

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 26, 2011; 7:00 PM
Gilman 1352

- I. Call to order 7:00 P.M.
 - a. Roll Call – DONE (54/70)
 - 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 Order F11-02 – Nominating Graduate Students to the GSB Senate
CIO Sarkar introduced the bill, about nominating graduate students from GPSS to GSB
 - b. Senate Bill F11-03 - Special Allocation for Social Event
Senator Woolcock presented the bill, about holding pizza socials in fall semester
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Dakota Hoben, GSB President
Thanks for inviting, what we are doing now?
 - 1) Post office issue – #1 priority, GSB has communicated the importance of the issue, has written a resolution for MU post office, submit surveys.
 - 2) Lighting and cameras in campus town issue – GSB Senate resolution passed, Ames police chief came to GSB meeting and asked for senate feedback. Positive resolution passed the senate. The increased lighting would possibly deter future problems and would be helpful in resolving problems. Local business owners also support this.
 - 3) CyRide issue – Agrees that it is an unfortunate thing with the budget and needs to be dealt with. Working together with GPSS president Erica towards it. There is a healthy GSB trust fund, steps need to be taken to alleviate and avoid future problems.
 - 4) New projects – financial counseling – big issue for UGs also, ISU has huge student debts. Asking for inputs for financial counseling from grads which might be beneficial to UGs.
 - 5) ISU Ambassadors issue – coordinated effort is required, constitutes the main lobbying branch of the student government, they met regents at the capitol. There was a lot of divide among college groups last year, however, this year they are working with both Democrats and Republicans and have a more unified voice, and target is to lobby the legislature. Topics include graduate funding as well.
 - 6) Fun things – large events account / cyclone cinema – cool things, success so far, hoping new success.

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- 7) The next ISU president to be announced tomorrow.
- 8) Open to questions from GPSS:
 - a. Senator Russell – any updates about bicycle racks in campus town? YES, part of ongoing discussion, this issue has come before, will address this time, however vandalism is an issue.
 - b. President Smith – any updates about Regents Day – what effort do you want to see from GPSS – soliciting apps for ambassadors, and lobbying interests, graduate student opinion voicing would be good. There will be a research fair from all 3 regent universities, would be a good exposure for all graduate students to present their work and increase awareness. More details on this will be mailed.
- 9) Done, thanks.

b. Nancy Levandowski , Director, ISU Dining

Thanks for inviting; she has been with ISU for 5 years now. The dining services develop 5 year strategic plan, she is looking for GPSS involvement in focus groups/talks. Previously they invited folks for discussion at which 10 people showed up and got to decide about the future of ISU dining.

- 1) Nancy has been involved with the food industry for 34 years now, from Santa Clara University, has worked in 30 diff universities thus far.
- 2) Mission statement – *“ISU Dining is dedicated to providing a variety of quality and sustainable culinary experiences, which enhance the educational and cultural aspect of Iowa State University.”*
- 3) ISU Dining current staffing totals; 363 Full Time & over 1400 Student employees, Dining’s budget - over \$37 M -Dining Services is a self-supporting, self-funded division of the University, ISU Dining responsible for all dining on campus including Residence Dining, Catering, Retail and Vending, Supporting these areas are an administrative staff, a Central Food Stores and Central Bakery and Commissary Kitchen.
- 4) Number of chefs on campus has been increased from 2 to 8.
- 5) Increased meal bundles to three sides choices – some healthy cheese cups, grapes, apple slices, added Bacon cheese burgers and Burgers of the month, Gentle Doctor got a new larger Grab and Go case, New Commissary items show NEW stickers always adapting for requests, MU featuring Turkey Cranberry Panini, MTO Sizzling Asian Salad, MTO meatball Sub, Thai Chicken Curry with Jasmine Rice, Grilled Tuna Steak, Roast Pork Loin with Masala Sauce, Savory Empanada (vegetarian) New Chicken Parmesan.
- 6) Continually making changes and updates to better serve our customer base, such as recent renovations to hawthorn Market and Café – include Hot Stuff Pizza, Starbucks Frappuccino, Order Kiosk (students have done

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the programming and implementation), Toasted Subs, Expanded WEB Foods program, Dining room access 24/7, Wireless paging etc.

