

GPSS OFFICER REPORT

November 2018

PRESIDENT

1. Town Hall Meeting & Listening Session with President Wintersteen

- a. It took place on November 14th, 2018. 6 to 8pm. Parks Library 198 room.
- b. Administrators in attendance included:
 - i. Pam Cain, Interim Senior Vice President for University Services
 - ii. Dr Martino Harmon, Senior Vice President of Student Affairs
 - iii. Dr Carolyn Cutrona, Associate Dean of Graduate College
 - iv. Dr Vernon Hurte, Dean of Students
 - v. Roberta Johnson Director Financial Aid
- c. Major questions discussed in the Town Hall ranged from talking about the strategic goals of the university towards the recruitment of international graduate students and increasing representation from Africa, Asia and South America to differential tuition and campus climate.

2. Board of Regents Breakfast with Student Leaders

- a. Amanda Bries along with me represented GPSS along with representatives from the Student Government. We primarily discussed President Richards remarks about the prospective changes in tuition and creating greater awareness about explaining the roles of the university, BoR and the state in determining the tuition among other policies.

3. Campus Climate Survey Committee:

- a. The Campus Climate Committee for Graduate students will start 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 that will be sent out by the Graduate College in December. 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 to decide the meeting times.
- c. PS: Faculty and staff members can also apply if they would like to contribute to these focus groups.

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4. **Working on collaborating with the Dean of Students Office to increase accessibility of their resources to graduate students.**

5. **Childcare Availability, Accessibility and Affordability Project:**
 - a. Connected with Dubuque Foundation through Regent Nancy Dunkel to understand their initiatives within Dubuque, Iowa to increasing access to childcare for learning purposes.
 - b. I am currently underway compiling all the available information on university childcare as well as private childcare options to present to the group that President Wintersteen has created sometime in January.
 - c. I will be working with Iowa Women Foundation to gain greater access to private resources within Ames and surrounding areas.
 - d. Multiple recommendations have been presented for deliberation to Dr Martino Harmon who will provide his insight for conducting further research.

VICE PRESIDENT

- 1) The Spring Social will be on April 12th at Perfect Games.
- 2) Last year there was the Theatre Social, and we are planning on doing it again this year. Currently there are two plays that I think would be best: Sound of Music and Rent. Which play can be discussed during Senate Forum.

TREASURER

- 1) This fall, we received 28 applications for GPSS fall allocation from different graduate and professional student organizations, of which 22 were approved with partial or full funding. The total amount requested from all the approved applications is \$15,876.19. The budget is \$15,000 for fall allocations. All the approved allocations will receive 94.5% of their approved amounts. The transactions would be completed at the end of November or in early December.

CIO

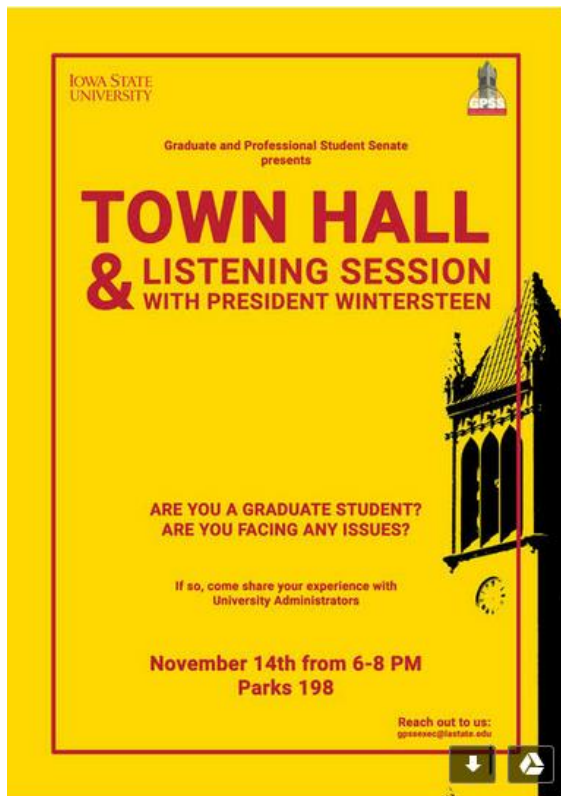
- 1) The first **GPSS Marketing and Public Relation (MPR) Committee meeting** were taken place this month. We discussed social media strategies and GPSRC flyer designs.
- 2) Thanks senators who came to our **GPSS Town Hall for graduate students Listening Session with President Wintersteen** on November 14th. If you didn't have the chance to come, please feel free to check out our live video on our website! <http://www.gpss.iastate.edu>

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Please follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ISUGPSS> and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GPSS.ISU/> !



3) #CyThx

[#CyThx](#) provides a way for ISU students, both undergraduate and graduate, to directly thank someone on campus that makes them feel like a valued member of the ISU community.

