

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2011; 7:00 PM
South Ballroom, MU

- I. Call to order 7:00 P.M.
 - a. Roll Call – DONE (29/30)
 - b. Statement of Quorum by Speaker - MET
 - c. Approval of the Minutes - Approved
 - d. Amendments to the Agenda - NONE
- II. Introduction of new bills and resolutions
 - a. Senate Bill F11-01 – Allocating Funds to Screen PhD Movie and Host PhD Comics Creator Jorge Cham
 - i. Sarkar – Introduced the bill, about screening of PhD movie
- III. Open Forum
 - a. **Craig Ogilvie, Assistant Dean, Graduate College**
 - i. Dr. Ogilvie thanked GPSS for the opportunity to speak today. He has been assistant dean for the graduate college for 5 months, and a lot of new things have been happening. He has 3 main points to talk about today:
 1. Progress towards degree (PhD, Masters)
 2. Development of broader skills
 3. To do list
 - ii. Progress towards degree:
 1. Looking towards partnership opportunities with GPSS and other interested graduate bodies.
 2. Gathered data of ISU Grad (PhD + MS) students for 2 years (2003/04 and 2004/05), was enough data for analysis; displaying fraction of students as they progress – blue line success – green line intended to get PhD, but graduated with MS – red line is still currently enrolled.
 3. Major points:
 - a. About 20% of students leave in 1st 2 yrs., total 50% graduated - <25% master out, about 30% don't get a degree.
 - b. Graph of MS – same colors as before – long tail – some MS students graduating even after 4 years.
 4. Question: Senator DeLeon – inclusion of MS/BS students? If just PhD, left, just MS right graph, otherwise not.

5. Dr. Ogilvie has been showing this data to various department chairs, DOGE, Deans etc.
 6. Next graph is of incoming minority students, compared to university 2- year average, it is found that the graduation rate is lower – non degree rate is higher – 3 problems, all correlated.
 7. Next graph is of Male vs. female students: – retention and PhD graduation rates are similar, MS female graduation rate is slightly higher, while non-degree rate for is slightly lower for females.
 8. The factors affecting to success rate may be attributed to the following: a) Academic and social integration, maintaining enthusiasm for degree – forming good study groups (faculty and peers) – if these things happen, student likely to succeed more, else isolated and likely to drop out. b) Students of color might be having certain problems related to marginalization, isolation, stereotyping etc.
 9. Plans which are in place include the following: a) learning communities for grads – it was successful for undergraduates, going to be transitioned for grads – long term plan throughout depts. and programs – right now for Mechanical Eng. and Computer Science only. b) Weekly Seminars: they put more structure and encourage explicit discussion, c) mentor program would include meeting students once a month and all.
 10. Question: Smith – why these 2 departments and how they will be implemented?? Currently Mechanical department was advanced about success, CS currently didn't have a very good success rate; Mechanical will be taking a lead role in developing the program, there are various models in the work, 1st of its kind, not lots of precedence to follow.
 11. Question: DeLeon: How do these models take into account time bounds for grad students? Need to balance demand and keep things under control, not let things too crazy, setup some schedule keeping in mind the time demands, will not change research direction, open conversation is ongoing.
 12. Mentoring program – very excited about this one, it is a 2-level scheme, there is a task force for it including grad staff and faculty – each incoming student will be having peer mentor and staff mentor.
 13. Question Sarkar – define incoming?? Mainly students coming in the last 2 weeks, Latino/ Americans etc. .
- iii. Development of broader skills:

1. Not perfected yet, but lots of good things and ideas going on now, there is a gap in the broader skills for success – need to develop these skills- survey for DOGES:
 - a. search, and effectively read, the literature
 - b. set realistic goals and achieve those goals
 - c. write a scientific paper
 - d. grant-writing
 - e. post-graduate career planning, including having an understanding of how to network, and how to interview
 2. Need to beef up professional development series in grad college.
- iv. To Do List:
1. Long list, asking for partnership from GPSS senate
 2. family leave option?
 3. Annual survey comparable to faculty activity survey – how many papers grad students are publishing each year and talks, drill and find out difference between diff depts. and find out broad skills required –later this year survey will be sent out
 4. Keen interest in sending out mentoring programing – either prof in field, talk about career options
 5. Gather information about large amount of undeclared students, not in any program, they make about 8% who need advice about how to transition into degree program
 6. HOUSING option for new students not enough
 7. INTERNATIONAL students’ experience – national programs are there to keep international students to stay locally close to campus, provide work opportunities after their degrees are finished.
- v. CONCLUSION – very grateful for opportunity, looking for partnerships.
1. Question Senator Hoffman: what are the criteria for success??
Broad target 60-70% graduation – from lots of interview, lots of students leave not for academic reasons, but for not feel at home, work not integrated etc., improve those conditions.
 2. Question Senator Pelzer – what about sick leave policy? He hasn’t found time yet to look into this issue in the last 150 days, however he supports better leave policy for grads, an ally for passing the updated leave policy currently stuck in policy, doesn’t any reason why it should not be passed through.
 3. Question Senator Hauser – what about the collapse in assistantship opportunities in diff depts.?? Currently out of our hands, referred to the huge summer tuition fiasco, the goal was to reduce costs for students to be on assistantship, reduce some costs and mitigate the

