



Graduate Student Senate  
General Assembly Meeting  
Minutes – Pending Approval  
April 2, 2019

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

- 1. Call to Order General Assembly Meeting—6:00pm** – Peter Miller
- 2. Introduction of Senators** (2 mins.)
  - a. 22 senators in attendance – quorum met.
- 3. ACE Evaluation Task Force Presentation** – Annette Beck & Kenneth Brown (10 mins.)
  - a. Chairing a task force that is revising the ACE Survey / evaluations
  - b. Currently conducting governance consultations - Want to present high-level preliminary findings, take questions, and send out a survey
    - i. Graduate student feedback is very beneficial because we are the only people that are taking the surveys as both teacher and student
  - c. Online ACE evaluation participation has decreased over time
  - d. Four preliminary recommendations:
    - i. Revise “End-of-Course Student Ratings”
      1. Introduce university core items, fewer than 10 open-ended questions in total, using simple terms with low bias.
        - a. Examples of open-ended core questions:
          - i. “Would you recommend a course taught by this instructor?”
          - ii. “What aspects of the course were most useful for your learning?”
          - iii. “When this class is taught again, what changes would you suggest?”
        - b. Still looking for feedback on these and suggestions for others.
        - c. Want to keep questions short and less than 10 in number.
      - ii. Encourage ongoing student feedback
        1. Develop pool of formative assessment ratings and questions and share campus wide as ICON modules that TA’s and instructors can use
      - iii. Promote systematic peer review
        1. Propose polices for consistent use of peer review as part of P&T processes
      - iv. Offer comprehensive educational resources
        1. Conduct training programs for DEO and AD-faculty on multifaceted nature of teaching effectiveness
    - e. PLEASE FILL OUT SURVEY!!! - [LINK](#)
      - i. Send it to any other graduate college TA’s you are in contact with as well
      - ii. Slides available for review (see email attachment)
- 4. Graduate College Report** – (8 mins.)
  - a. Searches
    - i. New CLAS Dean and Associate Provost will be here this summer
    - ii. VP for Research search is in progress
      1. Dean Keller is interim
    - iii. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director is also still in progress
  - b. Diana Sprolls is completing phase retirement
    - i. Will be working through the summer
    - ii. Have an individual in mind to appoint – not ready to announce yet.
  - c. Last day for external communications director – Kim Chickering



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- i. Still figuring out how to deal with her departure
- d. Graduate student appreciation week started last week!
  - i. Science on Tap last Thursday
    - 1. 4 3MT winners presented
  - ii. External advisory board met all day Friday
  - iii. Jakobsen was on Saturday – went very well
- e. Will be going with Maurice Payne to DC talk about graduate education with a perspective from Iowa and with a global perspective in mind
- f. Five grad students going to Des Moines next Tuesday for Hawkeye Caucus day
- g. Challenge Grant Process
  - i. 20 programs submitted pre-proposals
  - ii. Just completed reviews of 10 proposals
  - iii. Going to be funding ~5
  - iv. Announcing in the next couple weeks
- h. Midwest association of grad schools (MAGS) – Brady Kreinn (SP?) nominated for excellence in teaching award and was recognized for receiving it at the regional meeting
- i. Nominated several students for Hancher Finkbine awards
  - i. Jenny Verniero will be receiving an award
- j. Summer fellowships
  - i. Review has completed
  - ii. Should be hearing *very soon*

## 5. Reports

- a. **President Report** – KaLeigh White (5 mins.)
  - i. Update on thesis single deposit model
    - 1. Challenges
      - a. Timeline – defense dates being pushed up from historical norm
      - b. Confusion on where to find info on website
      - c. Not clear about who is responsible for which process?
        - i. Student or department administrator??
    - 2. Went through each of these concerns and what we could do to address them
      - a. Tentative / possible change to submission deadline: May be moved back 3 days to align with Iowa State's submission deadlines
        - i. Recognized that this year was particularly early
        - ii. Things going on to make this deadline seem less stressful
          - 1. Prechecks
            - a. Meetings with Erin Kaufmann to check that you're on track and things are looking good
          - 2. Continuing to improve communication
            - a. Varies by department
            - b. Some department policies trump graduate college policies