Submitted from November 1-30. [#CyThxhttp://www.celt.iastate.edu/cythx/](http://www.celt.iastate.edu/cythx/)

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4) I-Corps

The National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (I-Corps) program is an initiative to transition NSF-funded research from the laboratory to a product in the marketplace. Please apply for the next cohort and find more information

at <https://www.vpresearch.iastate.edu/icorps/> #ISUGPSS

The poster is for an "International Graduate WORKSHOP". It features a grey background with a stack of four books on the right side, colored in red, white, and yellow. The text is primarily in yellow and red. At the top left, it says "FREE FOOD!". In a red circle at the top right, it says "INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GRADUATE LEARNING COMMUNITY". The main title "International Graduate WORKSHOP" is in large, bold letters, with "WORKSHOP" in red and "International Graduate" in yellow. Below the title, it says "COME JOIN US!". Underneath, there are sections for "WHEN AND WHERE?", "WHO'S INVITED?", and "WHAT'S THE TOPIC?". At the bottom, it says "RSVP by Nov. 22 to" followed by an email icon and "ISU.ISGLC@GMAIL.COM".

FREE FOOD!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GRADUATE LEARNING COMMUNITY

International Graduate WORKSHOP

COME JOIN US!

WHEN AND WHERE?
November 29, 11AM
Black Engineering 1034

WHO'S INVITED?
All international graduate students are invited!

WHAT'S THE TOPIC?
Academic Success Center:
Time Management
Student Wellness:
Services Overview

RSVP by Nov. 22 to
ISU.ISGLC@GMAIL.COM

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5) International Student Graduate Learning Community (ISGLC) **International Graduate Student Workshop!**

6) ISU Grad Stories:

Example questions:

Program of study and year:

- Hometown:
- What are your research interests and why did you choose them?
- What is one thing you think everyone should know about your research project or research interests?
- Where are you conducting your research? In archives? Interviews? What are your sources?
- What advice would you give students applying for research funding opportunities? (if apply)
- Give a shout-out to a professor, mentor, advisor, or someone at ISU who has helped you?
- What extracurricular programs or groups have you been a part of ISU that are foundational to your experience here?
- What is the most valuable experience you have had while studying at ISU?
- What do you plan to do after you graduate from ISU?
- What motivates you?
- Please feel free to have **more stories** about your **academic** life at ISU!!

PAG CHAIR

- 1) Applications are due by the 15th at 5PM Central Time the month PRIOR to the conference as usual! So if you have a conference in January, your application is due December 15th at 5PM.
- 2) There is NO PREFERENCE given to any department for PAG funding. There is NO PREFERENCE given to who is presenting or not presenting. PAGs are awarded based on : who meets the deadlines, and whether or not the person has EVER and at ANY TIME received a PAG before.
---> If people are curious as to what departments are applying for PAGs, I have attached an excel spreadsheet that tallies how many PAG applications come from which department starting from 01/01/2018 up until 11/29/2018. Note: this does not reflect how many were awarded or denied. Just the number of applications coming from which department.
In short: Vet Med is highly aware of PAG (YAY!) and we need to focus more on the social sciences (Anthropology, history, etc.).
- 3) No lottery was needed for December conferences - budget excess was moved into January funds as PAG bylaw states.
- 4) So far we have awarded \$30,521.26 of our budget. We have \$52,459.23 remaining.

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- 5) Our new PAG system should be up and running by the end of next week! This will not affect the 'front end' of operations, but it will make the system a lot more manageable and transparent so PAG can grow.
- 6) In the spring, we are considering running a financial series of evening lectures (one a week for a month) to focus on issues around: Finding grants on campus, how PAG funding works, Finding external grants, etc. Please let us know your thoughts on this.
- 7) So far, three Margaret Ellen White awards have been received (11/19/2018). I must receive the department nomination by the end of TODAY (11/25/2018). Decisions from the PAG Committee are due in February, and then the Graduate College panel reviews our top nominees and selects the winner from there (announced in April).

Thank you all! Have a great winter break and don't miss any deadlines :)

URLA CHAIR

1) Board of Regents Meeting

- a. Breakfast on Nov. 16th with Board of Regents and University GSB and GPSS representatives
 - i. Discussed the 3% annual increase in tuition - each year - over 5 years.
 1. Idea is to only have the tuition change occur once/year. Will wait until the State releases its budget, prior to deciding the baseline tuition.
 - ii. Our biggest influence is speaking with State Legislatures - our group will be traveling around the Southwestern Iowa Counties to speak with Legislatures, share our stories and work together to increase state funding and Higher Education Priorities.
 1. U of I, UNI and ISU GSP and GPSS representatives are working on demographic data regarding retention, tax incentives, tuition remission and pertinent issues to maintaining the competitiveness of our Regent Universities.

