

# General Assembly Meeting

October 16, 2024

## Attendance:

1. **Call to Order – 5:35 PM**
2. **Approval of September 2024 minutes – voted on and approved**
3. **Presentation from Graduate Success**
  - A. Fellowship and grand support
    - i. Grant writing skill development
    - ii. Fellowship Incentive Program (FIP)
  - B. Career exploration & planning
  - C. Workshops
  - D. Appointments are available. Information can be found [here](#).
  - E. Three Minute Thesis: Research communication competition
  - F. Peer mentoring: for both PhD and master's students
  - G. Sign up for the Professional Development and Belonging and Inclusion Newsletters [here](#).
4. **Executive Council Updates**
  - A. President: Kyleakin Helm-Kwasny
    - i. [Distress Response Resources](#): Link to learn more about who to contact when in distress.
      1. Includes a list of non-law enforcement contacts, joint efforts between law enforcement and non-law enforcement, and law enforcement contacts.
      2. [Quick guide for responding to distress](#)
      3. [Full resource guide](#)
    - ii. Annual [Fresh Check Day](#): Free Mental Health Fair on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 AM-4 PM in the IMU
      1. Interactive activities, food, prizes, and music centered around mental health knowledge and resources.
    - iii. [Student Awards and Recognition](#) (Many award nominations typically due in January)
      1. [Hancher-Finkbine Awards/Distinguished Student Leader Award](#): Awarded to students for their dedication to learning, leadership, and loyalty.
      2. [1stGen@Iowa Award](#): To honor one first-generation graduate or professional student who has met ambitious goals and demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence.
      3. [Innovation in Safety Award](#): Nominate a student, faculty, or staff that has developed or implemented an innovative program or process to significantly improve UI safety and demonstrated their commitment to safe conduct.
  - B. Vice President: Joey Small

- i. Jacobson committee will have a meeting in a week after tomorrow (next Thursday).
- C. Treasurer: Stuti Gupta
  - i. Budget breakdown and vote – voted on and approved!
  - ii. The total GSS budget is \$12,430. This is \$3000 less than last year resulting in less allocation to the committees compared to last year.
    - .15 allocated to the executive council and .85 goes to the committees.
  - iii. We have two accounts. We can spend some of the \$24,972 in the reserved fund.
    - The reserved fund can be used, but we would like to save *some* for the upcoming cohort.
    - The allocations can be changed later. Later changes to the allocations will require a vote.
  - iv. The committees have used the budgets for renting venues, food, and/or printing, etc. - Last year, the GSS used up all the budget.
  - v. The university must approve events four weeks prior to their scheduled dates. Food must be paid by the Pcard, and tax has to be exempt.
  - vi. Writing in the Discipline (RHET:7930) class for the Spring 2025
- D. Executive Associate: Hee Kyoung Jung
- E. Membership Officer: Priyanka Newase
  - i. Anyone who is not getting emails or on the Teams channel should contact the membership officer.
- F. Parliamentarian: Caleb DeWitt
  - i. Currently Working on the bylaws
  - ii. The bylaws will be voted in the November meeting.
- G. Webmaster: Sabrina Ahmed
  - i. Anyone who needs the photo to be uploaded on the website should contact the webmaster.
- H. Social Media Director: Kshitija Kale
  - i. Once any program has events and has pictures, please share them with the GSS so they can be promoted through the GSS social media channels.
- I. Travel Funds Director: Brooke Yeager
  - i. Application for cycle 2 for presentation travel/conference funds is open from October 7th-December 2nd.

## 5. Graduate College Updates

- A. Dean Thein
- B. Dean Campo
  - i. Updates on fellowships and scholarships
  - ii. Mid-semester is tough for graduate students. Graduate College offers multiple services for help so please make sure to use them!
- C. Dean Rodriguez-Rodriguez
  - i. Encourages to advertise the resources available for graduate students

- ii. Webinar: academic publishing October 23 / Panel: balancing life as artists – Dec / 1<sup>st</sup> Grad Panel – Jones Commons

**D. CLAS Deans**

**6. COGS Updates**

- i. Recertification voting is ongoing. So far, 60% have participated.

**7. GPSG Updates – Travis Fischer**

- i. Individual grants: Cycle 1 was closed. The results are now pending and will soon become available.
- ii. Winter clothing drive: Bring your unworn winter clothes to the clothing closet at the IMU!
- iii. You can apply for both GSS & GPSG fundings! Take advantage of them. Click [here](#) for the grant information.

**8. Grad Council Updates – Tennessen**

- i. Beginning the policy reviews with the plagiarism/academic misconduct policies
- ii. The intent is to update what constitutes academic misconduct more broadly rather than strictly plagiarism and discuss how AI is being used, which will be informed by other committees on campus also working on this topic.
- iii. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to participate in the subcommittee!

**9. GSS Committee Updates**

- A.** Committees are finalized. If you have not received an email from your committee chair, please let me know after the meeting.
- B.** Service and Social Committee: Travis Fischer
- C.** Jakobsen Committee: Joey Small
- D.** Teaching Committee: Claire Christian
  - i. The chair will reach out after the GA meeting to schedule the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- E.** International Students Committee: Rafael Rangel De La Tejera
- F.** Travel Funds Committee: Thomas Dainty
  - i. Cycle 1 update
  - ii. Thesis-dissertation Travel funds
    - Applicants are eligible to apply once at the thesis-dissertation stage.
    - 3 out of 5 were eligible and approved. \$2500 in total was granted.
  - iii. Presentation funds
    - Applicants can apply once per fiscal year.
    - The committee is currently accepting Cycle 2. The cycle will end on December 2.
    - The fund will be determined depending on the distance (up to \$1000).

- Among 41 applications, 33 applications were eligible. 23 of these applications received approval, totaling \$16,292 in value.
- The programs/departments were diverse. The committee strives to continue it.
- \$18,792 in total across the two existing funds was granted. 22% of the budget has been spent – looks good!

**10. Open Discussion**

- i. Graduate College will discuss the DEI component in the travel funding grading and return.
- ii. Any questions about the travel funds can go to Brooke or Thomas.

**11. Adjournment – 6:42 PM**