Minutes

I. Call to Order – 6:05 pm
   - Approval of Agenda and Minutes (~1 min)

II. Introduction of Senators (~1 min)

III. 222: 2 Senators, 2 Departments, 2 minutes (~2 min)
   - Katie Benson, Mathematics
   - Juan Carlos Herrera Mujica, Spanish & Portugese

IV. Graduate College Report (15 min)
   - Dean Keller – The Dean offered an update on Fellowship season including the Stanley and Cleary fellowships, the Graduate College Summer Fellowships, and the Ballard and Seashore fellowships. He informed the Senate about the interactions of the Graduate College with the Board of Regents, including the request that would be made to eliminate one of the fees charged at the time of thesis submission. Finally, the Dean reported on negotiations of the 2011-2013 contract between COGS and the Board of Regents. By law the contract must be decided by March 15, but the Board of Regents will not have determined tuition by that time because the state legislature will not have the budget passed yet.

V. Guest Speakers
   - Mark Harris, Students with Disability Services (SDS) – SDS co-ordinates academic accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. T.A.s were reminded that only those students that provide documentation of their registration with SDS are entitled to services. Certain accommodations are never allowed, for example absences and missed due dates. The office processes over 400,000 pages of paper to electronic text conversion each semester and requests clean copies from instructors to make this processing easier. Over 600 students are registered, including those in the graduate college. T.A.s are encouraged to call for confirmation and clarification for any questions they have.

VI. Elections/Nominations
   - Graduate Council Biological/Health Sciences Position: Spring 2011-Spring 2012 Term
     Nominees: Maneesh Kumar
     After questions and discussion, the vote was called and seconded. Senator Kumar was elected as the new Graduate Council Representative.

   - GSS Parliamentarian
     Nominees: Juan Carlos Herrera Mujica
     After questions and discussion, the vote was called and seconded. Senator Herrera Mujica was elected as the new Parliamentarian.

   - Hancher/Finkbine Medallions
     Nominees: Donna Lancianese, Mike Palermo, Kristi DiClemente, stef shuster, Nirmalla Barros
     After questions and discussion, the vote was called and seconded. Senator Lancianese and President shuster were nominated for the Hancher/Finkbine Medallions.

VII. Executive and Committee Activities
   - Review of Committee Activity and Membership
   - Senate Survey

      - Committee Work
        Senators were asked to work with the Jakobsen Conference Committee first if they were on this committee.
o  (Please review Reports that follow. * Reports included)

Executive Reports
A. President’s Report – stef shuster*
B. Vice President’s Report – James Skretta
C. Treasurer’s Report – Brian Borchers
D. Membership Officer’s Report – Ulrike Carlson
E. Parliamentarian’s Report
F. Graduate Council Report – Kristi DiClemente, Kristina Rogers, stef shuster*
G. Graduate Student Organizations – Meggie Aube
H. ECGPS Delegate Report – Senthilkumar Perumal Kuppusamy, stef shuster, Meggie Aube (alternate)
I. DGSAC Chair Report – Nirmalla Barros
J. Webmaster Report – Maneesh Kumar*

Committee Representative Reports
A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Tracy Morgan, Meryl Irwin*
   Applications for the Sandra H. Barkan Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award are now available on the GSS website and are open until March 15.

B. Computer Resources Committee – Brian Borchers
C. Education Outreach Committee – Ulrike Carlson, Donna Lancianese*
D. International Student Committee – Joseph Steinitz, Chris Harris, Nikhil Sikka

E. Jakobsen Conference Committee – Kyle Moody; Lynettia Felling; Lauren Rosales*
   Submissions for the Jakobsen Conference are still open until February 1. Please encourage your department members to submit.

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Kristina Rogers

G. Service Committee – Kimberly Hoppe, Katie Benson*
   The Penny Wars trophy was awarded to the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology.

H. Social Committee – Mike Palermo*
   Senators were reminded about the Friday After Classes (FAC) this week at DC’s on Friday at 7 pm.

