Graduate Student Senate
General Meeting
Agenda
12-September-2011

I. Call to Order – 6:00 pm
   Approval of Agenda and Minutes (~1 min)

II. Introduction of Senators (~2 min)

III. Graduate College Report (15 min)

IV. Introductions/Introductory Information
   A. Ice-Breakers (?)
   B. Full vs. Alternate Senators & Responsibilities
   C. Committees

V. Elections/Committee Chair Openings
   A. Formal election by GSS general membership: ECGPS Delegate Alternate for Kristi DiClemente
   B. Other non-election positions open:
      1. GPAC Delegates (need 3) & Alternates (at least 2)
      2. Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory Committee (need 1)
      3. Education Outreach (need 2)
      4. Jakobsen Conference
      5. Social & Service Committee (need 2)

VI. Executive Reports
   A. President’s Report – stef shuster*
   B. Vice President’s Report – Ulrike Carlson*
   C. Treasurer’s Report – Andy Koons*
   D. Membership Officer’s Report – James Skretta*
   E. Parliamentarian’s Report – Sam Bouwers
   F. Graduate Council Report – Kristi DiClemente, Lea Ljumanovic, Maneesh Kumar, stef shuster*
   G. Graduate Student Organizations Liaison – Nirmalla Barros*
   H. ECGPS Delegate Report – Kristi DiClemente, Ulrike Carlson*
   I. DGSAC Chair Report – TBD
   J. Webmaster Report – Maneesh Kumar*

VII. Committee Representative Reports
   A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Matt Calamia, Jenni McCabe*
   B. Computer Resources Committee – Brian Borchers*
   C. Education Outreach Committee – TBD
   D. International Student Committee – Emma Hashman*
   E. Jakobsen Conference Committee – James Skretta, Kate Wohlman*
   F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – stef shuster*
   G. Legislative Committee – Clint Huntrods
   H. Service & Social Committee – TBD
   I. Travel Funds Committee – Lindsey Thomas, Kristi DiClemente*

VIII. Announcements

IX. Open Discussion
   • Opened by chair - Closed by motion with second and approval by senate

X. Adjournment (~1 min)

* Reports included

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      4. Jakobsen Conference Committee Co-Chair (need 1)
      5. Social & Service Committee (need 2)

VI. Executive Reports
   A. President’s Report – stef shuster
   Welcome to GSS! I am quite excited about this upcoming year and serving as your president.
   As a GSS Senator, you are the bridge between GSS and the graduate students in your department. Please be sure to keep your department updated regarding GSS events and important news by forwarding on our GSS newsletter to other grad students in your department. If you have any questions regarding GSS, please scroll to the bottom of this webpage and check out our GSS Handbook: http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/about#Forms.

   As was done last year, the executive council minutes and general senate meeting agenda/minutes will be available on the website at http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/meetings.

   We had quite a busy summer! On July 27th a crew of GSS Senators pitched in for Iowa City’s “Rummage in the Ramp” citywide recycling extravaganza! We helped price, sell, and sort donated items and even earned a little money for our time. Then, in early August we helped welcome new international graduate students to our campus by hosting two “GSS 101” workshops. Finally, on August 17th several more GSS Senators worked the New Graduate Student Information Fair. They talked to incoming graduate students about the many opportunities available for getting involved with GSS.

   There are a lot of exciting plans in the works for GSS and I hope that you will find multiple opportunities to participate in events, pitch in to help out with service work, and help build community among graduate and professional students. As a 2nd term president, I am excited to be able to shift my energy to the ways in which I can really help advocate for graduate students and set an agenda for the GSS. I am always looking for ways that we can collaborate with other student orgs to implement programs. Contact me if you have ideas!

   We are circulating sign up forms for Committees during our general meeting. A committee co-chair will contact you within the next week once you indicate your interest on the sheet. If you were unable to attend, please contact me and I will pass along your name and email.

   I am looking forward to another fantastic year in GSS! If you ever have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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B. Vice President’s Report – Ulrike Carlson
Dear new and returning senators,
I am excited to serve as your vice president this year. As VP it is my goal to keep GSS running smoothly, to work with the membership officer to increase our membership base and to be available to help and answer your questions on committee and other matters. I am a PhD student in German, currently ABD, as well as a TA and adjunct instructor for German at Kirkwood Community College. I also have a daughter in kindergarten and am interested in advocating for grad students who have families. I am looking forward to getting to know all the new senators and to a productive year!

