminal charge does not equal guilt
  - ii. 49% cases in FY23 ended in dismissal or acquittal
  - iii. Examples: traffic offences, DUI, fabricated evidence etc.
- f. Value of SLS
  - i. Monetary value is large!
  - ii. Well-being is higher and would recommend SLS to others as well.
- g. Challenges
  - i. Resources, staffing and budget is lowest on big 10
  - ii. Ratio is 15000:1 for attorneys.
- 5. Executive Council Reports
  - a. President- Karley Monaghan
    - i. Went to meeting to CPH that is working on an affordable housing program where students live with older individuals to help around the house in exchange for cheap rent
  - b. Vice President- Mekhla Singhanian
  - c. Treasurer- Soheil Hosseini
  - d. Executive Associate- Stuti Gupta
  - e. Membership Officer- Jordan Ismaiel
  - f. Parliamentarian- Valeria Cota
  - g. Webmaster- Kyleakin Helm-Kwasney
  - h. Social Media Director- Hannah Nennig
  - i. Travel Funds Director- Emese Kovacs
    - i. GSS funding website is updated! Feel free to email with suggestions.
- 6. COGS Update- John Tappen
  - a. Appointment letter for Spring 24 should have been sent on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Voted on petition to launch for abolishment of fees (already trending towards majority!)
  - c. Next meeting Sunday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - Zoom
- 7. GPSG Update
  - a. Brought the housing project to GPSG.
  - b. Division of Student Life Office talked about health (physical, mental etc.) across colleges, and comparison to other universities.
  - c. Please apply to both GPSG and GSS travel funds!
- 8. Committee Updates

- a. Graduate Teaching- Joey Small
    - i. TA Appreciation Day in Spring
    - ii. Continue Peer observation framework in Spring
    - iii. Contacting and surveying TAs to understand teaching cultures and patterns.
    - iv. Put together two teaching workshops
    - v. Trying to organize a teaching showcase event as well.
  - b. International Student- Stuti Gupta
    - i. Went to COGS special meeting for discussing student fees and to provide perspective from international students
    - ii. Trying to get World Dance Tour off the ground!
  - c. Jakobsen- Mekhla Singhania
    - i. Working on sponsors for Jakobsen Research conference and sponsoring an award for 3MT.
  - d. Social and Service- Valeria Cota and Hannah Nennig
    - i. Sent Engage our coffee hours to have a once a month
    - ii. Help International Committee to help with World Dance Tour
    - iii. Friday Night Vibes
    - iv. Workshops for grad students
  - e. Travel Funds- Brooke Yeager
    - i. Have 22 calculations for cycle 2 – need more
    - ii. Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - Dec 31<sup>st</sup> are the dates
    - iii. Please pass around the flyer posted in Teams to your departments
9. E-waste initiative Discussion - Josie Welker
- a. Although there are options to dispose of e-waste (eg: Iowa City East Recycling center), you need to pay for the disposal.
  - b. Initiative involves having e-waste drop off location somewhere on campus.
  - c. Working with JC Landfill and University surplus
  - d. The Sustainability Office needs student involvement and requires voting for this.
  - e. Kyle Bikowski – there could be a fee associated with this that might be passed on to students, which is a major concern
    - i. Josie will actively try to avoid this!
  - f. The current voting for the proposal is going to the Sustainability Office and to Josie's committee. Points below:
    - i. GSS is in support of having University Surplus involved in this e-waste sustainability initiative.
    - ii. We would like to review the final document before we give it our go ahead completely.
    - iii. We are trying to protect student rights in terms of fees.
    - iv. Can follow up with a document stating the above.
    - v. 15 votes Yay and 2 Nay – so approved
10. Adjournment – 19:11 (7:11 pm)