



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Remarks and Reports

I. Report of the President

- i. Thank you to all who sent feedback and questions for my meeting with the Dean of Library Services. I will have an update about how that meeting went.
 - a. Update: I had a productive meeting with the Dean of Library Services.
 1. I passed on suggestions for a database to keep out which texts are recalled, and how frequently, which then can be used to inform purchasing decisions to more copies of the most popular texts are acquired. The Library rarely gets an increased budget for purchasing but the Dean will look into current purchasing practices.
 2. I also passed on a suggestion for private space for graduate and professional students, so grading can be done (rather than out in the open), and students who do not have a space on central campus can have a place to utilize. I am hoping that this gets implemented as the Library evolves its spaces, but I cannot guess when this will be. The Dean will follow up with me.
 3. The Dean is interested in expanding IT services and writing center help. It is possible that IT services may have a place at the Library so that students can get what they need from the service area. The discussion is still in its earliest stages.
 4. The Dean also asked if graduate and professional students would be interested in a 24/7 library, but I could not answer this off of the top of my head. I suggested that a survey be sent out to all graduate and professional students to ask for more suggestions because I only got three responses. Each response was useful, so gathering more feedback would be a positive step in my opinion.
 5. The Dean also expressed interest in coming to Open Forum so that she can meet with the Senate and hear more about our needs.
 6. Fun fact: 12,000 people walk through the doors of the Library every day!
 - ii. The Vice President, CIO and I have meetings scheduled with the candidates for Senior Vice President of Student Affairs in the coming weeks. Let me know via e-mail if there are any particular questions or inquiries that you have that I can ask on the Senate's behalf.
 - iii. I reached out to members of the Faculty Senate, who are organizing a conference focusing on Responsible Conduct in Research. I will keep the Senate updated about possible graduate student involvement.
 - iv. The Graduate Council subcommittee to rewrite Chapter 9 of the Handbook and consider a "Bill of Rights" for Graduate and Professional Students is making good progress; hopefully a follow-up meeting will be scheduled shortly.
 - a. Update: The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 29th.
 - v. The Vice President, the CIO, and I are attending meetings with the candidates for Senior Vice President for Student Affairs. You can read more about the finalists here: <http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2016/01/11/svp-finalists>
 - a. We were given the opportunity to ask questions and were also asked questions by the candidate today. I imagine our next two meetings will be a similar format. Thus, if you



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1 have any questions or concerns that you'd like us to bring up at the meetings, please let
2 me know.

3 II. Report of the Vice President

4 i. New Student Graduate Orientation is Monday, January 25th @ 5pm in the Sunroom of the
5 MU.

6 ii. Two Senate Bills were submitted. The Rules Committee met once to review and found
7 both favorable. The authors of S16-02 plan to amend their budget with updated costs for
8 hotel rooms.

9 iii. Rules committee also reviewed the By-laws for potential amendments.

10 iv. Social committee continues our discussions via email regarding future plans for a spring
11 semester social.

12 v. As a reminder, any senator may join the Rules Committee and Social Committee by
13 emailing gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu.

14 vi. Working with the CIO and his senate representation committee to find a permanent fix.

15 vii. Please forward any suggested speakers for Open Forum to gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu

16 III. Report of the Treasurer

17 i. We expect that Student Activity Fee income will grow by just over 4%, although this might
18 be a bit optimistic.

19 ii. Vending income is expected to stay somewhere in the neighborhood of \$8,300, but the
20 actual amount is hard to predict. We have simply rounded up from the observed \$8,281.46
21 we received in FY 2015.

22 iii. We expect that the unusually-large surplus from FY 2015 will carry over into FY 2017.
23 Our goal will be to find ways to allocate it across existing or additional line items with
24 input from the Senate and other committees.

25 iv. PAG funding makes up just over 57% of our standard income (S.A.F. plus vending). We
26 use this total as our benchmark income because no fiscal year is guaranteed to generate a
27 surplus. Raising the PAG amount to a larger proportion of the total income including
28 surplus for a given year would yield a one-time spike in PAG growth. If no large surpluses
29 are retained in future years, this could lead to lower overall PAG funding, which could be
30 inconsistent with grad/professional student population growth.

31 v. Exec Communications has been expanded to \$1,200 for the year to cover additional
32 expenses associated with implementing the Drupal system for the GPSS website.

33 vi. PAG funding in FY 2017 budget in review by PAG and Finance Committees

34 vii. Submit your surplus-usage ideas to gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu.

35 viii. Regular Allocations begins in February--requests due by 5pm on Friday, Feb 26th.

36 ix. See www.gpss.iastate.edu/students/allocations for the on-line and downloadable request
37 forms.

