



Graduate Student Senate
General Meeting
Agenda
1 September 2009

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

- I. Call to Order – 5:30 pm
 - o Approval of Agenda and Minutes (~1 min)
- II. Introduction of Senators (~2 min)
- III. 222: 2 Senators, 2 Departments, 2 minutes (4 min)
 - o Senator Tim Gupton (Spanish & Portuguese)
 - o Senator Mohamed Habib (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
- IV. Graduate College Report (15 min)
 - o Dean Keller
 - o Dean Berkowitz
 - o John Riehl
- V. Guest Speaker (15 min)
 - o Edward Shreeves – University of Iowa Libraries (Open Access Week)
- VI. Executive Reports
 - A. President's Report – Kristina Rogers*
 - B. Vice President's Report – Donna Lancianese*
 - C. Treasurer's Report – Andy Kopf*
 - D. Membership Officer's Report – Mohamed Habib
 - E. Graduate Council Report – Johnathan Gajdos, Alexandra Nica, Oksana Zagorodna
 - F. Graduate Student Organizations – Alexandra Nica
 - G. ECGPS Delegate Report – Si-Chi Chin*
 - H. DGSAC Chair Report – Ulrike Carlson
 - I. Webmaster Report – Tim Paschkewitz*
- VII. Committee Representative Reports
 - A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Alexandra Nica*
 - B. Computer Resources Committee – Andy Kopf*
 - C. International Student Committee – Brad Thomas, Joseph Steinitz*
 - D. Education Outreach Committee – Ulrike Carlson, Perry Motsegood*
 - E. Jakobsen Conference Committee – Keith Avin, stef shuster, Kate Stopa*
 - F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Alexandra Nica, Tim Paschkewitz*
 - G. Service Committee – Nirmalla Barros, Dee Ann Grove*
 - H. Social Committee – Meggie Aube, Andy Kopf*
 - I. Travel Funds Committee – Tim Gupton, Oksana Zagorodna*
- VIII. Elections
 - o Center for Human Rights representation
- IX. Legislation
 - o GSS-R-2009-001
- X. Announcements
 - o Post-Meeting Dinner Location: Buffalo Wild Wings (Old Capital Mall)
- XI. Open Discussion
 - o Opened by chair - Closed by motion with second
- XII. Adjournment (~1 min)

* Reports included



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- III. **222: 2 Senators, 2 Departments, 2 minutes** (4 min)
 - A. Senator Tim Gupton (Spanish & Portuguese)
 - B. Senator Mohamed Habib (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
- IV. **Graduate College Report**
 - o Dean Keller
 - o Dean Berkowitz
 - o John Riehl
- V. **Guest Speaker** (~15 min)
 - o Edward Shreeves – University of Iowa Libraries (Open Access Week)
- VI. **Executive Reports**
 - A. **President's Report**

Welcome to a fantastic year in GSS!

You are the link between GSS and the graduate students in your department. Please be sure to keep your department updated regarding GSS events and important news. Each department will be receiving a GSS Handbook (PDF also available online for additional copies). Please use this as a reference should you have any questions regarding GSS.

As was done last year, the executive council minutes and general senate meeting agenda/minutes will be available on the website at <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/meetings>.

On Wednesday, August 19, seven GSS members represented the University of Iowa at the State Fair booth in Des Moines, IA. Senators Paschkewitz, Gupton, Kaiser, Wan, Dean, and Kopf joined me during the morning to hand out posters, football schedules and temporary tattoos. During the afternoon, four more GSS members worked at the New Graduate Student Information Fair in the IMU. Vice President Lancianese and Senators Nica, Barros, and Thomas talked to new grads about the opportunities available in GSS. Thanks to everyone who helped out during this very busy day!

The Graduate College will be launching a new blog where four GSS Grads will discuss their research, the life of a graduate student, and any other Graduate College news that may be of interest. In addition to the new blogs, the Graduate College has also launched a Facebook page (Graduate College at The University of Iowa). Be sure to add the GSS Facebook page, too!

