

GPSS OFFICER REPORT

OCTOBER 2018

PRESIDENT

- 1) **Childcare Availability, Accessibility and Affordability Project:**
 - a. A new committee has been formed after talking with Dr Martino Harmon including all relevant university administrators to go over the current resources available and devise strategies for the next step in the project. President Wintersteen has also created a group that will be looking into these findings to decide the next strategic plan.

- 2) **Meetings with College Senators:**
 - a. Important outcomes:
 - i. Communication gaps between graduate students and their representatives in senate as well as with the Graduate College.
 - ii. Communication with constituents does not exist or in cases where it exists, does not often lead to constructive discussions or highlighting issues.

- 3) **Town Hall and Listening session with President Wintersteen:**
 - a. Scheduled for November 14th, 2018. 6 to 8pm. Parks 198 room.
 - b. Tentative administrators who will be attending the event include:
 - i. Dr Jonathan Wickert, Senior Vice President and Provost
 - ii. Pam Cain, Interim Senior Vice President for University Services
 - iii. Dr Martino Harmon, Senior Vice President of Student Affairs
 - iv. Dr William Graves, Dean of Graduate College
 - v. Dr Carolyn Cutrona, Associate Dean of Graduate College
 - vi. Dr Vernon Hurte, Dean of Students
 - c. The Town Hall will have no specific theme, however, we will encourage students to openly discuss about any issue that concerns them openly to the administrator so that we can improve graduate student experience at ISU.

- 4) **Campus Climate Survey Committee:**
 - a. Prepared summary of the climate survey results and highlighted top 5 issues that the committee will continue to work on and devise action items to help improve the climate.

- 5) **WorkDay Student Executive Workshop:**
 - a. The workshop focused on understanding the factors that promote academic success in undergraduate and graduate students and how those factors can be used to make WorkDay student a user-friendly and a simplified cloud solution.

- 6) **Task Force on Graduate Student Wellness Week.**
 - a. Details are underway.

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VICE PRESIDENT

- 1) No Updates

TREASURER

While examining applications for Fall 2018 Regular Allocations, we had some topics come up that merit further discussion with the larger government body. Some of these topics are new to us, some are residual from last year. In each case, we agree that clarifications need to be made to standardize future funding decisions.

Cultural Groups

We received an application from a cultural student group requesting GPSS funds for an academic event. The project was well suited for GPSS funding, but the club had no department or interdisciplinary structure or GPSS senator. For this reason we could not fund them. While we cannot directly fund clubs with no departmental affiliation, we would consider applications submitted by collaborating clubs. For example, if a cultural student club is interested in bringing an economist to present on an economic analysis of a country relevant to that club, they are free to contact the Economics Grad Student Club. If they can put together a project that would benefit both student groups, they can submit funding for the project under the Economics club.

Joint Funding

Some groups have received funding from both GPSS and Student Government. Do senators take issue with this, provided the club has both graduate and undergraduate members and adheres to GPSS funding guidelines?

Continued Funding of Serial Offenders

Some clubs submit applications for funding, have been funded, then do not adhere to the spending guidelines (e.g. much higher food costs than directly academic expenses). In the past, we have adjusted their spending to the prescribed guidelines, then funded their next projects with heavy penalties. If a student club violates spending guidelines multiple consecutive years, do we continue funding with penalties, or pull funding?

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Prizes

We currently do not have any standardized guidelines on funding prizes, as long as the event provides significant academic contributions. However, we are seeing more applications with prizes, and some applications are 100% prize money. Some ideas for standardization we had:

- Absolute or percentage caps: either we can limit the total amount allowed, or (like food) provide a maximum percent of the total proposal the prizes can be.
- Team mandate: GPSS cannot fund "personal items." We are concerned that prize money to one individual may cross into this area. Do we require winners to be part of a team to circumvent this?

