



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

Meeting Notes  
Monday, March 25, 2013  
7:00 PM  
Sun Room  
Memorial Union

- I. Call to order 7:00 P.M.
  - a. Roll Call – 65%
  - b. Statement of Quorum by Speaker - MET
  - c. Approval of the Minutes - MET
  - d. Amendments to the Agenda
    - i. Move Open Forum before introduction and new bills and resolutions
    - ii. MET
- II. Introduction of new bills and resolutions
  - a. Senate Bill S13 – 06 Amending the Constitution: Inclusion of Compulsory Statements and Correction of Syntax Errors (Yellow)
  - b. Senate Bill S13 – 07 Amending the Constitution: Redefining the Officers of the Senate (Gray)
  - c. Senate Bill S13 – 08 Amending the Constitution: Redefining Senator Roles and the Graduate Student to Senator Ratio (Green)
  - d. Senate Bill S13 – 09 Amending the By-Laws: Creating a Separate Articles of Cooperation Document
  - e. Senate Bill S13 – 010 Amending the By-Laws
  - f. Senate Bill S13 – 011 Special allocation for the Professional Advancement Grants (PAGs)
  - g. Senate Bill S13 – 012 Spring 2013 Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) Allocations
- III. Open Forum
  - a. Paul Johnson, Student Legal Services
    - i. Student Legal Services (SLS) provides free, confidential legal advice and services for current ISU students, spouse cardholders, and registered student groups
    - ii. SLS is located in 0367 Memorial Union, just across M-shop
    - iii. Services provided by SLS include: administrative law, criminal law, consumer issues, employment issues, landlord-tenant issues, wills and powers of attorney
    - iv. SLS does not handle cases that involve student vs. student, student vs. university, university disciplinary matters, and outside Story County
    - v. SLS was just recently added to the Dean of students website



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

- vi. SLS began in 1985 with one part-time attorney. Prior to that year, ISU had a legal clinical run by the Drake students
- vii. Currently 22% of total students who use SLS are graduate students
- viii. Services used by graduate students the most: notary services, issues with landlords, creation of wills
- ix. GSB continues to fund SLS: its library (in-office and online library), services, transportation, etc.
- x. Are appointments required?
  - 1. A lot of times people can just walk in. We don't do phone consultations, as we don't know who is calling us. This might be a problem for Vet Met. To solve this, we try to have office hours on Wednesday mornings on Vet Med campus.
- xi. Would someone be available for simple consultations if student is out of state?
  - 1. Yes, we try to accommodate as many students as possible
- xii. We get a lot of referrals – from parents (former ISU students), Ames court, and police
- xiii. For more information, visit SLS website@ [www.dso.iastate.edu/sls](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/sls)

#### IV. Senate Forum

- a. Graduate Excellence Subcommittee (GES) updates, presented by Senator Pritchard
- b. GES' objectives: increase graduate enrollment by 40% and increase graduate degrees awarded by 20% in 4 years
- c. URLA Chair Tlach: This is a part of dean's office initiative to keep ISU's membership. ISU is a member of elite Association of American Universities. Our current graduate enrollment is what we are lacking the most
- d. Is it really a good idea to recruit graduate students within? We might be disadvantaging our students by recruiting within. In some fields, employers don't like hiring someone who has his/her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the same institution.

#### V. Remarks and Reports

- a. Report of the President - President Kleinheksel
  - i. University is currently investigating diversity issues and outreach. If you have any input or comments on this topic, feel free to contact me. I can either provide you with the contact information or forward your feedback.
  - ii. GSB elections are over, GSB president-elect is Mr. Hughes. Several graduate students were nominated for GSB Senator-at-large so potentially we might have all 3 Senators at large for the next year. There were some



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

issues with the graduate ballots. Several graduate students voted for their academic college rather than Graduate College. Graduate students should not be allowed to vote for undergraduate students.

