

## General Assembly Meeting

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Attendance:

1. Call to Order 5:31 PM
2. Attendance
3. Presentation by University Counseling Service 5:35 PM to 6 PM
4. Approval of [October 2025 Meeting Minutes](#) YAY
5. Executive Council Reports
  - a. President: Travis Fischer
    - i. I am away for this meeting for a conference. I am sorry I must miss our GA meeting as I enjoy being able to see you all. Thus is the life of a Grad student!
      1. VP John will be leading the way today.
    - 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. **Urging everyone to attend the final round and cheer for your fellow grad students!**
      1. November 13 - Finals & Awards
        - a. GSS is sponsoring 2 "People's Choice" 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. Committees have been established, and chairs have emailed their members. Newest senators have been assigned based off of their preference and committee needs (I apologize if you did not get your first choice)
    - v. December Meeting (12/4/2025)
      1. 5-7PM (Note earlier meeting time) **noted**
      2. Location: Jones Commons, Lindquist Center (Tentative) **Travis will email everyone about the location**
      3. 5-6PM will be a social hour with food, drinks, and good company!
        - a. **No presentation from departments Can we invite Dean Ali and let the senators have face time with her ?**
      4. 6-7PM will be legislative session
      5. Food is allowed in the Commons area
      6. Happy Winter!
  - b. Vice Acting President: John Stevenson

- i. Jakobsen Committee updates **First meeting with Mr. Jakobsen done. Date decided. Next meeting is aimed to discuss sponsors and theme.**
- c. Treasurer: David Ramotowski
- d. Executive Associate: Sabrina Ahmed
- e. Membership Officer: Joey Small
- f. Parliamentarian: Caleb DeWitt
- g. Webmaster: Obatola Layiwola
- h. Social Media Director: Kshitija Kale
- i. Travel Funds Director: Maleeha Naseem
- i. Funding cycle 2 update **Cycle 2 till Dec. 2. Deadline for decision is Dec. 15. 32 applications received so far**
- 6. Graduate College Updates** **Dean Campo urged grad students to take advantage of food pantry and winter closet. Spread the word among fellow grad students. Dean Rodriguez voiced her concern about Fine Arts and Humanities rep and wait-for-it we have one ! (I missed her name, but Joey know who it is)**
- 7. COGS Updates**
- 8. GPSG Updates – John Stevenson, KK** **IMU renovation is the exciting change!**
- 9. Grad Council Updates – David** **some new masters program initiated and 2 programs uninitiated.**
- 10. Positions that need to be filled:**
  - a. Fine Art and Humanities Delegate for Grad Council
- 11. GSS Reference Presentation for FAQs pinned in General Teams page**
- 12. GSS Committee Chair Updates**
  - a. Jakobsen- John Stevenson
  - b. Teaching- Alexandra Herron **(I didn't catch what they were trying to say)**
  - c. International Student- Md Abu Ebrahim Siddique, Milad Arzani **First meeting at end of November.**
  - d. Travel Funds- Tyler Woodward **gearing up for cycle 2**
  - e. Service and Social- Airiana Mohr, Malayna Stober **Friday night vibes planning in motion. Might plan something for the finals week.**
- 13. 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?
- 14. Adjournment** **6:25 PM**