

# *GPSS OFFICER REPORT*

## *AUGUST 2018*

### PRESIDENT

- 1) Welcome (back to our continuing senators) to GPSS! I am sure we are going to have an excellent year of working together towards our main goal of making sure all graduate and professional students have an active voice on-campus and about any issues they might be going through. While I am sure it might be intimidating to those who are new senators this year, fear not, we are all here for you. As long as we continue to work as a team, I am sure we are going to have a very productive year.
- 2) **Updates from Meetings attended:**
  - a. **Office of Equal Opportunity**
    - i. Met with the team of OEO at their retreat. They were supportive and motivated for organizing and facilitating conversations regarding supervisor review (workshop and session during orientation and recurring once per semester). Important aspect to consider in organizing a review is how to maintain anonymity of the student filing the complaint? Possible solution could be to include the Provost, Dean and Chair of the Department into the committee.
  - b. **Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Martino Harmon**
    - i. Met with the V.P of Student Affairs for the monthly meeting and discussed multiple issues and initiatives regarding:
      - ii. Graduate Appreciation Week/Mental Health Awareness.
      - iii. Health insurance plan for dependents.
      - iv. Childcare facilities available in Ames and their affordability.
      - v. Perspective students/ Recruitment of new students.
      - vi. Forming an International Students Committee in association with ISSO, OEO, ISC (International Student Council) and other international student organizations to reach out to new students and helping in transitioning to Ames and ISU.
      - vii. Residency allotment of graduate students to different on-campus residence options.
  - c. **Special Student Fee and Tuition Committee**
    - i. The meetings will continue till the mid of Fall Semester for considering any changes to the SSFT requests for FY2020 by different departments. Up till now, CyRide and Student Government have requested an increase in their charges but the changes haven't been voted on yet.
  - d. **Director of Student Wellness, Mark Rowe-barth**
    - i. We talked about the last Graduate Student Wellness Week and a discussion on what can be changed for this year. A few suggestions that came forward included:
      - ii. Timing the event – considering to move it into Fall Semester for better participation.
      - iii. Adding a new discussion or session on “What's Available” for new graduate students to brief them about the services provided by ISU and how they can easily access them.

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- iv. The executive team suggests adding intramural sports during the wellness week and we will be finalizing these details in the upcoming meeting with the Student Wellness Manager and the 2 graduate assistants I will be working with this year.
  - e. **Assistant Professor in the Department of HDFS, Tera Jordan**
    - i. She received Faculty Award for Diversity Enhancement and has put together a group of individuals from various departments to discuss issues related to mentoring of graduate students by faculty. The aim of the group is to understand what appropriate measures can help the university understand chief mentoring issues and put together a Task Force to track these problems, where students might be reluctant to come forward to report them.
- 3) **Opportunities for Participation/Spread the word:**
- a. **President's Installation Ceremony**
    - i. It has been scheduled for **September 21<sup>st</sup>** from **9:00am to 12:00pm**. We are looking for students for representing the entire graduate community on floor at the ceremony. Interested candidates can email me at [gpsspresident@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsspresident@iastate.edu) by **midday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** and I will sharing a short survey with you, requesting details for the ceremony.
  - b. **Town hall Meeting (Tentative to take place in mid-October)**
    - i. Discussing the possibility of organizing Town Hall meeting once a semester open to the graduate students for identifying further issues that GPSS and Graduate College can assist students in.
  - c. **Graduate Peer Support Group**
    - i. The group is currently led by Diana, omnibud officer, Dr. Craig Ogilvie and Linda Pei (Graduate Assistant) and has the objective to train and certify graduate students for helping their peers with academic and non-academic problems. They would like to get together a group of graduate students to hold a focus-group discussion on how this type of an initiative can be made most productive and helpful to us.
- 4) **Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. Student Wellness Manager and Graduate Assistants for organizing Graduate Wellness Week 2018
  - b. Director of ISSO, Kris McCallum-Beaty
  - c. Director of Residence, Pete Englin
- 1) Masters students will be able to wear hoods during our commencement ceremony. I want to thank Sen. Harris and others for drafting the resolution and Grad student Chelsea Smith for working towards it.

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### VICE PRESIDENT

- 1) We need sponsors for the Constitution Ratification bill to be able to officially present the bill. **Please e-mail me at [jwolanyk@iastate.edu](mailto:jwolanyk@iastate.edu)** if you are willing to sponsor the bill, which just entails adding your name to it and **no work**.
- 2) Graduate College and GPSS Graduate Orientation will be held on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm at the Reimann Ballroom to introduce students to the wide array of student services on campus.
- 3) GPSS Fall Social will be held on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. – 2pm at the Hickory Shelter in Brookside park. Food will be provided so please come and invite your friends.

### TREASURER

Welcome Senators!