- iii. Associate VP of student affairs is stepping down, two candidates will be on campus next week - April 2 & 3, 2-3pm.
    1. Martino Harmon (April 2, 2pm, Gold Room, Memorial Union):  
<http://www.studentaffairs.iastate.edu/Harmon,%20Martino.pdf>
    2. Lisa G. Blazer (April 3, 2pm, 3512 Memorial Union):  
<http://www.studentaffairs.iastate.edu/Blazer,%20Lisa.pdf>
  
  - iv. Additional PAG funds opportunity: The Medical College of Wisconsin is offering its graduate students an opportunity to earn additional travel funds through a once a year phone and mail request to alumni and faculty. Only students who participate in this are eligible to use this additional funding. Should GPSS consider this option as PAG consistently runs out of money?
    1. Why not consider utilizing surplus funds?
      - a. This money is set aside to avoid running into negative balance
    2. All students should have an option to participate in this opportunity. However, these funds should not be limited only to participating students.
    3. These additional funds could go to the participating students first, then to all PAG applicants if not used.
  
  - v. What are some graduate students housing needs? Proximity to campus, furnishing, limited to younger professionals, consideration for families/pets, proximity to grocery stores, flexibility of lease, noisy neighbors
- b. Report of the Vice President and Rules Committee - Vice President De León
    - i. Rules committee has spent this month revising the Constitution and By-laws and we have made some significant changes
    - ii. GPSS Spring Social – April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Marston field, this event is open to all graduate and professional students and their families, please share this news with your constituents
  
  - c. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee - Treasurer Peters
    - i. Finance Committee has reviewed 2 bills: PAG and regular allocation; on both accounts the vote was favorable



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

- ii. GPSS has received \$9,000 less this year from the student fees than last year. We still have one more distribution on 30 of June which should be slightly higher due to GSB ration change
- d. Report of the CIO and Election Committee - CIO Prisacari
  - i. Clicker Demonstration will take place next month
  - ii. Graduate Research Conference
    - 1. Approx. time for this conference: last week of February - mid March, 2014. Please let me know if there is a major event for your department/program at this time so we can reschedule this event
    - 2. On April 29 I will be presenting this idea at the Associate Deans for Graduate Programs meeting
  - iii. Nominations for 2013-2014 GPSS Executive Board positions
    - 1. Executive elections will be held later today and I am still accepting nominations.
- e. Report of the URLA Chair - URLA Chair Tlach
- f. Board of Regents
  - i. Transparency Committee has been formed including administrators from Iowa's public universities, members of the Iowa Legislature, and members of the Board of Regents
    - 1. Increase the transparency of the Board actions to the public
    - 2. Better connect with the taxpayers who are helping support the public universities
  - ii. Purchase of Land by the Board of Regents for ISU:
    - 1. 250 N Hyland at a cost of \$150,000 and proposed to renovate for design offices
    - 2. 2121 State Street at a cost of \$950,000 from John Wiley & Sons
- g. Graduate Council:
  - i. Evaluating the roles of Professors-Emeritus
    - 1. Can act only as a co-adviser for graduate students
    - 2. Also can serve on POS committees
    - 3. How long should they be allowed to serve in these roles?
  - ii. Evaluate the use of post-docs to serve on POS committees
    - 1. Great opportunity for post-docs and also provide more options for students
    - 2. May get POS committees overrun with post-docs
    - 3. Post-docs positions may end before students graduate (final defense)
- h. Report of the PAG Chair - PAG Chair Stoehr



