

General Assembly Meeting

October 2nd, 2025

Attendance:

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. **Presentation** by Tanya Villhauer and Liz Swanton from Well-Being and Basic Needs
 - a. Why was there a huge jump in meal swipe shares from '23 to '24
 - b. There is a specific list of needed items for the food pantry on their website
 - i. you can directly donate money as well or utilize amazon to send them stuff
 - c. Cannot use "flex" spending in non-residence hall dining right now with the new system. area for expansion that GSS (or GPSG) could help bring forward
 - d. For meal share should we get at least a rejection? Staffing is new and working on this.
 - e. Why a lot of students getting rejection in meal share? Because of eligibility criteria.
 - f. is there any eligibility criteria published so students know if they can apply? no, it depends on the situation.
 - g. Comment- With unfinished symphony there was a lack of awareness about the event.
4. **Approval of September 2025 Minutes**- Approved
5. **Executive Council Introductions and Reports**
 - a. President: Travis Fischer
 1. All the
 2. Shared meeting operating procedures
 3. Process of approval of meeting minutes
 - ii. **3 Minute Thesis**- university-wide competition where graduate students present their research to a non-specialist audience using a single slide and no jargon.
 1. **Important Dates:**
 - a. October 10 - Registration Deadline (11:59 PM CT)
 - b. October 16-17 - Preliminary Rounds
 - c. November 13 - Finals & Awards
 2. **Our very own David Ramotowski was the 2023 3MT winner!!!**
 - iii. **UI Employee Assistance Program**- (UI EAP) is a confidential, short-term counseling and referral service provided at no cost to UI faculty, staff, postdocs, medical residents, their spouses/partners, and insurance-eligible dependents living in Iowa.
 1. Support and Crisis line, Emergency Hardship Fund, Grief and Mourning Support Group, Peer Support, Substance Use, Sleep, Mental Health and Well-Being Course
 - iv. GPSG approved the 2025-2026 Budget so we will have funds to support our initiatives and grants this year!

1. Senators voted
 - v. Committees have been established, and chairs have emailed their members. If you are a senator and we do not have you listed on a committee, see me after the meeting and we will assign you. THIS IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SENATORS
 - b. Vice President: John Stevenson
 - i. Jakobsen Committee updates
 1. Have venue and materials scheduled
 2. Look out for announcements
 - c. Treasurer: David Ramotowski
 - i. Walk through the 2025-2026 Budget
 1. How budget works and \$13726.45 from GPSG (10% increase from last year)
 - a. How do we get the reserve money?
 - b. Going
 2. 2 main categories executive committee 15% and rest for the committees
 - a. regarding the money for Jacobson conference how much was spent and how many people attended?
 - i. poster printing
 - ii. food
 - b. Is there any specific allocation of money? Or can we reallocate from the beginning?
 - d. Executive Associate: Sabrina Ahmed
 - e. Membership Officer: Joey Small
 - i. No update
 - f. Parliamentarian: Caleb DeWitt
 - i. [Parli Pro Crash Course](#)
 1. Travis already discussed.
 - g. Webmaster: Obatola Layiwola
 - i. no update
 - h. Social Media Director: Kshitija Kale
 - i. Travel Funds Director: Maleeha Naseem
 - i. Funding cycle 1 update
 1. 33 application- 32 travel 1 dissertation
 2. \$21375
 3. 19 funded
 - ii. Funding cycle 2 update
6. Voting on the [2025-2026 budget](#)
 7. Graduate College Updates
 - a. A record number of fellowships were awarded this cycle, including additional fellowships made possible by newly discovered funding.
 - b. Upcoming Deadlines: Tuition Scholarships for Spring 2026 are accepting applications. Small Grants are available, especially for students in the Humanities

and Social Sciences. Deadlines for these opportunities are approaching in the next few weeks.

8. COGS Updates

- a. College of Education Tuition Policy:
 - i. mentioned an ongoing issue regarding tuition policies in the College of Education.
 - ii. The tuition formula is still being finalized, and discussions are underway. The concern centers on students who received offer letters before the new policy was implemented. These students had committed to their programs under previous terms, and the policy change may affect their financial expectations. The Graduate College is actively working to address this issue, recognizing the importance of honoring prior agreements.

9. GPSG Updates – John Stevenson, KK

10. Grad Council Updates – David, Travis

- a. New Certificate Programs Approved:
 - i. College of Nursing: A new certificate in Maternal and Childhood Development, designed to provide Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and PhD nursing students with enhanced training in nursing education.
 - ii. College of Public Health: A new education certificate was also approved (specific name not provided due to email access issues during the meeting).

11. Positions that need to be filled:

- a. Fine Art and Humanities Delegate for Grad Council

12. GSS Senator Email Examples

- a. Found in presentation

13. GSS Committee Chair Welcomes and Introductions

- a. Service and Social

14. Open Discussion

- a. Information videos for students
 - i. **Payroll Presentation:** Learn about pay schedules, tax forms, direct deposit, and Employee Self-Service access.
 - ii. **Billing Presentation:** Get a breakdown of the University Billing process, including monthly statements, payment options, COGS funding, financial aid disbursement, and key myUI resources for graduate students.
 - iii. **Benefits Presentation:** Understand graduate student health and dental insurance at the University of Iowa, including plan options, costs, assistantship benefits, enrollment deadlines, and how to manage coverage through myUI.
- b. From the floor?
- c. Criteria for travel funding:
 - i. Concerns were raised about music performance students being excluded from travel funding due to the definition of “original work.”

- ii. The Graduate College acknowledged the issue and expressed willingness to revisit the criteria.
- iii. They emphasized that dissertation-related performances may qualify, and encouraged students to submit summaries for review.
- iv. A follow-up with the Director of Graduate Studies in Music is planned to ensure fairness.

15. Adjournment