At the May 6, 2009 GSS meeting, Dean Keller came to present the plans for a new Mandatory Fee, which would be implemented to sponsor additional professional development programming for graduate students. At this meeting, a question and answer session was conducted and it was received well by the senators in attendance. The Executive Council of the GSS, acting as the GSS during the summer interim (per Art. V, Sec. E, Par. 1 of the GSS Constitution) voted on this fee on 8/5/09 and was approved by majority vote. A letter of endorsement and support from GSS was submitted to Dean Keller on August 5. Please see Resolution **GSS-R-2009-001** in Appendix IV, page 8.

Thank you for your interest in GSS! Please take a moment to browse the committee pages on the website and plan to be involved in at least one committee throughout the year.

I am looking forward to a great year in GSS!



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B. Vice President's Report

Echoing President Rogers sentiments, welcome to another fabulous year!

This summer Senators Alexandra Nica, Brad Thomas, and Nirmalla Barros and I attended the Graduate Orientation Information Fair on Wednesday, August 19th as representatives of GSS. We disseminated information about what GSS is, what we do for graduate students, and how graduate students can get involved with GSS (and stickers and cookies) to the new graduate students. Thank you Alexandra, Nirmalla, and Brad for helping out, it was a successful day!

As vice-president, one of my duties is "Committee on Committees." When there is a graduate student representative needed for a committee outside of GSS, it is my responsibility to open nominations for the position. The Center for Human Rights recently sought a graduate student representative and we voted on the nominations at the executive council meeting last Thursday. Thank you for all who self-nominated.

I am looking forward to another great year. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

C. Treasurer's Report

This year's theme is simple – We Have Money!

Due to last year's student activity fee split, our funds are now appropriated by GPAC instead of SABAC. As a result, GSS has seen a huge increase of over 50% from last year's total budget, which this year stands at \$17,988. A breakdown of how this money will be allocated was given to the committee chairs at the August 27 Executive Council meeting, so it is not included here, but feel free to contact Treasurer Kopf or your committee chairs with any questions about it. Some money has been set aside for new or expanded events and ideas, so money is available as needed.

In addition, changes have been made to our financial system, in an effort to streamline the process and simplify things for all parties involved. Please observe the following:

- **All spending paperwork is to be signed by the Treasurer.** Although three GSS officers have the power to sign these forms (President, VP, and Treasurer), I have asked the President and VP not to sign them. This will make it easier for me to keep track of where the money is going, how much money you have left, and which forms still need to be completed.
- **Keep your receipts.** This makes it much easier on me to track expenses, so give me a copy of receipts whenever possible. Either hard copies or electronic ones are fine.
- **This is GSS money, not your own.** Extra funds are available, but will be given out by request, not because you overspent. Stick to your budgets where possible, but if you find it to be too restrictive, let me know how much more you need and why. We have money if we need it. I intend to be very flexible on this, but just want to ensure the money is being used effectively.
- **Do not spend your own money.** GSS has money, and that money can now be spent on virtually anything, food included. Please plan your events and needs far enough in advance so as to allow the required paperwork to go through. If for some reason you must spend out of pocket, please notify me before doing so, or I may elect not to sign any reimbursement paperwork. Again, this is not your money, and it shouldn't be spent as if it is.

If you have an idea for a new event, we have money. Funds have been set aside for new events to encourage committees to continue to update their program. Tell me what you



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want to do and give me a rough breakdown of the expected costs, and I'll happily give you money for that. That's what it's there for.

Since more is running directly through me this year, I'll make every effort to be very accessible. You can always email me (ajkopf@gmail.com), call me (563-320-3437), or visit my office (713 Van Allen Hall). I'm generally in Van Allen from 9-5 every day. I am also more than happy to meet you halfway (i.e., the Student Org Budget Office in the IMU) to save you a bit of walking if you need my signature.

