



Graduate Student Senate  
General Meeting  
Agenda  
3 November 2009

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

- I. Call to Order – 5:30 pm
  - Approval of Agenda and Minutes (~1 min)
- II. Introduction of Senators (~2 min)
- III. 222: 2 Senators, 2 Departments, 2 minutes (4 min)
  - Senator Nathan Popp – Art History
  - Senator Kelly Gierlus – Chemistry
- IV. Graduate College Report
  - Dean Keller
- V. Guest Speaker (20 min)
  - Dean Keller – State of the UI Budget as it relates to Graduate Education
- VI. 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
- VII. 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\*
- VIII. Elections
  - Membership Officer
- IX. Announcements
  - Post-Meeting Dinner Location: Buffalo Wild Wings (Old Capital Mall)
- X. Open Discussion
  - Opened by chair - Closed by motion with second and approval by senate
- XI. 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 Nathan Popp – Art History
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**IV. Graduate College Report**

- o Dean Keller

**V. Guest Speaker (20 min)**

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**VI. Executive Reports**

**A. President's Report**

The Molly Kleinmann lecture on Open Access was well attended on October 20. If you want to know more information about the topics discussed at the lecture, please feel free to contact me.

GSS continues to grow and expand into departments not previously represented! I encourage you to take advantage of the various opportunities to meet other students from departments outside your own! I hope to see you at future social and service events sponsored by the GSS Social and Service Committees. If you're afraid to come alone, remember that you're always welcome to bring your friends to any and all GSS events! I look forward to meeting more of you!

How many service hours have you accumulated thus far? Visit <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/about> to view the Service Hours log. Please contact your committee chairs if your hours do not yet appear.

Please keep up to date with GSS events using the GSS calendar (<http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/event>). Don't forget that the emails that would otherwise be sent individually over the GSS listserv are compiled into one weekly GSS Newsletter. Thank you for your efforts in distributing this information to your departments!

The end of the semester is quickly approaching (maybe slowly approaching for some), but there are still many events coming up. Please be sure you are actively involved in at least one GSS committee and that you keep your department informed.

Thanks again for all your hard work and your dedication to GSS. I hope to meet more of you at the next GSS event!

**B. Vice President's Report**

In addition to helping President Rogers this past month, I started looking into GSS-community engagement vis-à-vis the Jakobsen Conference (JFJ). Currently, I am researching community organization with members that would be interested in attending the JFJ. Please forward any information to me ([donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu)) or other JFJ committee members in this regard. Stay dry and healthy!

**C. Treasurer's Report**



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We're starting to enter the time of year where multiple committees are spending money on their respective events. Please continue to be diligent about your paperwork; you've all done a great job so far! As always, let me know if there's anything I can help you with – university bureaucracy can be a mess to sort through sometimes.

GSS FY10 Budget – \$17,988.00  
Discretionary GPAC funds – \$3,753.87  
Current "00-Account" balance – \$1049.53  
The rest has been allocated to GSS Committees

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

E. **Graduate Council Report**

The Grad Council met twice since the last GSS meeting. The Grad Council considered and approved a 5-year B.A./M.A.T. program in Physics, Chemistry, or Biology and Science Education, pending a slight modification to the proposal to better reflect the current requirements for the standalone M.A.T. in Science Education. The Grad Council reviewed time-to-degree and completion statistics for doctoral students who began at the UI 1996-2001. The overall Ph.D. completion rate for that time period is 58%, with an additional 21% of entering Ph.D. students leaving the UI with a Master's degree. Reducing time-to-degree and increasing completion rates is one of the goals of the Graduate College. A proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate in Multicultural Education and Culturally Competent Practice was submitted by the College of Education and the School of Social Work; the Graduate Council is currently reviewing it. Dean Keller provided the Graduate Council with an update regarding the budget situation at the University, noting that there are a number of proposals being considered for addressing the fiscal concerns. The Graduate Education Task Force held two open fora to solicit feedback concerning the evaluation of graduate programs; it is expected that the Task Force will submit its report to the Provost in December. This semester also represents the first semester of mandatory electronic submission of theses and dissertations; since the library has made changes to the staffing of the Information Arcade, the Graduate College will provide technical support for the creation of PDFs. A mass e-mail was sent to graduate students and faculty to inform them of this change.

