

# **Articles of Cooperation Between the Student Government (SG) and the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) at Iowa State University**

## Preamble

SG and GPSS have a special and unique relationship, supported by decades of history, which is different than the relationship between SG and any other organization. This document has a primary status in the enumeration of the rights and responsibilities of the two governmental bodies, as well as codifying independent legitimate authority.

SG is the only student government organization on campus that represents all students: undergraduate, non-traditional, graduate, and professional. Accordingly, SG allocates student fees in a manner to benefit the student body as a whole, by funding such entities as the Daily, the Committee on Lectures, and Student Legal Services. SG is also able to speak to the university administration and outside groups on behalf of the entire student body.

GPSS is the independent government body that handles matters of concern to graduate and professional students that fall outside of the scope of the SG by-laws. Specifically, GPSS confronts issues of professional and academic advancement common to graduate and professional students such as the funding of travel grants. In addition, GPSS funds graduate and professional student groups which are not eligible for funding through the SG student fees allocation process.

Beyond its funding responsibilities, GPSS is charged with the representation of graduate and professional student interests in policy-making decisions, both on and off campus. This representation requires that SG and GPSS consult one another in the deliberation of issues that may affect the two constituencies differently. It is the responsibility of both institutions to establish and maintain communication with one another on such issues.

As a result of the organization and responsibilities of GPSS, its role is different than both SG and a constituency council. Its special status within the overall structure of ISU student governance is one that complements, and is independent of, the governance structures of SG and enhances the overall representation of student interests at ISU. In the interest of both the SG and the GPSS, the following Articles of Cooperation shall serve as an outline of procedures for communication, funding, and representation.

## 1. Inter-Government Communication

### i. *Executive Officers*

- a. The executives of SG and the executives of GPSS, including, but not limited to, the President and Vice-president of each body, shall meet prior to the first meeting of the fall and spring semesters to review the goals of each body for that semester, and to discuss other items of mutual interest.
- b. During at least one meeting of both the spring and fall semesters, the SG and the GPSS Executive Officers shall address each other's legislative body concerning the activities, accomplishments and pertinent legislation of the past and upcoming academic years.

### ii. *Graduate Senators on SG*

- a. Graduate senators seated on SG serve on GPSS as senator at-large and vice versa.
- b. SG elections. The graduate students will vote for SG senators during the SG elections that will serve as SG senators and the GPSS senators at-large. The SG election commissioner will notify the elected graduate senators and the GPSS Executive Council of the election results.

### iii. *Vacant SG Graduate Senators after election*

- a. If any of the three SG Graduate senators are not elected during the SG elections, which may occur while the general GPSS senate is not in session, the GPSS President will issue an executive order to temporarily fill these vacancies. The GPSS Senate can ratify the executive order or select new graduate students to fill the vacancy during the first meeting of the GPSS Senate following the executive order.
- b. For any vacant SG Graduate Senator seat, GPSS Senator(s) can introduce a bill to nominate a graduate or professional student as GPSS Senator-at-Large.
- c. The speakers of the SG shall be the primary point of contact for referring the incoming Graduate Senators.

### iv. *Minutes, Bills, and Resolution*

- a. The Secretary or Chief Information Officer of each body shall make available a copy of the approved minutes, bills, resolutions, and other pertinent correspondence to the Secretary or Chief Information Officer of the other body within one week of each meeting upon request.

## 2. Funding

### i. *Student Activity Fees*

- a. The SG shall receive 50% and the GPSS shall receive 50% of the Student Activity Fees paid by graduate and professional students.

### ii. *Sponsored Events*

- a. Jointly funded events shall be sponsored whenever appropriate. All appropriate publicity shall equally display the SG and the GPSS logos, and the words “funded by SG and GPSS” shall appear on all appropriate publicity material.
3. Representation
  - i. The president of SG and treasurer of GPSS shall each appoint a voting representative to serve on each other’s Finance Committee.
  - ii. In committees overseeing issues of importance to both SG and GPSS, representatives of both bodies should be present.
  - iii. The GPSS University Relations and Legislative Affairs chair or a designated appointee, shall serve as a voting member on the SG University Affairs Committee.
4. Supremacy
  - i. The Articles of Cooperation shall supersede the By-laws of SG and GPSS.
5. Amendments
  - i. Amendments to the Articles of Cooperation shall take effect after 2/3 of seated senators in each legislative body approve the amendments, which must be presented in written bills, the body text of which is the same in both bills.
6. Ratification
  - i. Ratification of the Articles of Cooperation shall require a 2/3 vote of seated senators of each legislative body and shall take effect immediately upon passage.