

General Assembly Meeting

March 12, 2025

Attendance:

1. Call to Order – 5:34 PM
2. Approval of [February 2025 minutes](#)
3.
 - a. **Presentation from the Benefits Office**
 - i. SHIP and UI GradCare Plan
 - ii. Please check the slides for details!
 - b. **Presentation from the Office of the Ombudsperson** (Confidential, impartial and off-the-record)
 - i. 2-Year Comparison
 1. Grad student concerns
 - Interpersonal concerns
 - Career and academic development concerns
 - Work related concerns
 - Health (mental and physical) concerns
 - Communication concerns
 - ii. Highlighted concerns
 1. Compensation concerns
 2. Performance appraisals and the work environment for international students, scholars, and staff
4. **Executive Council Updates**
 - a. President: Kyleakin Helm-Kwasny
 - i. Friday Night Vibes will be held on Friday April 11th
 - ii. GPSG x Member Governments ball will be held on April 19th
 - iii. [Hawkeye Excellence Awards nominations](#) are due on March 14th
 - b. Vice President: Joey Small
 - i. March 29th: Jakobsen Research Showcase Call for Presentations Deadline
 - ii. Thursday, March 13: Poster Presentation Workshop
 - iii. Friday, March 28: The Unfinished Sympathy (Session 1: 10:30 am to noon, session 2: 1 to 2 pm) / Location: 2750 UCC
 - c. Treasurer: Stuti Gupta
 - d. Executive Associate: Hee Kyoung Jung
 - i. GSS elected positions application will open today. Consider applying or nominating someone.
 1. Application form is open from March 12th to March 27th.
 2. Confirmation of interest will be from March 28th to April 4th.
 3. Elections will be held on April 9th.
 - e. Membership Officer: Priyanka Newase
 - f. Parliamentarian: Caleb DeWitt
 - g. Webmaster: Sabrina Ahmed
 - h. Social Media Director: Kshitija Kale

- i. Grad student nomination is still available!
 - ii. We will post pictures for the Friday Night Vibes!
- i. Travel Funds Director: Brooke Yeager
 - i. Cycle 3 – the applications are currently being scored.
 - ii. Cycle 4 – the deadline is quickly coming up! Those who are eligible have to attend a conference taking place between April 4th and June 30th.

5. Graduate College Updates

- a. Dean Thein
- b. Dean Campo
 - i. Fellowships – Same number and awarded amount for this time; trying to fund as many students as possible!
- c. Dean Rodriguez-Rodriguez
 - i. Check the grad college website for coming deadlines!
- d. CLAS Deans

6. COGS Updates – Brendan Powers

- a. 6% increase for 2 years
- b. Actions are currently being executed. Keep up with the email.

7. GPSG Updates – Travis Fischer

- a. GPSG is considering a 2-dollar fee increase, allowing a bigger budget for events and organizations (including GSS).

8. Grad Council Updates – Tennessen

- a. Program closure

9. GSEC Updates

- a. Academic freedom
- b. Graduate student handbook – benefits, tuition waiver, etc.

10. GSS Committee Updates

- a. Service and Social Committee: Travis Fischer
 - i. Jakobsen Committee and Grad Success and Belonging have been helping with financing for the Friday Night Vibes.
- b. Jakobsen Committee: Joey Small
- c. Teaching Committee: Claire Christian
- d. International Students Committee: Priyanka Newase
 - i. Free movie tickets by the end of this month. More information is coming!
- e. Travel Funds Committee: Thomas Dainty
 - i. Push Cycle 4! We may consider how to reach out to more students with the information.

11. Open Discussion

- a. Travis Fischer: Letter regarding parking and transportation concerns
- b. Dean Campo: No anticipated drop on the number or amount of grants; the recruitment numbers would matter. Summer grants seem to be more competitive this year.

12. Adjournment – 7:02 PM