



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

Meeting Notes  
Monday, April 22, 2013  
7:00 PM  
West Lagomarcino Hall 0142

- I. Call to order 7:00 P.M.
  - a. Roll Call – 60% MET
  - b. Statement of Quorum by Speaker
  - c. Approval of the Minutes – MET (adopted by UC)
  - d. Amendments to the Agenda - NONE
- II. Open Forum
  - a. Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Organization (MEGSO)
    - i. Purpose: obtain better communication among graduate students; promote communication between faculty and graduate students; enhance the quality of graduate education in Mechanical Engineering at ISU
    - ii. Special allocation proposal to GPSS
      1. Funding requested included: laptop (\$600); clickers (\$60); printouts (\$200) – these items helped organization to organize and share organization’s material, meeting notes, and to record student presentations for later evaluation. Printing money has been returned to GPSS
      2. MEGSO events: monthly learning communities, student seminar presentations, Dr. Wickert’s workshop, industry tours, monthly socials, apparel sales, book drive
      3. Results: Increased student participation and membership involvement; interaction with major professors and colleagues
  - b. Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Student Organization (CIGSO)
    - i. Name of student organization may change due to merging CI and ELPS; currently there are 2 groups
    - ii. CIGSO caters to both undergraduate and graduate students; we make sure that our events are inclusive as many of our students are off-campus
    - iii. Use of GPSS allocation: food and beverages for fall and winter socials; which helped to welcome new students and helped returning students to find their niche; and marketing materials. Next year we are working on bringing speakers, host brown bag lunch; set up a website; invest time and money into social media



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- iv. New updates: Lago building is going through a massive renovation this year
- c. Steven Leath, University President
  - i. We frequently engage with student senates for student output/feedback
    - 1. Increasing graduate stipends was a priority this year
    - 2. Student fees
    - 3. Institutional Excellence Subcommittee:
      - a. Issues addressed:
        - i. What is graduate student life like? (health insurance, classes, labs, etc.)
        - ii. how to improve ISU for graduate students
        - iii. increase PhD degrees awarded,
        - iv. incentivize faculty to take more students
        - v. What we need to do for grants (i.e., assist in writing process; employ grant writers to take off burden from faculty, etc.)
        - vi. Faculty representation - recognize alums
        - vii. How to raise the reputation of graduate programs in humanities
    - ii. We have big budget decisions coming up (e.g., housing)
    - iii. Issues of the year: Harkin Institute and NCAA
    - iv. Student Enrollment:
      - 1. Undergraduate student body continues to grow
      - 2. Faculty body remains constant; if student body continues to grow, we will need to increase our faculty body by 10% or 200 faculty over the next 2-3 years
      - 3. Legacy Apartments have been leased to meet housing demand
      - 4. Concerns: do we want to keep doing it or force seniors live off campus if enrollment numbers continue to grow
    - v. Campus beautification – some investments in our campus include construction, new food court in Curtis, expansion of Frederickson Court (+700 beds);
    - vi. Administration updates:
      - 1. Mechanical engineering – new Dean of Engineering
      - 2. Business of School – new Dean will be chosen soon
    - vii. Budget: budget for this and next year is expected to be larger
    - viii. Graduate Body:



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1. Grow graduate student population by 2,000 to accomplish research objectives
  2. Funding concerns: grant funds are not available this time so private fundraising is encouraged; we would like to raise \$150 million in 5 years
- ix. Athletics: academic side of athletics is good; average GPA of athletes is above average GPA
- x. Interdisciplinary projects: \$4.5 million was allocated to push big ideas out
- xi. Q&A:
1. Q: What do you expect from us, how can we help you to not lower the quality of academics?  
A: First push is to increase faculty by 200; we look for input from you – what is more important to you (e.g., lab, classroom space, stipend). The best you can do is do well when you graduate and represent well ISU in your new community
  2. Q: What is the plan for career development and training?  
A: more members in academy; do retreats/workshops; but we are open to hear your recommendations
  3. Q: ICN meetings are not being provided here in Ames. Would be possible to set up an ICN remote meeting site in the ISU campus so we can participate and provide feedback?  
A: Regents meeting is May 2<sup>nd</sup>, let me see how we can have a site set up on campus
  4. Q: is there a way to get faculty participating in grant writing?  
International students will especially benefit from these additional opportunities.  
A: Let me see what I can do, fundraising will help to offer more opportunities for international students
  5. Q: I am all about recruitment. By adding 2000 more graduate students, how we can make sure that students who come here, stay here? What are some retention efforts from your administration?  
A: Recruit more and graduate more; diversity inclusiveness is still unknown; one of our alums has agreed to investigate our diversity inclusiveness and help us determine where we can put money to improve it. By summer we'll have his full report that we'll help us to see better full picture
  6. Q: Where do you see 200 faculty and 2000 students?



