



Graduate Student Senate
General Meeting
Agenda
2 December 2009

The University of Iowa
Graduate College
205 Gilmore Hall
Iowa City, IA 52241
(319) 335-3260

- I. Call to Order – 5:30 pm
 - o Approval of Agenda and Minutes (~1 min)
- II. Introduction of Senators (~2 min)
- III. 222: 2 Senators, 2 Departments, 2 minutes (4 min)
 - o Senator Oksana Zagorodna – (Free Radical & Radiation Biology)
 - o Senator TracyAnn Champaign – Geoscience
- IV. Guest Speaker (15 min)
 - o Cynthia Joyce and Lois Cox – Office of the Ombudsperson
- V. Executive Reports
 - A. President's Report – Kristina Rogers*
 - B. Vice President's Report – Donna Lancianese*
 - C. Treasurer's Report – Andy Kopf*
 - D. Membership Officer's Report – Mohamed Habib
 - E. Graduate Council Report – Johnathan Gajdos, Alexandra Nica, Oksana Zagorodna*
 - F. Graduate Student Organizations – Alexandra Nica
 - G. ECGPS Delegate Report – Si-Chi Chin
 - H. DGSAC Chair Report – Ulrike Carlson*
 - I. Webmaster Report – Tim Paschkewitz
- VI. Committee Representative Reports
 - A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Alexandra Nica
 - B. Computer Resources Committee – Andy Kopf*
 - C. Education Outreach Committee – Ulrike Carlson, Perry Motsegood*
 - D. International Student Committee – Brad Thomas, Joseph Steinitz*
 - E. Jakobsen Conference Committee – Keith Avin, stef shuster, Kate Stopa*
 - F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Alexandra Nica, Tim Paschkewitz
 - G. Service Committee – Nirmalla Barros, Kelly Gierlus*
 - H. Social Committee – Meggie Aube, Andy Kopf*
 - I. Travel Funds Committee – Tim Gupton, Oksana Zagorodna*
- VII. Announcements
 - o Post-Meeting Dinner Location: Bluebird Diner
- VIII. Open Discussion
 - o Opened by chair - Closed by motion, with second, and approval of the Senate.
- IX. Adjournment (~1 min)

* Reports included



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- I. **Call to Order / Agenda and Minutes Approval**
- II. **Introduction of Senators**
- III. **222: 2 Senators, 2 Departments, 2 minutes** (4 min)
 - o Senator Oksana Zagorodna – (Free Radical & Radiation Biology)
 - o Senator TracyAnn Champaigne – Geoscience
- IV. **Guest Speaker** (20 min)
 - o Cynthia Joyce and Lois Cox – Office of the Ombudsperson -
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~ombud/>
- V. **Executive Reports**
 - A. **President's Report**

A big thanks to Dean Keller and Nancy Baker, UI Libraries, for their help in finding space for graduate students to work on their dissertations. The UI Main Library has made rooms 2057 and 2058 available for Graduate Students to use as a dissertation group space for the rest of the semester. *I would like to get an idea of the number of students that will utilize this space. If you or someone you know has used or plan to use this space, please let me know.* This will help us gauge how the rooms are being used and how often they are being used. If no one is using them, there is no point in keeping the reservation. Suggested use of the space might include a time to meet other students for peer review of your work, or to simply make commitments to write with other students to enhance your writing productivity. Room availability for the graduate student group space can be found in the 11/19/09 newsletter at <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/event>. The times and locations for next semester will be made available in early February.

This semester, all committees have been working hard for graduate students on campus. Thank you to everyone for their efforts! There are still a few events this semester that I hope you will encourage your fellow grads to participate. Don't forget that senators should be active on at least one GSS committee. It's not too late to join!

This past semester I have been working on answering questions from graduate students about topics such as the UI budget and the relocation of departmental libraries, and directing students to the appropriate University Offices for various issues. I am open to all your questions, and will answer them to the best of my abilities. Please do not hesitate to contact me, even for what seems to be a simple question. I am here to help or direct you to someone who can help.

I hope you all have a wonderful winter break and we'll keep you updated via the GSS listserv should any information need to be passed along.

Have a wonderful holiday, and I'll see you at the next GSS meeting in January!

- B. **Vice President's Report**

This past month the executive council approved a list of university committee positions (see the list below). Additionally, this past month I have been working with various committees on their events.



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Committees and Nominations

Family Issues (2 vacancies)

- Christie Boxer (Sociology)
- Layana Navarre-Jackson (Sociology)

Financial Aid (2 grad vacancies)

- Karletta White (Sociology)
- Open

Parking and Transportation (2 grad vacancies)

- Michael Hevel (Higher Education)
- Open

Recreational Services (2 grad vacancies)

- Open
- Open

University Libraries (1 grad vacancy)

- Michael Hevel (Higher Education)

C. Treasurer's Report

No new details to report. Thanks to all of you for your diligence in addressing your financial needs.

GSS FY10 Budget – \$17,988.00

Discretionary GPAC Funds – \$3,453.87

Current "00-Account" Balance – \$1,049.53

The rest has been allocated to GSS Committees

D. Membership Officer's Report – Nothing to report.

E. Graduate Council Report

At its last meeting, the Graduate Council approved the proposal of the College of Education and the School of Social Work to establish a Graduate Certificate in Multicultural Education and Culturally Competent Practice. This proposal will be voted on at the Graduate Faculty meeting on December 8. The certificate would require 15 credits to complete and would be available to education professionals as a standalone, non-degree certificate program; it could also be completed in conjunction with a graduate degree program, in which case up to six hours could count to both the certificate and the student's degree program. The Graduate Council received further updates regarding the Graduate College's response to the budget situation; the Graduate College is working to protect resources that are vital to graduate student education and support, with the focus being on graduate students who are already enrolled. The Graduate Council held a joint meeting with the Research Council. At this joint meeting, members of both councils received updates concerning the activities of the Task Force on Graduate Education and the Task Force on Research and Creative Excellence; these task forces, while separate, will seek to provide reports that are complementary in nature. Graduate College Associate Dean Minnetta Gardinier discussed the activities of the Principles of Scholarly Integrity course currently underway. Associate Vice President for Research Richard Hichwa presented information on new requirements that will require training in the responsible conduct of research for all trainees (undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-doctoral scholars/fellows) involved on projects receiving NSF funding. PIs will be responsible for ensuring that trainees working on their NSF-funded projects have completed the necessary training; the Office of the Vice President



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for Research is implementing an online training course to meet these requirements, which take effect in January 2010.

F. **Graduate Student Organizations** – Nothing to report.

G. **ECGPS Delegate Report** – Nothing to report.

H. **DGSAC Chair Report**

We met with Dean Maxson of CLAS early in November.

We addressed the budget crisis and possible cuts of TA lines. Dean Maxson stated that the current deficit is somewhat eased by AARP funds, but that the budget situation would be even more difficult. There will be cuts in TA lines and visiting faculty. According to Dean Maxson, all TA line cuts will be through attrition, that is, no new graduate students will be accepted. Decisions on departmental TA lines cut will be based on quality of Departmental Graduate Program as well as numbers of students enrolled. Some smaller graduate programs may be suspended. Also, smaller departments may be consolidated under one chair or reorganized as divisions within one larger department. This will free up faculty resources for teaching.

We also addressed the ongoing flood recovery. It is not clear whether funds that were previously allocated by the state government to match FEMA funds will still be still available under the new budget conditions. The UI Art Museum was not damaged enough to qualify for FEMA funds and it is unclear where the art collection will be housed in the future, since it cannot return to the old building for insurance reasons. There are also ongoing unresolved discussions about the future locations for the Music Building, Art Building and Hancher Auditorium.

Additionally we briefly discussed the option of standardized TA training. Dean Maxson felt that TA training should be available for all TAs, but that it was necessary to have department-specific training options.

I. **Webmaster Report** – Nothing to report.

VI. **Committee Representative Reports**

A. **Academic Mentoring Committee** – Nothing to report.

B. **Computer Resources Committee**

By the time this report reaches the agenda, all departments receiving computers will have been notified of their additional allocation, along with details of when and where to obtain these computers. In all, 39 more computers are being distributed in this second round of reallocations, bringing the overall total for this year to 103 computers. A list of where these computers were allocated to will be available on request from the committee chair, Andy Kopf.

C. **Education Outreach Committee**

We finished our Outreach Survey designed to find out about the needs and wishes of local schools and colleges with regard to outreach activities initiated by graduate students. At this point we are working on compiling names and e-mail addresses of school principals that will receive our survey.



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D. International Student Committee

The committee met with Scott King, associate director International Student Office, to better understand how student funding for the Hardship Fund is allocated to students. One of the goals is increased transparency and communication regarding this fund.

E. Jakobsen Conference Committee

- The Committee is taking off at full speed right now with conference planning, publicity, and judging & submissions.
- A campus wide email is set for December 3, to inform all students, faculty and staff about the open submissions date as well as the conference itself.
- **We need help putting up Conference posters around campus.** Please see Keith after the meeting (or send him an email) if you are able to grab a few.
- stef will be contacting faculty members in the next week or two for an initial call out for judges. When we return from Winter Break, stef will ask all GSS Senators to email 3 faculty members from their department to ensure that we have enough judges. More on that later.
- Submissions are set to "go live" January 1st and close on February 4th.

Thanks,

Keith, stef, and Kate

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Nothing to report.

G. Service Committee

Thanks to everyone who attended the bowl painting event at Fired Up! We now have 16 hand-painted bowls to donate to the Domestic Violence Intervention Program's Souperbowl event. We are currently arranging to have the bowls displayed in the IMU. The Souperbowl fundraiser takes place on Feb. 4th, so mark your calendars now! Last year they had almost 600 attendees, so they are in need of many volunteers to help serve soup and bus tables.

The Project Holiday Challenge will kickoff at the Wed., Dec. 2nd GSS meeting and conclude on Wed., Dec. 9th. Departments within the Graduate College will be competing against each other to see who can raise the most money for Project Holiday! All proceeds benefit Project Holiday, an event sponsored by the Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Goodwill, and Elder Services. All donations will help provide gifts and food baskets to low-income families in Johnson County.

Senators, pick up a donation envelope for your department before you leave the Dec. 2nd GSS meeting. Then, all you have to do is find a safe place in your department to display the envelope (ie. an administrative office, etc.) and encourage your department (students, faculty, administrators, staff, etc.) via email or in person to donate their spare change (or a few extra bucks). We are also sending an email to each department's DGS in hopes of getting as many departments involved as possible.

Please count your money and return your envelope to Service Committee Co-Chair Kelly Gierlus. Drop off times and locations will be announced soon (we will submit all donations to our Project Holiday contact the afternoon of December 10). The winning department will be announced at the January GSS meeting.

Can you convince those in your department to pass on a cup of coffee for a day and spare a few dollars for a good cause? Will your department stop the Chemistry



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Department from winning for the 3rd year in a row? As an added bonus, beginning this year, the winning department will be awarded a traveling trophy to proudly display until next year!

We hope you will help us help those in need by participating in the Project Holiday Challenge! If you have any questions please contact Kelly Gierlus (kelly-gierlus@uiowa.edu).

H. Social Committee

Our last social event of the semester will be a final Grad Student Social Hour on Thursday, December 10 from 5-9 p.m. The event will take place at Joe's and there will be free pizza provided so come early to make sure that you get some!

If you have any questions about the events or have ideas for new events next semester, please contact social committee co-chairs Andy Kopf and Meggie Aube.

I. Travel Funds Committee

The Travel Fund Committee Chairs would like to thank the Travel Fund Committee for coming to last night's review session, which was the last session of the Fall semester. We received over 65 applications on this funding cycle.

Our next funding deadline will be **February 18, 2010**. Travel Fund Committee members will receive a reminder of this meeting approximately a week in advance. We would like to remind all GSS Travel Fund Committee members that in order to maintain membership in good standing, a member cannot miss more than ONE committee meeting during a semester. Please notify us in advance if you cannot make it to a review.

VII. Announcements

- o Post-Meeting Dinner Location: Bluebird Diner

VIII. Open Discussion

IX. Adjournment



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2009-2010 Graduate Student Senate
 Roster of Appointed Positions

Executive Officers:

President	Kristina Rogers	kristina-rogers@uiowa.edu
Vice President	Donna Lancianese	donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu
Parliamentarian	Timothy Gupton	timothy-gupton@uiowa.edu
Treasurer	Andy Kopf	andrew-kopf@uiowa.edu
Executive Associate	Perry Motsegood	perry-motsegood@uiowa.edu
Membership Officer	Mohamed Habib	mohamedahmed-habib@uiowa.edu
	James Skretta	james-skretta@uiowa.edu
ECGPS Delegate	Si-Chi Chin	si-chi-chin@uiowa.edu
Graduate Council	Johnathan Gajdos	johnathan-gajdos@uiowa.edu
	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
	Kristina Rogers	Kristina-rogers@uiowa.edu
	Oksana Zagorodna	oksana-zagorodna@uiowa.edu
	Ulrike Carlson	ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Committee (DGSAC)		
Graduate Student Organizations Liason (GSO)	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
Webmaster	Tim Paschkewitz	timothy-paschkewitz@uiowa.edu

Committee Chairs:

Academic Mentoring	Ulrike Carlson	ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
Computer Resource	Andy Kopf	andrew-kopf@uiowa.edu
International Student	Joseph Steinitz	joseph-steinitz@uiowa.edu
	Brad Thomas	bradley-thomas@uiowa.edu
Educational Outreach	Ulrike Carlson	ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
	Perry Motsegood	perry-motsegood@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference	Keith Avin	keith-avin@uiowa.edu
	stef shuster	stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
	Kate Stopa	kate-stopa@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference Review	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
	Tim Paschkewitz	timothy-paschkewitz@uiowa.edu
Travel Funds	Tim Gupton	timothy-gupton@uiowa.edu
	Oksana Zagorodna	oksana-zagorodna@uiowa.edu
Service	Nirmalla Barros	nirmalla-barros@uiowa.edu
	Kelly Gierlus	kelly-gierlus@uiowa.edu
Social	Meggie Aube	meghan-aube@uiowa.edu
	Andy Kopf	andrew-kopf@uiowa.edu

GSS Appointees:

Graduate and Professional Allocation Committee (GPAC)	Donna Lancianese	donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu
	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
	stef shuster	stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
	Raquel Baker (alt)	raquel-baker@uiowa.edu
	Aaron Hefel (alt)	aaron-hefel@uiowa.edu
	Saurav Pandit (alt)	saurav-pandit@uiowa.edu