



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 24, 2018; 6:30 PM
Sun Room, Memorial Union

- I. Call to order 6:34 P.M.
 - i. Roll Call - 52 of 60
 - ii. Statement of Quorum by the Chair
 - iii. Approval of Meeting Notes from August
 - iv. Amendments to the Agenda
- II. Open Forum (*40 Min*)
 - i. Dr. Martino Harmon –Sr. Vice President of Student Affairs
 - a. Spoke about the diversity and expansiveness of the Division of Student Affairs. There are 37 departments within the Student Affairs. Since my time, we are focusing on the mission, values and priorities within the Student Affairs, such as increasing access and awareness of the campus to other extremities of the university (i.e. Vetmed); address specific needs for students in a master’s and PhD program; create a needs assessment to understanding the scope of graduate school beyond the information presented at the retreat. Additionally, the division is working to present at the Graduate Student Orientation again in the future and provide booths on: holistic wellness and prevention for healthy behaviors. Another point is that we are working with GPSS and Norin on extending the graduate student wellness week and emphasizing student success by initiating a Council. Laura Doering is working with Dean Graves to focus on these missing factors for this council and perhaps hosting a peer group dialogue to discuss in open conversations and coordinate activities to link students to practitioners to discuss health, wellness and productivity. Lastly, we are working to revamp our website to foster more inclusivity and welcome our students and potentially discuss in the pipeline topics like: childcare availability, housing rules, regulations, etc. Our main priority and role as the Student Affairs division is to be advocates and connect you with the appropriate resources in relationship with health and wellness.
 - b. **Senator 1:** Can you speak more about the wellness initiative and it’s surfaces. When you go to mental health resources you have to provide insurance proof. Is there any cost associated or if there’s a limited amount of counseling sessions you can attend?
 - c. **Harmon:** Cyclone social - general state funds (counseling center). They provide limited



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services, but they will work with you on an individual basis free-of-charge. Thielen student health services has a psychiatric unit and they bill based on insurance, medications, etc. They function off of a service model by scheduling follow up appointments based on severity/needs.

- d. **Senator 2:** During the Student Affairs Advisory Board and restructuring, is there a way for us to continue to communicate with you?
 - e. **Harmon:** We revamped the advisory board last year and a mix of student leaders. We had great discussions and facilitators, but attendance was low. This year we are in the process of reaching out to a larger group of student leaders to increase involvement.
 - f. **Senator 2:** When can we expect the restructuring?
 - g. **Harmon:** End of October/ early November. We will have 3 meetings throughout the year.
- ii. Lisa Ludovico – Department of Residence
 - a. We are the office responsible for contracting, assignment and billing for all housing and disseminating and determining the housing availability options. Fall 2005 reached an all time low housing and 80% occupancy with thousands of vacancies. Re-opened housing for graduate students and further targeting graduate student population. In the past, they had never surpassed 7.9% of graduate population in housing - realizing they have underserved graduate students and working towards increasing the housing availability. Transitional period focused on dedicating Wallace Hall to graduate student housing and potentially converting Wilson Hall. In recent years with increased enrollment, they have focused on moving undergraduate students out of Schilleter Village. Minimizing guest housing through decommission and opening up the guest housing for individuals such as postdoctoral students who are enrolled in classes. 192 family units and 186 are currently occupied - with 109 being graduate and professional students. There currently is no waitlist for housing, however there was a 2 month period for family housing this summer functioning on a waitlist, but they were all able to move in to the housing units before the beginning of the semester.
 - b. **Senator:** Is it a yearly, monthly or quarterly lease?
 - c. **Lisa:** It functions based on the Academic year, however if at anypoint the student needs to leave the University, leave of internship, etc they can cancel contract *without penalty* at anytime within the year.
 - d. **Senator:** SUV - is it restricted to families that are only graduates or can undergraduate students live with their family?



