



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
May 1, 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** - Laurena Bernabo
- 2. Introduction of Senators**
- 3. Graduate College Report** – Dean John Keller
 - a. Graduate Student Employment Contract – No update
 - b. Thank you to all graduate student groups (GSS, GPSG, COGS) for your work over the past year.
- 4. Old Business**
- 5. New Business**
 - a. (See elections)
- 6. Reports**
 - a. **President Report** - Laurena Bernabo
 - i. University Counseling Service hired 7 new staff!
 1. Two were hired last year plus 5 this year: Adam Hinshaw, Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology; Cari Anderson, M.A. in Social Work; Kristin Heider, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology; Sneha Pitre, Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology; Dawn Bates, Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology; and 1 more open position to fill in the coming year.
 - ii. Grad Council Representatives
 1. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. Represented graduate student voices on decisions about graduate program changes, new certificates, grants and fellowships, etc.
 2. 2017-2018 Goals
 - a. Continue above
 - iii. GPSG Delegates
 1. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. Helped hire more counselors to the University Counseling Service, which will bring our counselor: student ratio from near the bottom of our Big 10 peers to the top. Co-hosted Free Speech Day featuring Ana Navarro. Created the Grad Guide to help graduate students transition to life here in Iowa.
 2. 2017-2018 Goals
 - a. GPSG will continue work on campus safety, diversity, and sustainability, and will hire another counselor. It will host a Trailblazers workshop in the fall to bring highly successful professionals of color. It will also work to advocate for graduate student employees.
 - iv. GSS Overall
 1. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. Over 30 senators helped co-write two statements addressing negotiations over graduate student contracts and the travel ban. Implemented a Graduate Student Teaching program. Amped up opportunities for international students, and rejuvenated graduate student social events.
 2. 2017-2018 Goals



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- a. Continue to work closely with GPSG on initiatives that benefit grad students (like counseling services). Maybe an host an interdisciplinary event where grad students can practice elevator pitches to each other.
- v. GSS 2016-2017 Exemplary Senators
 1. KaLeigh White – “I don’t know how she does it.” Executive Associate, GPSG, Teaching
 2. Ian Faith – “I don’t know how he does it.” Vice President, GPSG, Jakobsen
 3. Mahesh Sasidharan – International Committee chair
 4. Claire Muerdter – Social and Service chair
 5. Tim Collingsworth – Teaching
 6. Maria Morabe – Jakobsen, Webmater, Grad Council
 7. Jenny Verniero – Multitasker (Jakobsen, Travel Funds)
 8. Rolando de Santiago – Multitasker (Jakobsen, Social/Service)
 9. Nicole Jardine – GSS Alum (Teaching, GPSG)
- b. **Vice President Report** – Ian Faith
 - i. Update on Grad Guide
 1. The Grad Guide should go live by August 2017. They are working on finalizing the website layout and content. The Grad Guide provides resources to help incoming graduate students navigate Iowa City and the University.
- c. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Graduate Student Success Committee – Emily Kimpston**
 1. Recently completed a joint social with the Service and Social Committee. They served cupcakes and hot chocolate at Joe’s Place.
 - a. Emily Kimpston absent. Update given by Claire Muerdter.
 2. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. The graduate student success committee held its first graduate appreciation event. Its pilot of this event coordinated with the social committee to coincide with the existing Thursday social night. This event included cupcakes, hot chocolate, and a free raffle with fun prizes. The goal for the future is to have it be its own event or even a graduate appreciation week like some schools hold.
 3. 2017-2018 Goals
 - a. The graduate student success committee will coordinate with the graduate college next year to help with the 3MT event. We have also proposed and budgeted for graduate excellence awards for next year; there would be \$3,000 budgeted that would correspond to \$2,000 for PhD student awards and \$1,000 for masters awards, and we will likely coordinate with the graduate college (Jennifer Teitle) to develop these awards.
 - ii. **Graduate Student Teaching Committee – Joanna Krajewski**
 1. PowerPoint presentation reporting on pilot program findings by Farah Itani and KaLeigh White.



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- a. The committee organized and facilitated a three-part pilot seminar series that took place over the spring semester. The committee members established partnerships with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University Counseling Services, and the Center for Teaching to help collaborate on content and lead the seminars. The committee also helped organize evaluation research to obtain data regarding the program successes and areas in need of improvement based on the feedback from graduate students who participated.
 - i. Respondents felt all 3 sessions were effective
 - ii. All survey respondents said that they would recommend all workshops to a first-time TA
 - iii. Respondents felt the sessions could be taught by a trained grad student fellow
 - iv. For all sessions, all students selected "In-person workshop" as effective. "Online only" was never selected.
 - b. Contact the committee for further details.
 2. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. The committee organized and facilitated a three part pilot seminar series that took place over the spring semester. The committee members established partnerships with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University Counseling Services, and the Center for Teaching to help collaborate on content and lead the seminars. The committee also helped organize evaluation research to obtain data regarding the program successes and areas in need of improvement based on the feedback from grad students who participated.
 3. 2017-2018 Goals
 - a. Next year, the committee should use this data to refine the seminar series and potentially expand the program's reach and impact at the University of Iowa. We should 1) work on implementing the TA Seminar Series as a regularly organized program (at least every Fall Semester), 2) Work with the Graduate College to establish a "TA Endorsement" for those who complete the series, and 3) Increase publicity of the series
- iii. **Jakobsen Committee – Ian Faith**
1. The conference has concluded for the year. The committee is working on improving marketing for the conference.
 2. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. This past year, the Jakobsen committee organized the 19th Annual Jakobsen Memorial Conference and Reception. We hosted over 130 graduate student presenters from the University of Iowa. Alongside the graduate college, we distributed \$5000 in awards, and hosted another 100 members of the UI community and administration.
 3. 2017-2018 Goals



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- a. As we plan the 20th Annual Jakobsen Conference, we would like to increase the number of presenters and attendees. Strategies include marketing earlier in the Fall semester and more aggressively, as well as expanding swag options.

iv. International Student Committee – Mahesh Sasidharan

1. The committee is working on addressing the international graduate student orientation fee, which is disproportionately higher than the fee charged to international undergraduate students. It is unclear where the additional fee amount is going or its intended purpose. International graduate student and undergraduate students receive the same international student orientation.
2. Next year, the committee would like to increase the number of activities they organize.
3. The last International Student Committee social (April 25th) had a very impressive showing at Joe's Place.
4. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. Hosted social nights focusing on the international student community
 - b. Got funds from ISSS
 - c. Drafted a letter to the President to show solidarity with staff and students affected by the immigration ban
 - d. Initiated investigation into more than usual money charged for International Students for Graduate Orientation.
5. 2017-2018 Goals
 - a. Continue supporting International community at UIowa
 - b. Organize more events aimed to ease inter community conversations
 - c. Get the orientation charge issue resolved.

v. Service and Social Committee – Claire Muerdter

1. Next social will include a screening of The Big Lebowski at the IMU theatre on May 11, 2017 from 5-7pm.
2. The committee's recent events, SpringFest and the joint social with the Graduate Student Success Committee, both went smoothly and were well attended.
3. 2016-2017 Accomplishments
 - a. Held five socials for graduate students, with free food. One more social is upcoming. Put on a SpringFest music festival for graduate students with free Oasis food, live bands, and a DJ. Organized a Habitat for Humanity service event. Sponsored a Latino/a Graduate Student Association event.
4. 2017-2018 Goals
 - a. Continue having more regular socials. Plan additional service events.

vi. Travel Funds Committee – Dong Yu and Victoria Parker

1. No report
2. 2016-2017 Accomplishments



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- a. GSS Travel Funds sent 132 graduate students to conferences so far this Fiscal Year (with 1 cycle to go); analyzed funded students and found similar rates for funding awards across graduate divisions
3. 2017-2018 Goals
 - a. The application process is under revision to streamline the process for applicants, TF chairs, and TF reviewers.

7. Elections

- a. Thirty-five (35) voting members present by count of heads. Twenty-eight (28) voting members signed-in. Candidates did not vote in the election of the positions for which they were running. All nominees left the room during the election of their respective positions.
- b. GSS Executives
 - i. President
 1. Nominees: (1) Ian Faith, (2) Addison Woll, (3) Landon Elkind
 2. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 3. Speeches given by each of the candidates
 - a. Speech order adjusted to (1) Ian, (2) Landon, (3) Addison to accommodate Addison giving his speech via phone
 4. Floor opened to questions for each candidate following their speech
 5. Discussion held on each individual candidate
 6. Discussion moved to all three candidates as whole
 7. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 8. Vote via show of hands (count): **Ian Faith** – 21 votes, win by majority vote
 - ii. Vice President
 1. Nominees: (1) Maria Morabe
 2. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 3. Speech by the candidate
 4. Floor opened to questions of the candidate
 5. Discussion on candidate
 6. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 7. Vote via show of hands: **Maria Morabe** – elected by overwhelming majority
 - iii. Treasurer
 1. Nominees: (1) James Mrkvicka
 2. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 3. Candidate not present
 4. Discussion on candidate
 5. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 6. Vote via show of hands: **James Mrkvicka** – elected by overwhelming majority
 - iv. Membership & Publicity Officer
 1. Nominees: (1) Chris Clough-Hunter (2) Landon Elkind
 2. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 3. Speech given by Chris who withdrew his candidacy
 4. No discussion



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5. Call for a vote was made and seconded
6. Vote via show of hands: **Landon Elkind** – elected by overwhelming majority
- v. Executive Associate
 1. Nominees: (1) KaLeigh White
 2. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 3. Speech by the candidate
 4. Floor opened to questions of the candidate
 5. Discussion on candidate
 6. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 7. Vote via show of hands: **KaLeigh White** – elected by overwhelming majority
- vi. Parliamentarian
 1. Nominees: (1) Shane Solst
 2. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 3. Speech by the candidate
 4. Floor opened to questions of the candidate
 5. Discussion on candidate
 6. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 7. Vote via show of hands: **Shane Solst** – elected by overwhelming majority
- c. Grad Council Representatives
 - i. Fine Arts & Humanities nominees: (1) Ian Faith, (2) Landon Elkind.
 1. **Ian Faith** elected de-facto as the incoming President
 - ii. Social Sciences & Education nominees: (1) KaLeigh White
 1. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 2. Speech made by the candidate
 3. Floor opened to questions of the candidate
 4. Discussion on candidate
 5. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 6. Vote via show of hands: **KaLeigh White** – elected by overwhelming majority
 - iii. Biological & Medical Sciences nominees: (1) Addison Woll
 1. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 2. Discussion on the candidate
 3. Candidate not present
 4. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 5. Vote via show of hands: **Addison Woll** – elected by overwhelming majority
 - iv. Physical, Mathematical, & Engineering Sciences nominees: (1) Andrew Metzger, (2) Jenny Verniero
 1. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 2. Speeches made by the candidates
 3. Floor opened to questions of the candidate following their individual speeches
 4. Discussion on each individual candidate
 5. Discussion on the two candidates overall



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6. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 7. Vote via show of hands (count): 27 votes - **Jenny Verniero** elected by majority vote
- d. GPSG Delegates
- i. **Ian Faith**, as incoming president, de-facto appointed to the GSS Delegate At-Large.
 - ii. Fine Arts & Humanities nominees: (1) Ian Faith (2) Landon Elkind
 1. Ian Faith's nomination automatically withdrawn due to de-facto appointment to GSS Delegate At-Large
 2. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 3. No discussion
 4. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 5. Vote via show of hands: **Landon Elkind** – elected by overwhelming majority
 - iii. Social Sciences & Education nominees: (1) KaLeigh White
 1. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 2. Speech by the candidate
 3. Floor opened to questions of the candidate
 4. Discussion on candidate
 5. Call for a vote was made and seconded.
 6. Vote via show of hands: **KaLeigh White** – elected by overwhelming majority
 - iv. Biological & Medical Sciences nominees: (1) Addison Woll, (2) Maria Morabe
 1. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 2. Speech made by Maria Morabe
 - a. Addison's speech for president served in for this position
 3. Floor opened to questions of the candidates
 4. Discussion on each individual candidate
 5. Discussion on the two candidates overall
 6. Call for a vote was made and seconded
 7. Vote via show of hands (count): 20 votes, **Maria Morabe** elected by majority
 - v. Physical, Mathematical, & Engineering Sciences nominees: (1) Andrew Metzger
 1. Call made for any additional nominations – none seen
 2. Speech made by candidate
 3. Discussion on candidate
 4. Call for a vote was made and seconded.
 5. Vote via show of hands: **Andrew Metzger** – elected by overwhelming majority

Adjournment – 7:35pm



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Announcements

a. Big Lebowski Movie Social – May 11th

- vi. Join the GSS Service and Social Committee for a free screening of The Big Lebowski, 5-7 PM IMU Iowa Theatre.
- vii. The group plans to meet up at Dublin Underground following the movie (~7:15 PM)
- viii. Join for either or both parts.

b. Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – May 19th

- ix. This application cycle is for conferences occurring between Jan. 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017.

2016-2017 Graduate Student Senate
Roster of Elected Positions

Executive Officers:

President	Laurena Bernabo	laurena-bernabo@uiowa.edu
Vice President	Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
Treasurer	Andrew Metzger	andrew-metzger@uiowa.edu
Executive Associate	KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Membership/PR Officer	Christopher Clough-Hunter	christopher-clough-hunter@uiowa.edu
Parliamentarian	Shane Solst	shane-solst@uiowa.edu

GPSG Delegates	Laurena Bernabo	laurena-bernabo@uiowa.edu
	Tejasvi Sharma	tejasvi-sharma@uiowa.edu
	Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
	Anh Ngo	anh-ngo@uiowa.edu
	KaLeigh White	kaleigh-white@uiowa.edu
Graduate Council	Laurena Bernabo	laurena-bernabo@uiowa.edu
	Ellen Black	ellen-black@uiowa.edu
	Todd Bagby	todd-bagby@uiowa.edu
	Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
Webmaster	Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu

Roster of Appointed Positions

Committee Chairs:

Graduate Success Committee	Emily Kimpston	emily-kimpston@uiowa.edu
Graduate Voices Committee	Joanna Krajewski	joanna-krajewski@uiowa.edu
International Students Committee	Mahesh Sasidharan	mahesh-sasidharan@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference Committee	Ian Faith	ian-faith@uiowa.edu
Service and Social Committee	Claire Muerdter	claire-muerdter@uiowa.edu
Travel Funds Committee	Dong Yu	dong-yu@uiowa.edu
	Victoria Parker	victoria-parker@uiowa.edu