Minutes

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

II. Introduction of Senators (~2 min)
   o Meryl Irwin, Communication Studies
   o Kimberly Hoppe, Occupational and Environmental Health

III. Graduate College Report (15 min)

Dean Keller reported on the fellowship offered through the Presidential, Dean’s and Ballard & Seashore programs, as well as the The D.C. Spriestersbach Dissertation Prize and the Dean’s Dissertation Prize. He also provided a preview of information that would be coming out in The Daily Iowan regarding the Obermann Graduate Institute during the January Interim and the National Research Council’s Assessment of Doctoral Programs. The Senator’s were reminded that the new Strategic Plan is still under development, but is not a public document until it has been approved by the Board of Regents.

IV. Guest Speakers

Jesse Damazo, Executive Director of The Bijou:

The Bijou is student run cinema located on the first floor of the IMU. This year a change in funding and university costing enables admission to be free for all students. The Bijou is especially interested in co-sponsorships with departments or students groups (often for Sunday screenings, though there are some associated costs. Guest passes are $5.00.

V. Executive Report Updates

A. President’s Report – stef shuster*

President shuster emphasized personal goals, including increasing collaborative efforts committee to committee and with other student organizations, as well as reviewing general procedures for signing in to meetings, absences, committee service, and the changing schedule of days and rooms. Additionally, senators were notified of the upcoming invitation they would receive for the OrgSync system, and of the development of an FAQ’s section on the GSS website.

B. Vice President’s Report – James Skretta

Vice President Skretta encouraged senators to recognize how their work on committees can make a positive impact on the campus and community, and shared information about the weekly newsletter and tutorial session for using the tools of OrgSync.

C. Treasurer’s Report – Brian Borchers*

Treasurer Borchers review the process of budget approved, and reminded committee chars that he would review the process for expenses with them. Senators were invited to attend budget meetings to learn about the process.

D. Membership Officer’s Report – Ulrike Carlson*

Membership Officer Carlson asked that new senators who had not heard from her yet send an e-mail letting her know about their participation in GSS. She hopes to increase representation from departments, and encouraged senators to take the promotional items available (pens and buttons).
E. Parliamentarian’s Report – Perry Motsegood*

Parliamentarian Motsegood explained the function of the office to senators, including responsibility to monitor the constitution and offer adjustments as needed and to field questions about procedures and bylaws.

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

Graduate Council Representative explained their activities with Faculty from each school that has graduate programs and their meetings every other week to go over ideas/decisions before they go to the faculty. Meetings of these minutes are posted online for senators to review.

G. Graduate Student Organizations – TBA

(Senators were encouraged to consider serving in this position.)

H. ECGPS Delegate Report – Senthilkumar Perumal Kuppusamy, stef shuster

Delegate Kuppusamy described the activity of delegates to take messages from GSS to ECGPS meetings and convey suggestions and concerns, as well as to bring the same back. ECGPS will be electing several campus-wide positions, and any students can apply (not only GSS senators). Senators were encourage to let their recuit from their constituents, and to watch for announcements of ECGPS social events, such as a tail-gating party planned for the Ball State game.

I. DGSAC Chair Report – Nirmalla Barros*

Chair Barros encouraged senators, especially from the College of Liberal Arts to participate in the committee, and suggested it as a good place to start for new senators.

J. Webmaster Report – TBA

(Senators were encouraged to consider serving in this position.)

VI. Committee Representative Report Updates
A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Tracy Morgan, Meryl Irwin*

No update from the report.

B. Computer Resources Committee – Brian Borchers*

Chair Borchers clarified that the committee would be distributing over 200 computers.

C. Education Outreach Committee – Ulrike Carlson, Donna Lacianese*

No update from the report.

D. International Student Committee – Joseph Steinitz*

No update from the report.
E. Jakobsen Conference Committee – TBA

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Kristina Rogers

G. Service Committee – Kimberly Hoppe, Katie Benson*

Senators were reminded of the upcoming October 17th Iowa City Run for the Schools. All money goes to the IC schools.