I. Travel Funds Committee – Kristi DiClemente, Alissa Hulstrand*
   The next travel funds deadline is February 17.

J. GPAC Representatives – Kelli Todd, Mike Palermo, Brian Borchers

VIII. Announcements
IX. Open Discussion
   o  Opened by chair - Closed by motion with second and approval by senate

XI. Adjournment – 8:00 pm (~1 min)
Agenda and Reports

I. Call to Order – 6:00 pm
   o Approval of Agenda and Minutes (~1 min)

II. Introduction of Senators (~1 min)

III. 222: 2 Senators, 2 Departments, 2 minutes (~2 min)
   o Katie Benson, Mathematics
   o Volunteer from the Senate

IV. Graduate College Report (15 min)
   o Dean Keller

V. Guest Speakers
   o Mark Harris, Students with Disability Services (SDS)

VI. Elections/Nominations
   o Graduate Council Biological/Health Sciences Position: Spring 2011-Spring 2012 Term
     The Graduate Council is the academic policy-making body for the Graduate College. The GSS elects
     four of its members to the body on an annual basis, in accord with Art. V, Sect. E, Par. 2, in the GSS
     Handbook.

   • Graduate Council Representatives are required to attend meetings of the Graduate Council on a
     regular basis.
   • Graduate Council Representatives are required to keep the Executive Council and the rest of the
     membership of the GSS informed as to the activities of the Graduate Council.
   • The Graduate Council meets at 8:15am in the GILH Callen Conference Room. The Spring 2011
     meetings are below:
     o February 10; February 24; March 10; March 24; April 7; April 21; May 5

   • GSS Parliamentarian
     The Parliamentarian ensures that meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion. The Parliamentarian is
     the authority on constitutional issues, as well as the traditions of the GSS and Robert’s Rules of Order.

     • The Parliamentarian is responsible for calling meetings of the GSS to order.
     • The Parliamentarian shall recommend changes to the GSS Constitution on an annual basis, to keep it
       accord with the practices of the GSS.
     • The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for any research into the rules and regulations of the
       University affecting the GSS or the graduate student population as is required by the Executive
       Council or the GSS.

   • Hancher-Finkbine Medallions
     The criteria for nomination and selection are inscribed on the Medallion itself—LEARNING -LEADERSHIP -
     LOYALTY. The suggestions below are intended merely to make more concrete some of the ways in
     which these general criteria might exhibit themselves in students.

     • A student who exemplifies the characteristics of LEARNING should:
       • ...be possessed of a keen mind which he or she consciously cultivates and hones through
         reading, listening, and reflection;
       • ...be intellectually alert and curious, not only in his or her own field of specialization, but also in
         the other areas important to an educated person;
...give evidence of independence in study and thought. In class and conversation the student should demonstrate that he or she accepts a conclusion or a point of view only when persuaded that its validity is buttressed by adequate evidence; 
...demonstrate in written work and spoken dialog that he or she is imbued with the spirit of scholarship and his or her field of academic interest; 
...provide outward evidence of intellectual capacity by having earned marks in academic work which show beyond question that teachers have respect for his or her ability.

- A student who exemplifies the characteristics of LEADERSHIP should:
  - ...give evidence of willingness to assume responsibility in classes by participating in class discussion, raising relevant questions, and generally demonstrating active involvement in the work of the course; 
  - ...assume, if called on, positions of responsibility in organizations and groups of which he or she is a member and perform his or her duties with diligence; 
  - ...make his or her influence felt on the side of reason and good will, on public issues or issues affecting the life of the University; 
  - ...carry his or her academic work, from time to time, beyond the minimum level established by instructors--by reading additional works, performing additional experiments--that is, by "walking the extra mile"; 
  - ...volunteer, on occasion, to take on additional tasks, not from motives of self-aggrandizement but because he or she feels it will advance the objectives or social welfare of the group.

- A student who exemplifies the characteristics of LOYALTY should:
  - ...give evidence in everyday behavior that he or she adheres to the standards expected of the liberally educated individual; 
  - ...measure utterances and actions, not solely from the standpoint of personal conviction and self-interest, but in the context of the best interests of the University as a whole; 
  - ...stand firm for personal convictions, if they will pass the tests of reason and good will, even though it may be at the cost of losing group approval; 
  - ...exhibit reasoned devotion to the basic values and ideals of American constitutional government as he or she understands them; 
  - ...operate within the framework of a "loyal opposition" on those issues where personal convictions bring him or her into conflict with prevailing opinion.

VII. Executive and Committee Activities
- Review of Committee Activity and Membership
- Senate Survey
- Committee Work
- (Please review Reports that follow.)