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A: I see them in areas of research with the most potential, areas that have more undergraduate students to help faculty who teach big classes; we also consider feedback from deans

7. Q: What is your vision of ISU success? Where you see Arts and Humanities?

A: #1 product is our students, not research, Arts and Humanities has a large number of undergraduate and Master's students; employers such as John Deere and Boeing state that our students lack knowledge in humanities. As we form our agenda, we need to consider the needs of society and community whether it through research or projects. We see a big need to

### III. Senate Forum

#### a. Senator Zhang

- i. We are hosting 2013 workshop for energy, transportation, and water infrastructure. This event offers an opportunity for collaboration and network; posters are welcomed; top 3 will receive the awards
- ii. Event website: <https://www.igert.windenergy.iastate.edu/events/etwi-ppsp/>

#### b. Clicker Demonstration

### IV. Introduction of new bills and resolutions

- a. Senate Bill S13 - 13 Executive Council Scholarship Revision
- b. Senate Resolution S13 – 14 Promotion of Graduate Involvement and Leadership
- c. Senate Resolution S13 – 15 Providing Affordable Health Insurance for Family Members
- d. Senate Bill S13 – 16 Transfer of FY2014 Summer PAG Funds to Surplus Account

### V. Remarks and Reports

#### a. Report of the President - President Kleinheksel

- i. Arrival of Child/Sickday Policy become effective this summer
- ii. Large socials this year
- iii. The largest senate size in the last few years
- iv. GPSS/GSB change of ratio
- v. Increase of minimum student stipend - \$300 increase over the next 3 years
- vi. Budget numbers waiting on action from Iowa Legislature

#### b. Report of the Vice President and Rules Committee - Vice President De León

- i. 16 bills presented to Rules Committee this semester; all very much in the spirit of Constitution
- ii. Ad-hoc committee presented 3 bills on Constitution amendment



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- iii. Spring social was a success; thank you for attending and inviting your constituents
- c. Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee - Treasurer Peters
  - i. Senate Bill S13 – 16 was found favorable
- d. Report of the CIO and Election Committee - CIO Prisacari
  - i. Graduate Conference:
    - 1. Graduate Research Conference survey:  
[https://atrial.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_bsFaaSBPpKsCFN3](https://atrial.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bsFaaSBPpKsCFN3)
  - ii. IT committee – help GPSS to build a new website; no technical/programming skills are required. If interested, contact CIO at [gppscio@iastate.edu](mailto:gppscio@iastate.edu)
  - iii. GSB/GPSS committee – we are forming a committee made of GSB and GPSS to investigate the ratio. If interested, contact GPSS at [gpsspresident@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsspresident@iastate.edu)
- e. Report of the URLA Chair - URLA Chair Tlach
  - i. Board of Regents:
    - 1. Parking fees will increase \$10 across the board for automobile permits, \$3.00 for motorcycles (fall/spring)
    - 2. Recent renovations/improvements:
      - a. Paved lot north of physical plant (250 additional spaces for commuters/staff)
      - b. East gate renovation on Osborn drive
      - c. Schilletter Village mill and overlay nearly 50% complete (multi-year)
  - ii. Provost Budget Advisory Committee:
    - 1. Budget and Enrollment Estimates being finalized
      - a. Enrollment  $\approx$ 32,000 for fall 2013
  - iii. For graduate students: awarding 20 Presidential Scholarships at \$40,000/yr
  - iv. SSHIP Committee
    - 1. Expect 4% increase in AETNA premiums
      - a. Caused by increased taxes from healthcare reform
      - b. Lower than average expected increase of 5.9%
    - 2. Currently taking bids for new healthcare providers (2 year process)
    - 3. Passive versus active enrollment:
      - a. Active: Enroll self and family members every year and currently used
      - b. Passive: Enroll self and family members once



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- c. Passive decreases exceptions to add family after deadline
      - d. Passive would require the active removal of family or self
    - v. Special Student and Tuition Activity Fee Committee (SSFTC):
      - 1. Several groups requesting their own special fee instead of allocations through (GSB)
        - a. Debating decreasing or removing mandatory athletic fee
        - b. Currently accounts for nearly \$1 million in revenue
        - c. Athletic Dept. has not provided clear operating budget or expenses (requested)
      - 2. Cyride requesting fee increase to fund operations
      - 3. GSB Pres/Finance Director and GPSS Pres/Treasurer will attend meetings over summer
    - vi. CELT Advisory Committee:
      - 1. Elected new vice-chair Dr. Jay Newell
      - 2. Debate on the Scholarship of teaching and learning and how it is viewed
      - 3. Dr. Ralph Napolitano was hired as Associate Director for Online Education
    - vii. Graduate Council
      - 1. Non-major graduate credits: Limit non-major credit to no more than 7 and no more than 3 from 300-level courses
      - 2. Coursework only Masters: reduce committee requirement from 3 to 1 (major professor)
        - a. Only if no creative component required
        - b. Leave it up to programs to decide
    - f. Report of the PAG Chair - PAG Chair Stoehr
      - i. Revising website
      - ii. Summer session I funding has been depleted
      - iii. Summer session II - approval process begins June 1
      - iv. Peer research and teaching awards were presented and awarded
    - g. Graduate and GSB Senator Report [NONE]
- VI. Old Business
  - a. Senate Bill S13 – 06 Amending the Constitution: Inclusion of Compulsory Statements and Correction of Syntax Errors (Yellow)
    - i. Consider as read vote:
      - 1. Yes: 56