C. Treasurer’s Report – Andy Koons
Good evening to returning GSS members, new members, and guests! I’m looking forward to having fun and accomplishing a great deal this upcoming year. As Treasurer, I’m here to help everyone accomplish the tasks they’re working on and make funding and budgeting as smooth and intuitive as possible. As a first step, we’ve put a new budgeting process in place so that each committee chair has a real-time understanding of where they sit on financial matters. If anyone is curious about the GSS budget, how the process works, have a treasury issue that needs to be handled, or have an idea that you’d like to send my way, I’m always interested in improvement. Again, I’m looking forward to the upcoming year and hope everyone feels the same!

D. Membership Officer’s Report – James Skretta
If you ever have any questions about the senator representation in your department or want to help me recruit new senators to our organization, please do not ever hesitate to contact me! Please don’t forget to sign in at the beginning of each meeting, pick up your name tag, and voting card. At the end of the meeting, remember to turn in your nametag.

E. Parliamentarian’s Report – Sam Bouwers

F. Grad Council Report – Kristi DiClemente, Lea Ljumanovic, Maneesh Kumar, stef shuster
The Graduate Council serves as the executive committee of the graduate faculty. We evaluate new graduate programs and revisions in existing programs and make recommendations to the graduate faculty on new programs. We also confer with the dean of the Graduate College on matters of policy related to faculty, and assist the dean in brainstorming ideas for identified issues or problems. 4 graduate students serve on this council in order to share our concerns or ideas with the council on behalf of all graduate students.

The Graduate Council has met twice since the start of the semester. At the first meeting we reconnected with other council members and reviewed the progress from last year. At our second meeting, Dean Berkowitz shared end-of-the-year survey results from exiting PhD students, we learned about the programs and networking opportunities that the Office of Graduate Ethnic Inclusion offers to underrepresented students, an update on this year’s Obermann Institute for Graduate Students, and a review of the “High Impact Factors for Student Success.” If you would like more details about any of these updates, please contact one of the people listed on this report.

G. Graduate Student Organizations Liaison – Nirmalla Barros
The grad student orgs. liaison is charged with serving as a bridge between the GSS and other grad student orgs. Given our president’s call for more collaboration between GSS and other organizations, I am open to hearing about ideas that you may have – in your work with other orgs – on how we can work together to implement truly dynamic programming for the graduate student community and the UI.

H. ECGPS Delegate Report – Kristi DiClemente, Ulrike Carlson
At the first meeting of the Executive Council of Graduate & Professional Students, we connected with the executive leadership, met other member government delegates, and learned of the initiatives and ideas that the committee coordinators have in mind for this year. If you are unfamiliar with ECGPS, think of it as the umbrella organization for all 6 Graduate & Professional Member Governments (GSS, Dental, Pharmacy, Law, Medicine, Business).

http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu grad-senate@uiowa.edu
I. DGSAC Chair Report – TBD

J. Webmaster Report – Maneesh Kumar
Hello! If you ever have any questions about the GSS website, please do not hesitate to contact me! Want a headshot posted next to your name in our membership list? Great! Send it my way. Have issues accessing the applications? Shoot me an email. I am here to help provide support for the GSS website and any issue – small or large - can be sent my way. There was a small change to how images are stored on the website. If you notice broken links, or images not displaying right, please let me know.

VII. Committee Representative Reports
A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Matt Calamia, Jenni McCabe
The Academic Mentoring Committee will continue its efforts again this year to provide guidance and assistance to undergraduate and graduate students. The committee achieves this through a number of avenues, including our Mentorship Match System, our work with the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates, and our discussion panel at the Jakobsen Conference. This semester, we have already received a request for our mentors to give presentations to undergraduates interested in preparing for/applying to graduate school. This is one important area where we feel our committee can better serve the students at Iowa. Thus, one of our goals for this year is to communicate with departments all over campus about increasing undergraduate students’ awareness of graduate opportunities and the process of planning for, applying to, and deciding about graduate school. It is our intent that the Academic Mentoring Committee will sponsor discussion panels of this sort for interested departments.

For more information about our plans and goals for this academic year, please contact us! We are currently looking for future members of the Academic Mentoring Committee who may be interested in mentoring one-on-one, giving presentations, participating in discussion panels, judging at research conferences, and more. The committee is not only an enjoyable group, but involvement in mentoring activities can provide a great addition to your CV. We look forward to hearing from you! Matt: (matthew-calamia@uiowa.edu); Jenni: (jennifer-mccabe@uiowa.edu).

B. Computer Resources Committee – Brian Borchers
The Computer Resources Committee distributed computers on September 7th and 8th. We received over 300 Dell desktop PC’s this year. 30 departments applied for computers, but two of those requested just laptops or Macs. The total number of desktops requested was less than our available supply, so if a department had not initially been awarded their full desktop request, they were subsequently informed we could grant them their full desktop request. Due to this we were able to fulfill 28 department's desktop requests. Many thanks to the committee members who helped with our web survey, allocation meeting and the distribution of computers.