- 7) Do internship programs for HRIM & FSN and some of our students in business do office billing & cash accounting, students in Ag are doing our sustainability. We do all the suites and club sections for Football and Basketball one of our past students now does the Suites for the Yankees and used to do the Chicago Bears.
- 8) Students learn some basic cooking terms, develop some life skills. They are learning how to hire and train their peers considering we have 1400 students working for us it is a great process to even run your own temp agency. The old Dining center is a Training Center for staff, managers and students.
- 9) Clyde's – smartphone app coming up soon, the place had problem with slow service initially, that has been addressed and resolved now. The bar in the front was renovated; the throughput and footfall have doubled.
- 10) Have meal plans and bundle, meal bundle is like a deal, get from any location.
- 11) Introduction of rewash-able containers, can take food to outside from all-you-can eat buffet; 100 so far, 500 more coming up soon.
- 12) WOW events – circus event on Oct 12, Seasons is having biker night; Oct 17 dinner for America event.
- 13) Text and tell - instant feedback is desired and required, Feedback is important to us and instant response to you; last year Food Committee and IRHA shared these to keep costs down.
- 14) Hired an intern from Dietetics that does a program each month supervised by our on campus Dietitian at the 4 Dining Centers, Memorial Union and Hawthorn market; allergy training – explored intolerance towards certain food, dieticians work with students.
- 15) Focus on sustainability – tray-less / compost / trash disposal and recovery etc.
- 16) Exploring several other options like vegan / kosher and halal, etc. Since they are generally more expensive, target is to make sure prices don't increase for all.
- 17) Email is nancyl@iastate.edu; please send her any questions or suggestions about ISU dining.
- 18) Smart customer service, want feedback from students, GSB/IRHA/ maybe some from GPSS – would be greatly appreciated.
- 19) They send surveys to every 5th person in campus annually, graduates/female students' response are weak areas; there could be significant improvement there.
- 20) How would one define value:
 - a. Low price
 - b. Quality
 - c. Variety

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- d. Large value
 - e. Made the way I want it?
 - f. Convenient, easy access?
 - g. Healthy
- 21) Addressed issues about crowding, 4000 food seats on campus total.
- 22) Introducing new weekend breakfast plans.
- 23) Reduced student catering guide to be developed – what time is best to get to different places to eat and expect minimum crowds.
- 24) Feedback requested - Talk with a manager; Suggestion Forms; Text and tell at UDM; NACUFS Annual Survey in Fall; Last year in spring Focus Groups, interviews and survey went to everyone on campus and we will be doing more this spring; Food Committee; Annual Review Committee representative (need one from GPSS), this year our managers are going out to Hall Councils and Floor meeting as requested and reach out each year; IRHA review of meal plan rates each year.
- 25) Questions
- a. Senator Anderson – what about allergy issues?? YES, go online and check the gluten free items.
 - b. Senator Sridharan – what about improved nutrition labels?? YES, ongoing effort.
 - c. Senator Perrine – Prices at most of the ISU dining locations are really very high – why? NOT always, we do regular comparison to other areas; however comparing with stores like Wal-Mart and all would be unfair.
 - d. CIO Sarkar – how to get refunds from faulty bending machines? Email Nancy or call the number on label on all machines.
 - e. Senator Russell – Why is it cheaper to eat off campus than on campus almost always? THE labor rates are the main difference, they increase 7% every year, and labor is bigger than food costs.
 - f. Senator Holmes – (i) Can we use credit card in all the vending machine? NOT yet, it takes \$2000 to get wiring to them, however dining dollars or CyCash is widely accepted. (ii) What about increased class hours and corresponding food places time hours? NEED to start addressing increased class hours. (iii) Darlene in HUB is fabulous (comment).
 - g. Senator Dilshan – Question about Café, the chicken salad has very less chicken? WILL look into it.
- 26) Done, Thanks.