loss for departments, currently working with Dean of Graduate College towards solution.

4. Question DeLeon - How many self-supporting grad students we have? No idea yet.
 5. Question Frana – How is our degree numbers compared to other colleges?? We are ahead of national average for MS, right on average for PhD students, no idea about non degree rate – no national benchmark for that yet.
- vi. THANKS.

b. Roberta L. Johnson, Director of Student Financial Aid

- i. Pleasure to be here, want to talk about effects of debt ceiling deal which happened in later July
- ii. There were lots of negotiations; one of casualties of the bill was loan subsidies for students in grad schools – mainly on new loans subsidies starting from July 1, 2012 and beyond.
- iii. Currently, there are 3 federal loans:
 1. Subsidized Stafford loans.
 2. Unsubsidized loans – here interest is accruing on student, student need not pay while they are students, they receive statement over 3 months period time, students can pay during that time, or pay later, no penalty, after 6 months or less than ½ time status, interested adds to principal, huge amount; if u can pay interest in those 6 months, do it.
 3. Grad Plus loan program – students who not legible for previous 2 can use this.
- iv. From July 1, 2012, student taking out new loan, interests will be on current unsubsidized 6.8% - fixed interest rate – compared to 7.9 on 3rd one, so it is a better deal – however, overall loss, students who have currently will not lose anything, only new students will need to pay.
- v. From very simple calculations, it can be estimated that the average loan amount for MS or PhD is roughly \$7300 under subsidized one, half of the money is given in fall, other half not until January, August will have 6.8%, January 6.8% also. – loan is calculated on outstanding daily balance – rough calculation \$395 on 7300
- vi. Most Vet meds are borrowing on Stafford \$483 in 12 month period, vet med here for 4 years, total sizable amount.

- vii. For MS, if u finish in 2 years, 1000-1200 loan interest, for PhD people, it's a sizable amount. However not all people are borrowing, under 1200 students borrowed last year.
- viii. For vet med, it's very different, 20-25 students don't borrow, and else pretty much everyone borrow, so it will be a sizable investment.
- ix. REASON: Congress was keen to preserve Pell grants, for the neediest UG students, it's an quasi-entitlement program – those families whose assets fall below certain threshold get Pell grants automatically; however it is not currently not sustainable, funds are being used from other sources - from social security etc. Pell grants are also under some risk, their loan rates might also increase. Expect future restructuring, more stringent time constraints.
- x. Question Senator Perrine – any effect on Health Professions Student Loan? NO.
- xi. Question Senator Kleinheksel – what are the plans to educate individuals who will be affected?? Education for them is a priority. Right now being start of school year, it is very busy. Sometime later this fall, surely by January, information will be sent out to all graduate students, federal government is also expected to provide tools to calculate interest rates and values.
- xii. THANKS.

IV. Senate Forum

a. OPEN

V. Remarks and Reports

a. Report of the President - President Smith

- i. Welcome to new year of GPSS.
- ii. GPSS will take initiative in educating and spreading awareness about financial topics like budgeting tools, interest rates, federal loans etc.
- iii. Official numbers are not in yet, however this year student enrolment will be record (~30k), there might be more stress on constituents for TA/RA duties, class sizes, etc. Shelley commented it's too early to say is graduate enrollments are up this year.
- iv. We have 3 seats on GSB, 1 is there, 2 vacant seats, we do get to seat them and ratify and solicit names within 2 weeks, suggested to start talking about that with fellows, one of her goals is to increase communication with GSB, really important with another body.

