

Monday, September 25th, 2023
Memorial Union Campanile Ballroom

I. Call to order: 6:38PM

- Quorum statement 6:38PM
- Moved to approve meetings.
 - No objection, approved.
- Moved to approve Agenda.
 - No objection, approved.

II. Speakers

Graduate Student Voices – Sarah Chase

The speaker covered the following topics:

- Unionizing in Iowa
- Graduate Student Voices History and Mission
- What has been done so far and what's next
- How senators can help

The information can be found in their presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nomZXmKk80atZcdv1JWtmJj3iaSz0I0I/view?usp=share_link

III. Executive Reports

Report of the President

- GPSS Executive Goals 23-24
 - Activate * Connect * Communicate * IDEA-tion* Visibility and Presence
 - Highlights
- Graduate Council, MU Advisory Board, Vet Med Orientation
- New Board Member Introduction and Upcoming Board of Regents Meeting
 - DEI funding and Board Decision: November
 - Potential impact on students and information sharing
- Awards Committee
 - Will be reaching out to my committee members this week to schedule our first meeting.

Report of the Vice President

- Rules Committee
 - Expect an email soon if you're on it
- Placards
 - Please let me know if you are missing one or there are errors
- Upcoming Meetings

- SVPSA
- Board of Regents
- Provost and Dean
- Graduate Council
 - Talking about abolishing the council to make it a part of faculty senate

Report of the Senate Engagement Officer

- College Chair Council has met twice:
 - Ongoing discussion on how to use our budget
 - Bios and headshots for website sent to SIO
 - Putting forward at least one piece of legislation per month
 - Proposed two pieces of legislation for September: SO for Special Election of vacant seats, SO for Special Committee for Constitutional Amendments
 - Net meeting: October 3rd
 - Send any questions or comments to collegechairs@iastate.edu
- University Committees:
 - List updated with current committees
 - Total 22 committees, 3 vacant seats
 - SG: Student Initiatives
 - Transportation Advisory Council
 - Graduate Council: Biological & Agricultural Science
 - Reached out to PFF for additional volunteers
 - Will publish list with GPSS representatives on website once all positions are filled
 - If you are interested in joining a committee, reach out to gpsseo@iastate.edu
- Joined NAGPS and National Research and Development Council (GRAD)
 - Joining congressional briefing on October 19 on graduate student advising and mentorship
- University Relations and Legislative Affairs Committee
 - Session starts Jan 8
 - URLA will work on planning a trip to the capitol once the Bills of the session are public (mid-February)
 - URLA will coordinate lobbying efforts with student leaders from Regent institutions
 - If you are interested in joining legislative efforts, reach out to gpsseo@iastate.edu
- Attended Faculty Senate on September 12th
 - Introduced myself to new senators, outlined goals for the year
- GSV: met with steering committee at their request, provided feedback on previous speakers at GPSS and brainstormed ideas for collaboration
- Upcoming meetings:
 - Board of Regents – September 28th
 - Grad Council – September 28th

Report of the Senate Information Officer

- Met with Student Technology Advisory Fee Committee
 - Working to expand outdoor networks and cell service specifically at high density areas such as central campus, bus stops, and at Jack Trice (no student fees being used to fund this)
 - Also working on improving service at Vet Med in areas with weaker service
 - Net Registration being updated so students can register devices prior to coming to campus
 - Has anyone noticed this? Any areas that still are pretty spotty?
 - Graduate College looking to acquire Adobe Creative Suite
 - Is this something that would be beneficial for you or your constituents?
 - Student Directory database will be transitioning from AccessPlus to WorkDay and will include preferred pronouns on a tier basis (shared with people who absolutely need to know, but are kept confidential otherwise)
 - Moving from Okta to Microsoft for authentication page
 - Graduate college is tracking usage of these fees on campus computers and will be receiving reports from each college about how they are spent
 - LabStats is being debuted as a way for students to log in and see which campus computers are open and what software they have on them
- Met with Mock Semester Leadership Team to help plan a WorkDay Transition workshop week for students, faculty, and staff
 - Meeting again with them on Thursday
 - This event is tentatively scheduled for late February, and they are targeting roughly 70 graduate students to attend to showcase how WorkDay will function
- Follow us on Socia Media!
- This year, I will be doing weekly information posts on official GPSS socials and am creating a submission form so that GPSS can submit information for dissemination
- Executive highlights on GPSS Instagram