38 IV. Report of the Chief Information Officer

39 i. 75 Senators on January 19



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- 1 a. 3 Senators were removed for lack of attendance
- 2 ii. Agendas and reports are now available as separate files on website
- 3 iii. Discussion going on with ITS for GPSS Blackboard organization
- 4 a. Discussion board which uses links to published documents on website.
- 5 b. For documents in works and drafts, a version controlled file storage.
- 6 c. Instant messaging with file exchange.
- 7 d. Capability to design quiz for participants and poll
- 8 iv. Senate structure fixes:
- 9 a. Removed Physics & Astronomy #2 seat
- 10 b. Added following 4 Senator seats:
- 11 1. Food Science and Human Nutrition #2
- 12 2. Sustainable Environments #1
- 13 3. Urban Design #1
- 14 4. Wind Energy Science, Engineering and Policy #1
- 15 c. Added Senator seat but only 1 student in each and doesn't exist in Fall 2015 sheet so
- 16 will be removed very soon again
- 17 1. Logistics, Operations and Mgmt Information Systems #1
- 18 2. Philosophy #1
- 19 d. Representation committee to meet on January 24
- 20 v. Responsibilities for proposed non-exec position of LinkedIn group chair:
- 21 a. Targeted increase in membership
- 22 b. Initiate and manage discussion threads
- 23 c. Monitoring relevant groups for useful info posts
- 24 d. Posting relevant content from career services regularly
- 25 V. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
- 26 i.
- 27 VI. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair
- 28 i. Distribution of PAGs in accordance with the PAG policy on December 2015.
- 29 a. From November \$68.74 were moved to December 2015
- 30 b. Two students cancelled their grants giving \$360.00 to the month of December 2015.
- 31 c. Total money available on December 2015: \$9,266.24
- 32 d. December applications:
- 33 1. Submissions Total: 38
- 34 2. Approved Priority 1: 24
- 35 3. Approved Priority 2: 8
- 36 4. Denied: 6
- 37 e. Leftover money moved to January 2016: \$ 3,506.24
- 38
- 39 ii. Distribution of PAGs in accordance with the PAG policy on January 2015.
- 40 a. Total money available on January 2016: \$12,523.74
- 41 b. January applications:



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- 1 1. Submissions Total: 80
- 2 2. Approved Priority 1: 48
- 3 3. Approved Priority 2: 21
- 4 4. Denied: 11
- 5 c. Lottery was performed on December 15th 2015 with Senator Figueroa.
- 6 d. Leftover money moved to February 2016: \$ 103.74
- 7
- 8 iii. Distribution of PAGs in accordance with the PAG policy on February 2015.
- 9 a. Two students cancelled their January grants giving \$360.00 to the month of February
- 10 2016.
- 11 b. Total money available on February 2016: \$ 9,301.24
- 12 c. February applications:
- 13 1. Submissions Total: 25
- 14 2. Approved Priority 1: 18
- 15 3. Approved Priority 2: 3
- 16 4. Denied: 4
- 17 d. Leftover money moved to March 2016: \$ 5,521.24
- 18 e. Please encourage students to apply for PAG if they plan to attend conferences on March
- 19 2016. The deadline is February 15th 2016.
- 20
- 21 iv. Members of the PAG committee worked hard during the holidays to evaluate the 32
- 22 nominations for the Margaret Ellen White Graduate Faculty Award. After revision of all
- 23 applications, the six professors that will be recommended to the Graduate College for the
- 24 award are:

Nominee	Department
Dr. Ann Gansemer-Topf	School of Education
Dr. Basil J. Nikolau	Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology
Dr. Brenda J. Lohman	Human Development and Family Studies
Dr. Lance Baumgard	Animal Science
Dr. Michael John Kimber	Biomedical Sciences
Dr. Sara Marchetti	Apparel Merchandising, and Design

- 25
- 26 v. Evaluation of PAG distribution during the year 2015 shows interesting data:
- 27 a. In 2015 we received 866 PAG applications. From those, 61% were priority 1 and 39%
- 28 were priority 2. We were able serve 573 students or PAGs (66.2%).
- 29 b. From the awarded PAGs, 80% were priority 1 and 20% were priority 2 students.
- 30 c. We could not serve 71 priority 1 students and 222 priority 2 students.
- 31 d. The high demand months are: November (16.6%), March (13.3%), July (11%), and
- 32 January (9.8%). Four month used 50.7% of total funds.
- 33 e. The low demand months are: September (1.4%), February (3.2%) and December
- 34 (4.4%); those 3 months used less than 10% of our funds.



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- 1 f. From January to June 2015 the departments that received more awards were: Education
- 2 (10%), English (7.7%), Veterinary Medicine (7.7%), Civil, Construction and
- 3 Environmental Engineering (5.6%), Apparel Ed St & Hospitality Mgmt (4.6%).
- 4 g. From July to December 2015 the departments that received more awards were:
- 5 Mechanical Engineering (8.6%), Electrical and Computer Engineering (6.5%), Statistics
- 6 (5.7%), Human Development & Family Studies (4.3%), Education (4.3%).
- 7
- 8 VII. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
- 9 i.