

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting MINUTES

Monday, January 30, 2012; 7:00 PM
South Ballroom, MU

- I. Call to order 7:00 P.M.
 - a. Roll Call done – DONE (50/81)
 - 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 S12-01 - Appointing A New Adviser To The Graduate And Professional Student Senate
 - i. Treasurer Gross read the Order.
 - b. Senate Order S12-02 - Nominating A Graduate Student To The GSB Senate
 - i. Treasurer Gross read the Order.
 - c. Senate Bill S12-03 - Special Allocations For Two Social Events In Spring 2012
 - i. Senator Yeninas read the bill.
 - d. Senate Order S12-04 - Call For Proposals For Graduate Student Improvements In Success And Overall Experience
 - i. Senator Kleinheksel read the bill.
 - ii. A committee was formed to responsibly spend a part of reserve money for sustainable projects, the findings of the committee will be presented today.
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Michael Giles, Director of Rec Services, ISU
 - i. Thanked the GPSS for inviting him.
 - ii.
 - iii. Pause, open to questions.
 - iv. Questions:
 1. Senator Stoehr – are there any specific areas for boxing? NOT yet, there is a designated sport club area, not open to general public area yet. This will be for that purpose.
 2. Senator Anderson – Is there any family time available? NO, it is a current policy, however there is discussion ongoing about offering family time and opportunities, this situation will be addressed soon.
 3. Senator Russell – there are very few day lockers, how about adding more? THERE is a current purchase quote of additional lockers, looking to add against the west wall, looking to expand, will be added sooner rather than later.
 4. Senator Peters – In Beyer Hall, there is currently only 1 point of access, so when there is any sporting event, there might be

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congestion? RIGHT now, Beyer hall is mainly an activity center, on days when there is expected congestion like sporting events/swim meets; there is provision for opening the other 3 doors so as to ease congestion.

5. President Smith – fee questions –
 - a. Are there any additional charges for rock climbing? THE only extra charge now is for the outdoor trips, also locker charges and some specialty courses, else no charge.
 - b. What about the current load in Lied Rec Center? IT is somewhat reduced now, on January night, there were 4200 card scans in State gym and 2500 scans in Lied. An eventual balance between the 2 facilities is expected over time.
 - c. What is the current wait limits on the machines? TOO early to comment conclusively, however anytime post 4 pm and till 11 pm, the State gym is extremely congested, more or less all the machines are being used at a steady pace.
6. Senator Kresge – what about parking for off campus students? NO idea yet, because of the proximity of various residential area – both on and off campus, there is few parking options available, currently not possible to give specifics on parking.
7. Senator Russell – currently all the fitness classes are in the later part of the day, nothing in the morning and thus very congested - any thoughts? THE current applied double schedule is based on the experience faced in Lied, plan was to start off the semester with what we knew will work, then continually monitor and assess and make sure to best use the resource. Any feedback on the class schedule is welcome; please send email to Nora Hudson (nhudson@iastate.edu).
8. Senator Riddle – in the morning hours, the Lied is very busy with community members? NO, outside people are not allowed in Lied, those people are mainly with the ROTC.
Any plans to open State gym for ROTC also? NO, as of yet. But will respond to requests by various student groups.
- v. Back to slides
- vi.
- vii. Presentation over, open to 2nd round of questions:
- viii. Questions:
 1. Senator DeLeon – are there any first aid or responders classes being offered currently? NONE yet, but will look into it.
 2. Senator Kleinheksel – He means no disrespect, but on the UBill, all the students get charged the health fees, which can be removed by calling the office – has anyone bought the possibility of some graduate students who are busy and not using the facilities at all to

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remove the corresponding charges from their Ubills? WHEN the fee was established nearly 20 years ago, it was university wide fees, cannot exactly differentiate, cannot run a piecemeal operation, it is the default nature of required fee, not going to be based on choice.

a. Treasurer Gross – it is a required fee, cannot opt out of it.

b. Advisor Michelle – yes, it is mandatory fees, one has to pay.

3. Senator Zheng – It is very difficult to play badminton indoors because of the very bright and colorful curtains around the court partitioning between different games, any thoughts? HMMM, will changing the shuttle cock color or altering the height of the curtains make any difference – changing the color of the curtain is not an options. The reason for the curtains is to partition the play space between various activities like badminton, basketball etc. and to prevent injuries.

IV. Senate Forum

a. OPEN

V. Remarks and Reports

a. Report of the President - President Smith

- i. The executive board has been very busy; there is little university wide policies taking into effect, more details will follow.
- ii. The state governor has released budget, it looks favorable for ISU.
- iii. President Leath is now ISU president, there is a very nice introductory video about him and his background online, do watch it. He will be coming to one of the GPSS meetings this semester to meet us.
- iv. Two GSB senators will be seated today.
- v. The search for the new DEAN of students will start soon, she might be in the committees, and more details will follow soon. Encourages senators to be a part of the open forums and help in the search.
- vi. Open to questions.

