

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 31, 2011; 7:00 PM
South Ballroom, MU

- I. Call to order 7:00 P.M.
 - a. Roll Call – DONE (55/83)
 - b. Statement of Quorum by Speaker – MET
 - c. Approval of the Minutes - Approved
 - d. Amendments to the Agenda
 - i. Remove Sarah Passonneau from Open Forum.
 - ii. Add President Erica to Open Forum.
- II. Introduction of new bills and resolutions
 - a. Senate Bill F11-04 - Special Allocation For Society Of Women Engineers
 - i. Treasurer Gross introduced the bill.
 - b. Senate Bill F11-05 - Graduate And Professional Student Senate (GPSS) Budget For Fiscal Year 2013
 - i. Treasurer Gross introduced the bill.
 - c. Senate Bill F11-06 - Fall 2011 Graduate And Professional Student Senate (GPSS) Allocations
 - i. Treasurer Gross introduced the bill.
 - d. Senate Bill F11-07 - Allocating Funds For 2nd Screening Of “PhD Movie”
 - i. CIO Sarkar introduced the bill.
 - e. Senate Resolution F11-01 - Supporting ISU Research Misconduct Policy
 - i. URLA Chair Pelzer introduced the bill.
 - f. Senate Resolution F11-02 - Supporting Phase II Of The Intermodal Facility Through TIGER
 - i. PAG Chair Brgoch introduced the bill.
- III. Open Forum
 - a. President Erica – She wants to form a committee about a new project. Currently GPSS has a reserve account with funds around \$40K, explore creative ways about spending the money, she is requesting feedback from GPSS, having this body come up with proposal for graduate students, improving grad student orgs. Senators can submit proposals for various things – increasing student retention, improving writing skills. It would be a graduate student led proposal. We have been building this reserve for some time, it would be good to use it a meaningful way that benefits all graduate students.
 - b. Open to questions:
 - i. Senator Perrine – are professional students included? YES. However, Erica would not like this to be a part of regular allocations. She referred to Assistant Dean of Graduate College, Craig Ogilvie about the various issues that are faced by graduate students.
 - ii. Senator Hauser – He supports the exploratory committee, it needs to be formed, and it would better help gauge different ideas.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

- iii. Senator Adams – will this be focused on single departments or university wide? IT would be for both; for departments, formal letter of support from the DOGE would be required.
 - iv. Senator Anderson – Seconds Senator Hauser comments, the committee needs to be formed.
 - c. President Erica – Will send sign-up sheet.
 - IV. Senate Forum
 - a. OPEN
 - V. Remarks and Reports
 - a. Report of the President - President Smith
 - i. There was a memo from board of regents; there would be a 3.7% tuition increase for non-residents, 2.4 % increase for residents (undergraduates). For graduate students, there is no increase in tuition. ISU is the only university who is not hiking this; other university in IA has an average of 4% increase. This is an optimistic scenario, however no information yet for future years.
 - ii. ISU President Leath will be starting his work from Feb 2, 2012. The GPSS Executive board will be meeting with him to discuss issue related to graduate students on November 7, 2011.
 - iii. We have received an email from a graduate student organization in the east coast; it is about a petition to Congress to make the graduate student stipend tax free. If the senators feel strongly about this, then they can sign the online petition. Erica will send out the online link to the senate.
 - b. Report of the Vice President and Rules Committee - Vice President Fateh
 - i. There are 4 bills and 2 senate resolutions, the Rules Committee checked them, they are in accordance with the constitution.
 - ii. Update from Sarah: *“We are asking questions related to the library’s collections, spaces, branches (the Design, and Veterinary Medicine libraries; and the Mathematics reading room), website, service support and potential future services. At the end of the survey you will be asked to provide your contact information. You should provide this information, if and only if, you are interested in being part of a focus group interview with other graduate and professional students. Survey participants do not have to participate in the focus group. The focus groups specifically concentrate on graduate and professional students’ research processes, needs, and trends in scholarship management both locally and nationally.”*
 - 1. A sign-up sheet was sent out.
 - iii. News about Pizza social on November 3, 2011. It will be held at Mothers Pub, from 5-7 pm.
 - iv. Announcement about Margaret Ellen White Graduate Faculty Awards - a student can nominate faculty for this award, please send nomination to Benazir, latest by November Senate meeting. A committee will be formed which will meet in January, go through all the applications and then forward the top 6 to graduate college for final review.
 - c. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee - Treasurer Gross

