IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting Notes
Monday August 25th, 2014;
7:00 PM
South Ballroom, Memorial Union

I. Call to Order 7:05 PM

   i. Roll Call – 75% MET

   ii. Statement of a Quorum by the Vice-President

   iii. Approval of Meeting Notes - approved

   iv. Amendments to the agenda –

      a) Substitute Senator Lois adds Mahdi Ramezani to Senate Forum

         1. Yes - 79%

         2. No - 8%

         3. Abstain - 13%

         4. PASSED

II. Open Forum

   i. Dr. Jim Davis, CIO, Iowa State University

      a) Central IT group has 200 staff members, and a lot of students

      b) 150 personals across various departments.

      c) Computational Advisory Committee: 8.5 million dollars at disposals. GPSS should get more involved.

      d) Instead of annual call for proposals we now have http://www.techstarter.iastate.edu/

      e) Summer Projects: wireless network: partial funding through student tech fees and ISU: 4 million $. Used to be great, but video streaming overloaded it. Upgraded it. Did a lot of wiring in the buildings to upgrade. Still in progress. Residences halls done, 4800 access points in Residence Halls. Upgraded the campus network, is now 10 times faster than it was during the beginning of summer.

      f) ISU is its own service provider.

      g) Most of the paper work is made online. Trying to get the paper work replaced with online procedures.

      h) Improving information data protection.

      i) New classroom technology next year.

      j) Increasing data storage for research.

      k) Purchased Zoom for video conferencing.

      l) Consolidating licenses for softwares.

m)   New High performance computing cluster in September

n)   Q&A:

    1. How is student's fees spent and when were they last time revised: Everything is available online. Money is distributed between Colleges and Library. Engineering and a few others charge extra and that money stays with them. Committee allocates certain amount of dollars for printing. It's an issue which gets discussed every year.

ii.   Prof. Thomas Brumm, Associate Professor in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Co-founder National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS), past President of GPSS.

a)   Was a grad student in 80s at ISU

b)   Was treasurer and president of GPSS for 2 years

c) Worked in industry for 10 years, and came back in 2000 to ISU

d)   NAGPS Formation:

    1. Went to Ohio State University for a TA workshop with Assistant Dean. Met a lot of counterparts from other universities.

    2. NAGPS started as a result of informal meeting with other grad students.

    3. NAGPS started because we all had common interest. Share same problem, and hence wanted to form a common platform to work out our solutions.

    4. First National Meeting at Washington State, then Penn State then Miami.

    5. NAGPS started various services for graduate students.

e)   There is a lot of value in staying connected with others. What we think are our unique problem has been already faced by others, and therefore getting help is easier.

f)   A lot of value in communicating. Grad students face similar problems everywhere, easier to find solutions together.

III.   Senate Forum

i.   Mr. Ramadani:

a)   Want to talk about last year's PAG changes.

b)   Changed it to monthly allocation instead of per semester

c)   Today's bill would redo what was previously done, without implementing last year's changes.

d)   The new proposed system has monthly allocation, but has the provisions for roll-over, which we did not want to include in the changes that we proposed in the bill last semester.

e)   Q&A:
1. Please explain rollover. Answer: You get multiple chances to apply for the same conference.

IV.   Remarks and Reports
   i.   Report of the President – President Arko Mukherjee
      a)   Thank you and welcome to a new session
      b)   Senate and execs should work together.
      c)   Senators should take initiatives and write legislature, identify the faults and fix the system.
      d)   New graduate orientation 4th Sep.
      e)   Fall socials 5th Sep.
      f)   Please go back to your dept., and ensure that everyone in your dept. knows you, so that your constituents would be able to provide feedback. Hold office hours. Reach out. Strive to serve your constituents better.
      g)   Grad College approved graduate student career
      h)   Graduate Career Services: Graduate College approved a "graduate career services director" position to help graduate students with non-academic job search. The search for someone suitable for this position will begin soon. The position will be responsible for:
      i)   Helping students with job search.
      j)   Establishing industry contacts and relationship building.
      k)   Coordinate with the career services offices from other colleges so as to organize career fairs that help graduate students.
      l)   Help students interested in a career in career in entrepreneurship.
      m)   ISSO agreed to form a "International Student Advisory Board", a new University committee having representation from GSB, GPSS etc. The committee will advice ISSO on issues regarding International students. GPSS execs are also thinking of creating a GPSS standing committee for issues concerning international students. The GPSS committee can represent GPSS in the University board. If you are interested in becoming a part of this initiative, please let me know. We can brainstorm on how to best help international graduate students.
      n)   Research conference:
1. Working with the Lectures committee to get an eminent external keynote speaker for the conference.
2. The provost approved $600 for the conference.
3. The exec committee is also working on getting some external funding.

