

- I. Call to order 6:30 P.M.
  - a. Roll Call
  - b. Statement of Quorum by the Chair
  - c. Approval of Meeting Notes from February
  - d. Amendments to the Agenda
- II. Open Forum (40 Min)
  - a. Dr. Reginald Stewart, *Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion*
    - i. VP: Any thought to making the climate survey a mandatory exit survey to receive a continuous flow of information and monitor yearly trends and how students view their overall experience?
    - ii. RS: Hasn't come up yet, but has been discussion on creating a dashboard where students can give feedback.
    - iii. President: Am also involved in the Graduate College and am glad you mentioned the climate survey. As you said, results are not shocking. We had Dean Ogilvie come to the January meeting; Dr. Leath and others are working on graduate diversity and inclusion. After listening to you, the university itself is doing something; what about your office rather than the GC doing something?
    - iv. RS: Hearing from lots of different parts of the university, we just intersect the project from different points.
    - v. Senator: Asking about the Inclusion Excellence Award. Could there be a similar award for first responder staff (e.g., ISU police)? Especially w/respect to sexual assault, DI is a very bad picture. Is it possible to include such statistics in your findings?
    - vi. RS: On the award – first scope is people who do it outside their jobs, who work in other thematic areas but perform notable service. On the surveys – Rankin will be doing secondary analysis of all our surveys, and there will be an open opportunity for students to say what kinds of items should be in it.
    - vii. Senator: You mentioned 6-7 full time staff. Will the budget cuts affect what your office can do?
    - viii. RS: A budget cut immediately after arrival makes you worry; also a state-funded university. Reality is that it will probably slow us down somewhat, due to an aggressive model of where a school like ISU should be. In this round we were not affected. Continued cycles of cuts inevitably affect, though.
    - ix. President: Can you briefly talk about how you work with the ISSO office and what duties/responsibilities you have there? Lots of graduate students are international.
    - x. RS: Depending on the campus, ISSO reports to VPDI, but not at ISU. Have had to be more deliberate. Recently met with them to begin conversations. Students will come to me to present information/challenges; sometimes the same will/will not go to ISSO also. Disclosure makes asking what ISSO is doing a problem. During an international disaster, ISSO uses an alert system from affected areas. But, if a student isn't identified as being from there but has relatives there, they

don't get notified. Asked whether there is another mechanism to keep students informed. Interaction is on a case-by-case basis, but the lines of communication are open.

- b. Anna Prisacari—*Knowledge on Tap*
  - c. Roberta Johnson, *Director of Student Financial Aid and GPSS adviser*
    - i. [presentation of proposed withdrawal procedure changes]
    - ii. President: Is there any clause about assistantship?
    - iii. RJ: That would need to be part of the conversation w/a major professor, but there are other policies related to that.
    - iv. Senator: This document is not new, right?
    - v. RJ: It assembles policies from the colleges and other parts of the university to make something comprehensive, in one place, that governs both graduate and undergraduate students for a singular place in the policy library.
- III. Senate Reports: (40 Min)
- a. Report of the President
    - i. Senator: What about the MU referendum?
    - ii. President: Didn't pass, and we don't know what is next.
    - iii. RJ: Was in a meeting earlier today; they will go back for further discussion and see what they can do w/currently available resources, potentially change plan, attempt another vote for a smaller project. Feeling was that they didn't have adequate time to provide adequate information to students.
    - iv. Senator: On the presidential search, will GPSS and Student Gov't and university people have more say than say w/University of Iowa.
    - v. President: There will be a GPSS seat, and another for SG, so definitely two students. It will be a long procedure before we know more and the search really starts.
    - vi. RJ: The administration is aware that it's very soon and the semester will be over soon, so interviews will not occur until fall when students are back, to facilitate profess. The U of I search was widely publicized, perceived as not transparent. The UNI search recently went much better, so assuming that the BoR learned.
    - vii. VP: When those interviews happen, go, and participate in the process.
  - b. Report of the Vice President
  - c. Report of the Treasurer
    - i. President: Want to commend the treasurer, and the senators for reaching out and getting them to ask for money.
    - ii. Treasurer: Good to see the budget not roll into surplus!
  - d. Report of the Chief Information Officer
    - i. Senator: Do you know what departments have changed?
    - ii. CIO: School of Education, etc.
    - iii. Various people: Need to re-check the numbers.
  - e. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
  - f. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
  - g. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair

- h. Report of the Graduate Student Government Senators
- i. Report of Special Committees
- IV. Unfinished Business (30 min)
- V. New Business (30 Min)
  - a. SB S17-05: Spring 2017 Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)
    - Regular Allocations
      - i. Audience member: Is there an organization that's only getting \$5?
      - ii. Senator: Friendly amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> line 3<sup>rd</sup> Whereas, "Finance Committee" → "FC"
      - iii. Seconded. Question called, seconded.
      - iv. Voting: 89% aye, 0% no, 11% abstain
  - b. SB S17-06: Revising the GPSS Standing Rules
    - i. Senator: We usually have this conflict during Thanksgiving/November; could this be added?
    - ii. VP: That is probably covered already in the current language, which would also allow us to be more flexible.
    - iii. Question called, seconded. Ayes carry.
    - iv. Motion for UC, rejected – governing document.
    - v. Voting: 98% aye, 0% nay, 2% abstain
  - c. SB S17-07: Graduate Student Government Senator Scholarships
    - i. Senator: If there are three senators, why only \$800?
    - ii. VP: Budget bill was passed first, where we allocated \$800. Also, since we've only consistently filled two seats. We could fund the third seat if it does happen, but even with the scholarship we don't know if it could be filled. Given the decrease in graduate admissions, we *know* we'll have two seats.
    - iii. Senator: If there is a third, will the Senate then pass a new bill?
    - iv. Treasurer: Would have to have a bill to fund the third seat for that year and would consult with the FC to find where the funding will come from. There are lots of Whereas clauses to illuminate the spirit of the bill, so future Senates can make a good decision.
    - v. Senator: Are we enforcing attendance, reports? Is there an accountability/communication expected?
    - vi. Sponsor: Accountability is through SG not GPSS – meetings, office hours.
    - vii. VP: In hindsight, probably should have entered the bills in a different order. In the By-Laws and Constitution (new), requiring the SG senators to submit an officer report, regardless of the scholarship (individually or as a group). GPSS in general doesn't enforce its attendance/delinquency/termination policy very well.
    - viii. Senator: What happens to the scholarship if a person is removed?
    - ix. VP: Would go into surplus.
    - x. Senator: What if the person suddenly stops?
    - xi. President: Scholarships are allocated on a semester basis, so would be discontinued upon removal.
    - xii. Senator: Is there a policy somewhere?
    - xiii. President: Yes, in the by-laws.

- xiv. PAG: Was a senator-at-large in 2014. SG meetings/debates will go a very long time, even midnight or later. Have to have office hours. Have to serve on a committee.
- xv. Senator: Will SG agree to this?
- xvi. VP: Hopefully; we will ask. We hope they will see the value of us. If they don't, the senators-at-large will only receive the \$200 we have committed
- xvii. PAG: Also from experience, SG responds positively to information from GPSS/graduate students.
- xviii. Sponsor: Friendly amendment, line 35 "GPSS requests ..."
- xix. Seconded, no opposed.
- xx. Question called, seconded. Ayes have it.
- xxi. Voting: 91% Aye, 2% nay, 7% abstain
- d. SB S17-08: Revising the GPSS By-Laws
  - i. Senator: On page 5, the amendment about 24 hours notice – should that occur whether a substitute is found or not?
  - ii. VP: Yes, though it's recognized that you can't always find a sub
  - iii. Senator: Is 24 hours necessary?
  - iv. VP: Yes. People are busy getting to the meeting (esp. CIO). In an emergency, obviously tell as soon as can. If you know, should give more notice.
  - v. Senator: Ask b/c getting a sub is difficult.
  - vi. Question called, seconded, no opposed
  - vii. Voting: 86% aye, 9% nay, 5% abstain
    - 1. Extension of time
- e. SB S17-09: Revising the GPSS Constitution
  - i. Question called, seconded. ayes have it
  - ii. Voting: 91% aye, 5% nay, 5% abstain
- VI. Elections—Nominees for GPSS Executive Council for 2017-2018
  - a. President: **Vivek Lawana** (vjlawna@iastate.edu, **Biomedical Sciences**)
  - b. Vice President: **George H. Weston** (gweston@iastate.edu, **Sociology**)
  - c. Treasurer: **Maria Mantilla-Perez** (mantilla@iastate.edu, **Agronomy**)
  - d. Chief Information Officer: **Huanjiao (Hannah) Dong** (huanjiao@iastate.edu, **Apparel, Events & Hospitality Mgmt**)
  - e. University Relations Legislative Affairs Chair: **Michael Belding** (mbelding@istate.edu, **History**)
  - f. Professional Advancement Grants Chair:
  - g. Research Conference Chair:
- VII. Senate Forum (30 Min)
  - a. Juan Duchimaza-Heredia—*Latina/o Graduate Student Association*
- VIII. Announcements and Roll Call
  - a. VP: Announcements are in the agenda – concert, spring social, Knowledge on Tap, GPSRC, legislation/PAG deadlines
  - b. Senator: Clarification –17<sup>th</sup>, not 24<sup>th</sup> of April for the next Senate meeting
- IX. Adjournment