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

- i. All the financial bills for this month passed favorably from the Finance Committee.
 - ii. Explained the budget procedure, there will be a short presentation followed by a 15 minutes discussion. The senators will be able to make suggestions or comments to the finance committee, the committee will review the comments and then present their feedback in the next meeting. The voting will take place in the next, i.e. November 2011 senate meeting.
 - iii. There were total of 15 requests from various graduate student organizations at \$14900, out of which \$7490 was approved.
 - d. Report of the CIO and Election Committee - CIO Sarkar
 - i. Update about office PC
 - ii. Update about office hours, placards, and websites.
 - iii. Requesting senators to follow GPSS on Facebook and twitter for various news and updates.
 - e. Report of the URLA Chair - URLA Chair Pelzer
 - i. Tuition is not increasing, that is good news.
 - ii. Update from Student health insurance committee –
 1. Good news – for 2011-12, there will be a decrease of 5.7% in premium
 2. Bad news - for 2012-13, there might be an 18% increase in premium.
 - iii. Encouraged Senators to go to Pizza Social.
 - iv. Open to questions:
 1. CIO Sarkar – Why this change in premiums? THE increase is mainly due to this change? THIS increase is mainly due to federal mandate increase,
 2. Comment from Shelley: the decrease for coming year is because we are going under the Aetna plan for the 4th year now; they have a good base to check the claims history. The cost ratio went down. However, with the new health insurance, the current cap on health insurance at one million dollars has to be done away with, thus the potential increase for the next year. This is an on-going process now; talks are on with different insurance vendors as well, trying to bring down the costs.
 - f. Report of the PAG Chair - PAG Chair Brgoch
 - i. PAGs are out for fall, accepting applications for spring now. The summer PAGs are split in 2sections; for conference after July 1, 2012, they will fall under the next budget cycle.
 - ii. Peer Research and teaching Awards are due on November 14, 2011. Please send all the applications to Jakoah.
 - g. Graduate and GSB Senator Report
 - i. NO updates.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

- ii. CyRide issue – resolution is being done to look into it, the Grove route needs checking.
- iii. Erica – please raise placards that are opposed to commuter parking lot charging? ALL placards rose.
- iv. Question: Senator Hauser – the parking lots are already paid by past students already, why charging? Aja: Not sure, will ask them.

VI. Old Business

- a. NONE.

VII. New Business

a. Senate Bill F11-04 - Special Allocation For Society Of Women Engineers

- i. Treasurer Aaron read the bill. Since SWE is made up of both graduates and undergraduates, they are blocked from regular allocations.
- ii. Bethany from SWE – SWE is internationally known, ISU chapter is focusing on graduate students now.
- iii. Open for Questions:
 - 1. Senator Perrine – have you asked for money from GSB? NOT yet.
 - 2. Senator Kleinheksel – money from ESC funding? THEY do receive ESC funding for other outreach initiatives, however a specific proposal for these items has not be presented to ESC yet.
 - 3. Treasurer Gross – this group won't be funded by GSB.
 - 4. Senator Leon – what is the breakdown of graduate to undergraduates in SWE? AROUND 100-200 undergraduates, 25-30 graduates.
 - 5. Treasurer Gross – Are all these events for graduates? YES.
 - 6. Called to Question, seconded.
 - 7. VOTE:
 - a. Favor – 47, Oppose – 2, Abstain – 1.

b. Senate Bill F11-05 - Graduate And Professional Student Senate (GPSS) Budget For Fiscal Year 2013

- i. Treasurer Gross read the bill, presented the budget breakdown.
- ii. Note: the SAF for this year is incorrect, this is due to some error at University Office, should be fixed by next month.
- iii. Open to Questions.
 - 1. NONE.
- iv. Voting will be done at next meeting.

c. Senate Bill F11-06 - Fall 2011 Graduate And Professional Student Senate (GPSS) Allocations

- i. Treasurer Gross read the bill.
- ii. Called to questions, seconded.
- iii. VOTE:

- 1. Favor – 52, Oppose –0, Abstain –1.

d. Senate Bill F11-07 - Allocating Funds For 2nd Screening Of “PhD Movie”

- i. CIO Sarkar read the bill.
- ii. Though \$800 is left from the previous bill, the 1st bill had no money allocated for holding a 2nd screening, thus this bill for \$250.
- iii. Open to questions:

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

1. Senator Anderson – will PhD comic’s books be made available at the 2nd screening? NO plans yet, books are available at ISU Book Store though.
 2. Senator Aja – are these books at ISU bookstore autographed by the creator Jorge? PROBABLY not, will ask author if that can be made possible somehow.
 3. Senator Kleinheksel – what happened to the \$800 surplus from previous bill, have we got it back? RESPONSE from treasurer Gross – we have the funds with us still now.
 - iv. Call to question, seconded.
 - v. VOTE:
 1. Favor – 50, Oppose –1, Abstain –0.
 - e. Senate Resolution F11-01 - Supporting ISU Research Misconduct Policy
 - i. URLA Chair Pelzer read the bill.
 - ii. Open to question:
 1. Senator Anderson – Don’t send this to President Geoffrey, but to Leath, as he will be leaving soon.
 2. Friendly amendment from treasurer Gross – Remove President Geoffrey’s name, replace with just ISU president, seconded, passed.
 - iii. Call to question, seconded.
 - iv. VOTE:
 1. Favor – 53, Oppose –0, Abstain –2.
 - f. Senate Resolution F11-02 - Supporting Phase II Of The Intermodal Facility Through TIGER
 - i. PAG Chair Brgoch presented the bill.
 - ii. Cal to question, seconded.
 - iii. VOTE:
 1. Favor – 53, Oppose –0, Abstain –2.
- VIII. Announcements
- a. Treasurer Gross – there’s a difference between reserve account and surplus account.
 - i. Surplus account is rolled over from year to year, currently has around \$45k
 - ii. Reserve account is by rule \$30k, certain percentage of largest line item.
 - b. CIO Sarkar – please attend ISA Diwali Night this Saturday at MU.
 - c. Vice President Fateh – Please attend Pizza Social.
- IX. Adjournment: @ 8:15 pm.