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

- i. Peer teaching and research awards applications are due this Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The winners will be awarded at April Senate meeting.
    - ii. All summer applications can be submitted now, but will not be reviewed until April 20<sup>th</sup>. You are only allowed 1 PAG per fiscal year, so if you have applied and received PAG during this fiscal year, your application will be automatically denied. To verify your status, please contact your department contact as they are notified first.
  - i. Graduate and GSB Senator Report
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- a. Senate Bills
    - i. Senate Bill S13 – 06 Amending the Constitution: Inclusion of Compulsory Statements and Correction of Syntax Errors (Yellow)
      1. Table to read and discuss all the bills first (UC)
      2. Vote:
        - a. Yes: 66
        - b. No: 0
        - c. Abstain: 0
        - d. PASSES
    - ii. Senate Bill S13 – 07 Amending the Constitution: Redefining the Officers of the Senate (Gray)
      1. CIO Prisacari: Currently 4 officers are serving double roles. By removing Senator privileges from these 4 officers would open up only 4 additional seats in Senate for the departments officers are coming from. Do you think that with 30 external committees and 6 internal GPSS committees GPSS currently does not provide you and your constituents enough opportunities for leadership?
      2. CIO Prisacari: According to Student Activities Center policies, a student organization cannot function without a President and Treasurer. By removing the Senator privileges and restricting eligibility only to current senators we are in fact, taking away leadership opportunities from the graduate students and possibly facing the risk of fulfilling the Executive seats if not enough current senators choose to run for the executive positions.
      3. Senator Beyer: what about the students who have served as Senator in the past? Can we change this line to “senators who have served or are currently serving as a Senator?”
      4. Not every department is lucky to have many graduate students who are interested in serving as the Senator. Both big and small departments are struggling to fill their seats. Some of us are here because no one else wants to serve as a Senator.



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

5. CIO Prisacari: why not leave up to the department to decide whether the student who was elected in the Executive Office can represent his/her department while serving as an executive.
  6. Adopt amendments to the bill
    - a. Yes: 66
    - b. No: 0
    - c. Abstain: 0
    - d. PASSES
  7. Table the bill
  8. Vote:
    - a. Yes: 65
    - b. No: 0
    - c. Abstain: 1
    - d. PASSES
- iii. Senate Bill S13 – 08 Amending the Constitution: Redefining Senator Roles and the Graduate Student to Senator Ratio (Green)
1. Senator Kaplan: just to clarify, according to the GPSS Constitution, GSB Senator-at-large does not represent his/her department.
    - a. URLA Chair Tlach: That is correct.
  2. Vote on Limiting the discussion to 5 minutes:
    - a. Yes: 43
    - b. No: 14
    - c. Abstain: 5
    - d. PASSES
  3. Vote on adopting the changes (UC)
  4. Bill Vote:
    - a. Yes: 60
    - b. No: 5
    - c. Abstain: 1
    - d. PASSES
- iv. Senate Bill S13 – 09 Amending the By-Laws: Creating a Separate Articles of Cooperation Document
1. Vote:
    - a. Yes: 66
    - b. No: 0
    - c. Abstain: 0
    - d. PASSES
- v. Senate Bill S13 – 010 Amending the By-Laws
1. Senator Mukherjee: I suggest to cap senate meeting to 3 hours so leaving at 10pm should not be counted against the attendance.
  2. PAG Chair Stoehr: I understand your concern, however, we are all here because we want to be here, not because we have to be. We



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

- are discussing important issues that sometime may take an extra time. As senators, we are well aware of this time commitment.
3. CIO Prisacari: we might have meetings with long agenda that require quorum such as our elections tonight. Seeing Senators leave after 10pm will negatively impact GPSS functionality.
  4. President Kleinheksel: this is something for the next VP and CIO to decide: how to better time the meeting
  5. If something occurs only once such as executive elections, why not cap it?
  6. Senator Goodrich (sub): As agenda is emailed ahead of time, senators have a good expectation of time before coming to the meeting.
  7. Vote on adapting addition to the By-laws “unless the meeting proceeds longer than three hours”
    - a. Yes: 18
    - b. No: 37
    - c. Abstain: 9
    - d. FAILS
  8. Vote on the amended bill (UC)
  9. Vote on the bill:
    - a. Yes: 66
    - b. No: 0
    - c. Abstain: 0
    - d. PASSES
- vi. Senate Bill S13 – 011 Special Allocation for the Professional Advancement Grants (PAGs)
1. President Kleinheksel – do we have enough money to fund this bill as we have received \$9,000 less this year than last year?
    - a. Treasurer Peters – yes. Our surplus account will still have \$6,000 left
  2. PAG Chair Stoehr– we are always trying to accommodate as many as possible students, but reality is, we might not always have enough funds
  3. President Kleinheksel – is there a reason why this sum is only allocated to spring semester?
    - a. PAG Chair Stoehr– currently we aiming at funding 10 presenters and 10 non-presenters. We already have extra funds for summer onwards from GSB ratio switch.
  4. Vote:
    - a. Yes: 61
    - b. No: 1
    - c. Abstain: 3
    - d. PASSES



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### vii. Senate Bill S13 – 012 Spring 2013 Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) Allocations

1. Vote:
  - a. Yes: 65
  - b. No: 0
  - c. Abstain: 0
  - d. PASSES
2. Treasurer Peters: Thank you to all the senators who have assisted their student organizations in the process of applying for regular allocations.