Committee chairs can expect monthly reports from me on your remaining funds. The balance of the GSS "00" Account, our personal account for miscellaneous expenses, will be printed in this report each month.

Current "00" Balance: \$1408.03

D. **Membership Officer's Report** – Nothing to report.

E. **Graduate Council Report** – Nothing to report.

F. **Graduate Student Organizations**

During summer the liaison activities have been closely linked with my Academic Mentoring efforts. I have been in contact with OISS, DSP and the Academic Advising Center for undergraduates in that respect and will also meet again with ICRU, OGEI and SROP/McNair for the same purpose.

Further updates will be added to the GSS website. If you have any questions, suggestions or need assistance to link/represent GSS with other organizations on campus, please let me know (alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu).

Thank you!

G. **ECGPS Delegate Report** – Nothing to report.

H. **DGSAC Chair Report**

The DGSAC (Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Committee) meets once a semester with Dean Maxson to discuss university matters pertaining to graduate students. In previous semesters, topics included funding issues related to the economic downtown area and how this affects graduate students, effects of the flood, university policies regarding Graduate Teaching Assistants and Faculty searches. This semester the committee plans again to function as a hub between graduate students and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, to directly address and discuss matters pertaining to all of us.

If you would like further information, please contact Ulrike Carlson (ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu).

I. **Webmaster Report**

The new Drupal Based website worked out very well last year. There's always functionality we can add and things we can change – so if you or your committee wants to talk about some changes, please schedule some time to sit down with me and we'll see what can be done. Otherwise, while Committee Chairs are responsible for maintaining their own pages on the site, I can always help and provide additional assistance. I will be having a "Drupal Learning Course" within the next bit of time, so please attend if you want to learn more about how to use our website. If you have any GSS related photos, please send them to me and I'll have them posted on our pictures page. Welcome back (or hi again if you've been here all summer) and I look forward to working with all of you.



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VII. Committee Representative Reports

A. Academic Mentoring Committee

Our Academic Mentoring survey that we have implemented last spring will be circulated again in the upcoming month. I am hoping for a much bigger turnout for the results because it will be send out at the beginning of a new school year and more students (graduate and undergraduate) will have a chance to complete it this time around.

Senators will receive a survey-related email from me via the GSS list in a few days. Please take this survey yourselves and encourage everyone to take it as well – it is short, it will take you about 5 minutes and it will provide valuable information that we will use in tailoring our scope and application details.

During summer I have talked, met and distributed mentoring materials (containing information and link to our survey) to students/staff from OISS, DSP and the Academic Advising Center for undergraduates to raise awareness of our Mentoring efforts and projects. More organizations will be contacted throughout the first months of this semester.

I am also very pleased to announce that senator Ulrike Carlson will assist me now as Vice-Chair of the Academic Mentoring committee with our upcoming goals and projects.

Our imminent goal is to finalize the application process for mentors and mentees on the GSS website and to continue in our efforts to distribute mentoring related information to the entire student population.

In the Spring semester one of our main projects will be again reviewing the Sandra Barkan Mentoring Awards 2010, that will be given during the Jakobsen Graduate Conference 2010.

Further updates will be added to the GSS website. If you have any questions, suggestions or are interested in participating in the mentoring committee, please let me know (alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu).

Thank you!

B. Computer Resources Committee

This summer the Computer Committee reallocated 62 iMac computers to 32 departments and programs across campus. Special thanks to President Rogers for her assistance in storing these computers in the Chemistry Building, and to those who helped with the distribution on August 27.

The Computer Committee is primarily a summer committee, with limited activity during the academic year. The committee will be actively seeking to increase its membership during the spring, however, as next summer projects to have roughly 300 PCs to reallocate. A chair or co-chair position will also be available for next summer's reallocations. If you expect to be in Iowa City the majority of next summer and are interested in either chairing or helping with the reallocations by serving on the committee, please contact committee chair Andy Kopf (ajkopf@gmail.com).

