

Report of the President

- A student call/petition to address graduate student stipends circulated at the end of last semester, sharing concerns about how our stipend/benefits compares to other Regent Universities and peer institutions
 - Also within University (i.e. College-level comparisons)
 - The Graduate College is gathering information, involving the Graduate Council and Thielen staff, to see comparisons both within the University and beyond.
 - Ivy Business College involvement, how best to analyze (including things like student fees, average stipend, cost of living, tuition coverage, etc.)
- University Standing Committee for Renaming, process outlined [here](#)
- 2 volunteers for a grievance committee
- GPSS Awards deadline - March 5th, 2021
 - Send to me directly or the President's account
 - I will email confirmations out
- Feedback for the winter session?
- PAG account is well funded, >100k 'active'
 - So far, new system seems to be doing OK
- Only 5 MEW applications received, all passed on to the next stage to review
- A large incoming graduate cohort this semester, welcome new students!

Report of the Vice President

- Working with the library committee to create "student who are parents" room where someone can bring their kids and study. It will have docking stations/screens for the adults and furniture/toys for kids. It will also have a whiteboard. This room should be ready for Fall of 2021
- I am working with the Graduate Council on Graduate Certificate policy. Please let me know if you have had experiences with Certificates that you want to share.
- The Graduate Council has also been working on policies involved in dissertation committee members.
- Remember to look at Graduate Prizes like the Zaffarano Prize for Graduate Research and Kara Award for Outstanding Dissertations
- Reports from Provost meeting: student success rates are holding strong, the short winter semester was a success and they are looking at ways to add graduate classes for next winter. Additionally, we don't know about the Covid vaccine yet. We will let you know when we have more information.
- Reports from meeting with Pres. Winterstein: if you are in VetMed watch for composting bins for paper towels. Student Government is running a trial for this sustainability measure.

- We are trying to get an idea of who might be interested in being on GPSS Exec Council next year. Please reach out with nominations, self-nominations, or people who might be interested. I can reach out and answer any questions you might have.

Report of the Treasurer

- Allocations from the Fall were submitted and voted on
- I'll be reaching out to Finance Committee members to discuss Spring Allocations

Report of the Senate Information Officer

- My goal for this semester is to streamline the nomination and attendance procedures of GPSS, so if you have any particular ideas please let us know. Some ideas we have considered include
 - Google Doc application
 - Pros: senator would fill out the form themselves, easy to collect and sort the data, accessible long term and modifications easy to implement
 - Cons: less 'formal', would require SIO to verify with the associated DOGE or committee/group that nominated the senator, potentially could be overwhelmed if not well organized
 - Current application system:
 - Pros: already in existence... that's about it
 - Cons: data archived externally (not great organization there) and must be manually entered into two different websites (listserv and GPSS website); nominators are the only ones notified (not the senators) and often senators are nominated under the wrong year which makes it impossible to track unless you go in manually to the data
- Attendance:
 - Canvas quizzes starting tonight (as a test run)! I really like this idea because it is easy to access and control the data in an internal location
 - Only downside would be if people don't have access to it, and subs would not have access to the page, but that should be minimal as time goes on so they could individually email the SIO

Report of the Senate Engagement Officer

- Any interest in discussion board features on Canvas for discussion of proposed legislation? Looking for volunteers to lead section heads and seeking ideas for facilitating small group discussion/brainstorming surrounding GPSS-related topics.

Report of the Conference Officer

- GPSC Meeting to discuss results of the conference poll formatting logistics
 - Pre-posted posters and pre-recorded oral presentations with live Q&A
 - One workshop: Standing out in a virtual crowd
- Working with Lectures series committee on Keynote speaker
 - Applied for and received funding for Keynote speaker
- Abstract registration will open in early February
- Friday, April 9th (for those who may be hard of hearing) will be the date for the GPSS Conference

Report of the Graduate Wellness Officer

- Thank you all who participated in the 8 weeks of break & 8 dimensions of wellness! You can still view the material on the public canvas page:
<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/77362>
- I am hoping to have a meeting with the wellness committee in these next couple of weeks so let me know if you would like to join in! We will be discussing our goals as a committee for the semester and what we can do to promote wellness for you all!

Report of Student Government Senators

- No meetings yet this session.
- Feel free to reach out with any ideas or resolutions you are interested in presenting to Student Government. I would be happy to facilitate that!

Report from LAS Committee

- We had our meet and greet and presentation from Dean Hogben. LAS Senators who are interested in joining the LAS committee, please email me at ccabada@iastate.edu. If you're in a different college and are thinking about setting up a committee, you can also still email me.
- If your department/program isn't represented in the current makeup of the committee, but you are unable to join the committee meetings, then you can designate an attendee from your program or department. They do not have to be GPSS Senators. You would email me the name of the person and CC their email address.
- Dean Hogben did contact other Associate Deans for Graduate Studies in colleges outside of LAS, and so they should all be aware that these committees can be formed. GPSS Senators, or, potentially, non-Senator graduate students can advocate for the formation of the college committees

January 25, 2021 Executive Updates

- Based on the survey LAS sent to graduate students last semester, overarching themes are that very few grad students said that online classes did *not* work for them, and the problem of overwork, particularly at this time. The English Department had requested summary of the responses and were given an anonymized synopsis (no direct quotes, but general themes) that they then used to gather more feedback from grad students. Dean Hogben is saying that she will make that similar synopsis available to the departments who want the synopsis, so reach out to your DOGE or Department Chair about getting those results.
- The next committee meeting has not been set yet, but will be determined very soon via Doodle