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- e. **Lisa:** It is for any family, therefore undergraduate students with spouse and kids can live there.
- f. **Senator:** Postdocs can't live in Schilleter?
- g. **Lisa:** No, any student registered in at least one credit is eligible to live in student housing. If they are not registered, they can't live in schilleter village unless they are granted guest housing.
- h. **Senator:** At this point in time what is the occupancy of the guest apartments?
- i. **Lisa:** 47% were occupied. Guest housing works like a hotel to be turned over and available for other families who are temporarily staying.
- j. **Senator:** Are they primarily full only in the summer? How do you define a guest, i.e. international student on J-visa? Can they pay full rate or semester by semester rate?
- k. **Lisa:** It depends on what their status is, because there are strict IRS laws as a state-run university. Legislation states that we *cannot* be in competition with Best Western or Holiday Inn, etc. They need to meet these qualifications, otherwise we cannot be admitted. If they are available to get an ISU card, they are available to rent from ISU housing.
- l. **Senator:** Can you describe the waitlist statistics to me?
- m. **Lisa:** No more than 23 have been on the waitlist at a time - they were male undergraduate students and 9 were families. SV family 7 total (2 undergrad and 5 graduate students) and were able to offer them all housing.
- iii. Linda Pei/Diana – Graduate Peer Support Group
 - a. You can come to us with day-to-day stressors, resolutions and share options and resources available to you. There is a need across the campus for support as a coach. We are discussing the academic pursuits, what are the timelines, etc. The concept is to meet the needs of graduate and professional students. “Peer coach” for graduate and professional students led by Linda Pei for ideas and solutions. If you wanted to be a coach, attend trainings, meet regularly based on needs and mutual agreement, not an continual relationships. Students will be paid a ¼ time assistantship and to develop professional benefits, leadership, etc. Application: minimum of a year of student in the program and minimum GPA of 3.0 and strong interpersonal skills. You can email isupeercoach@gmail.com and apply for the position.
 - b. **Senator 1:** If you choose to be a peer coach, is it for LAS or your department?
 - c. **Diana:** We are open to any thoughts as we want to hear from you since we are in the development stages.



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- d. **Senator 2:** What will be the relationship between this initiative and the dozens of peer mentor groups across campus?
- e. **Diana:** We don't want to recreate the wheel, but we would sit down with the students to make sure we are not taking away from the mentors.
- f. **Senator 3:** I would like to pass along a suggestion of whether you could potentially work closely with Departments and program coordinators to suggest 2 students that could serve their department. These could possibly be the student mentors already established.
- g. **Senator 4:** This is related to the assistantship for the peer coach. Could this assistantship be added to a ½ time assistantship?
- h. **Linda:** the maximum is 20 hours per week, but if you are on CPT, then you can work on additional 10 hours on assistantship and 7 hours for masters.
- iv. Carolyn Cutrona - Associate Dean, Graduate College
 - a. Announcements: 3 Minute Thesis deadline is this evening at midnight. Regional and National competitions. October 4th you will be notified for the competition. New event for Interdepartmental Research showcase, on October 17th 7-9 pm. Application deadlines are October 1st for poster submissions. Meet and greet graduate students. There will also be a communication workshop to learn about “sketch-noting” your futures.

III. Executive Reports to the Senate: (40 Min)

- i. Report of the President
 - a. Iowa State Daily - meet more frequently and work on promoting graduate students
 - b. Board of Regents - Des Moines Register article
 - c. Student Wellness - Developing strategies for year-long advocacies.
 - d. Childcare Facilities- President Wintersteen and Director of ISSO, Kris McCallum-Beauty
- ii. Report of the Vice President
- iii. Report of the Treasurer
 - a. Special Student Fee - \$5.50 for Cyride; Student Gov \$2.5; ISU Daily \$8.00
- iv. Report of the Chief Information Officer
 - a. Graduate College Orientation Video
 - b. GPSS Office Hour updates
- v. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
- vi. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair



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- a. April 10th, 2019 is the final date. Divide the conference by colleges with a social networking events. Also, I am speaking with College Deans - grad college themes and how students' research can fall into these themes. Students will select a theme.
Undergraduate involvement - want to know application and selection process. Our first GPSRC committee meeting - first week of October.
- b. **Senator:** A suggestion on ways to bring and involve people to increase the audience.
- c. **GPSRC:** Yes, we are working on dividing it by Colleges and involving the Deans - we are hoping this enhances engagement and attendance.
- vii. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair
 - a. Finally have an intern to rebuild the PAG system. Will need to likely run a lottery in the next round.
- viii. Report of the Graduate Student Government Senator
- ix. Report of Special Committees
- IV. Unfinished Business (30 min)
 - i. None
- V. New Business (30 Min)
 - i. Senate Bill F18-02 Marketing and Public Relations Committee
 - a. 92% aye, 8% nay, 0% abstain, ayes have it
 - ii. Senate Bill F18-03 GPSS Representative to Student Government
 - a. Amit Mahapatra
 - b. Maria Alcivar
 - c. Prashant Gargh
 - d. 96% ayes, 0% nays, 4% abstain; ayes have it.
- VI. Senate Forum (20 Min)
- VII. Roll Call and Announcements - 46 out of 52
- VIII. Adjournment