C. International Student Committee

We will be representing GSS at a booth at the Fulbright Gateway Orientation in the IMU on Thursday, 9/3, from 8:30-9:30am. This is an orientation for international students coming to study in the US, where they will learn what to expect at their stateside universities and communities. Let us know if you're interested in staffing the booth with us.

D. Education Outreach Committee

Greetings on behalf of the Educational Outreach Committee!

The Educational Outreach Committee is a new committee subdivided into two distinct areas. One area is dedicated to reaching out to students at The University of Iowa and one the other is intended to reach local schools (elementary, high, colleges, etc).



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This committee is working with the Graduate College to develop and plan the "Graduate Enrichment Series" (formerly G.R.A.D or Brown Bag Lunches) as part of their duties. It's important that GSS help provide resources and informational seminars to graduate students for personal and professional development. Keep posted as this committee develops an excellent seminar series.

It is also envisioned that we will develop programs in which GSS coordinate with local schools and organizations to promote learning and scholarship as well as teaching others what The University of Iowa can offer them.

If you are interested in participating in this committee please contact the co-chairs, Ulrike Carlson and Perry Motsegood.

Ulrike Carlson – ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu

Perry Motsegood – perry-motsegood@uiowa.edu

E. Jakobsen Conference Committee

The 12th annual James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference will take place on Friday, March 26th and Saturday, March 27th, 2010! Like last year, the conference will be held in the Iowa Memorial Union. Throughout the month of September, the conference co-chairs will be recruiting committee members. This year we are attempting to create committee member positions with specialized tasks that happen before or during the actual conference. Each submission division also has a Division Head, a committee position which carries more responsibility than a general committee position. The divisions include Arts & Research (AR), Biological & Health Sciences (BH), Humanities (HUM), Mathematical, Physical & Engineering Sciences (MPE) and Social Sciences & Education (SSE). The first committee meeting will be held at the end of September.

Your conference co-chairs are:

Keith Avin - Publicity - Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (keith-avin@uiowa.edu)

stef shuster - Judging and Submissions Department of Sociology (stef-shuster@uiowa.edu)

Kate Stopa - Event Planning - Department of Theate Arts (kate-stopa@uiowa.edu)

Contact any one of us if you would like to be involved, or if you have ideas and questions for the next conference.

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee

Over the summer, Alexandra Nica and Tim Paschkewitz compiled the survey data and met with the new JFJ Co-Chairs, Keith Avin, stef shuster, and Kate Stopa along with President Rogers. We discussed some global aspects of the conference and ways that things can be improved for future years. One of the big issues was whether to incorporate the SURF (undergraduate research posters) into the Conference. We decided that we would entertain the idea such that it would not detract from JFJ remaining a Graduate conference. To our benefit, it may increase participation and attendance. Having the chairs selected for the conference this much in advance is very exciting. Alexandra and Tim have also had some great conversations with John Riehl in the Graduate College about increasing the exposure and advertising of the conference the greater University Community. The committee doesn't have immediate plans to meet again, but will convene when/if necessary.



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G. Service Committee

Welcome back! The Service Committee is an excellent way to meet other graduate students and work with the community. It also provides an opportunity to help promote the image of GSS and graduate students as meaningful contributors to the university community as well as the larger Iowa City community, which we all [at least, temporarily] call home. In the past, the committee has worked on a number of great service projects. This year, we hope to focus our energies on a few projects. This will provide the best opportunity to demonstrate GSS's commitment to supporting graduate students in their efforts to have a positive impact on the university and local community. We're excited to hear about your ideas for projects! If you could, please provide your contact information on the circulating sign-up sheet so we can send you committee information. We'll send out a poll to find out which days/times are the most convenient for our monthly committee meetings. We hope you join our committee to be part of an enthusiastic team dedicated to Service!

H. Social Committee

After an exciting year of social events last year, the Social Committee is gearing up to do it all again... and more!

