



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
December 5, 2017

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** – Ian Faith
- 2. Introduction of Senators** (2 mins.)
- 3. Graduate College Report** (10 mins.) – Dean John Keller
 - a. Dean Keller, Associate Dean Larson, and other Graduate College administrators are attending the Council of Graduate Studies (CGS) Annual conference.
- 4. Presentation by the Center for Teaching** (5 mins) – Morgan Iommi
 - a. Check out website for online resource:
<https://teach.its.uiowa.edu/organizations/center-teaching>.
 - b. Resources currently provided by the center:
 - i. Teaching consultations (observe your teaching and provide feedback)
 - ii. Watch for workshops in the spring online
 - iii. Can bring workshops to your department
 1. Relying on departments to those request
 - iv. GSS can help by recruiting people to attend the workshops!
 1. Word of mouth recommendation helps encourage participation the most.
 - c. The center for teaching also does the big TA orientation at the beginning of the year and the Teaching Institute in January.
 - d. Will spring workshops count for CIRTl? Yes, they will count towards the associate level.
- 5. The Jenny Verniero Report** (8 mins.) – Jenny Verniero
 - a. The UI 2020 Initiative consists of 13 members of the committee (mostly faculty and deans, 1 graduate student (Jenny) and 1 undergrad)
 - b. Nothing is off the table for discussion. They are discussing/brainstorming major changes to the structure of UI.
 - c. Need graduate students to attend the townhalls. Make your voice heard!
 - d. Severn undergraduates were able to lead to conversation at the previous town hall.
 - e. The committee is trying to address what are the grand challenges of the 21st century and how can the university address those challenges (e.g. What if you can put on a VR headset and have a calculus tutor right there in 20 years? How would that affect TAs?).
 - f. Think big (and bigger!) about your place in the university and how the university can help you succeed.
 - g. Take 10 minutes over winter break and email Jenny with an idea you have about how the university could be better.
 - i. Renewable energy running campus? How do we draw people to this university? What do you think would bring more people in?
 - h. "Get out of the tunnel and fly with me." – Jenny
 - i. In sum, the committee is serving like an exploratory committee but has been receiving a lot of resistance. The resistance is primarily from a fear of restructuring and lack of inclusion of CLAS due to the lack of a dean during Phase 1. They are currently meeting with a huge range of groups on campus and need more students involved. Anyone can request a meeting. Graduate student ideas/concerns won't be heard unless we show up and share!
 - j. Watch for a list of ideas heard so far in January 2018.

6. Old Business



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7. New Business

8. Reports

- a. **President Report** – Ian Faith (5. mins)
 - i. Update on the Tax Bill Joint Statement
 1. Updated statement passed through email vote (https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/system/files/GSS_Statement_tax.pdf).
 2. It has since been sent out to Dean Keller, Senators Grasley and Earnst, contacts in DC, sent out to news outlets (Daily Iowan). Faculty Senate is also talking about a statement and staff council.
 3. House and Senate Bills have both passed and now need reconciled. House Bill taxes graduate student tuition waivers but the senate version does not.
- b. **Treasurer Report** – James Mrkvicka (2. mins)
 - i. Reminder to complete your committee budget and send them to James (james-mrkvicka@uiowa.edu) ASAP.
 - ii. Graduate Student Employment Committee (GSEC)
 1. Has recommended no changes be made to current graduate student benefits.
 2. The committee spoke Joni Troester, a representative from human resources about proposed changes to UI Grad Care"
 - a. The proposal would change UI Grad Care hospital stay coverage and the prescription drug coverage to match SHIP.
 - i. Addison – Students choose UI Grad Care because of perception drug coverage is cheaper for them in the long-run.
 - b. The change would disproportionately affect those needing Teir 2 and Teir 3 drugs, as it greatly increases the amount students pay for those prescriptions.
 3. Statistically, the demographics of the typical graduate students are those not usually staying long-term hospital visits, but the recommended change would increase the amount of the cost covered by insurance.
- c. **Graduate Council Report** (2 mins.)
 - i. No report.
- d. **GPSG Delegates Report** (2 mins.)
 - i. Watch for upcoming events and socials!
 - ii. Meeting tonight.
- e. **Committee Reports** (8 mins.)
 - i. Graduate Student Success Committee – Nana Owusu
 1. The committee is working on developing an understanding of the holistic issues that graduate students are facing.
 2. They are in communication with people in the ombudsperson office and counseling center to come up with the best ways we can meeting graduate student needs.
 - ii. Graduate Student Teaching Committee – Caroline Cheung (absent)
 1. Report given by KaLeigh White.



