

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

GIVING GRAD STUDENTS A VOICE...

Orientation Session 2013

Introduction to GSS

- The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) is the primary representative body of graduate students
 - ▣ 2012-2013 enrollment stats: 5,210 graduate students
- GSS is the voice of the graduate student community for:
 - ▣ University administration
 - ▣ Faculty
 - ▣ Other student groups
- **Handbook**: http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/system/files/GSS.Handbook_2013.pdf

What do we do?

- Advocate for graduate students
- Address concerns of graduate students
- Organize graduate student events
 - ▣ *Academic, Service, Social*
- Communicate with the graduate student community about current events or help facilitate dialogue between University administrators and graduate students
- Provide resources and programs that benefit graduate students- Travel Funds, Workshops, Sponsor events, Professional development (Jakobsen Conference)

GSS Membership

- Membership Officer: Kassie McLaughlin
 - kassie-mclaughlin@uiowa.edu
- Each department and program is allotted one full senator and one alternate per fifty students
 - ▣ Selection of senators varies depending on department
- Full senators asked to attend all GSS meetings and have voting rights.
- Alternate Senators fill in for full senators when needed.
 - ▣ Alternates may sit on GSS committees and serve as officers

Responsibilities of a Senator

- **Attend meetings:** two consecutive unexcused absences = *not in good standing*
 - ▣ Not in good standing may impact Computer Allocations and travel funds.
 - ▣ May impact opportunity to be appointed to leadership role
- **Serve on Committees:** each senator must be active within *at least* one committee
- **Distribute information to your department**
 - ▣ Forward GSS e-mails to your departments Listserve
- **Participate in GSS events**

Committees

- Academic Mentoring Committee
- Computer Resource Committee
- Jakobsen Conference Committee
- International Student Committee
- Jakobsen Conference Review Committee
- Service and Social Committee
- Travel Funds Committee
- Legislative Committee

Academic Mentoring

- Chair: Kristan Worthington, Kassie McLaughlin
 - ▣ kristan-sorenson@uiowa.edu
- Provide assistance and guidance to undergraduate students interested in graduate school and to graduate students in their first years in matters of professional and personal development.
- Events/ Programs:
 - ▣ *Aid in Jakobsen Conference panel discussion for Undergrads interested in applying to Graduate school*
 - ▣ *Facilitate Mentorship Match Program*
 - ▣ *Assist with Judging at Fall/Spring Undergraduate Research Festivals*
 - ▣ *Publicize and award Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award*

Computer Resource

- Chair: Sam Trammell
 - ▣ samuel-trammell@uiowa.edu
- Provides advice and information to GSS on computer-related issues
- Reallocates computer equipment and software to departments to be used by graduate students
- Works to improve computer resources for graduate students at the University
- Allocations:
 - ▣ 2011: 300 Dell desktop PCs
 - ▣ 2012: ~400

Jakobsen Conference

- Chairs: Levent Sensoy, Brady Hoback and **OPEN**
 - ▣ levent-sensoy@uiowa.edu brady-hoback@uiowa.edu
- The James F. Jakobsen is a university wide, multi-disciplinary conference that recognizes the work of graduate students, and provides the opportunity to present research and hone presentation skills – in a friendly environment.
- Any graduate student in the Graduate College may submit work (oral or poster presentation) for this conference.
 - ▣ In 2013, 205 graduate students presented
- **Saturday March 29, 2014**

International Student

- Chair: Christian Supiot
 - ▣ christian-supiotperez@uiowa.edu
- Works with the international student body, International Student Scholar Services (ISSS), other University administrators, and appropriate international student organizations in order to address issues of concern for international students.

Social & Service

- Chair: Andrew Juhl and Cassie Ellis
 - ▣ andrew-juhl@uiowa.edu cassandra-ellis@uiowa.edu
- Volunteer
 - Domestic Violence Intervention Program Souper Bowl
 - Ronald McDonald House
 - Iowa City Rummage in the Ramp
- Donations
 - Food drives
 - Penny Wars!
- Events
 - ▣ Fall Ball and Spring Bash
 - ▣ Kickball, picnics
 - ▣ Social Hours with free food throughout the semester

Travel Funds

- Chairs: Gaby Hamerlinck and Hang Nguyen
 - ▣ gabriela-hamerlinck@uiowa.edu hang-nguyen@uiowa.edu
- The Travel Funds Committee allocates funds from the Graduate College to graduate student applicants for the purpose of presenting their work at meetings, symposia, conferences, or other professional or academic gatherings.
- **\$60,000** for Travel Funds annually
- **\$7,000** for Supplemental Awards annually
- These funds are open to International students in the Graduate College.

Legislative

- Chair: **OPEN**
- To address legislative issues that directly impact Graduate Students
 - ▣ Tuition increases
- Travel to the state capitol in Des Moines for events:
 - ▣ Hawkeye Caucus
 - ▣ Regent's Day
- Petitions and letters to legislators, governor, etc.
- <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/legislative/legislative-action>

Pick a Committee

- ❑ Take a moment to decide which committee(s) you would like to serve on.
- ❑ At the end of the the meeting we will gather into committees
- ❑ If you would like to join multiple committees, Great! Be sure to contact committee chairs of those committees.
- ❑ More information is available on the website and it is never to late to join additional committees.

ECGPS Delegates

- Executive Council Graduate and Professional Students-
Stacey Alex and Bryan Brown
- Member Governments:
 - GSS
 - IADSA (Dental)
 - ISBA (Law)
 - MBAA (Business)
 - CCOMSG (Medicine)
 - COPS LC (Pharmacy)
- ECGPS provides funding, grants, service opportunities, and a voice
- Allocate graduate and professional student funds from the Student Activity Fee, an account that all students contribute to each year to enrich life here on campus

ECGPS 'One Big Initiative'

- ECGPS has asked member governments to provide 'One Big Initiative' that will impact their students the best.
- 2012-2013 Initiatives
 - IADSA (Dental)- host a leadership retreat
 - ISBA (Law)- new chairs in classrooms
 - MBAA (Business)- increasing volunteer, Bone marrow drive
 - CCOMSG (Medicine)- lower tuition, global health symposium, dual degree programs
 - COPSLC (Pharmacy)- bone density machine, improving public health screenings.
 - GSS- Student Commons
- 2013-2014 GSS Initiative?
 - Be thinking – we will discuss this at our next meeting.

GPAC

- **Graduate and Professional Allocation Committee- Gene Parker**
- GPAC is a committee of **ECGPS** that is in charge of distributing all funding for student organizations at Ulowa graduate schools.
<http://ecgps.uiowa.edu/funding/>
- GSS has 3 full GPAC seats (currently filled)
- Alternates are also needed

- Contact Gene Parker if interested
 - eugene-parker@uiowa.edu

Website

- Meeting Schedule
- News and Events
- Committee Pages
- Travel Fund applications
- Jakobsen Conference

- <http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/>

Service Hours

- Keep track of the hours you spend doing GSS work
 - ▣ GSS meetings, committee meetings, events, etc.
- End of the year Exemplary Senator dinner.

Opportunities to get Involved

- GSS
 - ▣ Jakobsen Conference Committee Co Chair
 - ▣ Committees
- ECGPS
 - ▣ Charter Committees
- Please contact Bryan Brown (bryan-brown@uiowa.edu) if you're interested in Jakobsen Co-chair or ECGPS Charter Committee

QUESTIONS?