The school year has just begun, and already on the schedule is the Fall Picnic, tentatively set for Sunday, September 20. More details will follow soon. Among other events on the docket for this year are informal monthly mixers downtown, a graduate student night at the art museum, and of course the annual Fall Ball and Spring Bash.

We're always looking for ideas for new social events, so if you have any, please contact co-chairs Andy Kopf (ajkopf@gmail.com) and Meggie Aube (meghan-aube@uiowa.edu), or bring them to the committee meetings. The first meeting is planned for Monday, September 14, 5:30 pm at T-Spoons, on the corner of Market and Linn.

We hope you'll join the Social Committee and be a part of all the fun and excitement this year!

I. Travel Funds Committee

Travel Funds GSS Committee chairs would like to welcome back all returning senators and especially committee members. We would also like to welcome all new senators. We hope all of you had a great summer and are full of energy to start the new study year.

Please consider serving on the Travel Funds Committee. GSS provides travel funding assistance to graduate students who present their research at conferences, meetings, symposia and similar professional or academic gatherings. The funds are provided by the Graduate College and allocated by the Travel Funds Committee to deserving applicants at multiple deadlines throughout each fiscal year. As a committee member, you will participate in review sessions that are scheduled a week following each application deadline. The application submissions and reviews are both completed strictly electronically. The committee holds actual meetings for review sessions. In order to maintain membership in good standing, a member cannot miss more than ONE committee meeting during a given semester. Committee members from past years indicate that the benefits of the experience obtained through evaluating applications of other students helps them in explaining their own research better, as well as understanding the review processes on a broad scale.

We received close to 60 applications for the last (July 2009) round. Over thirty percent of them were funded. Thank you to the following reviewers for their time and effort in reviewing the summer round of applications: Nirmalla Barros, Ben Galluzzo, Chiemi Hanzawa, Stephen Kaepler, Yelena Mejova, Alexandra Nica, Jacqueline Smits, Sara Stasik.

The GSS Travel Funds deadlines for the 2009 fiscal year are on Thursdays, 11:59pm, as follows: **Sept 24, Nov 19, Feb 18, Apr 22, May 20, July 8.**

The committee meetings (reviews) will be held on Wednesdays following the actual application deadline dates as follows: **Sept 30, Nov 25, Feb 24, Apr 28, May 26, July**



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14. The meeting place is currently being discussed with the Information Technology services and will be announced to the committee members when confirmed.

We are looking forward to a great year.

VIII. **Elections**

- o Center for Human Rights representation

IX. **Legislation**

- o GSS-R-2009-001

GSS-R-2009-001

Introduced by: Tim Paschkewitz (Chemistry) and Alexandra Nica (Economics)

Subject: Proposal to Establish a New Mandatory Fee for Graduate Students

Type: Resolution of Expressed Support

WHEREAS the Graduate College has offered and/or sponsored numerous professional development opportunities to The University Community, focusing closely on the needs of graduate students (such as various workshops and lectures, the Welcome and Orientation Event, The James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference, and resources for external grant funding through sponsored graduate assistantships); and

WHEREAS the response of participating and attending graduate students has been extremely positive and graduate student population benefits directly from these professional development opportunities; and

WHEREAS graduate students have asked for additional programming and more diverse offerings of opportunities; and

WHEREAS current budget restraints limit the available programming options and will likely result in reduced programming and possible elimination of existing programming; and

WHEREAS Graduate College Dean John Keller presented an initial plan and conducted a question and answer session during a regularly scheduled GSS Meeting on May 6, 2009; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the GSS, endorse and support an establishment of a New Mandatory Fee for Graduate Students, to be applied as follows:

Proposed Fee Schedule

Enrolled hours (sh)	Fee per semester (\$)	Estimated aggregate fee (\$)
0 – 2	20	38,000
3 – 4	25	13,000
5 – 6	25	10,000
7 – 8	30	4,000
> 9	30	73,000
SUM		138,000 x 2 semesters 276,000