IV. Senate Forum

- 1) Senate Training Presentation – Erica, Aaron, Subhadarshi, Benazir, Jakoah, Chris

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V. Remarks and Reports

a. Report of the President - President Smith

- 1) CyRide – issue in a nutshell - last year CyRide had huge budget fall, they had contract on gas prices, their estimated non-contract price led to budget fall, they have a trust fund they built over the years, the excess money every year goes there, \$1.4 million, increased in the last 5 years. One major project approved last year is GPS tracking on buses (gave example), GSB is very passionate about it, also looking at bus scheduling, new apartments in south, On Oct 3rd or 4th, there is a trustees meeting where they will discuss about CyRide issue. I think we need to use trust fund before rushing to increase student fees, more discussion about that in next 2 weeks, follow Iowa State Daily closely.
- 2) University Budget – news from Board of regents and also State Governor - when state gets revenue, there might be back pay cuts to the university; looking very optimistic, certain appropriation increases, very encouraging news.
- 3) University budget committee update – 1st memo came out recently, call for proposals for funding for research, don't know how many they are giving, 25-100K \$, proposals requested from profs and department chairs, request to pass on the information to individual professors, funds amount is \$4.1 million total, needs to dispersed.
- 4) ISU President Search coming to end, interview tomorrow 10.30 am - 3pm, announcement at 4 pm. The winner will be the 15th president.
- 5) Welcome back picnic – on behalf of the entire Exec board, we apologize for certain events beyond our control. The grill team came late, the burners won't work and the burgers could not be served till 6 pm.
- 6) PhD movie – tomorrow night 7pm, thanks to Senator Steven, he put in lot of hard work. The 1st 2/3 rows are VIP rows.
- 7) Question about Food prices – 7% salary increase, doubtful, will follow up on that. Adviser Michelle – the average increase is about 7%.
- 8) Questions:
 - a. Senator Deleon – what's the allocation of \$1.4 million of CyRide? NOT all, around 36% of the student fees are going there, good reserve amount would be not greater than 0.5 million, rest for investing in newer buses etc.
 - b. Senator Anderson – thinks that the CyRide tracking project is most likely an irresponsible use of money, can we stop it? PROBABLY not, very strong support from GSB leadership, it will stick, however we can write resolution.
 - c. Senator Deleon – the turnout for the picnic on Friday was smaller than previous year - Why? DON'T know exact reason, time clashing with another event at the same time maybe, we believe we are moving in the right direction.

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- d. Senator Perrine – Can only the people who use CyRide pay for it? IT is hard to implement, 98% of students use it sometime or other and we pay only 63% of operating costs. Very difficult to monitor the use.
 - e. Senator Ruse – from the \$1.4 million, has \$250K been already taken out yet? NOT yet.
 - f. Senator Nteeba – In case students need to pay for CyRide, I propose that we pay very low part of it, and majority come from trust fund. (i) How long students continue paying? ONCE the cost goes up, it is most probably not going to be decreased again. (ii) Comment from Treasurer Aaron – How the trust fund was designed - Hill pushed for capital funds from this, instead of building this, tough to decrease student fees since the enrolment projections are very grim.
 - g. Senator Batinov – (i) details about research funds dispersal? \$4.1 million research is there, proposals have to come from professors or Deans, go through the provost office memo for more details, 1-time distribution, own funding agency, incorporating grad and undergrads in this proposal, (ii) CyRide fund – \$1.4 million is excessive, 0.5 million is ok, considering volatility of gas prices, 2 year buffer would be nice.
 - h. Senator Huffman – We are operating in the red, buffer needs to be larger? WE are not the only one in the pot; city and university are also there.
- b. Report of the Vice President and Rules Committee - Vice President Fateh
- 1) GPSS fall picnic - rocky start, poor performance from B&B, many constituents had turned up, glad to see that people were happily waiting and chatting, the nice weather surely helped. We are under the estimated \$1500 set aside for the picnic.
 - 2) Rules committee reviewed the bills, found them to be conforming to the constitution and bylaws.
 - 3) Questions:
 - a. Senator Deleon - Any contract with B&B? THERE was a contract, since they are student organization, we will pay them only for the hours we provided support.
 - b. Senator Perrine – alternatives for the next year, there is a Vet Med group who have grills, you might contact them.
- c. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee - Treasurer Gross
- 1) There is one financial bill this meeting - about pizza socials. If no tip is included in the bill, someone has to pick it up
 - 2) Regular allocations updates.
- d. Report of the CIO and Election Committee - CIO Sarkar