We are looking to recruit new members. A typical year for the committee typically involves nothing during the academic year except for the distribution of computers, which usually happens after Labor Day weekend. We have an organization meeting at the beginning of the summer, send out a call for applications and then go over applications in early August.

C. Education Outreach Committee – TBD

D. International Student Committee – Emma Hashman
Hello everyone! I am new to Iowa this year, starting my first semester of the International Studies Masters program. I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa last May, so I am an Iowa native. I am very pumped to be the new chair of the International Students Committee this year and Senator for the International Studies Department. I hope lots of you will be interested in serving on my committee, I promise to make it super fun, and I hope to help lots of International Graduate students this year as well. I am meeting with Scott King, the Assistant Dean of International Programs today to discuss ideas for helping Graduate International Students. I will let you know what ideas we come up with at the meeting!
Please email me (emma-hashman@uiowa.edu) or talk with me after the meeting if you are interested in joining my committee. We will be meeting just once a month, most likely in the 3rd or 4th week of each month.

E. Jakobsen Conference Committee – James Skretta, Kate Wohlman
Mark your calendars for this year’s James F. Jakobsen Conference, set for March 24th in the IMU. All graduate students are invited to submit their research (poster or oral presentation format) to the conference. No one is “turned away” and we accept all submissions. More details will be released in the coming weeks. If you want to get involved in helping organize the conference (we have many tasks), let us know!

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – stef shuster
Hello Senators! Welcome to another exciting year in the Graduate Student Senate! If you didn’t already know, the James F. Jakobsen (JFJ) Graduate Conference is the largest GSS sponsored event, which is organized by your fellow graduate students in GSS. Each year following the conference, a survey is sent to students who presented their work, faculty members who served as judges, and anyone who attended the conference. The data from this survey is then reviewed by the Jakobsen Conference Review Committee, which is composed of the new Jakobsen Conference Co-Chairs, past co-chairs and any GSS members who would like to provide their input. Any remaining conference issues are also addressed at this meeting and recommendations are made to the new committee. We are trying to figure out a good date and time to meet this week. If you are interested in sharing your input from last year, please email me with either your comments or for more information regarding our meeting.

G. Legislative Committee – Clint Huntrods

H. Service & Social Committee – TBD

I. Travel Funds Committee – Lindsey Thomas, Kristi DiClemente
The Travel Funds GSS Committee chairs would like to welcome back all returning senators and especially committee members. We would also like to welcome all new senators. We hope all of you had a great summer and are full of energy to start the new academic year.

Please consider serving on the Travel Funds Committee. GSS provides travel funding assistance to graduate students who present their research at conferences, meetings, symposia and similar professional or academic gatherings. The funds are provided by the Graduate College and allocated by the Travel Funds Committee to deserving applicants at multiple deadlines throughout each fiscal year. As a committee member, you will participate in review sessions that are scheduled during the week following each application deadline. The application submissions and reviews are both completed electronically, but the committee holds actual meetings for review sessions. In order to maintain membership in good standing, a member cannot miss more than ONE committee meeting during a given semester. Committee members from past years indicate that the benefits of the experience obtained through evaluating applications of other students helps them in explaining their own research better, as well as understanding the review processes on a broad scale. Also, snacks are provided.

We received more than 20 applications for the last (July 2011) round, and we funded approximately 75% of those that were eligible. Thank you to all of the reviewers for their time and effort in reviewing the summer round of applications.

The GSS Travel Funds deadlines for the 2011 fiscal year are on Thursdays, 11:59pm, as follows: September 15, November 10, January 19, March 22, May 17, July 19. The committee meetings (reviews) during the fall semester will be held at 5:30 on the Tuesdays following the actual application deadline dates, as follows: September 20, November 15. Meeting place and spring semester 2012 dates/times to be announced.

http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu grad senate@uiowa.edu
VIII. Announcements
1. First GSS Travel Funds Application deadline: September 15th 11:59pm
   http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/funding/gss-travel-funds

2. Obermann Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy: Application deadline is October 13th
   http://www.uiowa.edu/obermann/gradinstitute/index.html

IX. Open Discussion
   • Opened by chair - Closed by motion with second and approval by senate

X. Adjournment (~1 min)
### Executive Officers:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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### Graduate Council

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristi DiClemente</td>
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<td>Maneesh Kumar</td>
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### Webmaster

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<td>Maneesh Kumar</td>
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### Committee Chairs:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Mentoring Committee</td>
<td>Matt Calamia</td>
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### Additional GSS Representatives:

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<tr>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory</td>
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