4. Please come forward and help us organize this conference. The position for co-chair is currently empty.
o) Dr. Hill graciously funded us $2000 to organize socials.
p) ISU daily agreed to assign someone to cover our meetings.
q) Please attend the Graduate Orientation on 4th September. Help us organize it and make sure incoming graduate students from your Department / Program attends it.
r) Fall Social is on 5th September. Please help to spread the news. Flyer is attached. Please print the flyer and post it in your Departmental notice board.
s) Vice President Sarah Nusser kindly agreed to give a talk on "Ways to succeed as a graduate / professional student". GPSS will provide free food etc. It is scheduled September 17th, 5:30 PM. Location to be announced.
t) A new exec position called "Events Chair"? Come prepared to discuss in September meeting.
u) How can GPSS help spouses of Graduate and Professional students? If you are interested in this issue, please let me know.
v) Q&A:
1. Same student fee? Answer: Only increase in Cyride. Increased operating cost. They are going deep into their reserves. Cyride's federal grant is drying up. Federal grant was used to buy new buses. Student fees was used only for operations. No money to buy buses in future.

ii. Report of the Vice President and Rules Committee – Vice-President Zachary Zenko
a) New Senator handbook online.
b) Dr. Hill graciously funded us $2000.00 to organize socials.
c) Graduate orientation will be on Thursday, September 4th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Iowa State Alumni Center.
d) Fall Social will be on Friday, September 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Hickory Shelter at Brookside Park.
e) Senators are encouraged to join the Rules Committee, which helps to ensure that bills are constitutionally sound and can move to the senate floor.
f) Q&A:
1. Open forum is open to discussion? Answer: If related to bills, the bills should be discussed during bills discussion to avoid replication.

2. Q&A: How many students registered for Orientation: Answer: 200

iii. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee – Treasurer Timothy Rakitan

   a) **Finance Committee Membership** – First FC meeting is Tuesday, September 3rd at 6pm in Room 3538 of the Memorial Union. We'll cover time commitments, responsibilities and processes. If you're interested in joining the FC, stop in!

   b) **On-Line Allocations Applications** – The Regular Allocations application is now on-line!

   c) **Regular Allocations** – The Regular Allocations cycle begins in September. Spread the word: deadline for Regulars is 5pm Friday, September 26th. Applications can be submitted on paper or on-line.

   d) **Fiscal Impacts of bills and resolutions**

   1. *GPSS Constitution* – N/A

   2. *Senator-at-Large* – N/A

   3. *PAG Reform* – Re-allocates PAG funding between months of the year, meaning no net fiscal impact.

   4. *Support for Dawkins Lecture* - $1,500 proposed support, can come out of Specials Allocations ($1,500 available) and/or budgeted surplus from FY2014 ($5,219 available). Benefits of GPSS support include putting our name on the sponsorship list for the lecture; continuing a relationship with the University Lectures Committee, which may benefit us in soliciting help in contacting speakers for GPSS events. Costs include the dollar amount of support.

