

General Assembly Meeting

December 4th, 2025

Attendance:

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. No presentation today, only food
4. Approval of [November 2025 meeting minutes](#): approved
5. Executive Council Reports
 - a. President: Travis Fischer
 - i. Big thank you to John for doing such a great job at the last meeting while I was away
 - ii. Congratulations to our [3 Minute Thesis](#) winners! And a bigger shoutout to the GSS People's Choice winners
 1. **1st Place**: Kaitriana Colling, Cancer Biology
 2. **Honorable Mention**: Erin Wissler Gerdes, Epidemiology
 3. **GSS People's Choice**: Kaitriana Colling, Cancer Biology; A H M Mainul Islam, Geography
 - 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. Happy Winter and good luck with finals!
 - b. Vice President: John Stevenson- [Meeting for the Jacobson committee, developing a sub-committee to start arranging the conference.](#)
 - c. Treasurer: David Ramotowski- [working on preparing a guide for events to engage and also the process of getting a p-card](#)
 - d. Executive Associate: Sabrina Ahmed
 - e. Membership Officer: Joey Small
 - i. Reminder to email DGSs and program offices updates from GSS GA meetings- [Use the meeting minutes to update your \(senators\) program and DGS. Also, you can use the template that was shared for emailing.](#)
 - f. Parliamentarian: Caleb DeWitt- [is updating the constitution and if you have read it and have any suggestions](#)
 - g. Webmaster: Obatola Layiwola
 - h. Social Media Director: Kshitija Kale
 - i. Travel Funds Director: Maleeha Naseem
 - i. Funding cycle 2 update- [58 applications are almost 60% funded for this cycle. By next week we will have more information. Tylar worked hard.](#)
 - ii. [Need to check next travel cycles- Travel date: January 1-March 31, 2026, application open- January 6 to March 3.](#)

6. **Graduate College Updates-** 2 weeks from tomorrow, the master's and doctoral commencement and receptions for both groups, but this is the first time for the master's. Also, most of the fellowship deadlines are in February and March. Updates on federal financial aid changes: 1. Loss of Grad PLUS loans is a major concern. 2. Professional program classification changes under review. 3. Funding landscape remains challenging for graduate students.

7. **COGS Updates**

8. **GPSG Updates – John Stevenson, KK, Travis**

- a. Established the Editorial Committee, an ad-hoc committee established by Graduate and Professional Student Government for the 2025–2026 academic year
 - i. interdisciplinary periodical to be published in print and digital editions this spring. Features graduate research, teaching reflections, events, funding opportunities, and other campus resources for graduate and professional students
 - ii. Interested in serving on the committee? Fill out this [form](#) by Friday, December 5th
 - iii. Open call for submissions. Submit articles or works for review [here](#)
 1. [An ad-hoc committee, the Editorial Committee, was established and asked for students who are interested in working in this committee. Also, the email grad and prof students are requested to submit writings for an interdisciplinary periodical.](#)
 2. [The mental health fee increased and was negotiated, and it was reduced from \\$10 to \\$5, which will go to the new counselor who will serve 500 more students.](#)

9. **Grad Council Updates – David**

10. **Positions that need to be filled:**

- a. [None](#)

11. **GSS Reference Presentation for FAQs pinned in General Teams page**

12. **GSS Committee Chair Updates**

- a. Jakobsen- John Stevenson
 - i. Important dates and times- [28 March will be the conference and please submit your work for the conference. Also keep an eye out for the submission links.](#)
- b. Teaching- Alexandra Herron- Organizing graduate TA lounge in spring (probably beginning): [Teaching Committee planning a Graduate Teachers' Lounge event next semester. Peer observation project and TA FAQ updates ongoing.](#)
- c. International Student- Md Abu Ebrahim Siddique, Milad Arzani
- d. Travel Funds- Tyler Woodward
- e. Service and Social- Airiana Mohr, Malayna Stober

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. [Preparing for finals: 9 tips to help you succeed](#)
 - c. [Basic Needs for Winter Preparedness](#)
 - d. Congrats to Fall 2025 Grads!!!
 - e. From the floor?
 - i. GSEC-
 1. HR announced anticipated 10% reduction in TA assistantships university-wide.
 2. Estimated drop from ~810 positions to ~710–720.
 3. No department-specific details available yet.
 4. Potential impacts include:
 - a. Reduced TA lines
 - b. Larger class sizes
 - c. Increased reliance on teaching-track faculty
 - d. Timeline and implementation details is not discussed.

14. Adjournment