



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Remarks and Reports

I. Report of the President

- i. After our last meeting, the executive council met with the executive council of the Student Government. Our Vice President met with the Office of the Senior Vice President of Business and Finance and we both met with the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost. Based on some clarification that we received about concerns brought up in the last Senate meeting, we created a joint report that you all received regarding the Supplemental International Tuition. The Provost also made a FAQ sheet. Since then, the Vice President has attended a meeting about this issue with Senators and the Provost.
 - a. This will be voted on by the Board of Regents on December 2nd. Specifically, see page 3 of this document from the Board of Regents:
 - b. http://www.regents.iowa.gov/Meetings/DocketMemos/15Memos/December2015/1215_ITEM05.pdf
- ii. In Mid-November, I sought interest from Senate so that I could make nominations for the CELT classroom inclusion initiative. Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in serving.
- iii. The Board of Directors of the Memorial Union (MU) is seeking input on how the Memorial Union can be improved in terms of multiculturalism and meeting the needs of various student groups on campus. All feedback is extremely valuable; I have received feedback about what the positive aspects of the MU are, and what aspects may be improved. I have reached out to several student groups, but welcome input on what other student groups I can reach out to. I'm also accepting feedback from any student, regardless of affiliation. I'm also happy to meet with any group or individual, assuming our schedules permit that.
- iv. From the early summer until now, I served on a committee charged to review the Office of the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs (and the Division of Student Affairs). We provided a status report, and needs assessment. This is a regular initiative lead by the Faculty Senate. I expect the report to be finalized, anonymized where appropriate, and made public shortly.
- v. **Possible (and Probable) Fee Increase:** The Memorial Union has undergone several studies with several consulting firms to become more efficient and also address needs of the building. For example, the roof needs to be replaced, sewage lines need to be updated, and many renovations need to take place. In short, the regular maintenance cost currently exceeds the regular budget of the Memorial Union.
 - a. We should expect Student Government to put out a referendum to the entire student body in the Spring semester. This is a chance to voice support for or disagreement with the fee increase. A similar referendum was made when State Gym was financed.
 - b. The fee increase is expected to be substantial. I do not have the final numbers (those will be available when the referendum is created), but a preliminary estimate is around \$50.00 per student per semester increase.



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- 1 c. I asked if the fee would be reduced when the cost of the maintenance would be
2 achieved, and then learned that the financing happens for 25 years. In other words, this
3 would be a fee increase for 25 years and then by that time, other costs would probably
4 be discovered.
- 5 d. A fee increase, rather than tuition increase, is typical in these situations. It helps ensure
6 that funding is earmarked for a specific activity. Ultimately, this ensures that the debts
7 will be paid off.
- 8 vi. Our Vice President and Chief Information Officer have been actively engaged in the issue
9 of Senator representation, and I am helping wherever possible. I hope that this issue gets
10 resolved in the Spring semester, and that this Senate can take the initiative to address this
11 issue which has been known for several years.
- 12 vii. Tomorrow (December 1st) will be the second meeting of the Graduate Council's
13 subcommittee tasked with reviewing the Graduate Handbook and addressing student rights,
14 responsibilities, and related issues. As always, our University Relations and Legislative
15 Affairs Chair and I are accepting feedback about these issues. I expect us to systematically
16 seek feedback from a broader sample of students as our subcommittee's meetings progress.
17 This is an important opportunity to take advantage of because by working directly with the
18 Graduate Council and the Graduate Handbook, our concerns and ideas can be legitimized
19 and acted on.
- 20 viii. This has been a productive semester. Several very important issues have been
21 discussed in the Senate, including campus safety, diversity, education, inclusion, and
22 empowerment, the supplemental international tuition, student rights, and Senator
23 representation. I hope that we continue to be actively engaged and that these issues
24 continue to be addressed.
- 25 II. Report of the Vice President
- 26 i. Two Senate Orders were submitted. The Rules Committee met once to review the orders
27 and has provided feedback to authors on how to bring the orders into compliance with our
28 governing documents. Amended drafts will hopefully be ready for November's Senate
29 session. Until amended drafts are reviewed by the Rules Committee final unfavorable, no-
30 bias, or favorable ratings have not been set.
- 31 ii. A third, yet to be received, emergency special allocation request is expected, but not yet
32 received. If this does come through, expect it to hit your emails before November's Senate
33 meeting.
- 34 iii. As a reminder, any senator may join the Rules Committee and Social Committee by
35 emailing gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu. For example, only two Senators, Senator Khoo
36 (Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering) and Senator Flax (Horticulture), are
37 currently active on Rules Committee and only Senator Spencer (School of Education) is
38 active on the Social Committee. So big thanks to taking the time to meet and do critical
39 GPSS work.



