



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Agenda

Monday, August 27, 2017; 6:30 PM  
Sun Room, Memorial Union

- I. Call to order 6:32 P.M.
  - i. Roll Call - 30 of 41
  - ii. Statement of Quorum by the Chair
  - iii. Approval of Meeting Notes from April
  - iv. Amendments to the Agenda
- II. Open Forum (*40 Min*)
  - i. Dr. William Graves –Dean, Graduate College – [graves@iastate.edu](mailto:graves@iastate.edu)
    - a. Resources from the Graduate College - Center for Communication and Excellence; Program of Study Committee; Preliminary exam and defense scheduling. Confidential support and assistance in conjunction with Ombuds office.
    - b. New programs and efforts: enhance graduate student recruitment through 1) Graduate Dean Scholar Program (12 students) \$36,000 for 3 years and 2) Graduate College Program \$2,000/y to \$8,000/y for up to 3 years on top of normal stipend (36 students). Total \$945,500 for 48 new scholars.
    - c. Graduate recruitment challenges: economy (low unemployment rate), political climate, highlighting international recruitment from (Ecuador, Ghana, Japan and Malaysia), graduate application trial (no fees; admissions made within one week of offer).
    - d. Campus Climate Committee: Dean Graves wants the GPSS Senate to determine the GPSS Senator or executive member to serve for FY19.
    - e. Vice President: how will you ensure students are not turned down due to space and how would you ensure with the one week deadline that students are not accepted or turn down when they are exceptional or not suitable for the program?
    - f. WG: This is up to the colleges discretion. They may decide to extend it out for a year. We are testing this with five colleges to make sure this model works. Decisions are tentative offers at the stage preceding the official acceptance by the program. Reason we established this is to make sure we are not ignoring students and give them the feedback promptly so we don't lose qualified students.



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- g. Senator: What departments are participating and where is the money coming from to support these efforts?
  - h. WG: 1) Horticulture 2) Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology 3) Immunobiology 4) Sustainable Environments (Design) and 5) Neurobiology. Money is coming from the Graduate College from the former “Presidential Scholars Program”. This program was sunsetted and replaced with 2 new aforementioned programs using the pool of money (approximately \$1 million).
  - ii. Carolyn Cutrona – Associate Dean, Graduate College - [ccutrona@iastate.edu](mailto:ccutrona@iastate.edu)
    - a. New program initiative: training for members of the graduate faculty to ensure effective mentorship of faculty. Disability-related hurdles and life-stressors to make sure appropriate accommodations are made for these graduate students.
    - b. [motion to extend 25 min, second, ayes have it]
  - iii. Joshua Wolanyk – VP, GPSS
    - a. Senate Operations
    - b. How to be an Effective Senator
- III. Executive Reports to the Senate: (40 Min)
- i. Report of the President
    - a. Senator: In your executive report you mentioned you spoke with Dr. Harmon regarding the university health insurance plan and affordability for spouses, child care facilities and residency allotment. Could you expand on what was discussed in the meeting?
    - b. President: Student affairs wants to focus their efforts around this issue and we discussed there are not a lot of graduate student voices serving this committee. Dr. Harmon was unaware there were only 2 childcare facilities and the costs/affordability associated with these facilities. We also spoke about the potential of the university offering grants or assistance to increase the affordability of the care facilities. I will get back to you about the health insurance plans. They are unaware that these insurance plans for spouses/dependents are not affordable and which services are afford and useful. I will be meeting with the department of residence to discuss the options for graduate students in addition to inquiring about the housing graduate students are attracted to. We are trying to voice our concerns.
  - ii. Report of the Vice President
  - iii. Report of the Treasurer
    - a. Deadline is Sept 28th for regular allocations



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- iv. Report of the Chief Information Officer
- v. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
- vi. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
- vii. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair
- viii. Report of the Graduate Student Government Senator
- ix. Report of Special Committees
  - a. Senators signed up to volunteer for committees of interest.
- IV. Unfinished Business (30 min)
  - i. None
- V. New Business (30 Min)
  - i. Senate Bill F18-01 Ratification of the GPSS Constitution
  - ii. [motioned considered as read, second, ayes have it].
  - iii. 35 Votes - 100% aye, 0% nay, 0% abstain
  - iv. Voted aye to ratify the GPSS Constitution.
- VI. Senate Forum (20 Min)
- VII. Roll Call and Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment - 8:13 P.M.