F. **Graduate Student Organizations**

Liaison activities have been closely linked with my Academic Mentoring efforts again. I have continued discussions with DSP and the Academic Advising Center on GSS's collaboration in peer mentoring for graduate and undergraduate students (more details are in the Academic Mentoring report). More organizations will be contacted in the coming months.

If you have any questions, suggestions or need assistance to link/represent GSS with other organizations on campus, please let me know ([alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu](mailto:alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu)).  
Thank you!

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

H. **DGSAC Chair Report**

We scheduled our meeting to discuss the agenda for the meeting with Dean Maxson for this week and will submit an agenda to the Dean's office later this week.

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



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**VII. Committee Representative Reports**

**A. Academic Mentoring Committee**

At our October meeting, the committee has revised the survey results and comments that have been submitted up to now and have discussed various ways to make the survey and the peer mentoring project itself more visible.

Some of those methods will involve a flyer in Pdf format and a short Powerpoint presentation that can be presented by graduate students that are TAs for undergraduate classes for 1-2 minutes at the beginning of the class. The flyer can be posted on ICON sites as well to be viewed by undergraduate and graduate students. We will also look into other possibilities, such as short in-person presentations at the beginning of specific classes and also links to our committee page and survey from ISIS. Further publicity venues are to be explored soon.

We have worked on the mentors and mentees application forms, to make them as streamlined and informative as possible, without making them too lengthy or tedious. The application forms and guidelines for both mentors and mentees will be finalized during the next week and we hope will be up on the website starting with early November.

I have continued discussion on the mentoring committee's collaboration and links with the DSP (Division of Sponsored Programs) for graduate students and with the Academic Advising Center for undergraduate students. Both entities have expressed great interest in collaborating with GSS on this project.

Our collaboration with the Provost Office also continues surrounding our proposal on peer mentoring and retention rates improvement, that was originally submitted in the Spring 2009 semester. This month, a more up to date mentoring proposal was sent to the office, that contained a more in-depth analysis of needs and benefits from mentoring for the University of Iowa and a few selected survey results from both the mentor survey and the mentee survey that have spanned over the summer. We are waiting to hear on increased possibilities of collaboration and future funding for peer mentoring after the end of this month.

Further updates will be added to the GSS website. If you have any questions, suggestions or are interested in participating in the mentoring committee, please let me know ([alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu](mailto:alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu)).

Thank you!

**B. Computer Resources Committee**

Shortly before announcing the planned allocations of the few remaining computers, GSS was informed that there may be still a few more computers to reallocate to departments. All allocations are being held until we know exactly how many computers we have to distribute, but we hope to finish these allocations shortly.

If they are being allocated any additional computers, the listed department contacts from this summer's application will receive an email notification. A timeline for this notification and distribution is still TBA, but will hopefully be in the next couple weeks, and almost certainly before Thanksgiving break.

**C. Education Outreach Committee**

The questionnaire to be sent to local schools and colleges is almost completed, the committee will work on finalizing it at their next meeting.



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**D. International Student Committee** – Nothing to report.

**E. Jakobsen Conference Committee**

The Jakobsen Conference co-chairs are still seeking Division Heads for the 2010 Conference. The divisions are Arts, Biological and Health Sciences, Humanities, Mathematics and Physical Engineering, and Social Science and Education. The duties for Division Heads are as follows:

- 1) Help find faculty judges
- 2) Answer e-mails from submitters in your division
- 3) Help coordinate and link submissions to judges
- 4) Help find moderators for day of conference

Most of the work is done via email except for one meeting in early December, one meeting in early February and availability for the conference, Saturday, March 27. There are also regular once monthly meetings of the entire Jakobsen Conference Committee. Please contact Kate Stopa at [kate-stopa@uiowa.edu](mailto:kate-stopa@uiowa.edu) if interested.