Executive Reports
A. President’s Report – stef shuster
Welcome Back! If you are new to the Senate, please take a few minutes to look around on our website <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu>. Our website contains most of the information you will need to know about being a Senator, becoming involved in committee work, and how to stay on top of announcements pertinent to your department’s graduate students. Also, please remember to forward GSS listserv emails (including the GSS newsletter when it is sent out) to all graduate students in your department. Finally, committees have been having a very hard time this year. It is important to attend committee meetings and engage in committee work as part of your responsibilities as a Senator. Usually, this requires only several hours of time a month. But your energy, combined with many other Senators, adds up into GSS being a dynamic student government that is able to plan and implement fun, interesting, and important opportunities for all graduate students. If you do not understand what your committee does or how you can be more involved, contact the chair/co-chair of the committee. They are there to help!
Over the winter break, several of your fellow Senators attended the Winter Commencement ceremony to help the Graduate College. Thank you for volunteering! The Service Committee also met to paint pottery at Fired Up in anticipation of the DVIP Souper Bowl Fundraiser. We had a good time, met some new people, and got down to work! Look for an announcement from the Service Committee regarding how to sign up as a volunteer for the Souper Bowl (they are organizing a crew to go together).

The Jakobsen Conference website is now open and accepting submissions for graduate student work to be presented at the conference. Please help spread the word to graduate students to apply for this conference! The website will close on Tuesday February 1st, 2011. We are also still looking for faculty judges to help score student submissions who wish for their work to be considered for cash prizes. If each senator could personally invite two faculty members, we should have enough. Faculty can visit the GSS website, log in from the main page (using HawkId and password) and then copy and paste this URL into their browser to be taken to the faculty sign up page: <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/jakobsen-conference-judging-reply>

B. Vice President’s Report – James Skretta

Nothing to report at this time.

C. Treasurer’s Report – Brian Borchers

Nothing to report at this time.

D. Membership Officer’s Report – Ulrike Carlson

Nothing to report at this time.

E. Parliamentarian’s Report

Nothing to report at this time.

F. Graduate Council Report – Kristi DiClemente, Kristina Rogers, stef shuster*

The graduate council took some time off the last few weeks of the semester. When we met on November 18, 2010 Dean Wurster distributed draft language for the Manual of Rules and Regulations addressing the granting of two master’s degrees. Currently, there are few formal policies about this process truly reflecting earning two separate degrees. The Council recommended that language be included in the policy requiring the DEOs or DGSs of the two programs to exchange letters of approval, with copies of both being sent to the Graduate College. The Council also suggested that this process be discussed as a Best Practice topic at a DGS meeting. Dean Wurster will bring the revised policy back to the Council members at a future meeting. It was moved that colleges should have consistent policies regarding the ability of students to drop courses in which penalty grades for plagiarism have been assigned. The motion was unanimously approved by the Council. Associate Dean Wurster will inform the Office of the Provost.

In a recent Associate Deans Meeting with the Office of the Provost, questions were brought up about course withdrawal policies across campus. Concerns had arisen about a student in one college (home college) who took a course in a second college. The student was accused of plagiarism in the course of the second college and was given a failing grade. As this occurred prior to the add/drop deadline, the student requested a drop slip be signed by the home college and the signature was acquired. However, the instructor of the course in the second college refused to sign the drop slip. The Office of the Provost was seeking advice on collegiate policies related to dropping a course in such situations.

G. Graduate Student Organizations – Meggie Aube
Nothing to report at this time.

H. ECGPS Delegate Report – Senthilkumar Perumal Kuppusamy, stef shuster, Meggie Aube (alternate)

Nothing to report at this time.

I. Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory Council Chair Report – Nirmalla Barros
I contacted Dean Maxson’s secretary for her availability in late February. She can meet with us Feb. 23 or 24 during the lunch hour so hopefully this is convenient for your schedules this semester. Since our last meeting, I have had some additional meeting topics brought to my attention. Some of them include:

- CLAS budget (what changes and plans affecting graduate students, time frame for these changes),
- factors that could assist graduate instructors toward the goal of improved undergraduate student success, e.g., more funding for and promotion of math and writing tutoring centers
- Contract with ProQuest and concern over loss of copyright of dissertation

J. Webmaster Report – Maneesh Kumar

The transition to the new version of Drupal went pretty smoothly. There were a couple hiccups here and there, but everything from the old site is archived, so if it anything is missing we can find it. Committee chairs should go through their respective pages and note if anything is missing, and let me know if they can’t fix it.

