



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Remarks and Reports

#### I. Report of the President

- i. I was working with Graduate College on seeing how they are addressing the admission process for international students. Here is the email that was sent to all DOGEs- (FYI)

*“Directors of Graduate Education,*

*Please convey the following guidance to your graduate program’s admissions committee and associated support staff as they consider graduate admissions for Summer and Fall 2017.*

*Our graduate programs are currently in the midst of considering applications from graduate students for summer and fall semesters of 2017. As you know, the recent presidential executive order has banned entry to the U.S. for citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The current ban is for a period of 90 days, but we have no information about policies beyond that time period. Because this is a crucial time period in which we normally offer admissions to new graduate students, the following guidance is offered to graduate admissions committees*

*As part of our commitment to equal opportunity, ISU does not discriminate based on national origin. Hence, admissions committees should not consider national origin as a factor in admissions decisions, including for applicants from the seven countries that are part of the current travel ban.*

*Although at this time, we cannot assure prospective students from the seven countries that they will be allowed to enter the U.S., we can offer a commitment that will allow them to delay their start date at ISU by up to one year if they experience delay in travel to Ames. We should be cautious regarding creating a perception that we can assist with enabling them to enter the U.S., but we should also convey that they are very welcome to study at Iowa State and that we look forward to helping them to further their educational goals within the constraints of university, state, and federal laws and policies. In the event of a longer than one year delay in an admitted student’s travel to Ames, the program may offer the student an expedited reconsideration for later admission.*

*If delayed entry by students who are accepted from the seven countries creates funding difficulties for graduate programs, the Graduate College will assist programs via the bridge funding process (again for up to one year delayed admission).*

*If you have already offered admission to prospective students from the seven countries, you may inform them that the above information regarding possible delayed entry of up to one year applies to them as well.*



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*The following is suggested language for inclusion in offer letters to students from the seven countries listed above.*

*“Because of the current executive order banning travel to the U.S. from your home country, we recognize that your arrival in Ames to begin your graduate program may (or may not) be delayed by factors beyond your and our control. As a result, your offer of admission to our graduate program is a commitment to you that will be honored from now until as late as August 2018 (should your entry into the U.S. be delayed for that long). We look forward to providing you with the opportunity to further your educational goals within the constraints of university, state, and federal laws and policies, and want you to know that you will be very welcome to study in our program at Iowa State University.”*

*If you have questions with specific aspects of offers of admission and support to students from the seven countries, please consult me prior to making formal offers.*

*Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this sensitive matter.”*

- ii. Participated in on campus interviews for candidate for ISSO director post.
- iii. I will be attending NAGPS meeting in March
  - o Please find attached brief agenda of potential discussions.
- iv. I met with SAA and we have the graduate student alumni association coming to shape now.
  - 1. We are planning to host a small reception in April during GPSRC 2017.
  - 2. More details to follow.
- v. I will be part of search committees of two more posts in Student Affairs Office-
  - 1. Director of Students Counseling Center
  - 2. Memorial Union Director
- vi. Dr. Holger mentioned that there will not be any direct effect on graduate students with 8 million university-wide budget cuts.
- vii. MU feasibility referendum will go out with StuGov election
  - 1. Please find the attached PowerPoint.
  - 2. Please vote during SG elections. (March 2nd and 3rd)
- viii. The graduate inclusion workshop meeting happened on Feb 21. They are planning to implement up to 20-30 workshops for faculties and grad students to train and create awareness for diversity and inclusion in grad studies. The workshops are targeted in first two issues for now- ‘Awareness’ and ‘First step of practice’.
- ix. I met parking division with concerns from Vet Med students. They said it is ‘very impossible’ to have access to CVM students. I will be trying to see what else we/I can do.
- x. MU BoD update-
  - o ISU will be launching the GreenDot campaign on our campus.
  - o SUB is hosting their events this year to max of their capacity this year. Please be encouraged to attend their activities. <http://www.sub.iastate.edu/>



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- SG will have launched CySwap site
- New Dead Week policy for Fall 2017.
- xi. GPSS elections coming up soon. Please let me know if anyone is interested to run for President's post.

### II. Report of the Vice President

- i. Graduate Council Updates:
  - a. The tuition increase differentials that will affect juniors and seniors, may also affect graduate programs with continuous BS/MS degrees. Why? To prevent graduate students from paying less than undergraduates. Unclear exactly the scope or breadth of those effected.
  - b. Chapter 9 Revisions to the Graduate Student Handbook is still with University Counsel.
  - c. Updates to Graduate Admissions. The graduate GPA will super secede an undergraduate GPS. This only impacts students who already have one graduate degree who are applying for admission into another graduate program.
- ii. Creation of Special Committee: Campaign of Welcome Committee
  - a. During our Graduate Council meeting, it was brought up that instead of a press release or resolution, it would be better to take action, and create a physical message of inclusivity regarding our international population in the graduate college.
  - b. Charge: To create a campaign "*that communicates that international students are welcome here, that they are an important part of who we are, and that their being here enriches the life of the university, that their contributions are appreciated and that we will do everything we can do to make them feel safe here.*"
  - c. It is intended that this committee will include the Graduate Council, members of the Graduate College, student and community organizations, and GPSS. If you are interested in joining this committee either as a representative of GPSS or another organization that you are a member of, please sign the interest form. This is going to be a very action oriented committee that will need creative people.

### III. Report of the Treasurer

- i. *Regular Allocation Documents Update:* I have worked with the Campus Organization Accounting (COA) office and the concerned senators regarding the funding of controlled substance issue. Unfortunately, the COA has advised AGAINST the funding of these items due to administrative issues. The new regular allocation documents have now been updated with the input from the concerned senators. Thank you all who has provided input.
- ii. *FY2018 GPSS Budget:* It's time to vote on this. There has been a major update regarding the \$15,000 contribution that Graduate College has generously offered to us to help increase the PAG funding from \$180 to \$200. All other changes to the budget can be found on the budget bill.



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- iii. *Spring Regular Allocation:* The allocation applications were due as of last Friday. We received a total of \_\_\_ applications. The FC will be working hard to review these applications and present our recommendation at the next GPSS meeting (March).
- iv. *Looking for a Replacement:* I have yet to receive any inquiry about my position at the Treasurer. Why are you not interested in my position? =(

### IV. Report of the Chief Information Officer

- i. Call for 2017-2018 GPSS Exec Nominations, contact [gpsscio@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsscio@iastate.edu) if you are interested in any position.
- ii. Call for GPSS Election Committee Members

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

### VI. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair

- i. The abstract submission for the conference closed on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We received a total of 134 abstracts.

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Oral only            | 51         |
| Oral preferred       | 19         |
| Poster               | 52         |
| 3 Minute Thesis      | 11         |
| Impactful Innovation | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>134</b> |

- ii. We are still accepting the abstracts for **Poster** and **Impactful Innovation** category. Please encourage your constituents to submit the abstracts for these categories.
- iii. We have started evaluating the abstracts. The acceptance notifications would be sent from March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- iv. Deans of all the colleges have been contacted for financial support for the conference.
- v. Please email me if you are interested to volunteer on the day of the conference ([gpssconfchair@iastate.edu](mailto:gpssconfchair@iastate.edu)).

### VII. Report of the Graduate Student Senators to StuGov

- i. Student Government shows support for students and faculty affected by the Executive Order issued on January 27, by unanimously passing a resolution that showed support for students and faculty affected by the immigration executive orders. The resolution was introduced by Vice Speaker Conner Tillo and Sen. Natalie Pellegrino. The resolution was intended to show clear support for all students and faculty of Iowa State University, regardless of immigration status, no matter what country of origin or religion. It also urged the Iowa State administrators promise to support all students and faculty during uncertainties caused by the executive order, and reaffirm the emotional support for those students and faculty who are affected.