~ 5 minute break ~

### b. Executive Elections

#### i. President

1. Senator Mukherjee nominated President Kleinheksel, he declined
2. Candidate: CIO Prisacari
  - a. Served in GPSS 1 year, 3rd year PhD student in Human Computer Interaction
  - b. Interests/objectives:
    - i. Transition to online application format (regular allocations, senator verification, PAG application)
    - ii. Continue working with the Graduate College to better serve and connect with the graduate student population. Potential topics include: Graduate orientation program and Graduate Student Success Center
    - iii. Build a stronger relationship with GSB. This year we particularly struggled with getting and keeping GSB Senator-at-large. Also I'd like to discuss in more detail what does 50-50 ratio mean for GSB and for GPSS and weather we need to consider changing it again.
  - c. Senator Hale: why graduate orientation? Departments already have it.
    - i. CIO Prisacari: several years ago Graduate College used to offer an orientation for all incoming graduate students. Currently not all departments/programs offer a graduate orientation





# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

so some students are at disadvantage and are not fully aware of all services and resources that are available to them. This idea was brought up several times this year in the Senate meetings and was reflected in the Senator Pritchard's report for Graduate Excellence Subcommittee.

- d. President Kleinheksel: I have worked with Anna since December. She is well prepared for this position.
- e. Vote:
  - i. Yes: 57
  - ii. No: 0
  - iii. Abstained: 1
  - iv. PASSES
- f. CIO Prisacari is GPSS President elect

### ii. Vice-President

- 1. Candidates: Senator Zenko and URLA Chair Tlach
  - a. Senator Zenko is a graduate student in kinesiology, has been in GPSS for one year, has previous experience working with student organizations
  - b. URLA Chair Tlach – 5<sup>th</sup> year PhD student in chemistry, currently serves on executive cabinet, serves on Rules Committee, has been a Senator in the past. He plans to graduate next year.
- 2. Senator Zenko, is this the only position you are running for tonight?
  - a. No, I am also running for PAG Chair position.
- 3. Vote:
  - a. Senator Zenko (4)
  - b. URLA Chair Tlach (53)
  - c. Abstained (1)
- 4. URLA Chair Tlach is GPSS Vice-President elect

### iii. Treasurer

- 1. CIO Prisacari nominated President Kleinheksel, he accepted
- 2. Candidates: Senator Helms (not present) and President Kleinheksel
- 3. Treasurer Peters: both candidates are very knowledgeable and have experience with the finance operations. However, Senator Helms, coming from Veterinary Medicine will greatly help to better connect graduate and professional students. Currently, Vet Med



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

students are feeling distant. We need a Vet Med student on the Executive Board.

4. Senator Mukherjee: Cory has been on GPSS for several years, having him would be an advantage to the new Executive Board.
  5. Treasurer Peters: both candidates have the experience, but we have to look at the continuity of execs. Last year we had a very “green” team. Having new and old execs on the same team is of benefit to us.
  6. Senator Pritchard: I have had some extended conversations with Cory and what GPSS means to him. He has a great vision for GPSS. Vet Med student would greatly diversify exec board. It is very hard to vote for someone who is not present and cannot share his vision with us tonight.
  7. CIO Prisacari: Cory has tremendous expertise regarding GSB’s operations. Having him on Executive Board would be an asset to GPSS especially when we plan to review the GPSS/GSB ratio this year again.
  8. Vice President De León: no doubt, Cory has great connections and expertise, but I am leading towards new blood. Senator Helms will bring new ideas and diversity to new cabinet.
  9. Senator Den Herder: from my experience, we have no problems Cory being our treasurer. Senator Helms would like to represent everyone, not just Vet Med.
  10. Vote:
    - a. Senator Tim Helms (42)
    - b. President Kleinheksel (16)
    - c. Abstained (0)
  11. Senator Helms is GPSS Treasurer elect
- iv. CIO
1. President Kleinheksel self-nominated
  2. Candidates: Senator Mukherjee and President Kleinheksel
  3. Senator Dalluge: Cory, would you consider URLA nomination?
    - a. No
  4. Senator Kaplan: Cory, will you have the time to implement all the changes to the GPSS website?
    - a. Yes, this is my second to last year.



