



Graduate Student Senate  
General Assembly Meeting  
Minutes – Pending Approval  
February 12, 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** – KaLeigh White
- 2. Introduction of Senators** (5 mins.)
- 3. Graduate College Report** (10 mins.)
  - a. Dean Keller sends his regrets – on his way to Hawaii
  - b. Invitation to American college health assessment survey – please participate
    - i. Goes into strategic plan for Vice President of Office of Student Health & Wellness – get more services for grad students
  - c. Commencement registration is underway
    - i. Deadline is April 10<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Fellowship application season is also underway
    - i. Please submit applications
  - e. Look out for #ILoveUIowa and tell us why
  - f. Vice President for Research is having a joint event with the graduate college on March 28<sup>th</sup> featuring 3MT winners
  - g. Candidates will be on campus for DEI Director position
    - i. There will be public forums open for students
    - ii. More announcements forthcoming – in the next 3 weeks, probably
  - h. School of Psychology accreditation update
    - i. Did receive accreditation for students to finish the program but no longer accepting new students
- 4. Reports**
  - a. **President Report** – KaLeigh White (2 mins.)
    - i. American college health assessment survey – please do this!!
    - ii. Thank you for coming!
    - iii. Announcements:
      1. Hancher Finkbine Nominations due on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>
      2. Disability rights initiative with Jenny Verniero to work on improving bionic bus services
      3. Series of Cortado “Coffee Break” networking socials for graduate students for Tuesdays at 2:30 – 3:30
        - a. Plan is to host multiple events on both sides of the river
      4. Like us on Facebook please!!
        - a. We have a FB page
        - b. We have a Jakobsen event page
  - b. **Jakobsen Update** – Ryan Stoldt (2 mins.)
    - i. March 30<sup>th</sup> is the big day!
    - ii. Looking for more abstracts
  - c. **COGS Report** – Inga Popovaite (2 mins.)
    - i. Long story short we are all getting a 2.1% raise every year to track with inflation
    - ii. Tackling summer pay issue so that all pay is distributed evenly month-to-month
    - iii. Please become a dues paying member to earn your right to vote and make a difference for all grad students! (\$27/mo)



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- d. **Graduate Student Employment Committee Report** (2 mins.)
- e. **Graduate Council Report** (2 mins.)
  - i. Good feedback on Jakobsen presentation
    - 1. Suggestions on how to make scoring process easier / better
    - 2. Lots of good discussion on what the conference should be offering to grad students
- f. **GPSG Delegates Report** (2 mins.)
  - i. Partnering on a Big Grove Friday Night Vibes event on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8PM to benefit the Iowa City Shelter House
  - ii. Free food & non-alcoholic drinks provided
  - iii. Please come!
- g. **Brief Committee Reports** (5 mins.)
  - i. Graduate Student Success Committee – Elliot Burghardt & Ellen Kiser
    - 1. Focus is graduate student appreciation week
    - 2. Planning on hosting panels on “What happens after grad school?”
    - 3. Will focus on easing transition to incoming senators in the fall
  - ii. Graduate Student Teaching Committee – Sydney Skuodas
    - 1. Partnering with Teaching Center
    - 2. Starting in March, there will be a STEM reading / discussion group to discuss research ideas and improve teaching
  - iii. International Student Committee – Anup Poudel
    - 1. Discussing issues among international students
      - a. International student fee
    - 2. Trying to incorporate team of international students to promote cultural awareness - expect one event in this vein
  - iv. Service and Social Committee – Gurjap Singh
    - 1. Cortado coffee break
  - v. Travel Funds Committee – Jennie Yujia Liu & Amanda Adams
    - 1. Not as many applicants as usual
    - 2. Last round 41 applications
    - 3. 67% funding rate