H. Social Committee – Mike Palermo*

Chair Palermo highlighted the first Friday After Classes (FAC) social event on Wednesday Sept 1 at Joe’s @ 6pm.

I. Travel Funds Committee – Kristi DiClemente, Alissa Hulstrand*

Senators were encouraged to sign up for the committee as a good way to learn to write grants and thus a good professional development activity.

VII. Elections
A. Formal election by GSS general membership: ECGPS Delegate Alternate

Nominees: Meggie Aube – Music; Nominations moved to be closed, seconded, passed by vocal vote. Open for comments, discussion. Elected: Meggie Aube.

B. Formal election by the GSS general membership: GPAC Alternates (Need 4)


C. Other non-election positions open: Graduate Student Organizations Liaison; Webmaster; Jakobsen Conference Judging&Submissions & Event Planning Co-Chairs; Social Committee Co-Chair; International Student Committee Co-Chair; GPAC alternates (need 4)

VIII. Announcements

A newsletter is distributed each week on the listserve to compile a week/10 days information. It is hoped that senators will pass the information along to their constituents. Senators were reminded to sign membership lists indicating their attendance, and to return name tags and voting cards to the proper folders.

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

X. Adjournment (~1 min)

* Reports included
Welcome to GSS! I am quite excited about this upcoming year and serving as your president. As a GSS Senator, you are the bridge between GSS and the graduate students in your department. Please be sure to keep your department updated regarding GSS events and important news by forwarding on our GSS newsletter to other grad students in your department. If you have any questions regarding GSS, please scroll to the bottom of this webpage and check out our GSS Handbook: http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/about#Forms. If you are a new GSS member, we are hosting a “New to GSS” workshop after the second GSS meeting on Tuesday October 5th. This will take about 15 minutes in order to share information about what GSS Senators do, expectations of Senators, and time to ask questions.

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.

We had quite a busy summer! On July 31st a crew of GSS Senators pitched in for Iowa City’s “Rummage in the Ramp” citywide recycling extravaganza! We helped price, sell, and sort donated items and even earned a little money for our time. Then, on August 10th we helped welcome new international graduate students to our campus by hosting two “GSS 101” workshops. On Wednesday, August 17th, several GSS members hopped in a caravan and drove out the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines to represent the University of Iowa. Finally, on August 18th several more GSS Senators worked the New Graduate Student Information Fair. They talked to incoming graduate students about the many opportunities available for getting involved with GSS.

There are a lot of exciting plans in the works for GSS and I hope that you will find multiple opportunities to participate in events, pitch in to help out with service work, and help build community among graduate and professional students. Look for further announcements about specific events that we are planning for the fall semester!

Thank you again for your interest and participation 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. We are circulating sign up forms for Committees during our general meeting. A committee co-chair will contact you within the next week once you indicate your interest on the sheet. If you were unable to attend, please contact me and I will pass along your name and email.

Finally, we have a new student organizations website available for our use. We will use this to communicate with you about GSS updates and your committees will use this to communicate information and updates with committee members. Look for an invitation to join OrgSync within the next two weeks!

I am looking forward to a fantastic year in GSS! If you ever have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu

grad-senate@uiowa.edu
B. Vice President’s Report – James Skretta

Good Evening Senators!

I hope that you have had an enjoyable and rejuvenating summer break! It is certainly exciting to see everyone back on campus. We will have an exciting year ahead of us, filled with many service and social opportunities in and around the campus community.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome the new members to the Graduate Student Senate -- your contributions will not go unnoticed. While it is only required that you are a member of one committee, the committee chairs and I encourage you to sign-up and participate in several of the various committees that make up our organization. It is through these committees that GSS makes an impact. If you are skeptical about participation, I would encourage you to attend the first meetings of the committees you are interested in to learn more about what they do.

Thank you and I wish you all a great start to the semester!!

C. Treasurer’s Report – Brian Borchers

Not much has happened yet, so thankfully the budget usage reflects that. At some point I will explain the funding/reimbursement process to those directly involved and those who wish to learn. Two things that will be highly appreciated will be receipts and planning ahead. Stay tuned for further updates and feel free to contact me with your questions.