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- 1 iv. Working with the CIO to find a permanent fix to the senate representation issues. We now
2 have some data, but publication of data has not been resolved yet, which is a critical
3 component to transparent representation decisions.
- 4 v. Typically, the social committee will plan one or more smaller socials throughout the school
5 year. If GPSS would like to continue this, additional representatives are required on the
6 Social Committee. Please email gpsvicepresident@iastate.edu if you'd like to plan and
7 organize such socials.
- 8 vi. Please forward any suggested speakers for Open Forum to gpsvicepresident@iastate.edu
- 9 III. Report of the Treasurer
- 10 i. Finance Committee has begun review of Regular and Special Allocations guidelines.
11 Please let me know if you have input you would like to share.
- 12 ii. The Finance Committee is interested in learning how regularly clubs co-sponsor activities
13 using GPSS funding so that we can find the most efficient ways to allocate funds to
14 projects.
- 15 IV. Report of the Chief Information Officer
- 16 i. 72 seated Senators as of November 18
- 17 a. Four Senators removed for attendance
- 18 b. Removed Ecology and Evolutionary Biology seat
- 19 ii. Updated all GPSRC pages of website, except FAQ page
- 20 a. <https://www.facebook.com/events/720924034705139>
- 21 b. Requesting Senators to follow and spread the event page
- 22 iii. Added following to online regular allocation system:
- 23 a. Club treasurers can report unspent prior fund
- 24 b. GPSS treasurer can provide comment for each line item
- 25 c. Automated confirmation emails after GPSS treasurer's processing
- 26 1. Sent to club treasurer and faculty
- 27 2. Includes total fund approved, itemized amounts and comments
- 28 iv. Met Dr. Ogilvie
- 29 a. Graduate college is working towards publishing major based data
- 30 b. Lack of representation for distance students
- 31 c. "Supermajor" definition used internally by Graduate college
- 32 v. Question: Whether to create a repository of all Graduate handbooks?
- 33 vi. Committee members needed to help with new Drupal based website
- 34 V. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
- 35 i. Graduate college handbook chapter 9 review: next meeting on Dec 1st. Please come to me
36 with suggestions or work within our own committee of senators chaired by Ashton Archer
37 and George Weston.
- 38 ii. Graduate council meeting and RMM student affairs advisory committee meeting will
39 happen soon and I'll update the senate directly about it.



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- 1 iii. Is anyone interested to work for a graduate college newsletter for family members of
 2 graduate, professional and post-doctoral students? Please contact me.
- 3 VI. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair
- 4 i. Distribution of PAGs in accordance with the PAG policy.
- 5 a. From November \$68.74 were moved to December 2015
- 6 b. Two students cancelled their grants giving \$360.00 to the month of December 2015.
- 7 c. Total money allocated on December: \$9266.24
- 8 d. December applications:
- 9 1. Submissions Total: 34
- 10 2. Approved Priority 1: 24
- 11 3. Approved Priority 2: 8
- 12 4. Denied: 2
- 13 e. Leftover money moved to January 2016: \$ 3,506.24
- 14 ii. Nominations for the Margaret Ellen White Graduate Faculty Award have been received.
- 15 a. A total of 32 nominations were received. The highest number of nominations in GPSS.