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2. No: 2
      3. Abstain: 0
      4. PASSED
    - ii. Vote on the bill:
      1. Yes: 60
      2. No: 0
      3. Abstain:1
      4. PASSED
  - b. Senate Bill S13 – 07 Amending the Constitution: Redefining the Officers of the Senate (Gray)
    - i. Consider as read vote:
      1. Yes: 59
      2. No: 0
      3. Abstain: 2
      4. PASSED
    - ii. Senator Kress-Israel: could you please remind us the details of this bill?
      1. Vice President De León: executive role description and eligibility
    - iii. Vote on the bill:
      1. Yes: 57
      2. No: 0
      3. Abstain:2
      4. PASSED
  - c. Senate Bill S13 – 08 Amending the Constitution: Redefining Senator Roles and the Graduate Student to Senator Ratio (Green)
    - i. Consider as read (UC)
    - ii. Senator Anderson: clarification on representation
      1. Vice President De León: ratio change from 50 to 100 students per senator
    - iii. Vote on the bill:
      1. Yes: 60
      2. No:1
      3. Abstain:1
      4. PASSED
- VII. New Business
  - a. Senate Bill S13 - 13 Executive Council Scholarship Revision
    - i. Senator Kress-Israel: why does treasurer get more money?
      1. Treasurer Peters: time commitment for treasurer is more (e.g., GSB, Finance Committee, regular and special allocations). If we look just at the time commitment, then this raises question whether CIO should get more money this year due to his heavier load
      2. President Kleinheksel – new execs did not know about the compensation; we might be self-serving.



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3. Vote on the bill:
  - a. Yes: 57
  - b. No: 0
  - c. Abstain: 2
  - d. PASSED
- b. Senate Resolution S13 – 14 Promotion of Graduate Involvement and Leadership
  - i. We are very busy, graduate/professional students may not have time for this commitment
    1. As GPSS Senators, we are already in leadership positions. If we can find time for this, so as others.
  - ii. Leadership is part of stepping up
  - iii. This may cause problem for parents/online students
    1. Some programs are already accommodating online students by opening leadership positions particularly to serve/represent online students
  - iv. People who do mandatory service may harm rather than contribute
  - v. The intent is to increase discussion among advisers and students; asking faculty to encourage students to be more active
  - vi. Some benefits may not be too obvious to grad students
  - vii. Is there a better way to convey the idea?
  - viii. Suggestion: change the wording (omit the word “mandatory”)
    1. Vote on the amendment (UC)
    2. Vote on the resolution:
      - a. Yes: 24
      - b. No: 27
      - c. Abstain: 9
      - d. FAILED
- c. Senate Resolution S13 – 15 Providing Affordable Health Insurance for Family Members
  - i. President Kleinheksel: family members are important, but this should not be the top priority in reviewing the bids
  - ii. Vote on the resolution:
    1. UC
    2. PASSED
- d. Senate Bill S13 – 16 Transfer of FY2014 Summer PAG Funds to Surplus Account
  - i. PAG money offers opportunities for national network; we are taking these opportunities away





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- ii. PAG Chair Stoehr: I do support the graduate research, but I think \$2,000 should be enough and more opportunities outside GPSS could be explored
- iii. Why PAG?
  1. More money was allocated to PAG due to GPSS/GSB ratio change. After this change we still leave PAG with more money than last year
- iv. What is expected cost of this conference?
  1. University of Iowa: \$5200 for awards, total cost ~\$10,000-12,000
- v. GPSS needs to first approach administration and then decide how much GPSS should put in
  1. Vote on amendment (reduce allocated amount from \$5,000 to \$2,000):
    - a. Yes: 40
    - b. No: 9
    - c. Abstain: 10
    - d. PASSES
  2. Why PAG? Did we ever not run out of PAG?
  3. How frequently our regular and special allocations get exhausted?
    - a. Our special allocations in spring are usually higher; still we always run out of money
  4. Can we add language that money returns to PAG if additional funds are later secured?
    - a. President Kleinheksel: the bill is written in a way that money is going to surplus account; there are a lot of possibilities that must be considered first; there is a lot of support among administration; not giving money would provide incentives to the committee to work harder and seek funding from other sources first.
  5. Can we table this bill and discuss this at another time?
    - a. President Kleinheksel: This bill asks Summer PAG money. Senate does not meet again until August. By tabling this bill, you are going to kill it.
  6. Vote on tabling the bill:
    - a. Yes: 45
    - b. No: 12
    - c. Abstain: 2
    - d. BILL IS TABLED (KILLED)

### VIII. Announcements



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- i. President Kleinheksel: thank you everyone for your service and have a good summer.

IX. Adjournment @ 10:51pm