- 1) During the summer, I have processed the payment to all the winners of GPSRC; teaching, research and leadership awards of GPSS; and Wakonse Fellowship.
  - a) Total awardees: 40
  - b) Total: \$9200
- 2) The payment to the speaker of GPSRC (reimbursement: \$817.54, Honorarium: \$5000) and PAG were also processed.
- 3) Summary of the Student Special Fee and Tuition Committee (SSFTC)
  - i. This committee servers to receive and review the change of student special fee next year (FY20). I have attended several meetings in the summer so far.
  - ii. Here is a small summary of the new fees per semester.

	<b>Approved FY19</b>	<b>Requested FY20</b>	<b>Proposed FY20</b>
<b>Student Activities</b>			
Student Government	\$ 36.65	\$ 2.50	\$ 39.15
Reserve for Legislative Relations	\$ 0.10	\$ -	\$ 0.10
<b>Total Student Activities</b>	<b>\$ 36.75</b>	<b>\$ 2.50</b>	<b>\$ 39.25</b>
<b>Student Services</b>			
CyRide	\$ 79.60	\$ 5.50	\$ 85.10
Intercollegiate Athletics	\$ 31.50	\$ -	\$ 31.50
<b>Total Student Services</b>	<b>\$ 111.10</b>	<b>\$ 5.50</b>	<b>\$ 116.60</b>
<b>Building Fees</b>			
Memorial Union	\$ 39.55	\$ -	\$ 39.55
Multicultural Center	\$ 3.00	\$ -	\$ 3.00
<b>Total Building Fees</b>	<b>\$ 42.55</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 42.55</b>
<b>Recreation Fee</b>	<b>\$ 160.80</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 160.80</b>
<b>Technology Fee*</b>	<b>\$ 145.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 145.00</b>

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<b>Health Fee</b>	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 120.00
<b>Health Facilities Fee</b>	\$ 8.00	\$ -	\$ 8.00
<b>TOTAL MANDATORY FEES PER SEMESTER</b>	<b>\$ 624.20</b>	<b>\$ 8.00</b>	<b>\$ 632.20</b>

- b) The numbers above may change in the future. We are going to discuss about the health fee next week. I will keep you updated on this information.
- 4) We had a successful fall social this Saturday! Many people showed up and made friends there. I'm currently working on the expense of this event now. I will keep you updated on this.
- 5) Welcome to join Finance Committee!
  - a) We will meet together to make decisions on allocations to graduate & professional student organizations, which could be \$1000 a year for each organization. This is a great opportunity to serve the graduate and professional students.
  - b) The deadline of fall allocation application is **Sept 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please pass this information around to graduate and professional organizations in your departments. It is a great funding source for the organizations to invite more guest speaker, hold more workshops or make other educational events happen.
  - c) If you are interested in serving in this committee, please contact me without any hesitation. My email address is [gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu).

**CIO**

- 1) Welcome back returning and new senators!
- 2) Contact and facilitate department contacts to nominate their senators
- 3) Active Tweeting on GPSS Twitter account. Please feel free to friend @ISUGPSS!
- 4) Created GPSS LinkedIn page. If you're a LinkedIn user, please add it as your friend!
- 5) Update GPSS website.
- 6) Create new tables backend and maintain GPSS db.
- 7) Placard printing before the Aug meeting.
- 8) Aug meeting equipment and software preparation.

**PAG CHAIR**

- 1) REMIND your constituents that PAG applications close on the 15th at 5PM for the month PRIOR to your conference/event. You can apply as early as you want, but if you're even a minute past the deadline you will be denied. It is actually impossible for us to allow application extensions, due to the nature of the PAG accounts.
- 2) We have a lot of money open for October events (deadline is September 15th, 5PM).
- 3) We are currently exploring a re-make for the PAG operating system. There is a large manual component that desperately needs updating. We have an intern working on it

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now, with the possibility for others who are well versed in computer programming to get involved (and possibly paid!!).

- 4) The PAG website needs an update. If any senators want to give feedback as to how to make it more approachable/understandable please let me know! I've been making changes all summer since becoming chair and I'd like input. We're also considering a youtube video to help people understand the process.
- 5) Please consider joining the PAG committee. We will likely only meet once or twice in the fall, and maybe 4-5 times in the spring to review student/faculty awards. If you're interested in gaining experience about scoring scholarship applications to help you in the future, this is the committee for you! Note that you can still apply to the awards if you are on this committee, you will just have to recuse yourself from scoring for that award in which you have applied.
- 6) Thank you!! As always if anyone has any questions please ask.

