



Graduate Student Senate  
General Assembly Meeting  
Minutes  
February 7, 2017

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

1. **Special Meeting – 5:00 PM** – International Student Committee Public Statement Proposal Review
2. **Call to Order General Assembly Meeting—6:00pm** - Laurena Bernabo
3. **Introduction of Senators** (~2 mins.)
4. **Graduate College Report** (~15 mins.) – Dean John Keller
  - a. Review of the Graduate College Review Committee Report  
([https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/system/files/UIGC\\_review\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/system/files/UIGC_review_report_final.pdf))
    - i. Highlights
      1. Recognizes the graduate college’s role in effective teaching at UIowa.
      2. Recognizes the national leadership contributions of the Graduate College.
      3. The Graduate College is now supporting more graduate students than before, but they recognize the need to improve recruitment strategies.
      4. 65% of doctoral students completing their programs within 5 years
      5. Received a recommendation to improve the promotion of their vision for graduate student success. They are currently under resourced but working on the recommendation.
  - b. Also see the Graduate College Self-Study  
(<https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/system/files/Fall%202015%20Graduate%20College%20Self%20Study%20final.pdf>).
  - c. The University Budget
    - i. The Iowa State Legislature is now appropriating FY17. The University of Iowa is facing an \$8 million reduction. The Graduate College is looking internally to meet cut needs requested of them by the University rather than reducing the resources of graduate students for FY17.
  - d. Collective Bargaining and Chapter 20
    - i. Please see Dean Keller’s statement.  
(<https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/statement-regarding-chapter-20>)
5. **Update from COGS** (~10 mins.) – Landon Elkind
  - a. Review of House Study Bill 84  
(<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/billTracking/billHistory?ga=87&billName=H SB84>)
  - b. Details available here: <http://cogs.org/2017/02/08/fight-hsb-84>
    - i. Under the proposed changes to Chapter 20, the only mandatory bargaining item would be base pay, but it places a cap on increases to base pay at 3%. Hours of work, leave, benefits, tuition and fees would no longer be mandatory topics. Member dues prohibited and grievances would be prohibited topics.
    - ii. Designed to make it difficult to remain in a union.
      1. Every two years have to have an election in order to keep certification of the union. Union have to foot the bill for elections. Would need half of the union to show up and vote yes.
  - c. Calling for collective action of graduate students. Would like to make departmental visits to inform graduate students about what is happening. Please contact Landon to schedule a time ([cogs@cogs.org](mailto:cogs@cogs.org)).
6. **Old Business**



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## 7. New Business

- a. Obermann Center \$100 Funding Request – Teresa Mangum
  - i. Public talk by Sara Goldrick-Rab, author of *Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream*, Monday Feb 13th, 7-8:30 in Iowa City Public Library room "A"
  - ii. Vote needed
  - iii. Motion: KaLeigh White; Second: Andrew Metzgar
    1. Approved by verbal consensus
- b. Approval of Public Statement Proposed by the International Student Committee – Stephan Schoeberlein
  - i. Vote needed
  - ii. Motioned to approve upon correction of grammatical corrections and review: Andrew Metzgar; Second: Andrew Steck
  - iii. Approved by verbal consensus
- c. GSS Nominees for the Hancher Mandallion Award – Laurena Bernabo
  - i. Vote needed
  - ii. Nominees
    1. Ian Faith
    2. Maria Morabe
  - iii. Approval for both moved: Phil Ricks; Second: Claire Muerdter
    1. Approved by verbal consensus

## 8. Reports

- a. **President Report** - Laurena Bernabo (5 mins)
  - i. See announcements.
- b. **Committee Reports** (5 mins)
  - i. Graduate Student Success Committee – Emily Kimpston
    1. No report
  - ii. Graduate Student Teaching Committee – Joanna Krajewski
    1. TA Seminar Series Update
      - a. First workshop was today and the series is going well.
      - b. There is still room in the future workshops. Please encourage your department members to join: <http://tinyurl.com/IowaTA>.
  - iii. Jakobsen Committee – Ian Faith
    1. Abstract deadline extended to Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>
      - a. <https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/jakobsen-conference>
    2. Conference is on March 25<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. International Student Committee -Mahesh Sasidharan
    1. Working on resolving the \$250 orientation fee required specifically for international students.
    2. Helped during the spring session of orientation for international graduate students
    3. Good attendance at first ISC Social Night at Joe's.
  - v. Service and Social Committee – Claire Muerdter
    1. See bowling social announcement below.
    2. The March social will be a joint social with the International Student Committee. Details to come.