## 5. Old Business

- a. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** (5 mins.) – KaLeigh White
  - i. Minutes are approved
- b. **Approval of Budget** (5 mins.) – KaLeigh White, Lyndsey Dubose
  - i. If we heard from committees, the budget incorporates your budget, if we haven't please get to us
  - ii. New line item: Executive Council Budget
    - 1. Main purpose is to buy promotional items that won't date themselves quickly
  - iii. Budget is approved

## 6. New Business

- a. Breakout Groups Activity (30 mins.)
  - i. Quick series of short brainstorming rounds (3min. writing, 2min. discussion)



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1. Why did you join GSS?
  - a. Department need
  - b. Bettering graduate student life
  - c. Learning how to get money from travel funds
  - d. Recommendation from a friend
  - e. Juicy gossip
    - i. Loose translation: what's going on in other departments
  - f. Longing to be a part of Student Community
  - g. Being a part of change on campus
  - h. CV line
  - i. Free food
  - j. Meet people outside of department
  - k. Asked by department to do it with not a lot of clarification on what it's about
    - i. Another student or faculty or admin?
      1. DGS
      2. Another grad student
      3. Department head
2. What does GSS do well?
  - a. Collaborate with CoGS and GPSG well
  - b. Travel Funds committee does an awesome job
  - c. The longer, less frequent emails are a good thing
  - d. Food is historically fantastic
  - e. Jakobsen conference is very valuable even if it's not taken advantage of by as many grad students as it should be
  - f. Tough to say what we're doing well cause we (young senators) don't know what we're doing
  - g. Good at meeting every month – it's tough with all our busy schedules!
  - h. Good at providing a voice to grad students
  - i. Events and stuff are good – just need to improve how we're getting the word out about them
3. What could GSS improve on?
  - a. Too much text in emails
    - i. How to improve???
      1. Get to the point at the beginning of the email
      2. Give a quick list of important points and attach a file with more in-depth information
  - b. Communicating to non-senators
    - i. Better marketing
    - ii. Improving committee participation
    - iii. More public events
  - c. Develop a stronger sense of comradery within the Senate
  - d. More food
  - e. Lack of institutional knowledge
    - i. Guide for those going forward
    - ii. Even specific to committees



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- f. Communication inefficiencies
    - i. Things come up in meeting and it's tough to fit into the next one -> what are next steps!?
    - ii. College of Psychology thing is a good example
  - g. Feel more like messengers than a student voice
  - h. What do we really do as Senators?
    - i. Senator orientation
    - ii. Very word of mouth stuff
  - i. We should email program coordinators at the beginning of the year outlining what Graduate Student Senate is
  - j. Should we start a GroupMe?
4. What do you think the purpose or ultimate goal of GSS should be?  
What is something GSS could be doing?
- a. Serving community
    - i. Providing professional development opportunities
  - b. Providing voice to constituents
    - i. Networking with more purpose
    - ii. Lots of networking events are awkward
    - iii. As grad students, we have a very unique skill sets
    - iv. How can we pair up departments so that the interactions are as productive as possible and such that mutual benefit is maximized for both parties?
  - c. Event to get GSS' name out there – what do we do?
    - i. GSS @ Department orientation
    - ii. Cortado Coffee Break!
  - d. More pressure on individual senators to listen to their constituents
    - i. Departmental reports?
    - ii. Bottomline is interpersonal communication b/w
  - e. GSS pushes information down to constituents but needs to pull information up from them more effectively
    - i. Can we open the floor at Group Meetings to have a forum to discuss departmental issues or even interdepartmental issues?
      - 1. Yes, next meeting.

## 7. Adjournment – 7:00 PM

### Announcements

#### a. Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – March 8<sup>th</sup>

- i. The next [GSS Travel Fund application](#) deadline is Mar. 8, 2019 by 11:59 PM. This round of applications is for conferences occurring between Nov. 1, 2018 and Apr. 30, 2018.



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**b. Next General Assembly Meeting – Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

- i. The next Graduate Student Senate general assembly meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 from 6:00-7:00PM at the Old Capital Mall conference center (UCC-2520D).



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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 Popovaite	inga-popovaite@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