The Jakobsen Conference will no longer be doing same day presentation judging. As a result, we will no longer need to coordinate peer judging or calculate scores on the day of the conference. We have also decided to go green this year, keeping all submissions online rather than in paper copy. More details will follow with the call for submissions at the end of the semester.

Also in October, a painting by graduate student Tommy Taylor was chosen to be the Jakobsen cover art. Tommy will be featured in our program and his work will be on display at the IMU during the conference. Look for it on posters and the website later this semester. The co-chairs have also been coordinating with both SURF, the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival, and the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies in order to host specific poster sessions and/or panel events with these groups. Finally, we are seeking ways in which to involve high school and community groups and invite them to the conference. In you have any ideas of who we could contact, please contact Keith Avin at [keith-avin@uiowa.edu](mailto:keith-avin@uiowa.edu).

**F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee** – Nothing to report.

**G. Service Committee**

Thanks to those attending the River Cleanup! Photos can be found on the GSS photos page and the Facebook Grad Students Who Rock page. Our next event is approaching soon! It will also be our last event of the semester.

After you mingle with fellow graduate students at the GSS Social Hour at Joe's Place, come on over to Fired Up! on Thursday, Nov. 5, 6 to 8pm, to paint bowls for the Souperbowl fundraiser!! Souperbowl is an event organized by the Domestic Violence Intervention Program to raise awareness of domestic abuse. It was developed in response to the myth that rates of domestic abuse are the highest on the day of the NFL Superbowl. On the day of the fundraiser, attendees purchase tickets and select bowls where they are treated to as much soup as they desire which is donated by local vendors. We need a minimum of 8 people in our private party so please contact Nirmalla Barros ([nirmalla-barros@uiowa.edu](mailto:nirmalla-barros@uiowa.edu)) or Kelly Gierlus ([kelly-gierlus@uiowa.edu](mailto:kelly-gierlus@uiowa.edu)) if you're interested in attending.

We will also be having our last meeting of the semester on Wednesday, November 11 at 5:30pm. Location is to be determined. We will be discussing next semester's activities. Bring your ideas, suggestions, & thoughts to the meeting!



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#### **H. Social Committee**

The Fall Semester is quickly running by, but we still have a lot of social events on the way! Our next monthly grad student social hour will be Thursday, November 5 from 5-9 at Joe's Place and food will be provided again for the early attendees. Please join us and make it an even a greater success than it was last time! While you are attending the social, hop on over to Fired Up to help the Service Committee paint bowls for the Souperbowl event.

Mark your calendars for the campfire night where plenty of smores will be found on November 13 at Coralville Lake. Finally, make sure to save the date for the Fall Ball. The date is still being negotiated but it will be either be December 4 or 5, location to be announced. Our next social committee meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. located at the T-Spoons on Market Street.

As always everyone is welcome, so if you enjoy planning social events please come!

#### **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, Nov 19**. Please direct your constituents to the GSS Newsletter next week that will include the application deadline reminder.

The remaining deadlines for the 2009 fiscal year are on Thursdays, 11:59pm, as follows: **Feb 18, Apr 22, May 20, July 8**.

The committee meetings (reviews) are held on Wednesdays following the actual application deadline dates as follows: **Nov 25, Feb 24, Apr 28, May 26, July 14**. Travel Funds Committee members will receive an email-reminder on Nov 19 about the review meeting on Nov 25.

#### **VIII. Elections**

- o Membership Officer

#### **IX. Announcements**

- o Post-Meeting Dinner Location: Buffalo Wild Wings (Old Capital Mall)

#### **X. Open Discussion**

#### **XI. 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
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