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3. Either the April or May social will be a joint social with the Grad Success Committee. Details to come.
  4. Looking to a future service project of participating in the UI Habitat for Humanity build at the end of Spring semester.
  5. Exploring options for a service event that mingles grads with undergrads interested in grad school.
    - a. UISG has expressed interest in cosponsoring
    - b. The Career Center has an event like this in the Natural Sciences. We have reached out to them to see if we can join in/expand upon that with other disciplines.
  6. Spring Fest (live music event) is set for April 22 at Gabe's. Band lineup is in the works.
- vi. Travel Funds Committee – Dong Yu and Victoria Parker
1. Scoring session Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. 5-7 Pm 201 Van Allen
  2. See announcements.

## 9. Adjournment

### Announcements

#### a. UIowa Ride Share

- i. A secure, sustainable, and affordable way for students to commute to, from, and around the University of Iowa campus. This free ride matching system will help you quickly and securely find viable commuting options including carpool partners, cycling buddies, transit routes, and more (<https://transportation.uiowa.edu/rideshare>).

#### b. Q&A "Changes to Immigration/Refugee Law & Policy"

- i. Wednesday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m., Iowa City Public Library room "A"

#### c. "Exploring Influences" - The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Iowa World

**Languages Graduate Organization Conference**, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9 AM – 5 PM.

- i. Featuring keynote speaker: Peter Nazareth, Professor of English and Advisor to the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.
- ii. Submit abstracts (250 words) and questions to [wlgoiacnf@gmail.com](mailto:wlgoiacnf@gmail.com).
- iii. Deadline Feb. 15 11:59 PM.

#### d. Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – Mar. 10, 2017

- i. The next GSS Travel Fund application deadline is Mar. 10, 2017 by 11:59 PM. This round of applications is for conferences occurring between Nov. 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017.

#### e. Bowling Social GSS Service and Social Committee, Sunday, Feb. 19, 1-4 PM

- i. We're changing up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday social this month so that we can go bowling! Lanes will be reserved and paid for by GSS for students to bowl. Please RSVP to our Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/189153941561260/>.



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2016-2017 Graduate Student Senate  
**Roster of Elected Positions**

**Executive Officers:**

President	Laurena Bernabo	laurena-bernabo@uiowa.edu
Vice President	Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
Treasurer	Andrew Metzger	andrew-metzger@uiowa.edu
Executive Associate	KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Membership/PR Officer	Christopher Clough-Hunter	christopher-clough-hunter@uiowa.edu
Parliamentarian	Shane Solst	shane-solst@uiowa.edu
GPSG Delegates	Laurena Bernabo	laurena-bernabo@uiowa.edu
	Tejasvi Sharma	tejasvi-sharma@uiowa.edu
	Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
	Anh Ngo	anh-ngo@uiowa.edu
	KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Graduate Council	Laurena Bernabo	laurena-bernabo@uiowa.edu
	Ellen Black	ellen-black@uiowa.edu
	Todd Bagby	todd-bagby@uiowa.edu
	Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
Webmaster	Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu

**Roster of Appointed Positions**

<b>Committee Chairs:</b>		
Graduate Success Committee	Emily Kimpston	emily-kimpston@uiowa.edu
Graduate Voices Committee	Joanna Krajewski	joanna-krajewski@uiowa.edu
International Students Committee	Mahesh Sasidharan	mahesh-sasidharan@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference Committee	Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
Service and Social Committee	Claire Muerdter	claire-muerdter@uiowa.edu
Travel Funds Committee	Dong Yu	dong-yu@uiowa.edu
	Victoria Parker	victoria-parker@uiowa.edu