

GPSS OFFICER REPORT

January 2019

PRESIDENT

1. **Recruitment for campus climate focus groups continues.**
 - a. The Campus Climate Committee for Graduate students has started recruiting graduate students for focus groups for discussing the individual themes that stood out in the campus climate and devise new strategies for improving the climate soon. The 4 themes are:
 - i. Diversity and Inclusion,
 - ii. Disabilities and Student Success,
 - iii. Relationship with Mentor and Advisor
 - iv. Childcare.
 - b. We are looking for highly motivated graduate students who have had experiences in these themes and are willing to work together with a group of fellow graduate students to help improve the climate at ISU. For the duration of Spring Semester 2019, these focus groups will have multiple meetings (based on the need ascertained by the group) to go over the data and suggest strategies that can help achieve results. All interested applicants can fill the application form on our website. Please note, that we will try our best to accommodate all students who show their interest based on the vacancies, however, filling in the application does NOT guarantee a spot. All selected applicants will be contacted in January/early February to decide the meeting times.
 - c. PS: Faculty and staff members can also apply if they would like to contribute to these focus groups.
2. **Childcare recommendations are being shared for feedback and review, let us know via e-mail (gpsspresident@iastate.edu, gpssvicepresident@iastate.edu) if any part of it needs to be amended or if you have a suggestion that can be incorporated.**
3. **Working on collaborating with the Dean of Students Office to increase accessibility of their resources to graduate students.**

VICE PRESIDENT

- 1) The Spring Social is officially reserved for **April 12th 6-9pm**.
- 2) Stephens Auditorium has been contacted for the Musical Social.

TREASURER

- 1) The deadline of spring allocation application is **Feb 22nd**. 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. The educational event is suggested to be held next semester.

CIO

- 1) #ISUGradStudentStory
- 2) Attendance questions, please feel free to let me know.

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PAG CHAIR

1. Welcome back! The new PAG system is done, and we're in offline beta testing! YAY!
2. Did not have to run a lottery for February PAG applicants (YAY) but I am reasonably sure we will have a lottery for March PAG applicants. It's one of the two highest volume months, we already have a ton on the waiting list and we have first-time applicants trickling in day by day. There are a lot of funds in the account (12k) so we'll see!
APPLICATIONS FOR PAG ARE DUE THE 15TH AT 5PM CST THE MONTH BEFORE YOUR CONFERENCE. ALWAYS!
3. I made two **PAG videos** (the first is showing the system processing) and the second is talking about application categories. Check them out!
<https://youtu.be/xrmEHFN0Um4>
<https://ytcropper.com/cropped/7S5c4638a79f96b>
4. Margaret Ellen White award nominees are scored, and the top four were passed along to the Graduate College committee. BIG THANK YOU to my scorers: Maria, Jacob, Phillip, Hannah, Brian, Joel!
5. We already have one application in for the GPSS Leadership Award. There are three awards categories and one conference/workshop attendance award (Leadership, research, teaching and then Wakonse). The financial awards are 150\$ and there are multiple winners per category; presentation of award at GPSS conference.
I'm uploading the excel rubric for how we've graded it in the past onto its webpage to try to increase transparency and help students guide their applications to be the BEST.
<http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/awards>
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 1ST 2019

URLA CHAIR

1)

GPSRC CHAIR

1. GPSRC abstract submission is open. Please inform your constituents and encourage people to register: <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/research-conference/abstract-submission>. Abstracts submissions **will close in last week of Feb/first week of March**.
2. Dr Raychelle Burks withdrew from the conference due to unexpected conflicts. I am working with the Lectures Committee to identify a new speaker. Unfortunately, this late notice has meant we have had to increase our keynote speaker budget to \$3000.
3. Tentative GPSRC budget: we expect to spend about \$14,000-\$15,000 (similar to last year). We have also set aside money for a Financial Workshop Series ("Exploring Funding at ISU") leading up to GPSRC. This will be conducted by the PAG Chair.
4. Have requested \$1500 from each college. The College of Business has committed \$1500.

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5. GPSRC Workshops:

This workshop will take place on **March 27th** at **5pm** in the **Oak Room**:

How to make a good research presentation: Mark Gleason, Professor. Limited registration and **oral presenters** selected for GPSRC will be given first preference.

These workshops will take place during the conference (**between 10:30am to 12pm**):

- **How to make yourself more marketable for jobs**: Karin Lawton-Dunn, Graduate Career Services Coordinator
- **How to communicate your research to the public**: Sara Merrit, Education Manager, Reiman Gardens (Dr Michael Dahlstrom couldn't make it)
- **Resources and support available for graduate students**: Student Affairs and the Graduate College
- **How to get the most out of graduate school (i.e., be a successful graduate student)**: A panel with a senior graduate student, a post doc and professor. Still reaching out

6. **Social and Networking Event**: Have reached out to the Career Services Council. They will be inviting people on their lists and will mostly focus on technical people (not HR as with the Career Fairs), which is good for grad students. They have asked us to provide names of people/companies we would like to network with (they will invite). If you have suggestions, please meet with me after this meeting or email me. This is merely a networking event and not a Career Fair. This is an opportunity for you to make contacts and learn about different careers and life outside academia, not seek out jobs. Also, these invited reps will also be asked to serve as judges to student presentations so you can interact with them throughout the day, and not just during the event. Finally, this event will be restricted to grad students, invited reps, professors and post docs. Snacks will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. Thanks to Senator Anudeep for this idea!

7. 2nd GPSRC committee meeting will take place tomorrow. We will discuss more about the social and networking event, abstract submissions, budget, allocation of rooms, food, etc.

Student Government Representatives

- 1) Few funding bills discussed over the two meetings
- 2) Grammarly project
 - a. I am starting a project to bring Grammarly and provide them to most/all students on campus. Iowa State currently has a license to it but it is available to select classes and certain instructors who are a part of a grant funded pilot project. I have been exchanging emails with Jim Ranalli (Principal Investigator, Miller-Grammarly Project) and I am planning to meet up with him to look at their data collection and progress and discuss what the potential next steps could be.
 - b. I will be reaching out to ISSO and Writing and Media Center for additional help while talking to Student Government senators in the meantime.
 - c. I have a price estimate from Grammarly as well:
 - 5,000 students - \$12,500 (\$2.5/student)
 - 15,000 students - \$27,000 (\$1.8/student)
 - 30,000 students - \$48,000 (\$1.6/student)

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- d. Looking for additional help from GPSS and senators (both financially and logistically)