Appl. No	Nominee	Department	Senator
1	Dr. Alexander Roitershtein	Mathematics	John Herr
2	Dr. Alberto Passalacqua	Mechanical Engineering	Juan Proano-Aviles
3	Dr. Ana-Paula Correia	School of Education	Nadia Jaramillo
4	Dr. Ann Gansemer-Topf	School of Education	Amy Oberfoell
5	Dr. Basil J. Nikolau	Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology	Martha Ibore
6	Dr. Brenda J. Lohman	Human Development and Family Studies	Greta Stuhlsatz
7	Dr. Carlton Basmajian	Community and Regional Planning	Jonathan Stytz
8	Dr. Charles Jahren	Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering	Fangyo Guo
9	Dr. Christina Campbell	Food Science and Human Nutrition	Lyndi Buckingham
10	Dr. Denise Schmidt-Crawford	School of Education	Misty Spencer
11	Dr. Diane C. Bassham	Genetics, Development and Cell Biology	Bhagyashree Birla
12	Dr. Eric Abbott	Journalism and Mass Communications	Kelsey Batschelet
13	Dr. Guang Song	Computer Science	David Johnston



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14	Dr. Hongwei Xin	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	Abhay Grover
15	Dr. Isaac Gottesman	School of Education	Nadia Jaramillo, Misty Spencer, Amy Oberfoell
16	Dr. James D. McCalley	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Armando Figueroa
17	Dr. Joey George	Management Information Systems - Business	Shuang Zhai
18	Dr. Jon Kelly	Psychology	Ann Lewis
19	Dr. Lance Baumgard	Animal Science	Muhammed Walugembe
20	Dr. Leslie Hogben	Mathematics	Kevin Moss
21	Dr. Mani Mina	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Chan-Ching Hsu
22	Dr. Manimaran Govindarasu	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Akshit Peer
23	Dr. Robert E. Mazur	Sociology	Darcy Besch
24	Dr. Michael John Kimber	Biomedical Sciences	Dan Luo
25	Dr. Michael S. Retallick	Agricultural Education and Studies	Bryan D. Rank
26	Dr. Peter Martin	Human Development and Family Studies	Randie Camp
27	Dr. Sara Marcketti	Apparel Merchandising, and Design	Siti Mohd Sharif and Huanjiao Dong
28	Dr. Srikanta Tirthapura	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Han Guo
29	Dr. Stephen Gilbert	Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering	Anna Prisacari
30	Dr. Steve Holland	Aerospace Engineering	Aaron Rosenberg
31	Dr. Theodore Heindel	Mechanical Engineering	Ashton Archer
32	Dr. William Beavis	Agronomy	Danielle Dykema

- 1 b. PAG Committee will evaluate the applications and will provide the name of the top six
- 2 Candidates to the Graduate College. The information about the six candidates will be
- 3 given on the January meeting.
- 4 c. The 2015 recipient of the Margaret Ellen White Graduate Faculty Award was Dr. Joel
- 5 Coats from the department of Entomology.
- 6 iii. Please encourage students to apply for PAG. January received extra money. Apply no later
- 7 than December 15th 5:00 pm for conferences on January.
- 8 VII. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
- 9 i. Apologies for not been able to attend the meeting.



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- 1 ii. The GPSRC website is updated for upcoming conference. <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/>
- 2 iii. The conference registration will open on February 1st, 2016.
- 3 iv. The GPSRC judging committee met. We may have enough Post-docs, but we are looking
- 4 for faculty candidates to help with judging.
- 5 v. The GPSRC planning working on new workshops
- 6 a. Professional writing from CELT
- 7 b. From F1 to H1 and beyond by Davis Brown Law Firm (in support with ISSO)
- 8 c. Working on a panel- Government vs Academia vs Industry. Entrepreneurship is a
- 9 partner to all this.
- 10 d. Work in progress: Activity- Speed dating with my future employer!
- 11 e. All you need to know for preparing for grad school- Dr. Thelma Harding (for
- 12 undergrads)
- 13 vi. Beside poster presentation, oral presentation and 3-MT, we are planning on adding another
- 14 competition- interdisciplinary design model competotion. Anna Prisacari can describe more
- 15 regarding this in my absence.
- 16 vii. Please email Vivek Lawana (gpssconfchair@iastate.edu) if you have any suggestions for
- 17 the conference.