

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 28, 2011; 7:00 PM
Sun Room, MU

- I. Call to order 7:00 P.M.
 - a. Roll Call – DONE (50/83)
 - b. Statement of Quorum by Speaker - DONE
 - c. Approval of the Minutes - Approved
 - d. Amendments to the Agenda – NONE

- II. Introduction of new bills and resolutions
 - a. Senate Bill F11-08 - Special Allocation for Social Events in Spring 2012
CIO Sarkar introduced the bill.
 - b. Senate Resolution F11-03 - Recognition of Service for President Gregory
Geoffroy and wife, Kathy Geoffroy
URLA Chair Pelzer introduced the bill.

- III. Open Forum
 - a. Anna Pringnitz and Julio Espada from Dance Marathon
 - i. The presenters introduced themselves; they are undergraduates, doing recruitment for the past 4 years. Encourage people to get interested in Dance Marathon, graduate students could be spirit dancers, and they don't need to participate in whole day. This event is largest of its kind in ISU, 15 hour event, for helping Children Miracle network hospital in Iowa City by raising money to help build hospital. Funds from the last year went to library hospital.
 - ii. Everyone can raise \$100, can ask them for how-to tips, get to attend Jan 21st. There will be games, interaction with the kids. It's a big socialized event and for a great cause.
 - iii. How to sign up? – go to "D" for Dance Marathon under ISU home page, go to webpage, hit register and signup, it is an easy process. Morale captain to answer questions, enough time to raise money.
 - iv. Open to questions.

- IV. Senate Forum
 - a. Senator Yeninas – On behalf of Physics department, he is currently 5th year PhD student now, there was salary increase in the department once. Among the top 100 1st tier departments, they dropped to position 94. Requesting for stipend increases, but have met with resistance from the chair and Ames Lab Head of the Department. Believes this is a reasonable request. Craig Ogilvie is on their side, assimilated last 6 years' worth of data. He also got data from the AI Handbook for Physics and compared among the top 100 fellow land grant universities, the other big XII, regent schools. However there are

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interdepartmental programs with the Physics department, other stem programs, AMES lab departments, and other NSF depts. – there is no easy way to get the overall information related to salary. He wants to pass around a page, where he requested interested senators to write their department name, write the main source of funding, TA/RA monthly stipend before taxes. He will also go to Shelley Lott for more information. Final Comment is that \$50 increase for over 5 years was definitely not at parity with other life increases.

b. Open to questions:

i. CIO Sarkar – Only Physics or other departments involved also? NOT really, as of yet, only dealing with Physics dept. However, Craig wants to ensure that all students get fair share, there is an annual pay increase for inflation for professors, not for students. Food services get 3.5% increase, but not students – this is an irking issue.

ii. President Smith – This can't really be a joint effort, if it gets big, joint effort would be very difficult, if anyone feels that something needs to be done about their salary, they should look at peer institutions, then pursue it, but joint coalition might not be very helpful. Also, the salary varies from program to program, and also from funding sources – so begin by asking department chair, graduate person in charge, etc.

iii. Treasurer Gross – within a time period, there was pay freeze, important to make sure the source of the data. However looking at the general trend, \$1500-1700 vs. \$1700-3100 per month is widely disparate.

V. Remarks and Reports

a. Report of the President - President Smith

i. Elaine from Ombuds office had come last year to give a small presentation to GPSS, the Ombuds office helps in addressing conflicts between different people on campus, and she presented the 2011 year short snapshot about how its resources were used. (ask for details from Erica)

ii. The MU has some new facilities, a bill was passed to fund renovations, make it more handicap friendly [few door comes out and hits you], GSB put further money, improve ramps, Bowling alley is being removed, the space for pool tables is being redesigned and will make room for more seating to accommodate overflow for lunch hours – this issue will go to GSB before any final decision is made. Investigation is being done so as to what to do with the MU hotel (4th-6th floors), looking at all possible ways, it is outdated, how to remodel, nothings definitive, couple of committees are formed, there is exchange of information now.

