



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

#### Remarks and Reports

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#### I. Report of the President

- i. A tuition increase for international, nonimmigrant students has been proposed to the Board of Regents. This will be voted on in the December meeting of the Board of Regents. The plan would be to increase tuition by \$500.00 in the Fall of 2016. This would eventually result in tuition difference of \$1500.00.
  - a. This will NOT affect graduate students on an assistantship.
- ii. Reginald Stewart has been named the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and is expected to begin on December 1st. This will be voted on October 22nd, which will happen after this report is written and before our October meeting.
- iii. A student fee increase of \$33.50 will be voted on in the December meeting of the Board of Regents. This is meant to cover the updates and upgrades for student health services and additional costs of CyRide.
- iv. A motion has passed in the Graduate Council that will allow graduate students on restricted status to complete graded courses, rather than graduate level courses, from an approved plan of studies, count toward the progress to full admission status. DOGEs will have more information about this, but this essentially makes it easier for students to obtain full admission status. It does not impact the majority of students. However, for some students, it is critical.
- v. In the Graduate Council, I will be part of a subcommittee to review Chapter 9 of the Graduate College Handbook. We will discuss situations involving conflict between Graduate Students and Faculty, Graduate Assistant Rights, etc. This was formed last week. Expect updates in the future and, if you have valuable input, we will be seeking it.

#### II. Report of the Vice President

- i. One bill was submitted by the Finance Committee. The Rules Committee reviewed the bill and found the bill favorable, i.e., adheres to the GPSS governing documents.
- ii. Working with the CIO to find a permanent fix to the senate representation issue raised at the last meeting by a student majoring in Environmental Science. When a fix is identified it will be brought to the Rules Committee to draft the appropriate changes to the GPSS governing documents.
- iii. Typically the social committee will plan one or more smaller socials throughout the school year. If GPSS would like to continue this, representatives are required on the Social Committee. Please email [gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu](mailto:gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu) if you'd like to plan and organize such socials.
- iv. Please forward any suggested speakers for Open Forum to [gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu](mailto:gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu)

#### III. Report of the Treasurer



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- 1 i. Regular Allocations: 16 clubs funded, approx. \$8,800 funded, approx. \$8,100 rolled over
- 2 for spring cycle.
- 3 ii. Finance Committee submits allocations bill favorably.
- 4 iii. We welcome comments on the allocations process if any of your constituents have things to
- 5 say!
- 6 iv. Coming soon: budget draft for next year and considerations for guidelines revision.

### 7 IV. Report of the Chief Information Officer

- 8 i. 75 seated Senators as of Oct 14.
- 9 ii. Elections and Operations Committee is shorthanded.
- 10 iii. Representation Statistics:

Data	Current	By Major
Number of units	77	119
Number of Senators	98	132
Average student count	64	39
Standard Deviation	82	51

### 11 V. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair

- 12 i. First Professional Development Seminar on Alternative Careers for PhDs (Consulting and
- 13 IP) was conducted on Oct 19th in the Gold room at MU. Please contact me with
- 14 suggestions on what you would like to see in a useful professional development seminar.
- 15 ii. Meeting in Graduate Council discussed issues such as removing the final exam for creative
- 16 component MS students, collapsing POSC deadline to match with the graduation deadline
- 17 and revising Chapter 9 of the Graduate Handbook which deals with the rights and
- 18 responsibilities of Graduate students. Please contact me with any input you may have on
- 19 these issues.
- 20 iii. I am interested in developing a graduate student / researcher survey to assess quality of
- 21 advising. I have got some leads on it already, if you have specific inputs about it, please
- 22 contact me.
- 23 iv. CyBiz program seems to be going on the right path, a minimal scholarship is ensured for
- 24 students who take part in it.
- 25 v. Reginald Stewart, chief diversity officer at the University of Nevada, Reno, has been
- 26 selected vice president for diversity and inclusion at Iowa State. His appointment, subject to
- 27 State Board of Regents approval at the regents' Oct. 22 meeting, begins on Dec. 1.

### 28 VI. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair

- 29 i. Distribution of PAGs in accordance with the PAG policy.
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- 1 ii. Amount of money that came from previous month allowed to fund every priority one
- 2 student for conferences on November, and 16 priority two students after lottery. A total of
- 3 85 students were awarded.
- 4 iii. Senator Nadia Jaramillo Cherez was witness of the lottery, which occurred on October
- 5 15th at 6 pm.
- 6 iv. We would like to encourage Senators to promote the nomination of ISU outstanding
- 7 professors for the Margaret Ellen White award.
- 8 v. PAG applications are being received. For students that are planning to attend a conference
- 9 in December, please apply no later than November 15th 2015.
- 10 VII. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
- 11 i. GPSRC committee met last week. ISU PDA and Student government agreed to be
- 12 permanent member of the GPSRC committee.
- 13 ii. I presented the GPSRC idea to Student Government Senate, they were very receptive and
- 14 agreed to be involved actively.
- 15 a. If you have any idea how we can help/collaborate with undergrads please let me know.
- 16 iii. I attended the search committee members for the upcoming position of Senior Vice-
- 17 president of Student Affairs, as Dr. Tom Hill has announced his retirement. The online
- 18 form asking your suggestions will be available soon. Please send your recommendations to
- 19 help the search committee for fair and transparent search.
- 20 iv. Karin Lawton-Dunn from graduate career services has agreed to help find us workshop
- 21 speakers if we provide topics.
- 22 a. 4 workshops are finalized already-
- 23 1. "Improving your professional speaking skills: why it matters and how to do it?"-
- 24 Mark Gleason
- 25 2. "How to create and maintain your monthly budget in graduate student salary"-
- 26 Student loan education office
- 27 3. "Link-in to Linked-In: All you need to know about your Linked-In profile"- Karin
- 28 Lawton-Dunn
- 29 4. "Art of Professional Writing: A skill and ledder to an alternative career"
- 30 b. We are looking for few more workshops. Please send your ideas by 20th November,
- 31 2015.
- 32 v. The Keynote speaker during lunch time will be Dr. Catherine Kling and closing speaker
- 33 will be Dr. Jorge Cham.
- 34 vi. Dates to note-
- 35 a. Abstract submission opens- 01/11/2015
- 36 b. Abstract submission ends- 02/15/2015
- 37 c. Acceptance response by- 03/15/2015
- 38 d. Conference- 04/12/2015
- 39 vii. I need some help with PR committee, especially flyer designing for the conference.
- 40 viii. I am still working with MU staff to figure-out how to retrieve videos from last
- 41 conference. Please wait as they are not that helping. I apologize for delay.