Committee Representative Reports

A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Tracy Morgan, Meryl Irwin*

The Academic Mentoring Committee works to facilitate exchange of information and expertise from experienced graduate students to newer graduate students, undergraduates, and others regarding processes of graduate school interest and application, education, and professionalization. The committee is close to having applications for both mentors and mentees released live to begin the new campus program. Information will be distributed to the full Senate via the Newsletter and meeting announcements when the program is finalized. At that point we will appreciate your help in recruiting interested mentors from within your departments and will have information available for that purpose. We will also be revising the forms for the Sandra Barkan Graduate Student Mentor Award to be presented at Jakobsen conference. Watch for announcements.

Our committee is always happy to take new members. If you are interested in joining please email the chair (theresa-morgan@uiowa.edu).

B. Computer Resources Committee – Brian Borchers

The Computer Resource Committee provides advice and information to the GSS on computer-related issues. The Computer Resources Committee also reallocates computer equipment and software to departments for the use of graduate students and works to improve computer resources for graduate students at the University.

C. Education Outreach Committee – Ulrike Carlson, Donna Lancianese

The Educational Outreach Committee is 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.). We have now finalized our brochure and are ready to get it printed and advertise our committee’s Outreach Program to local schools. At this point we will also advertise our Jakobsen Conference event. We are also continuing to add content to our website. If you are interested in volunteering for our Outreach Program, for example to visit a school and talk about your subject of study or what it means to pursue higher education, please contact me (ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu). You will also soon receive an e-mail that you can use to promote this service opportunity to students in your department.

http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu
D. International Student Committee – Joseph Steinitz, Chris Harris, Nikhil Sikka
The International Student Committee works with the international student body, the Office of International Student Scholars (OISS), other University administrators, and appropriate international student organizations in order to address issues of concern for international students. Starting in Spring 2008, the International Student Committee successfully began an Ethnic Restaurant Review Project, called Lekker, Lekker("Lekker" means "tasty" in Dutch)!

E. Jakobsen Conference Committee – Kyle Moody; Lynettia Felling; Lauren Rosales
The Conference Committee is responsible for planning and coordinating the annual James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference. The Jakobsen Conference is a university wide, multi-disciplinary conference that recognizes the work of graduate students by allowing them to present their work and research without having to travel far. We rely on GSS volunteers to help us successfully host this conference. Please contact a Co-Chair if you would like to become involved!!

The Conference website is now accepting graduate student submissions until Tuesday February 1st. Please visit the website to learn more about the conference, submit your work, and be eligible for cash prizes: http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/jakobsen-conference

Additionally, please help spread the word about the conference by sending out the URL to graduate students who would like conference experience or feedback on their latest research.

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Kristina Rogers
Hello Senators! Happy New Year! Welcome back! to campus for those of you returning for another semester at Iowa, and Welcome to Iowa! for those of you beginning your first semester! If you are new to GSS, I offer you a description of the Jakobsen Conference Review Committee:

The James F. Jakobsen (JFJ) Graduate Conference is the largest annual GSS sponsored event. This event is organized by your fellow graduate students in GSS. Each year following the conference (around April), a survey is sent to students who presented their work, faculty members who served as judges, and anyone who attended the conference. The data from this survey is then reviewed by this committee, the Jakobsen Conference Review Committee, which is composed of the new Jakobsen Conference Co-Chairs, past co-chairs and any GSS members who would like to provide their input. Any remaining conference issues are also addressed at this meeting, and recommendations are made to the new committee. This committee meets early each fall, so we won’t be meeting this semester, but please participate by sharing your work with the University Community, or by simply volunteering some of your time to help keep things running smoothly at the conference! Bring your observations and new ideas to the next JFJ Review Committee meeting, which will be held in Fall 2011. Participating in this committee is the best way to have your ideas taken into consideration for next year’s conference in 2012!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me! If you are interested to help organize this year’s conference (March 2011), please contact the Jakobsen Conference Committee Chairs for more information! The conference is quickly approaching, and any amount of time you can spare to help out the committee (even if it is only a couple hours) is very much appreciated!

G. Service Committee – Kimberly Hoppe, Katie Benson
The service committee organizes and participates in various volunteer/service events around Iowa City. It's a great way to be a part of and support the community. So, if you enjoy volunteering, we'd love to have you join the service committee. The Penny Wars raised almost $800 for the Johnson County Crisis Center!! We would like to congratulate the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology who raised the most money/student. The Service Committee would like to thank everyone who participated! Last week we painted 13 bowls that will be donated to the DVIP's Souper Bowl event. We are looking for individuals who would like to volunteer at the DVIP Souper Bowl on Thursday, February 3rd at 4:30PM at the Iowa
City Quality Inn & Suites. Please contact Katie Benson or Kimberly Hoppe if you are interested in volunteering. Thanks and have a great semester!