Timelines

We encountered a number of applications that requested funding for events happening before funding could reliably be dispersed. We would like to clarify that Fall applications containing projects to occur before December cannot be considered for funding, as we cannot guarantee that funds will be disbursed before that time.

Month of Event in Academic Year	Semester to Submit Allocation Application
August-November (mid-November?)	Spring Semester before
December-May	Fall Semester of or prior to event
Mid-April-May	Spring Semester of event

While it is highly recommended in the allocation FAQ's to submit applications for funding needed the next semester, perhaps an estimated timeline would help student clubs gauge the appropriate semester to apply for funding. Stages might include:

- Application deadline
- GPSS Finance Committee Meeting
- Edits, Clarifications input sought from clubs (one week timeframe)
- Presentation to GPSS, approval of budget at monthly meeting
- Disbursement of funds

CIO

- 1) **#ISUSenatorsSay** on Twitter: please let us know what you'd like to share on our Twitter **for your department** as a department **representative** at GPSS from ISU. Please send the CIO things you'd like to share within 280 characters and a corresponding picture.
- 2) **ISUGradStories** on our main website: we will start to share ISU graduate student **academic** stories on our website (a separate branch).
It is **open to ALL ISU graduate students**, so spread the words!

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Please send the CIO your stories by answering (not limited to, but academically) the following questions if you want to be featured on our ISUGradStories webpage!!! In the meantime, please feel free to send your personal photos along if you'd like.

An example page: <http://blog.college.ku.edu/chancellor-doctoral-fellow-alyssa-cole-dives-into-research-at-ku-to-explore-military-service-and-citizenship/>

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!!
- 3) Attendance questions, please feel free to let the CIO know!
- 4) Assisted Treasurer with regular allocation process files.

PAG CHAIR

- 1) The PAG website overhaul is underway. An offline version is being coded and we should have a testable prototype within the next few weeks.
- 2) We're going to rename Priority 1 and Priority 2 applicants because it's unclear. You are almost guaranteed your FIRST ever PAG as a priority one but every application after that you wait in the queue. You wait in the queue until your event deadline.
- 3) If you are unsure, read the website rules. I think first-time and returning applicants are more informative titles. A returning applicant is only eligible for one PAG a fiscal year. You are denied if you apply again within a year if a PAG was given.
- 4) November PAG requests were historical. We had a record number of priority one (first-time) applicants which left only 10 spaces for priority two (returning applicants). We had 73 people on the queue and ran a blind lottery (as the rules dictate). Even though

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November has some extra funding, this is a huge month for requests and we will work on encouraging people to seek other funding.

- 5) As usual, the deadline for PAG is the 15th at 5pm the month prior to your event.
- 6) If you are given a PAG, you must file for reimbursement within one month after the conference. Please email me in advance if you have questions - don't wait until after because PAG deadlines are final.
- 7) For next month, I will try to compile some statistics on PAG awardees. This will help us see which departments are using this resource and whom we need to reach out to.

URLA CHAIR

- 1) N Meeting with Sophia Magill - Federal Relations for ISU
 - a. Preparing conversation to meet with our newly Elected State Representatives following Nov. 6th.
 - i. Graduate Student Affordability
 1. Tax incentives
 - a. Future meeting with Pam Cain
 - ii. Post-Graduation Retention Strategies
 1. Loan forgiveness
 - iii. Tuition Remission
 - b. Legislation - Title IX: leaked draft from the Department of Education. Sophia Magill will be keeping us informed. Once drafted, we can react during the comment period.
- 2) Graduate Student Council
 - a. Dean Graves and Assistant Dean, Carolyn Cutrona would like to define the grievance protocol for Graduate students.
 - b. Subcommittee currently drafting additions to the Graduate Student Handbook Chapter 9 to highlight bullying, verbal harassment, defamation and other terminology. Enhancing the language to lend support to students and give them a *clear* mode of action to address any conflicts with Major Professors or Faculty
- 3) URLA committee will be having a meeting the week of Nov. 7th to schedule one-on-one meetings with all of the GPSS Representatives for University-wide committees.
 - a. This will be the first time in a while that URLA will be holding these meetings to ensure all representatives have the appropriate debriefing time.
 - b. Analyze improvements/ areas needing more attention and follow-up.

