General Assembly Meeting

September 3th, 2026

Attendance:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Attendance**
3. **Approval of May 2026 Minutes – Voted and approved**
4. **Presentation from Office of Leadership, Service and Civic Engagement**
    a. Hawk the Vote overview
    b. Team structure
    c. Partnership with USG and GPSG
    d. Key activities include tabling, workshops, student-athlete presentations, and Voting Ambassador outreach.
5. **Executive Council Introductions**
    a. President: John A Stevenson
        i. Designs the agenda and runs all GSS meetings (including executive meetings); appoints the chairs of all committees; serves as the At-Large delegate for GPSG.

    b. Vice President: Shri Vishalini Rajaram
        i. Aids the president in carrying out functions of the GSS; acts as a liaison between the GSS and University sponsored organizations and committees; serves as an alternate for GPSG meetings when any delegate cannot attend.

    c. Treasurer: Emily Hagan
        i. Plans the annual budget for the GSS; prepares a report on the current finances of the GSS once a semester.

    d. Executive Associate: Augustine Hung
        i. Keeps the minutes of GSS meetings (including executive meetings); is the contact for any legislation to be brought up at GSS meetings and let the president and executive committee know; works with the webmaster to keep the website up to date.

    e. Membership Officer: Rachel Valentine
        i. Prepares a list of departments and programs eligible for representation in the GSS; in charge of periodically letting departments/programs know there is not a current senator from their field; lets senators know when they are not in good standing; maintains an up-to-date list of GSS members and the ListServ.

    f. Parliamentarian: Aidan Schlichting

i. Calls GSS meetings to order; recommends changes to the GSS constitution on an annual basis as they see fit; in charge of researching any rules and regulations at the University that affects the GSS or graduate student population.

g. Webmaster: Manisha Keim
   i. Maintain and update the GSS website; uploads meeting minutes after they have been approved (minutes will be approved at the meeting after which the minutes were taken).

h. Social Media Director: Paul Ntasin
   i. Keeps the Instagram/Twitter pages up to date with GSS events and news; works with other organizations and departments to advertise GSS events.

i. Travel Funds Director: Sabrina Ahmed
   i. Schedules meetings with the Travel Funds committee to score applications; deidentifies all applications; approves/rejects applications based on committee scores; inform the Administrative Affairs Coordinator how much to allocate applicants; is the primary contact for anyone with questions regarding funding from the GSS; discuss budget allocations with the Administrative Affairs Coordinator.

3. **Graduate College Welcome and Updates**
   a. GSS/GPSG supported and moderated GC welcome panel for new students
      i. introduction of the senate members (name, department, fun fact).
      ii. introduction of the Deans of grad college (Shelly Campo)
      iii. Contact if you like to talk to Dean Campo
   b. Grad Orientation, Engagement and Resource Fair on 8/29 was a great success!
   c. University Counseling Service Student Advisory Board – **needed!**
      a. Retreat 19 Sep 9am-3pm

      b. Board Meetings on alternating Fridays

      c. Applications here. Questions can be directed to: tianyi-xie@uiowa.edu

   d. Intro/words from Deans
      i. Apology from dean and associate dean.

4. **COGS Updates**
      i. Introduction of COGS
      ii. Voting appeal; and mentioning first bargaining to take place in Jan 2027

5. **GPSG Updates – Aidan Schlichting, Nick Bushkofsky**
    a. Onboarding was great; First Meeting is September 8th
    b. earlier meeting on Aug 25th - discussed voting logistics

6. **Grad Council Updates – Parker Watson**
    a. First meeting on 10 Sep
7. **Graduate Student Senate (GSS) nomenclature**
    a. **Full senator**: Primary representative for their department or program. They have voting rights on any matter brought up at GSS meetings. Each full senator must serve on a GSS committee unless they are on the executive council or a GPSG delegate.

    b. **Alternate senator**: Attends meetings when the full senator cannot. Encouraged to attend all meetings but can only vote on issues when the full senator is not present.

    c. **Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG)**: Governing body of all graduate and professional students.

    d. **Graduate Student Employment Committee (GSEC)**: Discuss matters related to graduate student employment benefits.

    e. **Graduate and Professional Allocations Committee (GPAC)**: Review funding requests for student organizations. GSS has 3 delegates in GPAC.

    f. **Grad Council**: Academic policy-making body for the Graduate College; members include graduate students, professors, and deans of the Graduate College. GSS has 4 delegates in Grad Council.

8. **Positions that need to be filled:**
    a. UCS Advisory Board

    b. See Rachel for empty Senate seats

9. **GSS Committees**

    a. International Student Committee: Bring forth questions and concerns from the international graduate student population. Previous events include the World Dance Tour.

b. Service and Social Committee: Planning events that are both philanthropic and social in nature. Previous events include GSS coffee hour and Friday Night Vibes event.

c. Graduate Student Teaching Committee: Provide resources and professional development to aid graduate teaching assistants. Work with Grad Success.

d. Jakobsen Graduate Development Committee – Shri Vishalini Rajaram: Host the annual Jakobsen Research Conference to showcase the work of graduate students from across campus.

e. Travel Funds Committee – Allocates funds to graduate students for their travel to present their work. Current duties centered on Chair and the list of recommendations would be sent to grad college to handle fund dissemination.

f. Link to indicating preferences.

10. What to include in the email for GSS Senators to Send to their Departments

a. Don't just send the meeting minutes! These contain too much information that is not always relevant to what your students should know!

b. A summary of what was discussed, upcoming events, funding opportunities (grants cycles), policy changes, presentation slides from our guest speaker, etc.

c. For the first email, introduce yourself! Being a representative means being available for your constituents to ask you questions!

11. Open Discussion

a. Upcoming events are notified only through email; should outreach Membership Officer if no email is received.

b. Recruitment of GPSG's mental health committee would take place soon.

c. GPSG appealed to members to apply for committee positions.

12. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm