



Graduate Student Senate
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes
September 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. Conferring of Degrees – May Ceremony
 - i. The college is currently discussing updates to the Graduate College May commencement.
 1. The Graduate College is considering moving the May ceremony to Hancher Auditorium (like the December ceremony), rather than Carver Hawkeye Arena. In order to fit all of the graduates in Hancher, they could divide the May Graduate College commencement into two ceremonies, one for master students and one for doctoral students. These changes would also help to make the ceremony nicer and more comfortable than is possible in Carver.
 2. The College is also searching for other ways to make commencement event more efficient. Particularly, they hope to give master students more adequate recognition, as the doctoral students tend to receive significantly more time and recognition during the ceremony.
 - ii. Annual Graduate College report is posted on the website:
<https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2017-08-08/annual-report-2016-2017>.
 - iii. Check out their newly updated website: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/>.
 - iv. Thanks to Ian and GSS for their work on the UI Grad Guide.
 - v. Summer Research Opportunities Program – SROP
 1. Iowa is one of the BIG10 schools participating. The program provides an opportunity for underrepresented and first-generation undergraduates to connect with graduate level research. Of the BIG10 schools participating, UI has the highest percentage of its attendees go on to graduate school
 - vi. CIRTL is going into its second year on campus. Watch for professional development opportunities through the program:
<https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/cirtl>.
 - vii. “Three Minute Thesis” (3MT) registration deadline is September 25th.
 - viii. The graduate college is also holding the “Thesis In-Focus” competition for the first time. It is a visual competition featuring research related images.
 - ix. Find more information about 3MT and Thesis In-Focus here:
<https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/three-minute-thesis-competition-at-the-university-of-iowa>.
 - 4. GPSG President Report** (5 mins.) – Tejasvi Sharma
 - a. GPSG is just over 10 years old. It was formed in 2006.
 - b. An informational flyer of was handed out. See attached.
 - c. Stay connected with GPSG: <https://gpsg.uiowa.edu/>.
 - d. If you would like to contribute in any way, contact Tejasvi Sharma (tejasvi-sharma@uiowa.edu).
 - 5. Old Business**
 - a. None



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6. New Business

- a. Each full senator is required to serve on one GSS committee. This year, to make sure each committee has enough help, the executive council will assign each senator to a committee based on their individual preferences. Senators may serve on more than one committee but we ask that they give preference in their time/energy to their assigned committee.
 - i. **Please complete this survey by September 15th to indicate your GSS committee preference(s):**
https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nt6awGFTFxEEsZ.
 - ii. Committee descriptions can be found here:
<https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/committees>.
 - iii. NOTE: Serving on the executive council, as GPSG delegate, or on the Graduate Council fulfills a senator's committee service requirements.

7. Reports

- a. **President Report** – Ian Faith (10 mins)
 - i. The UI Grad Guide was published at the beginning of August. Check it out and share it: <https://gradguide.uiowa.edu/>.
 1. The guiding question behind its creation was: "What do you know now that you wish you would have known in your first year of grad school?"
 - ii. Tuition Increase
 1. The Iowa Board of Regents is proposing a 7% annual increase to Iowa undergraduate tuition over 5 years.
 2. The BOR meets this week (9/6-9/7).
 3. The proposed increase is in response to several years of state divestiture in public universities.
 4. It is currently unclear how this change will affect graduate and professional students.
 - iii. Graduate Student Employment Committee
 1. The committee was formed in response to the unions in the state of Iowa being stripped of collective bargaining rights, including COGS, the UI graduate student union.
 - a. The committee was modeled after faculty committee on employment and retirement benefits.
 - b. The committee consists of 9 graduate students (3 of which are nominated by COGS), 2 faculty members, and one administrator.
 2. The committee is waiting for faculty senate to appoint their 2 representatives so the committee can meet.
 - a. Landon Elkind: COGS remains, under the new state law, the sole employee representative with respect to all matters of employment as outlined in Chapter 20. The new law made it so the Regents/UI do not *have* to negotiate on any matters of employment except wages, but COGS remains the employee representative (e.g. COGS can still represent employees in grievance procedures). In addition, COGS must now hold a vote every 2 years to remain as a union. Under the new state law, a



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full 1/2 of union members (or about 1100 people out 2200 people) must first show up to the poll and then all 1100 of those members must vote yes in order to remain unionized.

- iv. GPSG leadership is actively investigating whether the duties and roles typically performed by graduate student TAs are now being performed by undergraduate TAs, and if so, whether that translates to fewer appointments for incoming and continuing graduate students. Details of the findings forthcoming.
- b. **Graduate Council Report**
 - i. A graduate council representative will provide a report of activities at each GSS general assembly meeting to give senators a better idea of the work conducted by the graduate council.
- c. **GPSG Delegates Report**
 - i. The first GPSG meeting of the year is tonight directly following the GSS general assembly meeting. A delegate will provide a report each GSS general assembly meeting to keep senators better informed about the work of GPSG.
- d. **Committee Reports** – Description of each committee given. Find committee descriptions here: <https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/committees>. Once committees are formed, each committee will need to elect a chair. (5 mins)
 - i. Graduate Student Success Committee – (unidentified speaker)
 - ii. Graduate Student Teaching Committee –KaLeigh White
 - iii. Jakobsen Committee – Maria Morabe
 - iv. International Student Committee – Ian Faith
 - v. Service and Social Committee – Claire Muerdter
 - vi. Travel Funds Committee – Dong Yu
 - 1. Travel Fund Committee Fiscal Report (10 mins) – Dong Yu
 - a. See attached report.
 - b. The committee is trying to improve the application process to make it smoother for applicants.
 - c. In order to improve the committee’s response rate to graduate student emails, the committee is adding an assistant co-chair position whose primary responsibility will be to respond to emails. In addition, the assistant co-chair will act as a 3rd person able to sign-off on funding approvals when one of the co-chairs is not available.

8. Committee Breakout Sessions

9. Adjournment – 6:55 PM

Announcements

- a. **Next Travel Funds Application Deadline – October 6th**
 - i. The next GSS Travel Fund application deadline is Oct. 6, 2017 by 11:59 PM. This round of applications is for conferences occurring between May 1, 2017 and October 30, 2017.
- b. **Travel Funding Scoring Session – September 11th**



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- i. The next scheduled is on **Monday, September 11th between 5:30 and 7pm in 201 VAN.**
- C. **Reminder to send in your GSS committee preferences** by September 15th.
 - i. Complete the survey here:
https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nt6awGFTFxEEsZ.

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
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Roster of Appointed Positions

Committee Chairs:

Graduate Success Committee	OPEN	
Graduate Voices Committee	OPEN	
International Students Committee	OPEN	
Jakobsen Conference Committee	Maria Morabe	marialiana-morabe@uiowa.edu
Service and Social Committee	OPEN	
Travel Funds Committee	OPEN	
	OPEN	