GPSRC CHAIR

1. We had our **first committee meeting on October 1st**. We had a lot of great discussions and I would like to thank everyone in the committee for their enthusiastic participation!

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2. We have decided to **divide the conference up by themes** instead of colleges. This was based on our discussions and also because several college deans have promised to help recruit faculty judges who fall under these interdisciplinary themes. We will also have an open session along with the themes to encourage participants who work in basic research.
3. We will **also have a general speaking session**. This is to encourage participation from new graduate students, who can describe their research proposal, hypothesis etc. Even older graduate students can participate. The goal is to make your presentation very general so everyone in the audience can understand.
4. We will **include events like Ph.D. limerick, poetry slam, Dance your Ph.D. etc.**, probably as part of the social & networking event.
5. This is the **tentative format of the conference**:
 - 8-9am: Breakfast and registration*
 - 9-11am: Oral presentations (posters and exhibitions for viewing)*
 - 11-12:15pm: Workshops*
 - 12-1pm: Poster and lunch social*
 - 1-4pm: Oral presentations*
 - 4-5pm: 3 MT*
 - 5-6pm: Keynote speaker*
 - 6-8pm: Dinner, awards and networking event*
6. We have worked out an abstract format and hope to **open abstract submission and conference registration in the last week of November** (immediately after Thanksgiving). Abstract submissions shall close in mid-February 2019. This will give us time to recruit the right faculty judges, set up the order of presentations and assign volunteer shifts based on presentation schedule.
7. **The first Marketing and Public Relations Committee meeting will take place on October 30th**. With regards to GPSRC, we shall discuss creating and advertising of two flyers *Why attend GPSRC* (what are the changes to the conference and what students can get out of it) and *GPSRC 2019* (what are the events in GPSRC 2019, conference date and location and abstract submission deadline).

SG Representatives

- a) Trademark Policy
 - It was a contested topic but the resolution passed in support of students organizations.
- b) Voices Campaign
 - Iowa State Daily is continuing its Voices Campaign where they share live stories of students. They want to include the voices of international students and Muslim students more.
- c) Town Hall - October 30th (6-8 PM) (Campanile Room)
 - Budget 101 : Where does it go and how to get the best value
- d) City Council - November 14th (6-7PM, TBA in MU)
 - Semester city council meeting where feedbacks and thoughts are exchanged regarding the city of Ames (Issues with CyRide, etc.)
- e) Green Initiatives Committee

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- Lake Laverne Project - Cleaning up cigarette buds around the lake
- Available Funding - **\$13,900**
- Interested people can email Seth Carter (Finance Director, smcarter@iastate.edu)
- f) Involvement in Committees: Involving and assisting in improving Iowa State University
 - Election Commission, please contact our Election Commissioner, Bradlee Fair.
 - Health and Wellness Committee, please contact our Director of Student Wellness, Laura Pesquera-Colom.
 - Legislative Ambassadors, please contact our Directors of Legislative Ambassadors, Mady Jones and Joshua Kettlekamp.
 - Student Government Outreach Ambassadors, please contact our Director of Outreach, Tiffany Contreras.
 - Residency Task Force, please contact our Director of Student Residency, Dozmen Lee.
- g) Student Government Advisor Position
 - Student Government is looking for a candidate to be an advisor to them. They are going to start applications in March so interested candidates can talk to Julian Neely (President) or Steve Winfrey for additional details.
- h) Special Projects
 - Funding available - **\$575,166.26**
 - There are certain guidelines set by the Finance Committee, so in order to get the projects approved and funded the project has to follow the bylaws which will be looked into by the committee.