

## **GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE QUESTIONS FOR PRESIDENT HARRELD**

**Our dialog begins on November 17, 2015 at 7pm**

### **[GSS President: opening comments]**

- Our relation to GPSG / who we represent.
- Our relation to COGS
- Masters or PhD isn't just job training
- What we do (our work, mentoring/teaching)
- Graduate tuition & fees
- This forum is an opportunity to start an open dialog about the importance of graduate education.
- We have a lot of difficult, complex questions to discuss tonight, and there may be no single correct answer to them. These questions have been submitted and voted on by the members of the Graduate Student Senate. We included one or two questions that were not the highest-voted, but which we think are important. These questions are the result of hours of unpaid labor (we are not paid to serve on GSS) by graduate students to improve this university.
- Tonight we will follow parliamentary procedure to ensure that questions and debate are civil, and that all of the below questions are discussed. I ask that only senators, as the representatives of graduate students in their departments, engage in the dialog tonight. After each question, there is time for back-and-forth for all senators. Senators, if you have a question or comment, please stand and wait to be recognized by the floor.
- This is just the start of the dialog and we hope to continue it.

### **[President Harreld: 5 minutes opening comments, if desired]**

#### **Vision**

1. In your job talk, you discussed transforming the University of Iowa from great to greater. What specifically needs to change to make that happen?
  - a. What measures will you likely be using to assess whether your efforts in this regard have been successful?
2. With the opening of the new Voxman music building in the Fall of 2016 and the opening of the new Hancher auditorium soon after, a lot of attention will be on the arts at the University of Iowa. What plans do you have to ensure that the University of Iowa continues to be on the cutting edge of arts and music education and performance?

## Where Graduate Students Fit In

3. What do you see as the role of graduate students at the University of Iowa?
  - a. How do you expect your efforts to impact graduate students at the university?
  - b. More specifically, what are your plans to maintain or improve graduate student funding?
4. You have expressed interest in continuing a conversation with GSS once per semester. We appreciate this and will work to ensure that this happens. How else will you work with GSS and graduate students during your time at Iowa to improve interactions between graduate students and the administration, help us improve graduate life and graduate student success, and support us in our research?
5. [We will allow 10 minutes for this question]

In your interview with the Daily Iowan, you talk about improving the training of graduate students with regards to how we teach in the classroom. For most Ph.D. students, the time we have available prior to our comprehensive exams (roughly the first two years; it varies by department) is jam-packed. Our time in front of the classroom is an important issue for us as well; we want to be good teachers. But how do you see classroom training fitting into how graduate students are trained?

  - a. Have you discussed options with the Graduate College?
  - b. If making training available means less teaching time available as graduate students, because training takes time, how will departments be compensated so they can hire to cover the gap in the classroom while their grad students are in training?
  - c. Will you work with GSS on this?

## Budget

6. In your interview with the Daily Iowan, you discuss the fact that the overall cost of higher education has not changed all that much. Over the last two or three decades, part of what has helped to suppress the growth in the cost of education is the increased use of adjunct faculty to replace retiring tenured faculty. Adjunct faculty are generally not part of the knowledge creation process in higher education. Do you intend to reverse, or at least pause, this trend in mix of faculty labor?
7. In your interview with the Daily Iowan, you say that the academic mission of the creation and dissemination of knowledge is central to the university. Fiscally speaking, the amount of revenue that mission pulls in is not even close to half of the revenue the university pulls in from its various activities. Teaching is only 17% of the budgeted revenue for the university. Do you think the other components of the university should financially support the academic core mission?
  - a. Yes or no, how do you think that should be structured?