   5. *NAGPS Membership* - $500 up front for yearly membership. Main benefits include augmenting GPSS's ability to participate in policy discussions at the national level and participate in lobby efforts for issues affecting graduate students. Relevant side-benefits include discounts on Hertz Car Rental; 5% discount on GEICO auto insurance policies; discounted rates on international travel insurance and short-term travel/health insurance. Costs include the $500 yearly membership fee; time commitment by our chosen representatives to

the NAGPS committees and events and possible associated travel expenditures.

iv. Report of the CIO and Elections Committee – CIO Sneha Singh
   a) PAG is now online. Many thanks to Cory for the hard work!
   b) Please like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter:
      1. https://www.facebook.com/GPSS.ISU
      2. https://twitter.com/ISUGPSS
      3. We will post all updates on these links.
   c) Please consider joining the Elections and the Operations committee.
   d) If your clicker doesn't work, please let me know so that I can fix it.

v. Report of the URLA Chair and URLA Committee – URLA Chair Ruchir Goswami
   a) Representation from graduate students is required in 6 university committees. GPSS is also looking for 2 at-large senators.
   b)

Committee	website
CELT Advisory Board	http://www.committees.iastate.edu/comm-info.php?id=94
Graduate Council: Arts & Humanities	http://www.committees.iastate.edu/comm-info.php?id=97
Graduate Council: Social Sciences & Education	http://www.committees.iastate.edu/comm-info.php?id=97
GSB Senator at-large:1	No Website: Serve on both GPSS and GSB senates in a liason capacity
GSB Senator at-large:2	
Keep Iowa State Beautiful Committee	http://www.committees.iastate.edu/comm-info.php?id=129
Students and Scholars Health Insurance Review Committee	http://www.committees.iastate.edu/comm-info.php?id=87
University Affairs Committee	http://www.gsb.iastate.edu/wordpress/?page_id=357

   c) Dr. Sarah Nusser, Vice President for Research would be giving a talk on "Ways to succeed as a graduate / professional student" on Sep 17th, 2014 as part of the GPSS Professional Development Series.
   d) The department of Human Development and Family Studies would start offering a B.S. in Early Childcare, Education and Programming (ECP) which is expected to start in Jan, 2015.
   e) Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference, GPSRC- 2015 would be held on Thursday 2nd April, 2015 at Memorial Union.
   f) Q&A:
      1. Senator Prisacari: Revise GSB Senator-at-Large to avoid killer time commitment for grad students on GSB?

        2. Response: Arko – GSB in conversation to change Senator-at-Large requirements and allow GPSS rep to GSB to serve "light-duty" committee.

  vi.   Report of the PAF Chair and the PAF Committee – PAF Chair Cory Kleinheksel

    a)   It has been an exciting summer for PAG.

        1. Congratulations to the ISU team for being the first US team to win 15th annual Data Mining Cup. We are proud to fund (partly) this amazing group of graduate students. (http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2014/07/10/data-miners)

    b)   GPSS transitioned to an electronic PAG application to better serve students (https://www-gpss.sws.iastate.edu/students/pag/). We expect the overall application experience to improve with faster service times and fewer errors

    c)   Beginning Fall 2014, the electronic process also will allow students to view the status of their application online. There will be a 'queued', 'Approved', and 'Denied' status with additional explanation accompanying the 'queued' status.

    d)   For those familiar with the paper process, there will be a few changes when moving to the electronic process. The biggest change will be no submitting paper copies of abstract acceptance / registration confirmation. Instead

        1. Additional detailed information from the abstract acceptance / registration confirmation will be submitted with the application that wasn't required previously, AND

        2. Each student will be responsible for retaining proof of abstract acceptance / registration confirmation for one (1) year following the last day of their conference.

    e)   GPSS may select applications for auditing within one (1) year following the conference travel. In the case of an audit, students will be required to provide all documents and information required in hardcopy, i.e. the same procedure used previously for ALL PAG applications.

    f)   Please visit https://www-gpss.sws.iastate.edu/students/pag/

    g)   PAG applications for Fall 2014 (professional conferences, meetings or workshops occurring between August 25, 2014 – January 11, 2015) are currently being accepted.

    h)   PAG applications for Spring 2015 (professional conferences, meetings or workshops occurring between January 12, 2015 – May 17, 2015) are NOT being accepted at this point. Applications will be accepted from December 15, 2014. Any applications received before this date will not be considered for funding.