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

- i. The rules committee January legislation favorable.
- ii. The MEW graduate faculty awards committee met in January and forwarded the top 6 applications to the graduate college, the graduate college will form an evaluation panel with faculty and 2 GPSS members who will meet in end of February. VP Fateh will be one of the 2 members, if someone is interested to be the 2nd one, please contact Fateh or email her by February 10th, 2012.

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- iii. The Rules committee is required to review GPSS constitution and bylaws annually and they are currently doing so; if any senator has any concerns a\or suggestions, please email Fateh by February 10th, these suggestions will be considered by the next senate meeting.
- c. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee - Treasurer Gross
 - i. He sent out mail about regular allocations sometime back, please pass it on to constituents/
 - ii. There is a social bill today, it was replied favorably.
 - iii. There is a Wakonse conference where GPSS sends students for teaching experience; usually they send 5 students for a total cost of \$3000, however due to increased costs, this year that will be 4 students, unless the senate writes a bill demanding more money.
- d. Report of the CIO and Election Committee - CIO Sarkar
 - i. The Exec elections for 2012-13 GPSS would be announced next month. Please talk to anyone from the current GPSS Exec for any information about particular positions one might be interested in.
 - ii. Website is updated.

CIO updates

- e. Report of the URLA Chair - URLA Chair Pelzer
 - i. Within the graduate college, Assistant Dean Craig Ogilvie is trying to implement a leave policy, specially focused on maternity leave. There is currently no university wide policy, and they are looking to change that. It is still in its initial planning stage, will be able to provide more details as they develop.
 - ii. Every spring semester, the URLA chair is required to arrange for a seminar or clinic for graduate students, he wants the topic for this spring event to be decided by GPSS. He will email the current ideas for the event to the senate, please feel free to add your own ideas. It will be finalized in the March senate meeting. This event will be able to host limited number of people though cause of limited funds.
 - 1. Current ideas
 - a. Career Interview
 - b. Resume CV Critic
 - c. Academic Presentations
 - d. Financial Literacy

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- e. Speed Dating
 - iii. There are currently few university committee openings, roughly 9 vacancies in a total of 65 positions, it is a very good leadership opportunity, encourages senators to join.
 - iv. This year, the Regents' day the Capitol is April 4, 2012. There was not much graduate representation last year, which he hopes to be different this year. Good chance to exercise the lobbying power. ISU Ambassadors take care of the logistics mainly.[Contact - Ahna Kruzic (akruzic@iastate.edu)]
 - v. Comments:
 - 1. President Smith – one can also talk about their current research work, especially if its focused on IOWA related research, this will encourage funding increase, this event not just for ELPS major folks.
 - 2. Vice President Fateh – will there be any orientation meeting? YES, the dates are not confirmed yet, but there will be a quick tutorial about how and what to speak at the event.
 - f. Report of the PAG Chair - PAG Chair Brgoch
 - i. There is currently plenty of money left in PAG funding for spring and summer.
 - ii. The peer research and teaching awards have been decided and the certificates will be handed out tonight
 - iii. QUESTIONS:
 - 1. Senator Deleon – How much money left for spring? AROUND 8-10 thousand dollars.
 - g. Graduate and GSB Senator Report – Senator Feng
 - i. There have already been 3 GSB meetings in the past month; there were very hard debates about money allocation to different student groups.
 - ii. There's a lot to learn from the undergrads which show their special perspectives, some meetings continue very long, this makes sure that every penny is spent wisely.
- VI. Old Business
- a. NONE.
- VII. New Business
- a. Senate Order S12-01 - Appointing A New Adviser To The Graduate And Professional Student Senate
 - i. Treasurer Gross read the bill
 - ii. Call to question, seconded.

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- iii. VOTE
 - 1. Yes – 49
 - 2. No – 0
 - 3. Abstain – 1
- iv. Order passes.
- b. Senate Order S12-02 - Nominating A Graduate Student To The GSB Senate
 - i. Treasurer Gross read the bill, proposed friendly amendment to add 2 blanks and corresponding grammatical changes to make provisions to add two senators today.
 - ii. Nominee #1 was Karl Higgins.
 - 1. He is a graduate student from Architecture; he found out that there is no representation from college of design. He wants to get involved with GSB and GPSS.
 - iii. President Smith added Jelili Adebisi name to be Nominee #2.
 - iv. VOTE
 - 1. Yes – 46
 - 2. No – 0
 - 3. Abstain – 1
 - v. Order passed, with Karl and Jelili names on it.
- c. Senate Bill S12-03 - Special Allocations For Two Social Events In Spring 2012
 - i. Senator Yeninas presented the bill.
 - ii. It is basically a stripped down version of the old bill.
 - iii. VP Fateh told Senator Yeninas to read the bill; Senator Kleinheksel asked to be considered as read, Treasurer Gross objected, Senator Yeninas read the bill.
 - iv. The ad-hoc food committee has tried to be as inclusive as possible, considering small amount of students, total 3 socials per semester, can be template for future semesters. Fewer socials, more money per social => overall money saved.
 - v. No dates have been specified yet, there needs to be a balance around spring break and Veishea.
 - vi. Maybe push the event timings little bit back till around 9, order pizza in same fashion, there could be light music towards the end depending on the venue.
 - vii. FOOD CONSIDERATION: the main item will be still Papa John's pizza, it is cost effective. In order to allow for alternative foods, please come forward and discuss with the following points in mind:-
 - 1. Specific need for alternate food,
 - 2. cost effectiveness
 - 3. Within university policies?

