

GPSS OFFICER REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018

PRESIDENT

Updates from Meetings attended:

1. Iowa State Daily

Met with the representatives from ISD who will be working in closely with our Marketing and Public Relations Ad-hoc Committee in increasing representation of graduate student's achievements and issues. Further details to follow.

2. Board of Regents Meeting

During the breakfast organized at the University of Iowa with the board of regents, I along with other Student Government got an opportunity to connect with student leaders from the other regent universities. We all found common ground on pushing forward with prioritizing student education experience with the elections around the corner. We will continue to work forward on getting connected with key political figures and prioritizing these issues.

The breakfast also served as an opportunity to realize that we need to step forward and involve the board members in our activities more, to share our updates.

3. Meeting with Student Wellness Team

The introductory meeting discussed the following key points:

- a. GPSS and our current efforts on graduate student wellness
- b. Discussed plans for needs assessment through interviews, focus group discussions
- c. Structuring the Wellness Week and institutionalizing a well-organized graduate wellness program rather than just focusing on providing adequate services during the period of 1 week in an academic year.
- d. How can the campus help support GPSS better in the context of providing better wellness opportunities and resources.

4. Updates on Childcare Initiative and Residence will be shared in the next meeting!

Upcoming Meetings:

1. President Wintersteen
2. Director of ISSO, Kris McCallum-Beaty

VICE PRESIDENT

- 1) No Updates

TREASURER

Welcome Senators.

1. Together with the vice president, the payment to the reservation of the rooms of the senator meetings for the rest of this semester was processed.
2. Summary of the Student Special Fee and Tuition Committee (SSFTC)

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- i. This committee servers to receive and review the change of student special fee next year (FY20). I attended another meeting after the previous senator meeting.
- ii. Here is a small summary of the new fees per semester.

	Approved FY19	Requested FY20	Proposed FY20
Student Activities			
Student Government	\$ 36.65	\$ 2.50	\$ 39.15
Reserve for Legislative Relations	\$ 0.10	\$ -	\$ 0.10
Total Student Activities	\$ 36.75	\$ 2.50	\$ 39.25
Student Services			
CyRide	\$ 79.60	\$ 5.50	\$ 85.10
Intercollegiate Athletics	\$ 31.50	\$ -	\$ 31.50
Total Student Services	\$ 111.10	\$ 5.50	\$ 116.60
Building Fees			
Memorial Union	\$ 39.55	\$ -	\$ 39.55
Multicultural Center	\$ 3.00	\$ -	\$ 3.00
Total Building Fees	\$ 42.55	\$ -	\$ 42.55
Recreation Fee	\$ 160.80	\$ -	\$ 160.80
Technology Fee*	\$ 145.00	\$ -	\$ 145.00
Health Fee	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 120.00
Health Facilities Fee	\$ 8.00	\$ -	\$ 8.00
ISU Daily	\$ -	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
TOTAL MANDATORY FEES PER SEMESTER	\$ 624.20	\$ 8.00	\$ 640.20

- b) The numbers above are only tentative and may change in the future. I will keep you updated on this information.
3. Welcome to join Finance Committee!
 - a) We will meet together to make decisions on allocations to graduate & professional student organizations, which could be \$1000 a year for each organization. This is a great opportunity to serve the graduate and professional students.
 - b) The deadline of fall allocation application is **Sept 28th**. Please pass this information around to graduate and professional organizations in your departments. It is a great funding source for the organizations to invite more guest speaker, hold more workshops or make other educational events happen.
 - c) If you are interested in serving in this committee, please contact me without any hesitation. My email address is gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu.
 4. FY2020 GPSS budget is planned to be discussed in the next meeting in October.

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CIO

- 1) Fall 2018 Graduate College Orientation video is online at: <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/>. Please feel free to check it out.
- 2) GPSS exec office hours are online at: <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/>. Please feel free to stop by when there is any question or suggestion for us!
- 3) Senator name and department are listed on our website: <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/senate-information>. If there is any question about your listing information, please contact CIO at gpsscio@iastate.edu.
- 4) Senate Aug meeting documents are online at <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/senate-meetings>.
- 5) Senate committees' members are updated. If you also like to join any of the Senate committees, please let contact the corresponding GPSS exec and copy CIO at gpsscio@iastate.edu. More information is on <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/senate-information/senate-committees>.
- 6) Please follow GPSS on social media! Our GPSS Twitter handle is @ISUGPSS. Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GPSS.ISU/>. LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/isugpss>, and LinkedIn account: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/isugpss>.
- 7) If you have any problems with using placards, clickers or receiving emails, please contact gpsscio@iastate.edu.
- 8) If you have any suggestions for the current new website design, please contact gpsscio@iastate.edu.
- 9) Please contact gpsscio@iastate.edu with any attendance questions.
- 10) If you have any graduate student events wanted to share on GPSS social media, please contact gpsscio@iastate.edu.

