

GPSS OFFICER REPORT

MARCH 2018

PRESIDENT

- 1) Thank you everyone for coming to President Wintersteen's listening session. It is a good opportunity to start the conversation and raise our issues. I had a follow up meeting with her and she said she will be looking in to the funding opportunities in the future to support the graduate students.
 - o She has forwarded the meeting notes with Provost and Dean of Graduate college, will be following up on several of the tasks.
- 2) I spoke with Dean Graves regarding the issue of minimum stipend. He mentioned that based on the new change in workday and upon consultation with fiscal people in Beardshear, he took the decision to not increase the minimum. However, he said, the graduate college encourages PIs and department to implement the increase if possible for graduate students.
- 3) As most of you heard, the state of Iowa proposed midyear 10.9 million dollars permanent reduction Board of Regents (BoR) allocation is likely to affect ISU and University of Iowa. During my discussions, I do not see any direct impact of graduate and professional students. However, the BoR will consider the tuition increase April meeting.
- 4) Graduate student wellness week preparations are finally coming along. I just got confirmation of the following all workshops. Please book them on your calendars.
 - o Flyer will be coming out soon. Please encourage your friends and department mates to take an active participation.
 - o Start RSVP here- <https://goo.gl/forms/SbHaORv2qs6bIjN62>
 - o If you want to help me with planning, please email me.
- 5) The New Student Onboarding Committee was formed to systematically look at what the institution can do to improve the success and ease with which new students are 'onboarded' to the university. The group is defining the 'onboarding' time as from when you get the offer letter from the department through your first year at Iowa State. As a part of this work, there is a subcommittee that is proposing the development of a 'digital repository and portal.' The goal of the repository and portal is to provide a single point of contact/web presence with links for many of the items new students need to know to successfully transition/onboard to Iowa State. The portal would serve as a one-stop virtual location to find information to successfully acclimate students to Iowa State. As a part of developing our proposal, the committee wants to hear from graduate and/or professional students their ideas on critical portal content and functionality. Given this as background, please provide your feedback here- <https://goo.gl/forms/qT5GRFbuxLWil3KV2>
- 6) Masters students will be able to wear hoods during our commencement ceremony. I want to thank Sen. Harris and others for drafting the resolution and Grad student Chelsea Smith for working towards it.

VICE PRESIDENT

- 1) Graduate Handbook Chapter 9: I expect this to pass Graduate Council easily during their April meeting, University Counsel should approve it shortly after that, and I believe Provost Wickert to give the thumbs up as well. Thank you to everyone for your patience on this. If there is an issue, then the president of the Graduate Council has told me that he would then call a meeting in May.

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- 2) Articles of Cooperation: We are voting on this tonight. Student Government did not make any changes on the version we agreed upon, so I highly recommend that this bill pass tonight.
- 3) GPSS Spring Social: April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Perfect Games. There will be 50 pizzas, refillable pitchers of soda, and 12 lanes of bowling. This will all be free and all graduate students are welcomed to attend!

TREASURER

- 1) The number of graduate and professional students dropped for spring 2018 based on our income.
 - o Current population: 3,720
 - o Deficit in projected income from previous Treasurer: ~\$10,000
 - o Deficit from projected pessimistic scenario (modified last month): ~\$5,000
- 2) The Finance Committee evaluated 22 requests for Spring Regular Allocations.
 - o Total requested: \$20,684.00
 - o Number of Graduate and Professional Organizations approved: 20
 - o Total granted: **\$12,997.23**
- 3) It was very challenging for the Finance Committee to work on the projected Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019.
 - o Pessimistic scenario, considering 3,500 graduate and professional students.
 - o Cuts for monthly PAG, Wakonse, R/T/L Awards, Regular Allocations, Special Allocations, Social events, Research conference, and NAGPS.
 - o More details in the Budget bill.
- 4) Big thanks to all members of the Finance Committee for their valuable time and effort. It has been my pleasure to serve as the chair of this committee.

CIO

- 1) No report.

PAG CHAIR

- 1) There were more applications for the month of April. All Priority 1 applicants who applied in time received the PAG. A rotary was conducted for priority 2 applicants.
- 2) The PAG committee received 31 Teaching Award Applications, 18 Research Award Applications, and 12 Leadership Award Applications. We are still evaluating all the Award Applications.
- 3) The Wakonse Award applications have not been forwarded to me from CELT staff.

URLA CHAIR

- 1) No Report

GPSRC CHAIR

- 1) Notification of abstract acceptance has been disseminated.
- 2) Call for more volunteers and committee members to help with conference. If you are interested, please contact gpssconfchair@iastate.edu
- 3) Please encourage your constituents to register and attend the conference.

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SG GRADUATE COLLEGE SENATORS

- 1) Resolution for Student Fee Increase from \$36.75 to \$39.25 has been passed and has been forwarded to SSFTC for approval on the following premises:
 - a. There has not been an increase in the Student Activity Fee for many years despite increases in prices due to inflation, and increases in need of the expanding base of student organizations; and Student Government has had to cut funding from student organization's budgets due to having insufficient funding for the student's need and will have to cut more at current demand levels; and the Graduate and Professional Student Senate has also met demand for their funding services beyond their supply; and one of the chief marketing points that draws students to Iowa State University has, for many years, been its broad base of student organizations of all sorts; and the University, and the students attending, value the availability of student organizations and the ease with which they can pursue their passions and share them with each other, due to the availability of funding through Student Government. Therefore, the Student Government recommended a Student Activity Fee increase of **\$2.50** so that the semester fee changes from **\$36.75** to **\$39.25**.
- 2) Articles of Cooperation revised between the Student Government and the GPSS:
 - a. The SG shall receive 1/3 and the GPSS shall receive 2/3 of the Student Activity Fees paid by graduate and professional students after FY 2022.
- 3) Iowa State Out of the Darkness Walk
 - a. Our campus altogether has raised an astounding **\$41,371**, which makes Iowa State the biggest donor in the nation to this amazing cause and since all donations were to be doubled, so we effectively raised around **\$82,742**.