D. Membership Officer’s Report – Ulrike Carlson

Hi! I would like to introduce myself: My name is Ulrike Carlson and I am in the Department of German. I am your newly elected Membership Officer. During my term of office I would like to focus on gaining new members and maintaining an active and engaged member base. I strongly believe that it is important for all graduate departments to have representation in GSS and want to work towards that goal by contacting departments directly and trying to get new people interested in GSS. Having been a new senator not too long ago, I also remember being rather confused at the beginning and therefore would like to establish a "New Senator Workshop", in which more experienced senators share their insights with new senators about committee work, meeting rules, and how to get involved. I believe that this will draw in new senators more successfully and encourage them to become engaged and take over responsibility more quickly. I am looking forward to my work this year for GSS and welcome all suggestions on how to attract more members.

E. Parlimentarian’s Report – Perry Motsegood

The Parlimentarian has no new business to report.

F. ECGPS Delegate Report – Senthilkumar Perumal Kuppusamy, stef shuster

The Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students (ECGPS) and the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) invite UI students to participate in Presidential Charter & Advisory Committees. Please let your constituents know about this opportunity in taking part in a leadership position and influencing campus decisions.

Applications are available at: http://sgatui.uiowa.edu/nominations.html

Applications are DUE: Friday, September 8th at 4:00pm
Interviews will be HELD: Sunday, September 13th
The following committees have open seats for students to apply:

- Campus Planning (need 1 student)
- Council of Teaching (need 1 student)
- Diversity (need 1 grad and 1 prof student)
- Family Issues (need 2 students)
- Financial Aid Advisory (need 2 grad students)
- Hancher Auditorium (need 1 student)
- Information Technology Advisory (need 1 student)
- University Libraries (need 1 undergrad and 1 grad or prof student)
- Parking and Transportation (need 3 students)
- Recreational Services (need 2 students)
- Research Council (need 1 grad student)
- Student Committee on Athletics (need 3 students)
- University Safety and Security (need 2 students)

For general information on the committees, please see: http://www.uiowa.edu/president/charter_committees/

If you have questions, please email Donna Lancianese (donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu).

At its most recent meeting, ECGPS has discussed sponsoring a social event across graduate and professional schools during the football seasons. More details will be provided as these become available.

I. DGSAC Chair Report – Nirmalla Barros

We meet once per semester with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean, Linda Maxson, to discuss any university concerns pertaining to graduate students. In previous semesters, topics included reduction of teaching assistantships and other funding, teaching loads, class sizes, and effects from the flood. This semester, the committee plans again to function as a voice for graduate students to directly address any pertinent issues with the College of Arts and Sciences.

So, if you’re looking to join a committee without a significant time commitment and/or you’re new to GSS and are interested in meeting with top university officials to have an impact on university policy, DGSAC is for you! We plan on having only two meetings per semester, one with the Dean and the other to plan the agenda for this meeting, so please consider DGSAC! You can contact Nirmalla Barros (nirmalla-barros@uiowa.edu) for additional information.

VI. Committee Representative Reports

A. Academic Mentoring Committee – Tracy Morgan, Meryl Irwin

Over the next year, the Academic Mentoring Committee will be beginning a pilot-program aimed at providing centralized mentoring services to all students - graduate and undergraduate - at The University of Iowa. The goal behind it is to provide help/links/support network for undergraduate and new graduate students, by facilitating communication with existing graduate students with the purpose of aiding in the academic, emotional and socio-cultural adjustment that all the new students are going through.

During the summer we took initial steps toward implementing an online application and process for matching mentors and mentees on-campus. With the help of Katie Wildman and Dr. Robert Kirby from the Honors Center, we have been working on designing graduate- undergraduate workshops of various interest to both student populations. More information will be available once fall semester is in full swing and more senators are assisting us in this endeavor.
Please let us know if you are interested in joining this committee! It’s not only an enjoyable group, but involvement in mentoring can provide a great addition to your CV. Email for more info (theresa-morgan@uiowa.edu).

