



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 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. Graduate College Report** (5 mins.) – Dean Keller
 - a. Happy Graduate Student Appreciation week. Check out the Daily Iowan piece by Dean Keller: <http://daily-iowan.com/2018/04/02/guest-opinion-this-week-thank-a-graduate-student/>.
 - b. One Day at Iowa is happening tomorrow (<https://1day.uiowa.edu/>). Whatever contributions we receive up to \$1000, the Graduate College will match.
 - c. Take the Graduate SERU. Find the survey link in your email or follow the "gradSERU" link here: <https://uiowa.edu/seru/tell-us>.
 - d. Open Doors is April 14th. Please consider attending (<https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/open-doors-conference/2018>).
 - e. The Graduate College had a record number of NSF graduate fellows awarded this year. Six students received the fellowships and two students received honorable mentions.
 - f. At the March 6th GSS meeting, there was a lot of concern expressed about graduate students wishing know the CLAS Dean so Christine Getz, Associate Dean for Graduate Education and the Arts of CLAS, has volunteered to attend GSS meetings to learn more about GSS and become more involved with the graduate students in CLAS. Please welcome Associate Dean Christine Getz.
- 4. CLAS Report** (5 mins.) – Christine Getz
 - a. Thank you for inviting me! I am attending because I hope to learn more about the things that are of interest to you.
 - b. What do I do?
 - i. My door is always open if you have suggestions or concerns to share.
 - ii. My role as Associate dean of Graduate Education for CLAS includes:
 1. Working with the CLAS dean and other associate deans in the college on a number of issues related to graduate education, faculty appointments, and awards.
 2. Chairing the Graduate Education Policy Committee, which is a new committee of faculty who advocate for issues in graduate education. Please share concerns you may have with the committee: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/graduate-educational-policy-committee>.
 3. Currently piloting a committee on diversity for graduate students in CLAS.
 4. Facilitating professional develop opportunities for graduate students in CLAS.
 - a. A new initiative of a two-week grant writing seminar to help students who wish to apply to grants in the humanities and social sciences. It is led by faculty who do a lot of grant writing themselves.
 - b. The seminar includes a very helpful small stipend for participating. The seminar should be very helpful for students working ahead of time on these applications
 - c. The deadline to apply for the seminar is next Tuesday.



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2018

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

5. I still teach and advise. I have not left teaching behind. I enjoy working with graduate students and I have not stopped doing so in my current position.

5. Elections (17 mins.)

- a. Description of positions by the current position holders
 - i. See handbook pages 14-18 of the graduate student handbook:
<https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/system/files/GSS%20Handbook.pdf>
- b. Call for nominations
 - i. Executive Officers:
 1. President: No nominations
 2. Vice President: No nominations
 3. Treasurer: No nominations
 4. Membership and Publicity Officer: No nominations
 5. Executive Associate: No nominations
 6. Parliamentarian: Peter Miller - Religious Studies
 - ii. Graduate Council:
 1. Fine Arts & Humanities: No nominations
 2. Social Sciences & Education: No nominations
 3. Biological & Medical Sciences: No nominations
 4. Physical, Mathematical, & Engineering Sciences: Jenny Verniero – Applied Math(NOTE: one seat filled by the elected president by default)
 - iii. GPSG Delegates:
 1. At-large (president by default)
 2. Fine Arts & Humanities: No nominations
 3. Social Sciences & Education: KaLeigh White - Sociology
 4. Biological & Medical Sciences: No nominations
 5. Physical, Mathematical, & Engineering Sciences: Jenny Verniero – Applied Math
 - iv. Webmaster: Will be appointed by the new President but please express your interest in the position so the new President may identify possible appointments.
 - v. **Senators may nominate themselves or others up to the May 1st GSS General Assembly meeting. Voting will take place at the May 1st meeting. Send your nominations to Ian (ian-faith@uiowa.edu).**

6. Old Business

7. New Business

- a. Discussion pertaining to Graduate Program Closures (8 mins.) – Landon Elkind
 - i. Landon: Last week, we heard a statement about the negative effects of program closures. What I gathered from that statement is that the program closure process did not do much good for the students in the program. In addition, the loss of accreditation lowers the values of degrees. It is not clear who is at fault when this problem occurs, but there does appear to be a breakdown somewhere in the process. I would like to see more institutional response to program closures so that no other students have this experience. This should not happen but I don't what the answer is.



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2018

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

- ii. Landon: Thus, I would like to see people who have the institutional knowledge invest the time needed to prevent this from happening again. I want to encourage faculty senate to investigate the process or form an ad hoc committee to minimize the harms to graduate students of program closures. Programs should not fail their standards of accreditation until all students are out of the program. I think we should ask the institution to spend some time to thinking about this.
- iii. Dean Keller: The interest in this committee is laudable but faculty senate is not the place to go.
 - 1. The first question of the Board of Regents is always: "What is the effect on the students?" This same question is asked all the way up the closure process. No program is officially closed until the last student leaves the program, even if the program is put on suspended admissions.
 - 2. The College of Education's (COE) program complication of the accreditation is unique. The issues are not specific to the closure of the program itself.
 - 3. The memo drafted by the graduate student representatives on the Graduate Council outlining the concerns of the students affected has been extremely helpful. It was sent to COE leadership. They are taking action now. I am awaiting their response.
 - 4. No program closure goes forward without Graduate Council approval. We have tabled the vote until we know how the closure will affect the students.
- iv. Landon: I am concerned about COE being in control as it seems we have been waiting for the issue to be fixed for a while now. There should be some response. The degradation of the degree in question is what is making the lives of the students miserable.
- v. Question from a Senator: What do you hope a formed committee will do? It sounds like closure process is not the specific problem.
- vi. KaLeigh: I think the issue Landon is trying to highlight is not so much program closure process but rather the degradation of degrees. We want all students to graduate with valuable degrees.
- vii. Question to Dean Keller: If not faculty senate, who might we talk to?
 - 1. Dean Keller: maybe the Provost Office.
- viii. Question from a Senator to Landon: Why did you select faculty?
- ix. Landon: I thought they would have a vested interest in the program, the institution, and graduate students.
- x. Motion by Landon: Motion to form a GSS ad hoc committee, in consultation with the current GSS representatives on Graduate Council, to investigate ways the University can prevent the degradation of a degree program before students graduate and determine GSS's course of action from there.
- xi. Landon calls for second.
- xii. There is silence and confusion regarding the motion on the floor.



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2018

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

- xiii. The motion is clarified as a call to form an exploratory committee to determine how the University can protect the value of degrees from declining while students are still enrolled in the programs.
- xiv. The motion is a seconded.
- xv. Ian calls for the vote.
- xvi. The motion passes by a simple majority.
- b. Discussion on hosting senator online discussion board (3 mins.) – Claire Muerdter
 - i. The discussion is tabled due to time.

8. Reports

- a. **President Report** (4 mins.) – Ian Faith
 - i. No report. Please see announcements.
- b. **Audit Committee Report** (8 mins.) – Landon Elkind
 - i. The committee has been working on deciding what constitutes a department and therefore how many senators each department is assigned.
 - ii. Watch for a proposal to change the GSS bylaws prior to the next GSS meeting. The change to the bylaws will make the assignment of senators systematic.
- c. **Graduate Council Report** (1 min.) - Ian Faith
 - i. No report. We will keep you posted on the school psychology program.
- d. **GPSG Delegates Report** (1 min.) – KaLeigh White
 - i. We have a meeting tonight. Elections occurring at our next meeting.
- e. **Committee Reports** (6 mins.)
 - i. Graduate Student Success Committee – Nana Owusu
 - 1. Graduate Student Appreciate Week is going well. Please attend events this week: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2018-03-06/graduate-professional-student-appreciation-week>. Friday Night Vibes is also going well. Please attend Friday's event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1772660743036222/>. Keep an eye out for future events.
 - ii. Graduate Student Teaching Committee – Caroline Cheung
 - 1. Finalizing the award name and planning for future semesters.
 - iii. Jakobsen Committee – Maria Morabe
 - 1. It went well despite the snow. Working on how to improve registration next year.
 - iv. International Student Committee – Gurjap Singh
 - 1. Please contact Gurjap (gurjap-singh@uiowa.edu) if you are interested in serving on the committee.
 - v. Service and Social Committee – Jenny Verniero and Krista Grutz
 - 1. The social at Studio 13 went great. The taco truck was a hit!
 - vi. Travel Funds Committee – Victoria Parker and Lyndsey DuBose
 - 1. Watch upcoming deadlines. See announcements.

9. Adjournment – 7:00 PM



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2018

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

Announcements

- a. **GSS Elections – Please nominate yourself and/or others!**
 - i. GSS is now accepting nominations for next year's Executive Council Members, Graduate Council, and GPSG Delegates. You can find details about each of these positions in the [GSS Handbook](#), or you can contact current council members or delegates individually. Elections will be held at the next GSS General Assembly meeting Tuesday, May 1. Nominees should be prepared to give a brief (1-2 minute) statement about their qualifications and interest in the position. We hope you will run for a position! If you would like to nominate yourself or another senator for a position, please email Ian Faith (ian-faith@uiowa.edu).
- b. **Graduate Student Appreciation THIS Week – April 2 to April 6, 2018**
 - i. Plan to attend the events this week. Find details here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2018-03-06/graduate-professional-student-appreciation-week>.
- c. **Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – May 18, 2018**
 - i. The next GSS Travel Fund application deadline is May 18, 2018 at 11:59 PM. This round of applications is for conferences occurring between Jan. 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018.
- d. **Food Pantry Executive Director Position Open**
 - i. If are interested in the position, they can email Carissa Bailey (carissa-bailey@uiowa.edu) with a letter of interest, a resume, and any questions they have by Sunday April 22 at noon. The commitment is about 15 hours a week and the Executive Director leads a team of five. As of right now, right now their new board as no representation of graduate and professional students, but pantry believes they currently serve graduate and professionals students. They hope to reach more graduate and professional students as having graduate student represent this past year was helpful.
- e. **Presidential Charter Committee Openings**
 - i. The following presidential charter committees are in need of graduate student representation. Send your cover letter and CV to Grant Jerkovich (grant-jerkovich@uiowa.edu) if you are interested in serving.
 1. 2 [Council on Teaching](#)
 2. 2 [Recreational Services](#)
 3. 2 [University Libraries](#)
 4. 3 [Hancher Auditorium](#)
 5. 1 [Research Council](#)
 6. 2 [Family Issues](#)
 7. 2 [Information Technology Advisory](#)



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2018

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

2017-2018 Graduate Student Senate
Roster of Elected Positions

Executive Officers:

President	Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
Vice President	Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
Treasurer	James Mrkvicka	james-mrkvicka@uiowa.edu
Executive Associate	KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Membership/PR Officer	Landon Elkind	landon-elkind@uiowa.edu
Parliamentarian	Shane Solst	shane-solst@uiowa.edu

GPSG Delegates:

Landon Elkind	landon-elkind@uiowa.edu
Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
Jenny Verniero	jennifer-verniero@uiowa.edu
KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu

Graduate Council:

Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
Jenny Verniero	jennifer-verniero@uiowa.edu
KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Addison Woll	addison-woll@uiowa.edu

Webmaster:

Claire Muerdter	claire-muerdter@uiowa.edu
-----------------	---------------------------

Roster of Appointed Positions

Committee Chairs:

Graduate Success Committee	Nana Owusu	nana-owusu@uiowa.edu
Graduate Teaching Committee	Caroline Cheung	caroline-cheung@uiowa.edu
International Students Committee	Gurjap Singh	gurjap-singh@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference Committee	Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
Service and Social Committee	Krista Grutz	krista-grutz@uiowa.edu
	Addison Woll (Fall)	addison-woll@uiowa.edu
	Jenny Verniero (Spring)	jennifer-verniero@uiowa.edu
Travel Funds Committee	Victoria Parker	victoria-parker@uiowa.edu
	Lyndsey DuBose	lyndsey-dubose@uiowa.edu