iii. Green roof, it is a GSB issue – ask Senator at Large Smazal for more details.

iv. Open to Question:-

1. Anderson – why is overflow an issue? PLAN is to get rid of bowling alley, increase space for recruitment office space, and have tables and chairs for overflow problem. Station for board games etc. might be

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added to compensate, more concrete decisions will be known by next semester.

v. About the graduate college task force – its purpose is to better meet needs for women student experience betterment, there are 6 people interested as of yet, requested them to meet her after the meeting, and also out fill remaining positions.

vi. About the proposal exploration committee – got many responses, they are meeting on Wednesday at 5 pm, where they will be appointing the chair person, Erica will send out mail to all about it.

b. Report of the Vice President and Rules Committee - Vice President Fateh

i. Current bills were Ok with constitution

ii. The nominations for MEW graduate faculty award - submit to Benazir by Dec 15th, passing around sheet to form committee, there will be meeting in January and they need to send their recommendations by Feb 1, 2012.

iii. The next Pizza social is this coming Thursday – new system of ticket issue for better regulation, spread out the pizza delivery times.

c. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee - Treasurer Gross

i. There is 1 financial bill, reported favorably.

d. Report of the CIO and Election Committee - CIO Sarkar

i. CIO Updates

e. Report of the URLA Chair - URLA Chair Pelzer

i. Graduate college reports that there might not be enough room for graduating folks at the convocations; last year they had ticketing system, etc. The graduate is currently in discussions to have it in Hilton, need to talk to LAS College as they have the same time; there will be a resolve to bring family members.

ii. The next graduate council meeting will have discussion about sick leave policy, the process is rolling again - why were we stuck in library council? Because there are some federal agencies like NSF, NIH, etc. with special requirements.

iii. There is 1 committee opening in Grad council, from arts and humanities, requested senators to join that committee, it will be good to have full representation.

f. Report of the PAG Chair - PAG Chair Brgoch

i. No PAG money, Dec 23rd to Jan 2nd, 2 weeks min before conference required.

ii. The peer RA/TA awards in Jan meeting.

g. Graduate and GSB Senator Report – Senator Smazal

i. Remodeling MU, green roof project , step in greening the university

VI. Old Business

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

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- i. Gross read, call to questions. Seconded
- ii. Vote: -
 1. Yes – 56
 2. No – 0
 3. Abstain – 0

VII. New Business

- a. Senate Bill F11-08 - Special Allocation for Social Events in Spring 2012
 - i. CIO Sarkar read the bill.
 - ii. Post some debate, the bill was decided to be tabled till the end of New Business.
- b. Senate Resolution F11-03 - Recognition of Service for President Gregory Geoffroy and wife, Kathy Geoffroy
 - i. URLA Chair Pelzer read the bill.
 - ii. Call to question, seconded.
 - iii. Vote:
 1. Yes – 51
 2. No – 4
 3. Abstain – 1
- c. Senate Bill F11-08 - Special Allocation for Social Events in Spring 2012 – 2nd Round
 - i. Open to question:
 1. There was a lot of debate on this one, some of the issues involved were
 - a. Making it once in 2 months on a larger scale instead of monthly.
 - b. Changing food options from pizza to other items like snacks/coffee/bread sticks/
 - c. Objective of the event was discussed – to foster greater interaction among graduate students.
 - d. Organization skills were discussed – new ideas were proposed to have some senators greet people at the door; hand out tickets to avoid the mad rush.
 - e. A committee idea was floated to decide about the course of action to plan and manage the monthly socials; Senator Yeninas volunteered to head that committee.
 - f. Motion was proposed to table the bill till later until the new committee decides on the course of action.
 - ii. VOTE to table bill:
 1. Yes – 35
 2. No – 11
 3. Abstain – 7

VIII. Announcements

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- a. President Erica – please meet me after the meeting about the task force.
- b. Senator Yeninas – ready to discuss and answer questions about the physics department salary issue.

IX. Adjournment @ 10 pm.

PASSED