



Graduate Student Senate  
General Assembly Meeting  
Minutes  
March 6, 2018

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. CLAS Dean Search Committee** (30 mins.) – Dean Gardial and KaLeigh White
  - a. Dean Gardial and KaLeigh, members of the CLAS Dean Search Committee, questioned the senate on their vision for the next CLAS Dean. The committee is currently in the process of forming the job advertisement.
  - b. Several graduate students noted they were not familiar with the duties of the dean and expressed hope for the next Dean to be transparent and accessible to graduate students. For instance, the Dean could host an open forum for graduate students and provide a report at GSS meetings similar to the reports provided by Dean Keller at each GSS meeting. The new Dean should not just appreciate the work of graduates students; they should also support and “take graduate student work seriously.”
  - c. Other desires expressed for the future Dean include:
    - i. Familiarity and support for interdisciplinary research
    - ii. A good public relations “face” and advocate for the work of CLAS – they should know how to market CLAS
    - iii. A “holistic” vision of the “arts” in the college
    - iv. Support and help in providing mentorship training for advisors
    - v. Support small departments
    - vi. Support hiring of tenure track positions for all departments (NOT just those who bring in lot of grant money), especially those with strong enrollment
    - vii. See the closure of a program as a strike against the university
- 4. Graduate College Report** (5 mins.) – Dean Keller
  - a. Summer Fellowship Applications are due this week. Contact Shelly Campo (shelly-campo@uiowa.edu) with questions.
    - i. Shelly expects to see around 200 summer fellowship applications in her email inbox by the end of the week.
    - ii. Applicants should expect to hear back in 2-3 weeks.
    - iii. Find fellowship information here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/internal-fellowships>.
  - b. Spring Commencement Ceremonies
    - i. The Graduate College will host two ceremonies this Spring: one for doctoral students and one for masters students.
    - ii. The doctoral ceremony is Friday, May 11, 2018 at 9:00 AM in Hancher Auditorium.
      1. There are 600 fewer seats in the new Hancher Auditorium so graduation must ticketed.
      2. Please help get graduates registered in advance. There is no need to wait for the registration deadline. This can help ensure graduates get the number of tickets the need.
      3. Currently, each graduate is given 6 tickets. They hope to allocate more tickets in the final weeks leading up to graduation as registration closes and remaining ticket availability is determined.
    - iii. The master student ceremony is Friday, May 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.



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1. The Graduate College is working to improve the Carver ceremony given the limitations of the building (e.g. no AC, limited handicap accessibility, etc.). For example, there will be an air-conditioned room with live video screen of graduation ceremony to provide an alternative accessibility option. While this option is not ideal, it will improve access and safety.
- c. The Open Doors Conference is coming up on April 14, 2018. Please plan to attend and encourage your constituents to attend.
  - i. Details and registration found here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/open-doors-conference/2018>.
- d. Student Appreciation Week is April 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. There are several events scheduled in celebration of graduate students throughout the week. Find details here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2018-03-06/graduate-professional-student-appreciation-week>.

**5. Old Business**

- a. None

**6. New Business**

- a. None

**7. Reports**

a. **President Report** (3 mins.) – Ian Faith

i. GSEC Update

1. Ian provided an update on the health insurance changes previously proposed during conversations with UI human resources representative Joni Troester.

- a. There will be no changes to graduate student employee benefits through 2019 (including no changes to prescription drug coverage or hospital stay coverage provided through UI Grad Care).

- b. The committee discussed how recommendations for graduate student benefits will be made moving forward. Proposals will be made early each Fall semester with respect to offer letters coming out in January. The committee will be looking a year out with each recommendation they put forth (e.g. they will plan for the January 2020 in January 2019).

b. **Treasurer Report** (3 mins.) – James Mrkvicka

i. **Update on spending activities**

1. James compared the spending projections for GSS committees to actual committee spending to date. Some committees requested an increase to their budgets while others have requested a decrease. Overall, committees are spending less than projected.
2. Please spend the money you requested and tell James what you need.
3. Contact James with questions ([james-mrkvicka@uiowa.edu](mailto:james-mrkvicka@uiowa.edu)).

c. **Audit Ad Hoc Committee Update** (2 mins.) – Landon Elkind

- i. The committee met to define the meaning of a “department.” They plan to use a “degree granting programming” to determine departments.



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- ii. At their next meeting, the committee will have a report amending the bylaws to define a department.
  - iii. They will email the Senate a report in advance of next meeting of the proposed bylaw changes to department organization structure. Please watch this report and review it prior to the next meeting.
  - iv. *If you would like to help the Audit Committee, please email Landon (landon-elkind@uiowa.edu).*
- d. Graduate Council Report** (5 mins.) - Ian Faith
- i. At the previous Graduate Council Meeting, the committee heard proposals to close three programs: MA in Urban and Regional Planning, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Certificate, and School Psychology Ph.D and Ed.S subprograms.
    - 1. The Council approved the closure of the MA in Urban and Regional Planning. The MS in Urban and Regional Planning remains open. The MA was closed due to a student preference for the MS degree and the two degrees having exactly the same requirements.
    - 2. The Council approved the closure of the TEFL Certificate. The demand for the certificate was not as high as anticipated.
    - 3. The Council tabled the vote on the proposal to close School Psychology Ph.D and Ed.S subprograms due to concerns expressed by students currently in the program. See minutes on the message from Amanda Lewis below.
  - ii. Message on the School Psychology PhD program – Amanda Lewis
    - 1. Amanda Lewis is a graduate student currently enrolled in the School Psychology Ph.D. program. She is one of 15 students. She provided a testimony on her concerns about the ability of the students currently enrolled in the program to finish and earn their degrees successfully. This is an outline of her speech.
      - a. Amanda chose the University of Iowa school psychology program in school psychology for its academic quality/rigor and the chance to work with particular faculty members. Within one year of her arrival to the program, her advisor left the UI. Soon after, the program lost several additional faculty, including some faculty to retirement. No new faculty have been hired.
      - b. The difficult decision was made to close the program rather than revive it. The students were assured their academic needs would be met and quality of the training they received would not be affected. Yet, with only 3 remaining faculty, many students do not feel this promise is being met. Amanda describes the load on the remaining faculty as “untenable”. Students feel the problems are due to this overload on faculty, and that faculty are going above and beyond to try and meet student needs and keep program functioning.
      - c. The students are not able to get adequate advising, they struggle to get the classes they need, have limited access to research opportunities, and they lack a school psychology



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- perspective on their work. The program lacks the supports needed to facilitate and provide effective training.
- d. In addition, the APA, the program's accrediting body, has placed the program on probation. Eight students are not far enough into the program to graduate by November, which is when the program is set to lose accreditation. Students are struggling to meet graduation requirements and fear the consequences of earning an unaccredited degree, as having an unaccredited degree makes it difficult or near impossible to get licensed and find a job working as a school psychologist.
  - e. Amanda stresses that students invest years of the lives and many relocate in order to enroll into a program at the University. In doing so, they trust they will have the opportunity and supports needed to leave the University with the degree for which they came. Amanda urged the Senate to let the university know the breaking of that trust is not okay.
2. Landon: Moved to discuss the concerns Amanda expressed at the next GSS General Assembly meeting and to draft a statement in response to the concerns Amanda presented.
- e. **GPSG Delegates Report** (2 mins.) – KaLeigh White
    - i. No report.
    - ii. Watch for upcoming events including Graduate Student Appreciation Week and Friday Night Vibes.
    - iii. Find past meeting minutes here: <https://gpsg.uiowa.edu/meetings/>.
  - f. **Committee Reports** (8 mins.)
    - i. Graduate Student Success Committee – Nana Owusu
      1. The committee is work with GPSG on student appreciation week. See announcements.
    - ii. Graduate Student Teaching Committee – Caroline Cheung
      1. The committee is working to finalize language and TA training award requirements and to promote the workshops on campus.
    - iii. Jakobsen Committee (5 mins) – Maria Morabe
      1. The Conference received 77 total submissions. Submissions are closed.
      2. Please come to the conference and watch for a flyer/information to share with your constituents.
      3. The conference has an exciting keynote speaker this year!
      4. Please volunteer to moderate if you are able. Email Maria (marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu).
    - iv. International Student Committee – Gurjap Singh
      1. No report.
    - v. Service and Social Committee – Jenny Verniero and Krista Grutz
      1. Watch for upcoming details on a social at Studio 13. It will feature a taco truck!
    - vi. Travel Funds Committee – Victoria Parker and Lyndsey DuBose
      1. The next application deadlines are March 9<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>.



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2. They are holding a scoring session on the March 22. They have received a lot of applications and are ***in need of help scoring***. If you can help, please email Victoria ([victoria-parker@uiowa.edu](mailto:victoria-parker@uiowa.edu)) or Lyndsey ([lyndsey-dubose@uiowa.edu](mailto:lyndsey-dubose@uiowa.edu)). ***They will meet March 22nd from 6-7pm in 27 Trowbridge Hall.***

**8. Adjournment – 7:00 PM**

**Announcements**

- a. **Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – March 9, 2018**
  - i. The next GSS Travel Fund application deadline is March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 11:59 PM. This round of applications is for conferences occurring between Nov. 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018.
  - ii. Please volunteer to score at their next scoring session (March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-7pm in 27 Trowbridge Hall). Snacks provided!
- b. **Graduate Student Appreciation Week – April 2 to April 6, 2018**
  - i. Find details here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2018-03-06/graduate-professional-student-appreciation-week>.
- c. **The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Jakobsen Memorial Conference – March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**
  - i. Please plan to attend and contact Maria ([marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu](mailto:marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu)) if you wish to volunteer to moderate.
- d. **The Open Doors Conference is coming up on April 14, 2018.**
  - i. Please plan to attend and encourage your constituents to attend. Details and registration found here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/open-doors-conference/2018>.
- e. **Help the Audit Ad Hoc Committee define a department!**
  - i. Email Landon for details ([landon-elkind@uiowa.edu](mailto:landon-elkind@uiowa.edu)).



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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  
Gurjap Singh  
Maria Morabe  
Krista Grutz  
Addison Woll (Fall)  
Jenny Verniero (Spring)  
Victoria Parker  
Lyndsey DuBose

nana-owusu@uiowa.edu  
caroline-cheung@uiowa.edu  
gurjap-singh@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