#### URLA CHAIR

- 1) New GPSS committee: Marketing and Public Relations Committee
  - a. Duties include: Coordinate, design and organize advertising tools for GPSS related events (e.g GPSRC, socials, etc). Update Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts with GPSS activities.
- 2) There are several vacancies for university wide committees that need to be filled. GPSS representatives do not have to be senators to fill these seats. Openings can be found here: <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/university-committees>
- 3) If you are or someone you know are interested or have further questions, please contact me at: [gpssurla@iastate.edu](mailto:gpssurla@iastate.edu)

#### GPSRC CHAIR

- 1) **GPSRC survey results** are attached.
- 2) **GPSRC conference date is fixed: April 10th (Wednesday), 2019.** MU has been booked.
- 3) **We are trying to get professors (as judges) and deans (to hand out awards) involved.** Emails have been sent. Help wanted: Please reach out to your advisors or other faculty you know and ask them to volunteer as judges or attend the conference. Personal invitations are more likely to result in acceptances. Meet me at the end of the meeting or send me an email if you're unsure of what exactly to say to them.
- 4) **We are going to divide the conference by colleges** this time and this is something you can also mention to faculty and fellow graduate students.
- 5) **Written feedback would be provided** by judges and also everyone in the audience. Presenters can include a slide with a personal identification number (PIN). Feedback can

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be texted or emailed to that number using an app. We will be testing the app during a GPSS meeting.

- 6) **6. We are planning to have a social event**, either the day before or immediately after the conference ends. Ideas needed.
- 7) **7. Keynote speaker budget was significantly reduced due to budget cuts. We have invited Dr Raychelle Burks to give a talk.** Information on her is provided in a separate document (attached).

#### **GPSRC survey result:**

**Total number of participants: 209**

#### **1. What's your motivation for attending the conference? (multiple answers allowed)**

Networking and socializing with other grad students: 60%

Presenting your research: 60%

Learning about other research work done in ISU: 57%

Participating in professional development workshops: 42%

Participating in competitions: 19%

#### **2. Would you prefer the conference to take place on (single answer only)**

A weekday: 49%

No preference: 28%

A weekend: 23%

#### **3. Would you be more willing to present if the talks are divided by colleges and attended by college deans and professors? (single answer only)**

Yes: 52%

No preference: 42%

No: 6%

#### **4. Would you like feedback on your talk/poster? (single answer only)**

Yes: 82%

No preference: 15%

No: 3%

#### **5. What workshops would you be interested in attending? (multiple answers allowed)**

How to make a good research presentation: 61%

How to make yourself more marketable for jobs: 60%

How to communicate research to the public: 59%

Resources and support available for graduate and professional students: 54%

How to get the most out of graduate school (be a successful grad student): 53%

How to achieve better work-life balance: 38%

How to be an effective leader: 32%

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### 6. Which College do you belong to? (single answer only)

LAS: 32%  
CALs: 22%  
Human Sciences: 17%  
Engineering: 16%  
Business: 7%  
Vet Med: 4%  
Design: 2%

**Major problems with conference:** Judging feedback skewed and low attendance to talks

**Major suggestions for improvement:** Divide presentations by disciplines and have social and networking events.

### GPSRC Keynote Speaker:

#### Sleuthing, The Avengers & Chemistry

Discover how superheroes like the Avengers use chemistry to keep villains in check and save the world, and how forensic chemistry can help real-life crime fighters. Join Dr. Burks as she shares her experiences, from working in a crime lab to being a professor and TV personality, all while developing research tools for chemical sleuthing.



Dr. Raychelle Burks is an assistant professor at St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas, who enjoys the challenge of developing methods for detecting a variety of materials, including illegal drugs and explosives. She designs portable sensors, including those that work in your smart phone, that can make chemical measurements in the field. She helped create and organize [SciPop Talks!](#), a popular talk series blending science and pop culture. Dr. Burks is a popular science communicator, appearing on the Science Channel's [Outrageous Acts of Science](#), American Chemical Society's Reactions [videos](#), Royal Society of Chemistry [podcasts](#), and at conventions such as DragonCon and GeekGirlCon. Burks's blog, [thirty-seven](#), is a nod to her alter-identity Dr. Rubidium, rubidium being the 37th element on the Periodic Table. She blogs about her adventures in research, teaching, and outreach. She writes a lot about chemistry of pop-culture (zombies, Game of Thrones, etc.) and crime, so these two general areas get featured a lot! She has spoken on subjects as diverse as the death of King Joffrey to which chemical aroma would help disguise you from the walking dead!

Dr. Raychelle Burks has an MSc in forensic science and a PhD in chemistry from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Currently she is working as an analytic chemist – designing and building systems to find specific chemicals in a stew of chemicals.

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Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2011

M.S. in Forensic Science at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2008

B.S. Chemistry, Northern Iowa University, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 2001

Link to Mother Jones article:

<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/06/inquiring-minds-raychelle-burks-zombies-chemistry/>