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2. The committee is working on redefining and clarifying their mission. They have been in contact with the Center for Teaching and plan to continue to help the Center prompt their resources to graduate students.
- iii. Jakobsen Committee – Maria Morabe
 1. Call for abstracts coming soon.
- iv. International Student Committee – OPEN
 1. No report.
 2. Senators expressed concerns about the bus company, which services Iowa City, making racist comments. Senators questioned if the University planned to take a response. No response has been made yet.
 3. See story here: <http://daily-iowan.com/2017/12/05/shuttle-service-under-fire-for-comments-deemed-racially-insensitive/>.
- v. Service and Social Committee – Krista Grutz and Addison Woll
 1. The Ugly Sweater Party went well. Over 100 people showed up.
 2. The next event will be early in the spring semester.
- vi. Travel Funds Committee – Victoria Parker and Lyndsey DuBose
 1. At the last scoring meeting, the committee scored 64. Of those, 37 were eligible. The main reason applications were scored as ineligible as do to applicant not providing an indication/proof of their application being accepted.

9. Hawkeye Caucus Presentation – Casey Westlake (10 mins.)

- a. The Hawkeye Caucus is the public face of the office of governmental relations
- b. Please help encourage your state legislators to support University funding request for the year. Learn more here: <https://hawkeyecaucus.com/>.

10. Adjournment – 7:00 PM

Announcements

a. Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – January 19th

- i. The next GSS Travel Fund application deadline is Nov. 17, 2017 by 11:59 PM. This round of applications is for conferences occurring between July 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2017.



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2017-2018 Graduate Student Senate
Roster of Elected Positions

Executive Officers:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Executive Associate
Membership/PR Officer
Parliamentarian

Ian Faith
Maria Morabe
James Mrkvicka
KaLeigh White
Landon Elkind
Shane Solst

ian-faith@uiowa.edu
marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
james-mrkvicka@uiowa.edu
kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
landon-elkind@uiowa.edu
shane-solst@uiowa.edu

GPSG Delegates:

Landon Elkind
Ian Faith
Maria Morabe
Jenny Verniero
KaLeigh White

landon-elkind@uiowa.edu
ian-faith@uiowa.edu
marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
jennifer-verniero@uiowa.edu
kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu

Graduate Council:

Ian Faith
Jenny Verniero
KaLeigh White
Addison Woll

ian-faith@uiowa.edu
jennifer-verniero@uiowa.edu
kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
addison-woll@uiowa.edu

Webmaster:

Claire Muerdter

claire-muerdter@uiowa.edu

Roster of Appointed Positions

Committee Chairs:

Graduate Success Committee
Graduate Teaching Committee
International Students Committee
Jakobsen Conference Committee
Service and Social Committee

Nana Owusu
Caroline Cheung
OPEN
Maria Morabe
Krista Grutz
Addison Woll (Fall)
Jenny Verniero (Spring)
Victoria Parker
Lyndsey DuBose

nana-owusu@uiowa.edu
caroline-cheung@uiowa.edu
marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
krista-grutz@uiowa.edu
addison-woll@uiowa.edu
jennifer-verniero@uiowa.edu
victoria-parker@uiowa.edu
lyndsey-dubose@uiowa.edu

Travel Funds Committee