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- c. Some forms should be provided by department administrators rather than grad college website
      - 3. Confusing website will hopefully be improved
  - ii. Senator retention
    - 1. Who plans to continue in some role as a senator next year?
    - 2. Solid majority
  - iii. Update on #DoesUIowaLoveMe discussion
    - 1. Time to put out a statement had passed
    - 2. GPSG's statement served as a good message from all grad student
  - iv. Want to institutionalize ways to advance and promote information Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in GSS
    - a. Promoting information and resources
      - i. Microaggression training for TA's
      - ii. Emotional support resources during times of hardship
      - iii. Organizing and providing BUILD (Building University of Iowa Leadership for Diversity) training
    - b. **Jakobsen Recap** – Ryan Stoldt (2 min.)
      - i. Went really well!
      - ii. Added two things
        - 1. Morning of professional development
        - 2. Digital media award
      - iii. Estimated 200 attendees
      - iv. Big thanks to all those that presented and volunteered
    - c. **COGS Report** – Inga Popovaite (2 mins.)
    - d. **Graduate Student Employment Committee Report** (2 mins.)
      - i. Currently GSEC committee is comprised of 6 people
        - 1. 4 people will be cycling off
        - 2. Coming up with process to replace them
        - 3. Trying to incorporate it into regular election process
          - a. Still working it out with the bylaws
        - 4. Want to make it so that any grad student (not just a senator) can participate and fill this role
      - ii. At our previous meeting, an HR rep came and asked about what other information about Health Insurance should be provided to grad students
    - e. **Graduate Council Report** (2 mins.)
    - f. **GPSG Delegates Report** (2 mins.)
      - i. Elections were yesterday
      - ii. Presenter from FilmScene
        - 1. Requesting \$250,000 for equipment
          - a. Funded by an increase in student activities fee
          - b. If you have thoughts about this, please provide feedback to KaLeigh or any other GPSG delegates
          - c. \$3/year for 3 years is what a potential increase might look like
      - iii. College of Public Health has proposed to become a GPSG member government



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1. If that happens, 9 senate seats will be lost from GSS
    - a. Only 2 of 9 seats are filled
    - b. If you have concerns, please talk to KaLeigh
    - c. Reason to leave is thus: From conversations amongst themselves they feel that they are professional students and their interests are better represented as such, under GPSG
  2. Provides an opportunity to figure out whose voice we are representing and if we are going to allow this type of departure in the future
  3. Question:
    - a. Are there PhD programs in the College of Public Health and are they conferred by the graduate college?
      - i. Yes and yes – Dean Keller
      - ii. There are no professional degrees conferred by CPH
    - b. Therefore, this is a departure from the norms that have been historically established
- g. Brief Committee Reports (5 mins.)**
- i. Graduate Student Success Committee – Elliot Burghardt & Ellen Kiser
    1. Enjoy grad appreciation week!
    2. Talked about getting a plan ready for incoming senators on the success committee
      - a. Want all committees to do this!
  - ii. Graduate Student Teaching Committee – Sydney Skuodas
    1. Plan for teaching in STEM workshop has fallen through
  - iii. International Student Committee – Anup Poudel
    1. Still working with Gurjap about an event
    2. Talking about a collaboration with ballroom dancing events
  - iv. Service and Social Committee – Gurjap Singh
    1. Hope you are enjoying the GSS coffee hour events
    2. Trying to shift to greater # of smaller events rather than a small number of big events in an effort to increase participation year round
    3. Talking with GPSG to host another, larger Friday Night Vibes event
  - v. Travel Funds Committee – Jennie Yujia Liu & Amanda Adams
    1. Next app deadline is May 3<sup>rd</sup> – looking for scorers
    2. If your constituents have questions about these please go to chairs for answers.

## **6. Old Business**

- a. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (1 min.)** – KaLeigh White
  - i. Minutes approved!