2) Graduate Council

- a. Worked on a draft for Chapter 9 of the Graduate Student handbook on bullying and issues outside of the protected class as it relates to Professor-mentee relationship
 - i. Draft sent to ISU legal. They want this included in Faculty Handbook, not Graduate Student Handbook - FS on board and have already been working on a draft
 - ii. Aim is to give students a clear indication of the resources they can take their grievances and systems in place to ensure a student is protected Academically and Financially during this complaint-debriefing time.

3) University Committee Meetings

- a. Computational Advisory Council - Philippe Meister
 - i. Revising the process by which money the student technology fee is allocated - create a broader user-base for the University.
- b. University Committee on Diversity/VDPI Council - Angela Richard
 - i. Preparing for Disability Awareness Week

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- ii. Developing a mentor program for underrepresented students and pairing them with a faculty member through the Graduate College
 - 1. Graduate Minority Assistantship Program (GMAP)
- iii. Working on addressing the climate survey - for staff responses
- c. Library Advisory Committee - Jacob Zirkelbach
 - i. Informed Jacob about students wanting a microwave in the library for use
 - ii. Working on collaborative spaces and open access (OA) and open education resources (OER)
 - 1. [Miller mini grants](#) (MMG)
 - a. \$500-\$10,000 for Teaching Assistants and Professors focused on replacing expensive textbooks with open access material, designing website and interactive resources
 - iii. Finding initiatives to increase funding to put towards the MMG.
- d. Committee of University Lectures - Maria Freeman
 - i. All funding stems from the student government
 - ii. They highly publicize, so Maria asks that you use this committee to share any events you would like to market better.
 - iii. Need more student involvement - if anyone is interested, please contact gpssurla@iastate.edu
- e. University Committee on Women - Kelsey Fisher and Greta
 - i. Focus is also on gender equality, not just women. Stems from the Sloss house.
 - ii. Not a well functioning committee - I will be working with our GPSS representatives and the Chair to see where we can enhance the structure of the committee and its functions.
 - 1. Thoughts are to establish Association for Women in Science branch at ISU - Cindy Simpson Chief Business Development Officer. Kelsey will be in contact with UCW and WiSE ISU to see if a partnership is possible.
- f. Transportation Advisory Council - Matt Stephensen
 - i. Trying to create a more pedestrian-focused campus rather than overpopulating with cars, which is why parking lots are scarce.
 - ii. city raised parking fines increased for the first time in 15 years
 - iii. rental bikes as an example the structure is there but they are looking into rental scooters (piloting). Application linked to payment - swipe phone on scooters. Charging docks in place to reboot scooters. Concerned it is unregulated.
- g. Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching - Hannah Dong

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- i. [CyThx](#) - submit your “thank yous” and admirations to professors, staff, peers, etc around campus to give your thanks for their hardwork. Show your appreciation.

GPSRC CHAIR

1. The feedback app testing went smoothly! Thank you everyone for your participation!
2. GPSRC abstract submission will open later this week or next week. Emails will be sent out. Also, you can check the website (<http://www.gpss.iastate.edu/research-conference>). Please spread the word and encourage people to participate!
3. For the networking event, I am emailing college deans to get the names of companies/agencies we can invite. We will also be inviting post docs and professors.
4. Had our first MPR committee meeting on Oct 30th. With respect to GPSRC, we have decided to create flyers (for emails), brochures and bookmarks (to hand out to students) and posters (to hang in buildings). This is currently being done. Thanks to Amit, Karo and Anudeep!
5. In December, will be asking colleges for money to sponsor GPSRC. We have a healthy account balance, but it is always helpful to get more money.

SG Representatives

- A. Correcting Bylaws to be Gender Inclusive
 - a. Student Gov. is very gender inclusive throughout their meetings and they’ve made it a point to create change with the language they use including in the writing of their bylaws.
- B. Encouraging Sustainable Purchasing Practices on Campus
 - a. There is a push to limit the use of plastic bags in the dining center and there was a resolution written encouraging sustainable purchasing practices on campus that was directed towards Panda Express and other dining services on campus.
- C. Safety Walk
 - a. The annual safety walk is a student led event where they walk all of campus along with ISU PD to identify “unsafe” spaces. The outcome this year was to add more lighting on campus.
- D. Joint Meeting with City Council: Some of the problems discussed with them
 - a. Lease gaps and storage space for students
 - b. Short-Term Rentals
 - c. Farmers’ Market unification concept –
 - d. “I Love Ames” Day – Senator Stanley
 - e. Comprehensive Community Plan
 - f. Joint Meeting with City Council in the Spring
 - g. Greenspaces, enhancing the plaza by Welch
 - h. Campustown Safety Walk update
- E. City of Ames App

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- a. Ames App is called “Ames on the Go”. If you use an email address to sign up, you’ll get notifications of reported issues in your neighborhood as well.