PAG CHAIR

- 1) PAG process and system update.
- 2) PAG application for Nov is Oct 15th 5:00PM. Lottery for Nov applications (to serve 32 out of 34 applications as of now).

URLA CHAIR

- 1) Graduate council has four seats for graduate students. Three seats are filled. One more student is needed.

GPSRC CHAIR

As this is the first meeting of the semester for several senators who got recently elected, I will highlight a few things covered in the last meeting:

1. **GPSRC conference date is fixed: April 10th (Wednesday), 2019.** MU has been booked.
2. Based on survey responses, **we are trying to get professors involved as judges.** Emails have been sent out but more help needed.
3. Going to **divide the conference by colleges** as survey respondents said they wanted judges who understood their presentation and bigger audiences.
4. **Feedback will be provided to presenters** by judges and (optional) members in the audience.

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5. Going to have a **social and networking event** this time.
6. **Keynote speaker is Dr. Raychelle Burks**. She will talk about how chemistry is used in pop culture (like in *Avengers*) and how it helps real-life crime fighters. Since she is known for her public outreach, I have also asked her to share thoughts on how we can make our research more accessible.
7. Please **consider joining the GPSRC committee**. Need ideas and help with designing the conference.

New updates:

1. Spoke to four college deans and some of their associate deans for research: CALS, LAS and CHS deans wanted us to think about ISU's grand challenge research themes and make the conference more interdisciplinary. Business deans thought these themes might discourage their students from participating.

ISU is strongly promoting these five grand challenge research themes. They want ISU researchers to think how their research can fit into these themes.

- Enabling healthy lives
- Building sustainable human and natural ecosystems
- Designing next-generation materials and manufacturing technologies
- Creating data-driven science and information systems for societal challenges
- Developing global citizens and our workforce

Read these themes carefully (they can be interpreted broadly) and let me know if your research doesn't fall under any of these themes?

2. Our idea is to **divide each college into these themes**. These themes would act as sessions. It won't be compulsory for students to register their abstract under a theme but it will be encouraged. This might help students think about the big picture of their research, how it ties into one of ISU's grand challenges, and how their work is helping to solve it. Also, advertising the themes might encourage students to check out presentations in other colleges. Working with the VPR Office on this.

3. College deans promised to advertise the conference in their respective colleges if we don't get enough submissions from their college. Similarly, they will encourage their professors to volunteer as judges and attend the conference.

4. Have a **general session where presenters from any college and theme can present?** But they should make their research very understandable to everyone in the audience. Longer version of 3MT. Need to discuss this with my committee.

5. Other **possible additions**: display of technology and video games (CHS), PhD limerick, creative writing, poetry slam and Dance your Ph.D. (LAS). Need to discuss with committee.

6. Based on survey results, we plan to have at least these **five workshops**:

How to make a good research presentation

How to make yourself more marketable for jobs

How to communicate your research to the public

Resources and support available for grad students

How to get the most out of graduate school (i.e., be a successful grad student)

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Have been given names of some engaging speakers who can talk on most of these topics. Do you have any good speakers in mind you would like to put forth? Especially for the second and last workshop?

7. Spoke to Dr. Svitlana Zbarska, who is the undergraduate research conference organizer. She said undergrads who are interested in pursuing research would especially like to know how to apply to grad school, how they went through the selection process (interviews etc.) and how they chose their college/research. Thinking we can have **a grad student panel that can talk about this. Need volunteers!** Dr. Zbarska will advertise GPSRC to her huge mailing list.

8. Will have our **first committee meeting in the first week of October**. We will decide on what all to include and come up with a format for the conference. Please suggest any ideas you have before this meeting because we would like to finalize things soon and start advertising.