B. Computer Resources Committee – Brian Borchers

The committee met over the summer and has now allocated computers to departments, with each department getting at least 1 computer. We will be distributing the computers shortly after Labor Day weekend. Thanks to all the members who helped with this process. Contact me with any further questions.

C. Education Outreach Committee – Ulrike Carlson, Donna Lacianese

The Educational Outreach Committee would like to welcome all old and new senators to GSS. If you have not yet picked a committee to serve on, consider serving on the Educational Outreach Committee. Our committee’s goals are two-fold: We organize lectures on topics of interest for graduate students, such as last year’s lecture on the IRB approval process for students in Humanities and a lecture on Work-Life-Balance. We are also in the process of establishing an outreach program with local high schools, and organized a workshop for high school students for the last Jakobsen Graduate Forum. We need new members who are willing to work with this committee and will share their ideas and enthusiasm.

D. International Student Committee – Joseph Steinitz

The greatest number of international students ever entered this year. ISC participated in new International student orientation. One short talk was given to the entire group and two one-hour sessions for small groups. ISC is seeking new members.

F. Jakobsen Conference Review Committee – Kristina Rogers

Hello Senators! Welcome to another exciting year in the Graduate Student Senate! If you didn’t already know, the James F. Jakobsen (JFJ) Graduate Conference is the largest GSS sponsored event, which is organized by your fellow graduate students in GSS. Each year following the conference, 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 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.

As soon as all Jakobsen Conference co-chairs are in place (hopefully very soon!), we will set up a meeting to go over the 2010 JFJ survey and get the ball rolling for the 2011 Jakobsen Conference. Anyone that is interested in joining the Jakobsen Conference Review Committee should contact Kristina Rogers (kristina-rogers@uiowa.edu), JFJ Review Committee Chair. Thanks and I look forward to working with you soon!

G. Service Committee – Kimberly Hoppe, Katie Benson

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14th at 5:30PM in Gilmore Hall Callen Conference Room (on the ground floor). We will be discussing events for the upcoming year. Our first event will be the Iowa City Run for the Schools (http://www.runfortheschools.com/) Races begin at 8am on Sunday, October 17th and include 1/2 mile and one mile Fun Runs, 5K, 10K and Half Marathon. 100% of all donations collected for the ICCSD will support our local public schools through the Foundation’s Excellence Fund and provide funding for educational activities and equipment throughout the district. We encourage everyone to register for the run or donate.

H. Social Committee – Mike Palermo
After a successful year of exciting social events we're ready to step up our game. We plan to do at least 2 events per month. Some events in the past include monthly mixers, astronomy night, pot lucks, Fall Ball, and Spring Bash.

If you enjoyed attending these events or have any ideas for new events please consider joining the social committee. If your interested or just have an idea for an event please email Mike Palermo (Michael-Palermo@uiowa.edu). The first meeting will be at 6 pm September 7 at T-spoons on Market Street. We are also looking for a co-chair to help chair the committee. Again email Mike if you are interested.

Hope to see you at the Social Committee meetings and if not hopefully we'll see you at our events!

I. Travel Funds Committee – Kristi DiClemente, Alissa Hulstrand

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 50 applications for the last (July 2010) round and funded around 50 percent of those that were eligible. Thank you to the following reviewers for their time and effort in reviewing the summer round of applications: Nirmala Barros, Brian Borchers, Si-Chi Chin, Kristi DiClemente, Alissa Hulstrand, Donna Lancianese, Michael Palermo, Tyson Shepherd, and Oksana Zagorodna.

The GSS Travel Funds deadlines for the 2010 fiscal year are on Thursdays, 11:59pm, as follows: September 16, November 11, February 17, April 14, May 19, July 14. In the past the application form for the GSS and the ECGPS Travel Funds were the same. This year applicants will be required to fill out separate application forms for each award. The first four deadline dates are the same for both groups, however.

The committee meetings (reviews) will be held at 5:30 on the Wednesdays following the actual application deadline as follows: September 22, November 17, February 23, April 20, May 25, July 20. The meeting place is in the ITC in Schaeffer Hall, if this changes I will let the committee know.

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