## **7. New Business**

- a. Presentation of constitutional changes – (2 min.)
  - i. Categorized changes
    1. Minor
    2. Major
      - a. Reworking Jakobsen committee structure language to reflect actual practice
      - b. More clearly identifying the 3 areas of the committee



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3. Strikes
    - a. Reservation of the right to prefer departments for travel funding to those that aren't represented in GSS
    - b. Grad council reps don't need to be reelected to hold their seat
    - c. Annual finance committee being moved to committees' section
  - ii. Will receive a summary of all changes prior to next months meeting where we will vote
  - iii. Please let Peter know if you have concerns
  - b. Nominations for officer positions – (10 min.)
    - i. Nomination process: Senators have until next meeting (Tuesday, April 30th) to nominate (including during the election meeting)
    - ii. To submit a nomination:
      1. Email the Executive Associate ([christian-bako@uiowa.edu](mailto:christian-bako@uiowa.edu)) who you are nominating and their department
      2. **OR** enter that information in the correct spot on the [Google Doc](#)
- 8. Committee Discussions on Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) (5 mins.)**
- a. Think of one way your committee could advance diversity, equity, and inclusion
    - i. (e.g. add pronouns to registration/nametags at Jakobsen, teaching committee to promote microaggression training for TAs, etc.)
- 9. Open Floor (As time allows)**
- 10. Adjournment – 7:00 PM**

**Announcements**

- a. **Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**
  - i. The next [GSS Travel Fund application](#) deadline is May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 by 11:59 PM. This round of applications is for conferences occurring between Jan. 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019.
- b. **Next General Assembly Meeting – Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**
  - i. The next Graduate Student Senate general assembly meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 6:00-7:00PM at the Old Capital Mall conference center (UCC-2520D).
- c. **GSS Cortado Coffee Break – Every Tuesday in April (Except April 9<sup>th</sup>) and on Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>**
  - i. Do you like coffee? Do you like cookies? Do you like meeting graduate students from other departments? If so, please join GSS at Cortado Coffee & Café (26 S. Clinton Street) for a series of weekly “coffee-breaks” for ALL graduate students. Coffee and cookies will be available for free from 2:30-3:30 on Tuesdays in April (except April 9<sup>th</sup>) and on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. See the [Facebook event!](#)
- d. **Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week - April 1st - 5th, 2019**
  - i. Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week is a celebration of The University of Iowa's hard-working and dedicated graduate and professional students.



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- ii. Reserve your spot in all our events by completing the quick registration form. See the full schedule here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-and-professional-student-appreciation-week>
- iii. Food and drinks will be provided at all events. We also will be giving out yoga mats at the yoga class on Thursday.
- iv. We'll share updated information and students' experiences on our Twitter and Facebook accounts using the hashtag #UIowaGradWeek. Please also follow our stories at the UIowa Snapchat account for real-time updates. We appreciate your help in spreading out the word about the second annual UI Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week!



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2018-2019 Graduate Student Senate  
**Roster of Elected Positions**

**Executive Officers:**

President	KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Vice President	Ryan Stoldt	ryan-stoldt@uiowa.edu
Treasurer	Lyndsey DuBose	lyndsey-dubose@uiowa.edu
Executive Associate	Christian Bako	christian-bako@uiowa.edu
Membership/PR Officer	Caroline Cheung	caroline-cheung@uiowa.edu
Parliamentarian	Peter Miller	peter-miller@uiowa.edu

**GPSG Delegates:**

Elliot Burghardt	elliott-burghardt@uiowa.edu
Andrew Tubbs	andrew-tubbs@uiowa.edu
KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Inga Popovaitė	inga-popovaitė@uiowa.edu
Gurjap Singh	gurjap-singh@uiowa.edu

**Graduate Council:**

Emma Gabriele	emma-gabriele@uiowa.edu
Jenny Verniero	jennifer-verniero@uiowa.edu
KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Josh Bock	josh-bock@uiowa.edu

**Webmaster:**

Ryan Tribble	ryan-tribble@uiowa.edu
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**Roster of Appointed Positions**

**Committee Chairs:**

Graduate Success Committee	Elliot Burghardt	elliott-burghardt@uiowa.edu
Graduate Teaching Committee	Sydney Skuodas	sydney-skuodas@uiowa.edu
International Students Committee	Anup Poudel	anup-poudel@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference Committee	Ryan Stoldt	ryan-stoldt@uiowa.edu
Service and Social Committee	Gurjap Singh	gurjap-singh@uiowa.edu
Travel Funds Committee	Jennie Yujia Liu	yujia-liu@uiowa.edu
	Amanda Adams	amanda-adams@uiowa.edu