- v. Update about Presidential search committee—Erica is on the committee, search for the next ISU president, expected to bring 3-5 candidates end of September, requesting senators to attend open forums and ask hard questions. There have been lots of nomination, the deadline was 25th August.
 - vi. Erica attended a leadership and diversity retreat last week, focused mainly towards UG, next year focus will be ramped up on Grad organizations as well, issues raised like interactions with GSB/ DM/ FC – ISD not coming to our meetings enough, etc. Good opportunity for networking.
 - vii. Update about State gym renovation – it won't be getting completed this Fall, money will be reimbursed 89.95\$ to UBILL by end of September, board of regents need to approve that. An extra \$40\$ on top of 89.95\$ (summer adjustments) will be given to grad students. The new facility is awesome, the pool areas will be having TV screens.
 - viii. GPSS has office in MU WSOS office space Room C – open to senators, inform Erica about getting access.
 - ix. Update about closing post office in MU and Welch - Some students have voiced concerns, she will pursue ways to get our voice heard, not sure how much under our control, email Erica with suggestions.
- b. Report of the Vice President and Rules Committee - Vice President Fateh
- i. Date for GPSS fall picnic – Sep 23rd, Location - Kildee pavilion, time – 5 pm onwards. There was huge crowd last year expecting more people this year, spread the word.
 - ii. Senate bill F11-01 in accordance with constitution.
 - iii. Rules committee not yet formed, asking for nominations – work is to review bills and resolutions, follow constitution, also decide amendments to the by-laws, sign-up sheet passed around.
 - iv. If you r new senator and feeling disoriented, don't worry, next session we will give orientation.
- c. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee - Treasurer Gross
- i. Gross is in conference, Erica speaking on his behalf.
 - ii. Formation of finance committee, this one has control over budget, 110K – what it does – sign-up sheet passed around.
 - iii. Reminder fall regular allocation: September 30th, Friday 5 pm.
 - iv. PhD movie bill - This bill does not violate any special allocations, no BIAS, 25K funds is there line item.
- d. Report of the CIO and Election Committee - CIO Sarkar

- i. No committee
 - ii. Check your placards, any issues, let me know. No placards? Meet me after meeting.
- e. Report of the URLA Chair - URLA Chair Pelzer
 - i. Currently, there are nine openings for different GPSS committees, read out names for different committees.
 - ii. Question Senator Brgoch – only for senators? No.
 - iii. Question Senator Hauser – send out email about openings?? Yes, will do.
- f. Report of the PAG Chair - PAG Chair Brgoch
 - i. Not here, gone for Conference, Erica reporting on his behalf
 - ii. GPSS gives \$200, Grad college no longer gives \$75
 - iii. Plenty money left for fall students, please encourage to apply
 - iv. Question Senator White - Apply before u go to conference?? Yes.
 - v. Question Senator Boddicker - Apply once every fiscal year, YES.
- g. Graduate and GSB Senator Report - Aja Holmes.
 - i. State gym – why not opening? Reason is ZINC from France on slow boat, hence delay – she did tour of the facility – really awesome.
 - ii. Her Office hours are Wed 3-4 pm in WSOS D, Thurs 12-1 pm at HUB
 - iii. CYRIDE having financial problem, they have lump sum amount they might need to tap into, CyRide hoping to not cut services,
 - 1. Meeting/open Forum this Thursday at 7 pm, maybe MU; Erica will send out more info about meeting.
 - iv. GSB funded the IA bash, DJ will be there.
 - v. Question Senator Sarkar – please email the State Gym update presentation? YES.
 - vi. Erica comments about CyRide –
 - 1. CyRide contracts out gas prices, prices fluctuate, put extra money into reserve – to replace buses and all
 - 2. This trust fund has close to \$1.2 million right now.
 - 3. GPS tracking of the buses was passed in GSB last year – it might be cut, coz there's time tables and they are fairly on time (Aja)

VI. Old Business

- a. OPEN
 - i. NONE

VII. New Business

- a. Senate Bill F11-01 – Allocating Funds to Screen PhD Movie and Host PhD Comics Creator Jorge Cham (allocate up to \$2000)
 - i. Read by Senator Sarkar
 - ii. Details presented by Steven
 - iii. Amendment proposed to modify the bill with new tables containing information about co-sponsorship.
 - 1. Question:
 - a. Favor – 26
 - b. Oppose – 0
 - c. Abstain – 2
 - 2. Passes (amendment)
 - iv. Call to question, seconded
 - 1. Question:
 - a. Favor – 26
 - b. Oppose – 0
 - c. Abstain – 2
 - 2. Passes (as amended)

VIII. Announcements

- a. Senator Perrine – The Rabies symposium (funded at the last GPSS meeting) will be happening on September 24, 2011 at Gateway Hotel, from 9am-5 pm, free food will be provided, and emails will be sent out soon.

IX. Adjournment: @ 9:10 pm.