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- 1) CIO updates.
- e. Report of the PAG Chair - PAG Chair Brgoch
 - 1) We are out of money for fall, mid of October. Ready to accept spring allocation, forms are available online. Previous support of \$75 from Graduate College has been removed.
 - 2) Research and peer teaching awards information is available online, send questions and forms to him.
 - 3) Questions:
 - a. Senator Deleon – is there any way to accommodate the now removed \$75? YES, we need to write a bill to do that. Comment: Treasurer Aaron - currently \$70k is given out, that's a large sum of money.
 - b. Senator Peters – please increase the visibility of access information of PAG.
- VI. Report of the URLA Chair - URLA Chair Pelzer
 - 1) Currently there are 2 open committees - performing arts council and ISU dining committee, both meet once a month, email Chris for details.
 - 2) Question:
 - a. Senator Stoehr - what day do they meet? PLEASE meet after meeting, will confirm the times and let you know.
- VII. Graduate and GSB Senator Report
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. OPEN
- IX. New Business
 - a. Senate Order F11-02 – Nominating Graduate Students to the GSB Senate
 - i. CIO Sarkar presented the bill and explained the election procedure.
 - ii. There were 3 candidates:-
 1. Anne Smazal
 2. Xuhui Feng
 3. Amanda Riddle
 - iii. Each candidate were given time to introduce themselves:
 - 1) Anne – previous education from New Orleans, she held 2 student leader positions there, managing 1400 sorority girls, also the vice-president of student affairs; she is unafraid of long meetings and has good time management skills. Wants to get involved with GPSS.
 - 2) Xuhui – Mechanical engineer, this is his last year at ISU, wants to get more involved in university issues and also have fun,

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international student, exchange ideas with fellow students, want to bring the issues up to GPSS. GPSS would be perfect channel for those ideas.

3) Amanda – Amanda could not make it to the meeting this evening as she was on way to a developmental conference in Minneapolis. She has a good amount of interaction with the graduate student community. Being in an interdisciplinary program, along with a large home department, she has a unique opportunity to get to know a lot of people, who would be comfortable voicing their concerns and suggestions to her. She will also be serving as the MCDB senator on the GPSS, which will allow her to stay connected and communicate the group's collective feelings on different issues to the GSP. She would really enjoy the chance to be more involved as well.

4) Questions:

a. Senator Deleon – (i) to Anne – how long have you been at ISU and in what program? – 6 weeks, Nutritional Science.

b. Senator Goswami – (i) to Xuhui – can you share any previous experience? NONE in US yet, in his home country China, Xuhui was the president of a student organization.

c. Senator Deleon – (i) to Xuhui – if this is your last year in ISU, wouldn't you need to travel significantly? YES, that is a possibility, hard to say as of right now. But he will arrange for Sub in case he has to miss any meetings and will read the minutes to bring him to speed.

d. Senator Anderson – GSB time commitment is large? - Both candidates – they know the time requirements and are still game for it.

e. Senator Batinov – call to question, seconded.

f. VOTE:

(i) Anne – 43

(ii) Xuhui – 27

(iii) Amanda – 18.

g. Blanks in bill replaced with the following and passed.

(i) Anne Smazal

(ii) Xuhui Feng

b. Senate Bill F11-03 - Special Allocation for Social Event

i. Senator Woolcock – pizza social, similar to the ones done in previous semester.

ii. Treasurer Gross – proposed amendment to add no more than \$25 for tip for the delivery guy/driver, questioned, seconded.

iii. VOTE: Favor as amended – 46; Opposed – 2, Abstained – 1.

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- X. Announcements
 - a. PhD movie screening, please come and enjoy
 - b. Extra Root beer left for senators, please enjoy.

- XI. Adjournment @ 9.29 pm