Proposed Fee Uses



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Event	Use (\$)
Graduate College Welcome and Orientation	12,500
Jakobsen Graduate Conference	20,000
Professional Development workshops/seminars:	
P&S coordinator (salary and FB)	80,000
General expense (advertising, websites, Course materials, etc)	27,500
Graduate Assistants for Research Development:	68,000
Two 50% appts, stipend, tuition, benefits @ \$34,000 each)	
Graduate Assistants for Teaching Development:	68,000
Two 50% appts, stipend, tuition, benefits @ \$34,000 each)	
SUM	276,000

Approved by majority vote of The Executive Council of the GSS, acting as the GSS during the summer interim (per Art. V, Sec. E, Par. 1 of the GSS Constitution) on 8/5/09 including the following officers: President Kristina Rogers; Vice President Donna Lancianese; Treasurer Andy Kopf; Executive Associate Perry Motsegood; Membership Officer Mohamed Habib; Parliamentarian Tim Gupton; Graduate Council Members Johnathan Gajdos, Oksana Zagorodna, Alexandra Nica; ECGPS Delegate Si-Chi Chin; Webmaster Tim Paschkewitz

X. Announcements

- o Post-Meeting Dinner Location: Buffalo Wild Wings (Old Capital Mall)

XI. Open Discussion

XII. Adjournment



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2009-2010 Graduate Student Senate
 Roster of Appointed Positions

Executive Officers:

President	Kristina Rogers	kristina-rogers@uiowa.edu
Vice President	Donna Lancianese	donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu
Parliamentarian	Timothy Gupton	timothy-gupton@uiowa.edu
Treasurer	Andy Kopf	andrew-kopf@uiowa.edu
Executive Associate	Perry Motsegood	perry-motsegood@uiowa.edu
Membership Officer	Mohamed Habib	mohamedahmed-habib@uiowa.edu
ECGPS Delegate	Si-Chi Chin	si-chi-chin@uiowa.edu
Graduate Council	Johnathan Gajdos	johnathan-gajdos@uiowa.edu
	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
	Kristina Rogers	Kristina-rogers@uiowa.edu
	Oksana Zagorodna	oksana-zagorodna@uiowa.edu
	Ulrike Carlson	ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Committee (DGSAC)		
Graduate Student Organizations Liason (GSO)	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
Webmaster	Tim Paschkewitz	timothy-paschkewitz@uiowa.edu

Committee Chairs:

Academic Mentoring	Ulrike Carlson	ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
Computer Resource	Andy Kopf	andrew-kopf@uiowa.edu
International Student	Joseph Steinitz	joseph-steinitz@uiowa.edu
	Brad Thomas	bradley-thomas@uiowa.edu
Educational Outreach	Ulrike Carlson	ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
	Perry Motsegood	perry-motsegood@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference	Keith Avin	keith-avin@uiowa.edu
	stef shuster	stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
	Kate Stopa	kate-stopa@uiowa.edu
Jakobsen Conference Review	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
	Tim Paschkewitz	timothy-paschkewitz@uiowa.edu
Travel Funds	Tim Gupton	timothy-gupton@uiowa.edu
	Oksana Zagorodna	oksana-zagorodna@uiowa.edu
Service	Nirmalla Barros	nirmalla-barros@uiowa.edu
	Dee Ann Grove	deeanngrove@earthlink.net
Social	Meggie Aube	meghan-aube@uiowa.edu
	Andy Kopf	andrew-kopf@uiowa.edu

GSS Appointees:

Graduate and Professional Allocation Committee (GPAC)	Donna Lancianese	donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu
	Alexandra Nica	alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
	stef shuster	stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
	Raquel Baker (alt)	raquel-baker@uiowa.edu
	Aaron Hefel (alt)	aaron-hefel@uiowa.edu
	Saurav Pandit (alt)	saurav-pandit@uiowa.edu