H. Social Committee – Mike Palermo
The Social Committee organizes graduate student social events in the interest of building and maintaining a graduate student community. New events will be coming soon. FAC will be held Friday at DC's starting at 7. If you have any ideas for events or would like to join the social committee email Mike at Michael-Palermo@uiowa.edu.

I. Travel Funds Committee – Kristi DiClemente, Alissa Hulstrand*
The Graduate College offers two different funding awards for graduate students. The first is the Travel Funds, which pays a portion of the travel expenses incurred while presenting research at academic conferences (six deadline cycles a year). The second is the Supplementary Travel Award for Research, which pays a portion of the travel for research (two deadline cycles a year). The Travel Funds Committee is the body that scores and assigns these awards. Being on the committee does not disqualify you from applying for these awards.

The February 17 cycle of the GSS Travel Funds is currently underway. The application can be found on the GSS website under “Funding.” Those on the TF Committee please mark your calendars; our next Travel Funds scoring session is on Wednesday February 23 at 5:30 in the ITC in Schaeffer Hall. As always, we will provide snacks. If you cannot make the meeting please let Kristi know at kristi-diclemente@uiowa.edu.

J. GPAC Representatives – Kelli Todd, Mike Palermo, Brian Borchers
Nothing to report at this time.

VII. Announcements

IX. Open Discussion
  o Opened by chair - Closed by motion with second and approval by senate

X. Adjournment (~1 min)
**Executive Officers:**

- **President:** stef shuster, stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
- **Vice President:** James Skretta, james-skretta@uiowa.edu
- **Parliamentarian:**
- **Treasurer:** Brian Borchers, brian-borchers@uiowa.edu
- **Executive Associate:** Meryl Irwin, meryl-irwin@uiowa.edu
- **Membership Officer:** Ulrike Carlson, ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
- **ECGPS Delegates:**
  - Senthilkumar PK, senthil-kumar-pk@uiowa.edu
  - stef shuster, stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
  - Meggie Aube (alt.), meghan-aube@uiowa.edu
- **Graduate Council:**
  - Kristi DiClemente, kristi-diclemente@uiowa.edu
  - Kristina Rogers, kristina-rogers@uiowa.edu
  - stef shuster, stef-shuster@uiowa.edu
- **Webmaster:** Maneesh Kumar, maneesh-kumar@uiowa.edu

**Committee Chairs:**

- **Academic Mentoring Committee:** Tracy Morgan, theresa-morgan@uiowa.edu
- **Computer Resources Committee:** Brian Borchers, brian-borchers@uiowa.edu
- **Education Outreach Committee:** Ulrike Carlson, ulrike-carlson@uiowa.edu
- **International Student Committee:** Donna Lancianese, donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu
- **Jakobsen Conference Hunting Planning:** Joseph Steinitz, joseph-steinitz@uiowa.edu
- **Jakobsen Conference Review:** Chris Harris, christopher-harris@uiowa.edu
- **Service Committee:** Nikhil Sikka, nikhil-sikka@uiowa.edu
- **Social Committee:** Kyle Moody, kyle-moody@uiowa.edu
- **Travel Funds Committee:** Laura Rosales, lauren-rosales@uiowa.edu
- **Netta Felling:** lynettia-felling@uiowa.edu
- **Kristina Rogers:** kristina-rogers@uiowa.edu
- **Kimberly Hoppe:** kimberly-hoppe@uiowa.edu
- **Katie Benson:** katherine-f-benson@uiowa.edu
- **Mike Palermo:** Michael-palermo@uiowa.edu
- **Kristi DiClemente:** kristi-diclemente@uiowa.edu
- **Alissa Hulstrand:** alissa-hulstrand@uiowa.edu

**Additional GSS Representatives:**

- **Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory Committee (DGSAC):** Nirmalla Barros, nirmalla-barros@uiowa.edu
- **Graduate Student Organizations Liaison:** Meggie Aube, meghan-aube@uiowa.edu
- **GPAC:**
  - Brian Borchers, brian-borchers@uiowa.edu
  - Kelli Todd, kelli-todd@uiowa.edu
  - Mike Palermo, michael-palermo@uiowa.edu
  - Alexandra Nica (alt.), alexandra-nica@uiowa.edu
  - Tim Paschkewitz (alt.), timothy-paschkewitz@uiowa.edu

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