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- ii. The Student Government has passed a resolution in support of Deferred Action for Children Arrival (DACA) and undocumented students. The resolution, passed Wednesday night 27-1 with one person abstaining. It requested that ISU President Steven Leath and other university administrators do everything to the fullest extent of their legal capabilities to ensure continued support for undocumented and DACA students and their success.
- iii. The Memorial Union Refurbishment Referendum was discussed and some of the language was modified. The total cost of the project would be \$65 million. The proposed project would involve a \$72 increase in fees over the next two semesters. The first phase of a fee increase of \$30 per semester will be implemented in academic calendar year 2019 and the second phase of \$42 per semester will be implemented in academic calendar year 2020.
- iv. The student senate also chose to fund the Arab Students Association. The Arab Student Association is looking to put on a cultural night focused on Arabic culture on March 5th, 2017 and the event is looking to have belly-dancing, an Arabic band, and an Arabic “Dabke” line dancing group as well as other entertainment activities. The total amount of funding allotted to the ASA was \$3,301.00, which will be transferred from the Events Account.

### VIII. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair

- i. Distribution of PAGs in accordance with the PAG policy
  - a. All applicants, both priorities 1 and 2 that applied for March conferences/ meetings before the deadlines were approved.
    - 1. Submission total: 104
    - 2. Approved priority 1: 61
    - 3. Approved priority 2: 42
    - 4. Denied: 1 (This applicant submitted the application past 5:00pm)
  - b. Leftover funds moved from March to April: \$ 9,859.24
- ii. The deadline for the GPSS graduate students’ research, teaching and leadership awards is Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at 5:00 pm. Graduate students that have never received any of these awards are encouraged to apply. See link for details:  
<http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/awards#GPSS Awards>
- iii. The top six candidates for the Margaret Ellen White faculty awards were forwarded to the graduate college. Final evaluations will be performed in April and the winner will be announced at the Fall University Awards Convocation. The table below shows a list of all nominees with their corresponding point scores:

| Name             | Department                           | Points (x/60) | Rank |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------|
| Theodore Heindel | Mechanical Engineering               | 47.0          | 1    |
| Dan Nettleton    | Statistics                           | 47.0          | 1    |
| Brenda Lohman    | Family Consumer Sciences             | 46.8          | 3    |
| Tera Jordan      | Human Development and Family Studies | 46.0          | 4    |



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|                     |   |      |    |
|---------------------|---|------|----|
| Isaac Gottesman     | School of Education                               | 45.6 | 5  |
| Stephen Gilbert     | Industrial Manufacturing Systems and Engineering  | 45.4 | 6  |
| Lance Baumgard      | Animal Science                                    | 45.2 | 7  |
| John Levis          | English   | 44.6 | 8  |
| Alan Robertson      | Biomedical Sciences                               | 44.6 | 9  |
| Jeramy Ashlock      | Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering | 44.3 | 10 |
| Sara Marcketti      | Apparel, Events and Hospitality Management        | 43.4 | 11 |
| Francis Owusu       | Community and Regional Planning                   | 42.8 | 12 |
| Leslie Hogben       | Mathematics                                       | 42.6 | 13 |
| Mark Ackermann      | Veterinary Pathology                              | 41.4 | 14 |
| Brent Danielson     | Ecology and Evolutionary Biology                  | 41.4 | 15 |
| Stephen Dinsmore    | Natural Resource Ecology and Management           | 41.4 | 16 |
| Gregory Welk        | Kinesiology                                       | 40.4 | 17 |
| Michael Retallick   | Agricultural Education and Studies                | 40.4 | 18 |
| Wendy White         | Food Science and Human Nutrition                  | 40.2 | 19 |
| Yan-Bin Jia         | Computer Science                                  | 38   | 20 |
| Gretchen Ann Mosher | Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering           | 37.8 | 21 |
| Ahmed Kamal         | Electrical and Computer Engineering               | 37.4 | 22 |
| Balaji Narasimhan   | Chemical and Biological Engineering               | 34.2 | 23 |

- iv. All senators that are interested to become the next PAG chair, please consult with me for any details. You just need a few hours off your schedule and commitment to do the job. Duties of PAG chair include: process PAG grants, work with your committee to evaluate Margaret Ellen White faculty award, as well as teaching, research, leadership and Wakonse fellowship awards. You need to have 2 office hours a week and update the PAG webpage. N.B: You have got to respond to emails in a timely manner.