Report of the Treasurer

- Fall Allocations Deadline This Week
- Finance Committee
 - Reviewing Fall Allocations
 - Student Organization Debt Forgiveness

Report of the Wellness Officer

- Health Surveys in partnership with the University of Michigan (Sept 21, deadline Oct 13)
- Successful First Social!
- Health and Wellness Symposium: Speaker Confirmed, Final topic in progress
- Campus Health and Wellness Resources: QPR

Report of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Officer

- IDEA Committee
 - Working with 'IDEA-oriented' organizations
 - IDEA related activities/projects

Report of the Conference Officer

- Confirmed date of Conference – February 23, 2024 (Friday)
- Sent confirmation request email to potential committee members
- October will be planning theme, keynote, guests, and fundraising
- GSV canvassing for signatures (email me if you haven't signed the petition, reverett@iastate.edu or rlenzeverett@gmail.com)

Report of the Graduate Student Government Senators

- SG has been filling out vacant positions, all director positions filled.
- Ongoing discussions about the relationship between SG and GPSS, looking to increase collaboration.
- Articles of Cooperation will be updated this year.

Report of the College Chairs Representative

- Charity: The council met in September and put forward two pieces of legislation that will be voted on in this meeting.
 - Senate Order calling to fill the vacant College Chair Positions: LAS and Human Sciences.
 - Senate Order calling for the creation of a constitutional amendment committee to update the governing document to reflect recent organizational changes of GPSS.

Reports of Standing Committees

- No reports

Reports of Special Committees

- No reports

IV. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

V. New Business

- a. F23-02 Special Committee for Constitutional Amendments of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate Constitution
 - Senator from Entomology presents motion to consider the document as read, motion passes.
 - Unanimously approved.

- b. Special Election for Vacant College Chair Positions and Social Media Chair of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate
 - Senator from ABE presents motion to consider the document as read, motion passes.
 - Wren Bouwman – Elected LAS Chair, unopposed
 - Alycia West – Elected Human Sciences Chair, unopposed
 - Social Media Chair: 3 nominees
 - Alycia West
 - Chinwendu Ozoh
 - Swati Kumari
 - Alycia West elected with simple majority.
- c. Senator Charity Njeshi presents a motion to reconsider the approved Senate Order F23-02
 - Mention passes unanimously.
 - Senator Katie DuVal Mihelich presents a motion to amend the Senate Order to designate the GPSS Vice President as chair of the committee.
 - Mention passes unanimously.
 - Senator Gaurav Arwade presents a motion to approve the Senate Order as amended.
 - Mention passes unanimously.

VI. Senate Forum

- Senator Charity Njeshi: general problem for interdepartmental programs
 - Limited funding and support for students
 - Lectures from program-specific programs are not recognized and compensated and as a result, lecturers are leaving, and the courses are going away.
 - More support from departments or colleges are needed for interdisciplinary courses.
- Senator Albulena Basha:
 - It is common practice in the Economics Department for students to take incompletes on courses to hand out their papers after the theory of the course has been covered.
 - The incompletes appear on transcripts even after the paper has been submitted and grade assigned.
 - This affects international student as an incomplete might reflect poorly on job applications in their home countries, where it is not common practice to take incompletes.
 - Asks to have conversation with Graduate College to explore options to remove incompletes in cases where the course design and common practice requires it.

- Efrain: it is also an issue to bring up to the DOGE in hope that the department finds better ways to evaluate students without expecting them to take incompletes to finish the workload of a previous course.

VII. Roll Call and Announcements

- Efrain: the position of minute taker is still open, anyone interested can reach out to gppsseo@iastate.edu.
- Roll call at 9:06PM

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.