

University of Iowa – Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly
February 6th, 2024 at 5:30 pm (UCC 2520D)

1. Call to order – 17:34
2. Approval of December Minutes – voted on and approved!
3. Graduate College Updates
 - a. 3 candidates interviewed for associate grad dean; will pick one in next few weeks
 - b. 7-year collegiate review for Grad college (Feb 19th-20th)
 - c. 13th Feb – Grad DEI event
 - d. March event for Alumni
 - e. Funding dates closing soon
 - i. CLAS – Marcus Bach and Dissertation writing just closed
 - ii. Tuition scholarships due tomorrow
 - iii. Digital studio fellowships tomorrow
 - iv. T. Anne Cleary for international fellowships still has funds
 - v. Ballard-Seashore, Post Comps, Summer fellowships – March 6th
4. Ombudsperson’s Office Presentation – Dr. Meenakshi Gigi Durham and Chanelle Reese
 - a. Facilitate conversations
 - b. Problem solving and conference resolution
 - c. Follow international ombuds association code of ethics
 - d. Confidential, impartial, informal, independent
 - e. 236 Graduate students approached last year of which these were the top issues and risk categories
 - f. Top issues:
 - i. 19% Program requirements
 - ii. 9% Work-related stress / Work-life balance
 - iii. 9% Communication evaluative
 - iv. 8% Performance/appraisal/grading (formal or informal)
 - g. Risk categories (top)
 - i. Loss of productivity
 - ii. Violations of Policy
 - iii. Potential for internal/external grievance
5. Executive Council Reports
 - a. President- Karley Monaghan
 - i. International Student Advisory Board representative: Need a representative from GSS
 - ii. E-waste representative: 1 hour commitment per month, hope to be done this semester
 - b. Vice President- Mekhla Singhanian
 - c. Treasurer- Soheil Hosseini: Getting close to using all our budget for the year; but worry not because we have a rainy-day fund (\$2600) and GPAC funding
 - d. Executive Associate-Stuti Gupta
 - e. Membership Officer- Jordan Ismaiel
 - f. Parliamentarian- Valeria Cota

- g. Webmaster- Kyleakin Helm-Kwasney: events are up on website, can download events for flyers
 - h. Social Media Director- Hannah Nennig: IG is popping; follow us!
 - i. Travel Funds Director- Emese Kovacs
 - i. Some confusion among applicants about presentation funds versus degree related travel funds.
 - ii. GSS Travel funds – if you are presenting your work at a conference/showcase/art exhibition
 - iii. Degree-related travel – if you need to travel for your research (example: visit a lab, collect a sample, see a play, performance etc.) and it is needed to complete your degree
6. COGS Update- John Tappen
7. GPSG Update
8. Committee Updates
- a. Graduate Teaching- Matthew Barber
 - i. Feedback Survey in the works
 - ii. An email will be sent to understand teaching concerns
 - iii. Teaching workshops coming soon this semester
 - iv. Teaching showcase next fall
 - b. International Student- Stuti Gupta
 - i. World Dance Tour: Feb 10th from 5:30-8:30 pm at Old Brick (26 E Market St., Iowa City)
 - c. Jakobsen- Mekhla Singhania
 - i. Research Showcase
 - d. Social and Service- Valeria Cota and Hannah Nennig
 - i. Coffee Hour – next one is February 22nd
 - ii. Seminar Series – Recordings on website soon
 - iii. Friday Night Vibes – April 5th (will announce winners of Jakobsen)
 - e. Travel Funds- Brooke Yeager
 - i. March 4th is next deadline for travel from 1st Jan to 31st March
9. Open Discussion
- a. Announcement: a lot of delays with processing of FAFSA, so some of the dates have been moved forward
 - b. Association of Multicultural Scientists (AMS): they host a comps exam panel.
 - i. This year it will be on Thursday, February 22nd
 - ii. Mainly consists of biomed PhD students, but if you would like to serve on the panel, please reach out to Kyleakin
 - c. Jordan: call for assistance
 - i. They are writing a document addressing recent events that have transpired in relation to UIPD. They are asking for your help if you are willing. UIPD is wrongfully arresting and targeting POC and trans individuals (if you would like more information about this, please contact Jordan). If you want to assist with this document, contact them too.
10. Adjournment – 18:45