IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE
Remarks and Reports

I. Report of the President
   i. I will be able to provide updates about meetings with Dr. Holger, the Policy Library Advisory Committee, and the Provost after the meetings. For now, the plan is to simply discuss Resolution S16-05 and the revisions to Chapter 9 of the Graduate Student Handbook. These meetings are scheduled for this week.
   ii. I met with Student Government and discussed the GPSRC, potential scholarships for Graduate Senators at Large, permanent Graduate/Professional Student representation on the Student Government elections committee (to prevent future instances of the issues presented during this election cycle, which included failures for some students to receive proper ballots), and revisions to the Articles of Cooperation (which have not been updated in several years). It will be up to the next Leadership of GPSS and the next Senate to ensure that these discussions are continued, and appropriate action is taken.
   iii. In the Policy Library Advisory Committee (PLAC) meeting, we discussed progress with the Chapter 9 (Graduate Handbook) revisions. The PLAC is a committee that has different stakeholders so when policy is revised, the different entities that it impacts can provide feedback. The Chapter 9 Review Committee (part of the Graduate Council, and includes me and GPSS URLA Chair) has been reaching out to different stakeholders by default. Still, this meeting was productive because the Graduate Council will have a member sit on the PLAC committee in the future, so communication is enhanced.
   iv. My meeting with the Provost was cancelled by me, due to illness. The Provost is working with the GPSS URLA Chair on a professional development seminar. In April, I will be sharing information about the Faculty Senate's conference about research ethics and misconduct. It will open up to Graduate and Professional Students in April and I highly encourage attendance. We have several GPSS members involved with a panel at the conference.
   v. Dean Holger will investigate statistics to determine the costs and benefits associated with the current late registration / registration change fee that we discussed in our last meeting (regarding S16-05). Having different policies for undergraduate students and graduate students is quite complicated, and I do not believe the Registrar will be interested in dealing with those issues. However, the Dean is (as usual) open to discussion and I passed on arguments and points from a constituent in the HCI program. These discussion points were considered very helpful. The discussion continues.
   vi. The Chapter 9 Revisions were discussed in the Graduate Council Meeting. Discussion was limited to the Rights and Responsibilities statement. The whole chapter will (hopefully) be voted on in the April meeting. If approved, it is expected to be passed on to the Provost and President for final approval. Faculty provided constructive criticism about the Rights and Responsibilities statement. A simplified version of the feedback follows:
      a. Some of it reads as contentious, and it is unclear what happens if there is a disagreement. Language should be softened. It is also unclear what is encouraged as a

best practice and what is a fundamental right. The format does not fit with the rest of the handbook.

b. Based on this feedback, the URLA Chair and I are leading a revision to this section of Chapter 9 which will convert the rights and responsibilities to narrative format, begin with a preamble that contextualizes the section and describes the recommended approach for dealing with grievances. It will also, critically, distinguish between fundamental rights (e.g., right to be respected) and best practices that are encouraged by the graduate college, that are also discipline-appropriate (e.g., encouraged to attend conferences and workshops). We were asked to work on an aggressive timeline, but that is OK. It is too important for us to do otherwise.

c. The URLA Chair and I will pass along our revisions to the rest of the committee before getting feedback from the Deans and the faculty members who raised concerns during the Graduate Council meeting. Hopefully, we can bring forward a document that gets approved in April.

II. Report of the Vice President

i. Constitution will be brought before the Senate again for a second procedural vote. No amendments will be allowed, but we will allow discussion. No other legislation on the agenda at this time.

ii. Our March 3rd social at Es Tas was quite successful. Thank you to everyone for your contributions! Appetizers were available at the beginning and all students were offered two tacos. At one point we hit capacity and had a waiting line outside. In total about $938 (tip included) was spent leaving about $62 remaining in the mid-semester socials budget. We estimate that this served approximately 170 students, which during my tenure would be the highest mid-semester social attendance that I've seen. If it wasn't the highest in attendance, then we can at least say that the quality of food and venue might have been one of the better ones.

iii. Spring social has been scheduled to be close to the GPSRC as it has been in years past. It will be Friday, April 15th @ 6:30-8:30pm in Perfect Games. It would be ideal to advertise this alongside the GPSRC as much as we can to try to get the maximum number of attendees. The cost of this event will be about $1758 (tip included), which is over budget for the spring, but with left over from the fall and mid-semester budgets I have been told we should be fine.

iv. UT Arlington graduate students are considering a bill for maternity and paternity leave. We provided them with our parental leave policy and hopefully that will help shape their discussions. To remind ISU about our policy, GPSS President has suggested to the Daily an article covering it and investigating its level of usage over the last 3 or 4 years since adoption.

v. Student Government elections were March 1st and 2nd. There were some hiccups to say the least. We tried to quickly and calmly address those, but the entire thing should have been better. GPSS President is working with SG to improve processes for the future.

vi. As a reminder, any senator may join the Rules Committee and Social Committee by emailing gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu.

vii. Please forward any suggested speakers for Open Forum to gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu

III. Report of the Treasurer
   i. Approx $12,000 in Regular Allocations funding
   ii. Many clubs seemed to not understand the Allocations process
   iii. Focus groups in April to discuss the effectiveness of the on-line allocations request system - all comers welcome
   iv. I'll send out an e-mail to Senators and club representatives in early April with proposed dates and scheduling