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

5. Senator Pritchard: Cory is the NSF fellowship recipient. He knows what he is doing and the changes he is proposing are very doable for him.
  6. Senator Agarwal: Senator Mukherjee is very passionate about GPSS, he motivated me to join the Senate.
  7. Senator Diddi: as the first year senator, Senator Mukherjee has put a lot of effort. This is especially evident by how much effort he's putting into Transparency bill and committee.
  8. Senator Singh: Arko is very dedicated. He will do a good job as CIO.
  9. CIO Prisacari: both candidates are excellent. Cory has helped me on numerous occasions with the GPSS website and technical issues I encountered. Arko has expressed his interest in this position several weeks ago. Since then we've met several times. So both of them are well aware of what this position entails and are well prepared for it.
  10. Vice President De León: Arko has been a very strong and active voice in GPSS. Cory has been with GPSS for several years. Regardless how he stays involved, it will be to GPSS advantage.
  11. Vote:
    - a. Senator Mukherjee (35)
    - b. President Kleinheksel (22)
    - c. Abstained (1)
  12. Senator Mukherjee is GPSS CIO elect
- v. URLA Chair
1. Senator Huffman was nominated, he accepted
  2. Candidates: Senator Huffman, Senator Saleem, and PAG Chair Stoehr
  3. URLA Chair Tlach: Senator Saleem has done an excellent job with social.
  4. Vice President De León: I've known Senator Huffman for a while. He is very intelligent and has a good sense of humor. And again, I am leading towards "new blood".
  5. Vote:
    - a. PAG Chair Stoehr (17)
    - b. Senator Saleem (12)
    - c. Senator Huffman (29)
  6. Senator Huffman is URLA Chair elect



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### vi. PAG Chair

1. PAG Chair Stoehr nominated President Kleinheksel, he declined
2. Candidates: Senator Zenko, Senator Singh, and Senator Diddi
3. PAG Chair Stoehr: Senator Diddi has the knowledge and is well prepared for this position
4. Senator Mukherjee: Senator Singh has the computer science expertise; she will be able to transition PAG applications to online format
5. Treasurer Peters: I have worked with both Senators Singh and Diddi. Both are excellent candidates
6. Senator Kaplan: computer expertise is important, but I think PAG Chair does more than just approving PAG applications
7. Senator Mukherjee: to me, it is more important to transition to online format, so computer expertise is essential to this position.
8. Vice President De León: the depth of the position is only scratched by application process.
9. Vote:
  - a. Senator Singh (6)
  - b. Senator Zenko (8)
  - c. Senator Diddi (44)
10. Senator Diddi is PAG Chair elect

### VIII. Announcements

#### a. SAC Nominations

The Student Activities Center is currently seeking nominations for the 2013 Student Organization Awards. Categories include:

Outstanding Student Leader of the Year

Outstanding Commitment to Diversity

Outstanding Commitment to Service

Outstanding Event of the Year

Outstanding Student Organization Adviser of the Year

Deadline is March 31

- #### b. DAAWAT fundraising dinner organized by SANKALP a non-profit student organization, this Saturday at The Plex. The funds collected will be going to sponsor a variety of projects in dinner:

<http://www.facebook.com/events/428240097270884/>

- #### c. Sri Lankan Night – this Saturday in Great Hall, show is free, dinner is \$10

<http://www.facebook.com/events/317349691701041/>

### IX. Adjournment @ 11:38pm



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate