



Graduate Student Senate
General Meeting
Agenda
26 January 2010

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 (5 min)
 - o Senator Kristi DeClemente –History
 - o Senator Nirmalla Barros – Occupational & Environmental Health
- IV. Graduate College Report (15 min)
 - o Dean Keller
 - o Dean Berkowitz
- V. Guest Speaker (10 min)
 - o stef shuster – Volunteer Coordinator for Women’s Resource and Action Center (WRAC)
- VI. Announcements
 - o Post-Meeting Dinner Location: The Summit
- VII. 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 – James Skretta
 - 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
- VIII. 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*
- IX. Open Discussion
 - o Opened by chair - Closed by motion with second and approval by senate
- X. Adjournment (~1 min)

* Reports included



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IV. Graduate College Report (15 min)

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VII. Executive Reports

A. President's Report

Welcome back Senators! I hope 2010 is off to a great start!

The majority of the announcements were included in the last GSS Newsletter (<http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/event>, 1/19/10). Please be sure that the GSS listserv mailings are forwarded to the students in your department. If you have more than one senator representing your department, please coordinate with the other senators to make sure relevant information is passed along.

As a reminder, full senators should be active on at least one GSS committee per the GSS Constitution. This past semester, all committee co-chairs and committee members have been working hard to provide events and services for the graduate student population. Help give graduate students a voice by becoming involved! Your input is important, so please join a GSS committee by contacting the committee co-chair! Senators with 26 or more service hours will be recognized at the end of the semester. Senators with 46+ service hours will be recognized at the GSS Service Awards Banquet in May. For more information, please visit <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/about>.

The GSS elections will be held at the April GSS meeting, so start thinking about what role you would like to play in GSS next year. All executive positions will be voted upon by the senate. All committee co-chairs will be appointed by the next GSS President. Please refer to the GSS Constitution for more information about these positions.

If you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to hear them. Thanks again for your dedication to GSS, and I look forward to another great semester!

B. Vice President's Report – Nothing to report.

C. Treasurer's Report

Updated budget reports were given to the Committee Chairs at the 1/21 Executive Council meeting. Many GSS Committees still have considerable amounts of money remaining, and I will be in touch with Committee Chairs in the coming weeks about how they plan to use



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these funds. A large amount of discretionary funds are still available for use as well, and new ideas are always welcomed.

GSS FY10 Budget – \$17,988.00
Discretionary GPAC Funds – \$3,460.94
Current "00-Account" Balance – \$1,007.10
The rest has been allocated to GSS Committees

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

E. **Graduate Council Report**

At our last Graduate Council meeting, the major piece of business was the consideration of a proposal for a Master's of Fine Arts in the Book Arts. The Council approved the 60 semester hour M.F.A. proposal; the program's areas of emphasis would be printing, digital bookwork, calligraphy, bookbinding, papermaking, and artist bookwork. Currently, the Center for the Book offers only a Certificate in the Book Arts; offering an M.F.A. would enable the Center to attract students who may desire a terminal degree. The M.F.A. proposal will now go to the Graduate Faculty for consideration. Dean Keller reported on some of the topics discussed at the national Council of Graduate Schools meeting. Nationally, many public universities are facing challenges similar to ours with respect to dealing with the consequences of reduced state support. At the CGS meeting it was also announced that the NRC Report on doctoral programs has been delayed again, but should be released sometime in 2010. At the Graduate Faculty meeting on December 8, the graduate certificates in both Multicultural Education and Culturally Competent Practice and in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies were approved. Those certificate proposals will now be forwarded to the Provost for review and final action.

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

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

H. **DGSAC Chair Report** – Nothing to report.

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

VIII. **Committee Representative Reports**

A. **Academic Mentoring Committee**

At our last meeting in November 2009, the committee finalized the mentors and mentees application forms and guidelines. Due to all the distinctions that have to be made between this committee's purpose and various entities on campus, we are currently waiting for final approval of the forms and guidelines from the Vice President of Student Services before making them all publicly available and starting the matching process.

The application for the Sandra Barkan Mentor Award will also be available online in approximately one week, with the help of our webmaster. More details will be available on the website at that point as well.

The Academic Mentoring Committee will also hold one of the Jakobsen Conference workshops for undergraduate students that are interested in graduate school and graduate student life in general. The format will be of a roundtable with undergraduate and graduate students. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this roundtable (alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu).



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Reminder: the Jakobsen Conference will collaborate this year with SURF (the undergraduate research festival) in which undergraduate students present their research posters. These posters have always been judged by graduate students, hence if you would like to be a SURF judge, it would be a great opportunity to participate in this capacity to the conference.

B. Computer Resources Committee

In total, GSS has made 103 computers available to departments across campus. After December's second round of allocations, 13 of these computers (all iMac G4 computers) remain unclaimed and are still available for distribution. Look for an announcement in the coming week or so regarding the distribution of these computers. They will likely first be offered to departments that were involved in the summer application process, and later opened up to the entire graduate college if necessary. Specific plans for this distribution are still in the works, but should be announced shortly.

C. Education Outreach Committee

We are coordinatig two seminars with the Graduate College as part of the Professional Development Series. The first is a seminar on the new electronic thesis dissertation process and the second is an interview workshop for those in job searches. In addition, the committee is coordinating with the Jakobsen Conference to foster event interest with local high schools.

With the growing responsibilities comes the need for more people. Please speak with Ulrike Carlson (ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu) or Perry Motsegood (perry-motsegood@uiowa.edu) for details.

D. International Student Committee

The ISC has been looking into the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) proposal to raise the International Student Fee from \$60 to \$80, starting Fall 2010. OISS submitted the fee increase by the Dec. 1, 2009 deadline, without input from international students. The proposal is already on its way through the University system (where it must finally be approved by Provost's office), en route to the Board of Regents for their April meeting. So far, we have not been satisfied with the justifications for the fee increase that we have received from OISS (namely, that there is increased use of OISS advising by undergraduate international students). We are planning a resolution in opposition to this fee increase to be brought before the general Senate at the next GSS meeting. We are also continuing to research the proposal (with the help of the Ombudsperson and OISS) in the hopes that the justification for the increase will be made more clear, and so that we can make sure our opposition to the increase is warranted.

Also, in collaboration with the Organization for the Active Support of International Students (OASIS), we are working on recommendations to OISS on how to improve the administration of the Hardship Fund. This is a fund of money collected from the International Student Fee (16% of total fee income) that is required to be used for international student aid. There is currently almost ~\$30,000 in the funds reserves, meaning that this money has failed to get to international students. Currently, OISS essentially does not advertise the fund, and only gives money to students who come into their office in dire need of money (e.g., can't pay bills, need to buy an emergency plane ticket home). The students usually do not come in seeking Hardship Funds money (since, as far as we can tell, very few international students know about this Fund). We would like OISS to increase their advertisement of the Fund (inform students about it at the international student orientation; create a visible, easy to find website that explains the funds), and we would also like to make the administration of the fund more rigorous (perhaps by forming a committee to review applications). If anyone has suggestions, please let us know.



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Finally, we are beginning to work on Lekker! Lekker! The word Lekker means “tasty” in Dutch. This event is our annual review of international restaurants and groceries around Iowa City. Si-Chi Chin has built an amazing website where you can submit and search the reviews. There are hundreds of reviews on the site, submitted by the University of Iowa community. We will announce more specifics about Lekker! Lekker! soon. If you would be willing to help us out, please let us know!

As you can see, we have a lot going on this semester; we would love to have you join our committee to help us work for international students!

E. Jakobsen Conference Committee

The submission deadline for the 12th annual James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference is right around the corner. Submissions are open now and close on Monday, February 1 at 5pm. To use the electronic submission, visit the following link on the Graduate Student Senate Website (You will be prompted to login using your HawkID and password. After logging in, you will be taken to the electronic application):
<https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/user?destination=jakobsen-conference/electronic-submission>

We ask for each GSS senator to request 3 faculty members to serve as a judge, and also help promote student submissions to the conference. Faculty can sign up to help judge student papers by following this link (they will be prompted to login using their HawkID and password):
<https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/user?destination=node/add/jfj-judging-response>

Other features of the 2010 Jakobsen Conference will include a collaboration with SURF (Spring Undergraduate Research Festival), outreach to area high school students, a radio and newspaper advertising campaign, the sponsorship of Hills Bank, and the continuation of the Service Learning and Civic Engagement Forum. Save the date, Saturday, March 27, and for more information about the conference and to submit your work, visit our website.

Keith Avin, Publicity Co-Chair, keith-avin@uiowa.edu
stef shuster, Judging and Submissions Co-Chair, stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
Kate Stopa, Event Planning Co-Chair, kate-stopa@uiowa.edu

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Nothing to report.

G. Service Committee

The Domestic Violence Intervention Program is sponsoring a dinner to support services for victims of domestic violence. Area restaurants, antique dealers, & artisans are donating soup, bread, & bowls. There will be live music too!

DVIP needs our help to bus tables & refill soup bowls. Please lend a hand if you can!

When: Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010 4:30-8pm

Where: Quality Inn, Highlander Convention Center, 2525 North Dodge

Any questions or if interested in volunteering, please contact Nirmalla Barros (nirmalla-barros@uiowa.edu) or Kelly Gierlus (Kelly-gierlus@uiowa.edu). Thank you!

Thanks to the following departments for participating in the Project Holiday Challenge: Anthropology, Cinema & Comparative Literature, Chemistry, Communication Studies, Genetics, Geography, German, Informatics, Mathematics, Neuroscience, Pharmacy, Psychological & Quantitative Foundations, Social Work, Sociology, and Theatre Arts.



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Together we raised a total of \$751.11! The winning department will be announced at the meeting.

Our first committee meeting of the semester will be at 5:30 on February 16th in the Callen Conference Room, Gilmore Hall. Please come and help us plan the upcoming Wiffleball Tournament (April 10th) and discuss other ideas for service projects!

H. Social Committee

Welcome back to the new semester! Hopefully the break was refreshing for everyone. The social committee is always looking for new members to join our group. If you enjoy meeting new people and organizing social events, this is the committee for you! This semester we already have plans underway for the Spring Bash, a casino night, more social hours and an astronomy night. We usually hold two meetings per month and our first meeting will be Monday, February 1st at 6 p.m. at T-Spoons on the corner of Market and Linn St. See you there!

I. Travel Funds Committee

Travel Funds GSS Committee chairs would like to remind all senators that the next GSS Travel Funds deadline is on **Thursday, Feb 18**. Please direct your constituents to the GSS Newsletter that will include the application deadline reminder.

The remaining deadlines for the 2009 fiscal year are on Thursdays, 11:59pm, as follows: **Apr 22, May 20, July 8**.

The committee meetings (reviews) are held on Wednesdays following the actual application deadline dates as follows: **Feb 24, Apr 28, May 26, July 14**. Travel Funds Committee members will receive an email-reminder on Feb 18 about the review meeting on Feb 24.

IX. Open Discussion

X. 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 | 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 | ajkopf@gmail.com |

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 |