IV. Report of the Chief Information Officer
   i. Elections and Operations Committee met to discuss exec council elections and 2016-2017 Senate structure. The new structure, based on Fall 2015 statistics, is added below in a table.
   ii. Opened nominations for 2016-2017 Senate.
   iii. Met GPSS contact in Registrar's office, Jonathan Compton, to discuss what data was provided to SG Election Commission, next to meet Marcia McDowell.
   iv. Checked all 103 clickers, they all registered vote and have full battery.
   v. Nominations for GPSS Exec council 2016-2017:
      a. President: George Weston, Vivek Lawana
      b. Vice-President: Fabian Campbell, Bharat Raj Agrawal
      c. Treasurer:
      d. Chief Information Officer: Huanjiao Dong
      e. University Relations Legislative Affairs Chair: Shivani Ghaisas
      f. Professional Advancement Grants Chair: Muhammed Walugembe
      g. Research Conference Chair: Akshit Peer

Graduate and Professional Student Senate 2016-2017		
Graduate Department	**Students**	**Senators**
Accounting	39	1
Aerospace Engineering	100	1
Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	90	1
Agricultural Education and Studies	74	1
Agronomy	316	4
Animal Science	80	1
Anthropology	13	1
Apparel Ed St & Hospitality Mgmt	99	1
Architecture	56	1
Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biol	65	1
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology	9	1
Biomedical Sciences	71	1
Biorenewable Resources and Technology	1	1

Business Administration	161	2
Chemical and Biological Engineering	70	1
Chemistry	148	2
Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering	209	3
Community and Regional Planning	43	1
Computer Science	164	2
Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology	64	1
Economics	94	1
Education	344	4
Electrical and Computer Engineering	380	4
Engineering Management	3	1
English	133	2
Entomology	17	1
Family & Consumer Sciences	51	1
Finance	12	1
Food Science and Human Nutrition	128	2
Genetics (Interdisciplinary)	13	1
Genetics Development and Cell Biology	53	1
Geological and Atmospheric Sciences	38	1
Gerontology	2	1
Graphic Design	34	1
History	32	1
Horticulture	20	1
Human Computer Interaction	37	1
Human Development & Family Studies	61	1
Immunobiology	2	1
Industrial and Manufacturing Systems	196	2
Industrial Design	14	1
Information Assurance	9	1
Integrated Studio Arts	18	1
Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies	14	1
Interior Design	16	1
Journalism and Mass Communication	35	1
Kinesiology	36	1
Landscape Architecture	25	1
Materials Science and Engineering	75	1
Mathematics	88	1
Mechanical Engineering	257	3
Microbiology	8	1
Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology	4	1

Natural Resource Ecology and Management	42	1
Neuroscience	2	1
Nutritional Sciences	6	1
Physics and Astronomy	100	1
Plant Biology	5	1
Plant Pathology and Microbiology	41	1
Political Science	28	1
Professional Agriculture	8	1
Psychology	67	1
Seed Technology and Business	31	1
Sociology	37	1
Statistics	142	2
Supply Chain and Information Systems	112	2
Sustainable Agriculture	1	1
Sustainable Environments	4	1
Systems Engineering	11	1
Undeclared	253	3
Undeclared Distance Education	5	1
Urban Design	3	1
Veterinary Clinical Science	4	1
Veterinary Diag & Prod Animal Med	17	1
Veterinary Medicine	584	4
Veterinary Microbiology & Prev Med	41	1
Veterinary Pathology	13	1
Wind Energy Science, Engineering and Policy	2	1
TOTAL	**5680**	**104**

V. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
   i.
VI. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair
   i. Distribution of PAGs in accordance with the PAG policy on April 2016.
      a. Three students cancelled their March grants giving $540.00 to the month of April 2016.
      b. Total money available on April 2016: $9,536.74
      c. March applications:
         1. Submissions Total: 76
         2. Approved Priority 1: 47
         3. Approved Priority 2: 5
         4. Denied: 24
         5. *Lottery performed on March 15th at 8:40 pm in presence of Senator Neeva Benipal.

6. Leftover money that went to the month of April 2016: $156.24.

ii. On March 11th, the PAG Committee and the Graduate College talked about the suggestions to improve the Margaret Ellen White Graduate Faculty Award. New changes in the form, format, and clarifications suggested will be worked with the next GPSS PAG Chair and the Graduate College.

iii. The PAG Committee is working on the GPSS Teaching, Research, Leadership Awards, and the Wakonse Fellowship. We will have final results on April 8th.

iv. I want to publically acknowledge the good work and dedication of each member of the PAG Committee. They have done a great job during the time I was GPSS PAG Chair:

a. Martha Ibore – Senator of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology
b. Nadia Jaramillo Cherrez – Senator of School of Education
c. Neeva Benipal – Senator of Chemical and Biological Engineering
d. Armando Figueroa – Senator of Electrical and Computer Engineering
e. Juan Duchimaza Heredia – Senator of Chemistry
f. Muhammed Walugembe – Senator of Animal Science

v. Special thanks to Senator Anna Prisacari and Senator Darlene Sanchez for their help with the evaluation of the GPSS Teaching, Research, Leadership Awards and Wakonse Fellowship.

vi. Thank you to all Senators who informed their constituents about PAG applications and the faculty and student awards. Without your help it would not be possible to have historic records of applications.

vii. During April, I will work together with the new elected GPSS PAG Chair. We need to work on training in the PAG system, information and suggestions for the faculty award, and information and suggestions for the GPSS student awards.

VII. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair

i. Abstract submission tally-

a. Poster- 65
b. Oral- 78
c. 3MT- 07
d. Impactful- 05

ii. Judging committee is working on abstracts

iii. Met Rob (Provost office). He will get the news out to IS daily, Tribune. Local news channel may cover the event and may be Des Moines Register too!!

iv. The GPSS Spring Social will be on the April 15th, 2016 at Perfect games.

v. We are going to do a raffle for participants.

vi. Please encourage graduate students to register. The registrations will close on April 5th.

vii. Please sign up for volunteering on the conference day.