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We are greatly restricted by university policies so as to what food what we can allow.

- viii. TIP ISSUE: No mention here, tip shall be included inside 300\$ bill, if one wants more tips to be included, then a new bill ash to be written.
 - ix. QUESTIONS:
 - 1. Senator Perez – whom to contact for more details? VP Fateh or Senator Yeninas.
 - 2. Senator Deleon – How many people have attended the last 2 socials? VP Fateh - In the last social on December 2, 2011, a new ticketing system was implemented, there were volunteers who helped out with that, 1 ticket for 1 pizza – that gave us an idea about the number of people coming in – around 120 and everybody got pizza.
 - 3. Senator White - Call to question, 2nded.
 - x. VOTE
 - 1. Yes – 46
 - 2. No – 1
 - 3. Abstain – 2
 - xi. Bill passes as written.
- d. Senate Order S12-04 - Call For Proposals For Graduate Student Improvements In Success And Overall Experience
- i. Senator Kleinheksel read the bill.
 - ii. Currently, GPSS has around \$70k, \$30k of it is in reserve account, and \$40k is sitting accruing no interest. Graduate students entrust us to spend these funds to benefit them, but money just sitting there is not serving their purpose. This bill is not a part of any regular/special allocation. It is a one-time thing to call out proposal ideas to identify what problems exist out there and what student organizations can do something to benefit and improve graduate student experience.
 - iii. There are already some student organizations, they are addressing student needs, this is an opportunity for student organizations to identify certain gaps and help them to fill it up with a startup seed funds.
 - iv. Some might argue that isn't it the departments' job to fill up these gaps? YES, I agree, is the university which is responsible for this, to create the best chance of success, however, resources are limited and priorities do not fill up those gaps. Thus, this proposal idea.
 - v. Some might say that GPSS allocates funds in Aril 2012, different projects start, after 1 year say, they die out, what then? There is no way one can guarantee that any organization GPSS gives money to will be able to continue forward or not, however the top criterion in the project proposal is sustainability. If any organization asking for funds but cannot argue how

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their work is going to be sustainable has lasting impact – will not be considered at all.

- vi. Few years ago, GPSS gave \$30K to ISU library for journals, this was right before the economic crisis, after which the library could not sustain that anymore. We cannot foresee that kind of situation, but if there are good ideas, we should give them a head start.
- vii. QUESTIONS:
 1. Senator White – Can professional students also apply? YES, they also fall under graduate class classification.
 2. Senator Deleon – there is slight concern with the issue when there are more than 1 proposal per department? IF there are several proposals from a single department, the senator is worried that a disproportionate amount of money would be given to a single department. Right now, in regular allocations also, there is no strict policy against 1 department asking for funds from different groups belonging to the same department. The proposals selected would be based on the merit of the proposal; no judgment would be based on the number of proposals per department.
 3. Comment from Senator Anderson (Co-Author) – Some departments might not have any organizations currently, this might also provide impetus to create graduate student organizations and allow them to apply for funds.
 4. Senator Perez - how did \$40k accumulate? OVER multiple years, roughly 8/10 years.
 5. Senator White – not trying to nitpicky, but there’s no Vet Med college group currently under the graduate college heading, since they pay student fees, they should also be able to apply for funding through this. CLARIFICATION from Treasurer Gross – they are eligible to apply.
 6. Senator Riddle – how will the committee decide on where the needs are? DOES NOT think it is up to the committees to decide where the “need” is, but instead up to the proposal writers to identify the “need”, then justify their plan and projected student impact. Additionally, sustainability will be a key feature that will be looked for in all proposals, without it, it will be a responsible use of student fee surpluses.
 7. Senator White – proposed a friendly amendment to change all the instances with “graduate students” with “graduate and professional students” – accepted.
 8. Senator Swanson – call to question, 2nded.
- viii. VOTE
 1. Yes – 41

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2. No – 0
3. Abstain – 5
- ix. Order passes as amended.

VIII. Announcements

- a. President Smith – the announcement for next year executive board elections will be done next month, if anyone is interested in a particular position, please contact the executive board.

IX. Adjournment @ 9.03 pm.

PASSED