    i)   The PAG committee members worked incredibly hard this summer. There was much progress made towards reworking the PAG system this past spring and these wonderful women and men on the PAG committee, really took it to the finish line this summer. They looked at the current system and where the system was going with the incremental bills passed so far and then used historical and survey data to make informed amendments to the policies and procedures. Lastly Senator feedback was solicited and all feedback

received was addressed, which lead to additional positive changes in our final bill up for a vote tonight.

j)   PAG committee oversees several student awards. Please see (https://www-gpss.sws.iastate.edu/students/pag/awards.php) for more information. Updates and more information will be coming the fall. Stay tuned.

k)   PAG committee is always looking for new voices and is a wonderful place to start getting involved in GPSS. If you are interested in joining, please email **gpsspag@iastate.edu**

vii.   Report of the GSB-Senator at Large

a)   None

V.   Unfinished Business

i.   None

VI.   New Business

i.   Senate Bill F14-01: Ratification of the Constitution

a)   Motion to consider the bill read. FAILS.

b)   Sen. Priscari reads the bill.

c)   Call to question

d)   Voting:

1. Yes: 89

2. No: 0

3. Abstain: 11

ii.   Senate Bill F14-02: Nominating Graduate Students to the GSB Senate

a)   Sen Darvishi reads the bill.

b)   Sen. Agrawal: friendly amendment. Include 3 open seats instead of 1.

c) Vote:

1. Yes: 75

2. No: 5

3. Abstain: 20

d)   PASSED.

iii.   Senate Bill F14-03: Approval of the Professional Advancement Grant (PAG) Policies and Procedures

a)   Sen Jaramillo Cherrez reads the bill.

b)   Applauds the previous PAG committee for their work.

c)   This is built on the previous work, as an improvement by the current PAG Committee.

d) Improvements over the bill passed last semester:
1. Keep the monthly allocation.
2. Change: Apply as per the month of allocation.
3. Change: Avoid Lottery. Designed priority. Cannot be allocate more than once in a fiscal year. Preference to first timers. If enough funding, then priority to those who got PAG before.
4. Change: Summer semester: You need to
5. Change: If denied, apply again for a different conference in the same fiscal year.
6. Friendly amendment: remove Helmich as a sponsor.
7. Discussion:
   a. Lottery in PAG is easier to get.
   b. Clarifications about the differences in the current bill and spring bills.
   c. This gives chance to apply again if you get denied.
   d. New bill is complicated.
   e. New bill streamlines the applications by month of traveling, fairer.
   f. Combine the month of travel with lottery???
   g. Table the bill or postponing?
   h. Motion to postpone definitely: Objection by Lois. Senator Mantia Parez: Join committee.
   i. Rampant disinformation about the PAG System, postpone it.
   j. Postpone:
      i. Yes: 89
      ii. No: 11
      iii. Abstain:0
8. Recommendation by senators to PAG committee to prepare documents to send to constituents for active feedback.
iv. Senate Bill F14-04: Co-Sponsor University Committee on Lectures Initiative
   a) Read by Sen Agrawal.
   b) Discussion:
   1. 10% of the Physics graduate students are interested.
   2. Substitute Senator Lois: Richard Dawkins is evil.
   c) Amendment to reduce the amount to 800$.
   d) Vote on amendment:
   1. Yes: 36
   2. No:43
   3. Abstain: 20

e)   Amendment FAILS.
f)   Call to question.
g)   Vote:
    1. Yes: 67
    2. No: 20
    3. Abstain: 13
h)   PASSED
   v.   Senate Bill F14-05:   Making Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) a regular member of **National Association of Graduate-Professional Students** (NAGPS)
a)   Sen. Chung read the bill.
b)   Discussion:
    1. Opposition to bill: argument, it's a political organization.
    2. Benefit in being a part of a bigger organization.
    3. Senator Priscari: we got a lot of good ideas from these guys last year which helped us in improving our services. Eg. cost of bringing in speaker goes down.
c)   Vote:
    1. Yes: 49
    2. No: 36
    3. Abstain: 16
d)   FAILED

VII.   Announcements
   i.   None

VIII.   Adjournment @ 9:40 PM

IX.   X. Voting Record
   a. http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/senate/meetings/14-15/August/Vote/Question.html
   b. http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/senate/meetings/14-15/August/Vote/Participant.html