

GPSG  
Graduate and Professional Student Government  
Tuesday, September 7, 2016, 7:00pm  
UCC Executive Conference Room (2390)

In attendance: All execs and 14 delegates in attendance! & Bill Nelson

I. Welcome, Check-Ins, & Public Access

- A. Update and feedback opportunity for University Counseling Services (5 new hires) -- Barry Schreier -- moved to next meeting
  
- B. Management Proposal for Main Campus Garden and Outdoor Classroom -- Jacob Simpson, Sophia Gunnick

Info: [UI Gardeners](#): educate people about sustainable food, culture of volunteerism. Recent initiatives: Tippie garden, hydroponics system in Bio Bldg East, herb garden in Hardin Life Sciences Library, Food Pantry (which GPSG will be supporting as well).

Current garden: inaccessible (most have to drive), out by Aspire. Requires more maintenance.

Proposal: new garden on the East side, create place of Rest along the river near North hall. Small outdoor classroom in Phase II. UI Admin will take on most infrastructure cost. Organizational cost will be about \$17,000 (managers, compost, marketing, etc.); UISG allocating 77% of this, asking GPSG for 23%: \$3,910, one time. Eventual goal is to pay for this with student fees, but also that it will be self-sustainable (sell produce to Housing & Dining.)

**Decision on whether to fund a one-time contribution of \$3,910: passes.**

II. New Business

- A. Changes to [UI Parking](#) -- Anh & Grant helping to market these changes.  
Info: creating density maps to figure out where people live, etc. Bus passes already reduced from \$14 to \$10/mo, subsidized by U Parking. Night/weekend passes: was \$17, now \$10, again subsidized by Parking. Plan, will go this semester: student parking card that will let you into any lot on campus for 75 cents/hr. Commuter parking lots: was \$49, now \$42.
  
- B. Updates/Announcements
  
- C. Executive Council Updates

1. Alison Schell, Grants Director  
Added FAQ. 35 have applied for review committee. Cycle 1 ends this Thurs.
2. Nicole Jardine, Secretary
3. Rondine Allen, CFO  
Application for GPAC closes tonight at midnight, need one from Dental.
4. Samantha Lange, Safety Chair  
New training from UCS on recognizing students in distress. Public safety has training on de-escalation, etc. Incapacitation policy being re-assessed: current policy is too lax about sexual misconduct.
5. Deborah Yu, Sustainability Chair  
Working on better filters, rideshare program.
6. Laurence Chan, Diversity Chair  
Collaborating w/ UISG to bring resources to our [Cultural Centers](#) (LGBTQ+, Afro, Native American, Asian-Pacific houses), which are currently being renovated. Current discussion is about having a Cultural Corridor area of campus that has all the Cultural Centers (including a new Veterans house).  
  
Working on faculty accountability for diversity training.
7. David Quach, Inter-professional Chair
  - a) GPSG Gamewatch at Kinnick: funding  
Last year grand total was \$4,688; almost \$4k of that was catering. Tentatively October 8, time TBA. Requesting \$5000.  
  
**Decision to fund GPSG Gamewatch for approximately \$5000: passes.**
8. Hannah Walsh & Shaun O'Neill, Governmental Relations Chairs
  - a) [Tax Incentive Proposal for Graduate Student Retention](#).  
Proposing 50% tax rate for any student who has a grad degree from an IA Regent Institution. Fiscal analysis being done by LSA (dept at Capitol that does analysis of proposals). Have met with legislators. When session starts in Spring, will seek a few other grad students to go to Des Moines to meet with legis.

D. Operations Team/SIT Updates

Mostly getting started. Talked about Student Garden. Campus climate: environment is getting worse for international students. Some things implemented: orientation for international students has been revamped so that it includes orientation with national students, name pronunciation, etc. GPSG is planning a one-day summit in the Spring to facilitate discussion on free speech versus hate speech.

E. Housing Task Force Update -- Josh Schoenfeld

Affordability includes housing, which has been increasingly unaffordable. Aspire at West Campus is the only grad/prof student housing. They've reduced their rent increase and have pledged to increase it only 2% a year, but are still not affordable for most grad stipends by conventional metrics. We did a task force with Housing & Dining and Tom Rocklin. Its recommendations include: UI keeps track of rental rates off campus and makes sure that grad stipends grow in equal proportion. Housing & Dining currently in debt to build housing for UGs, but for now will keep Hawkeye Drive open for one more year (only affordable grad housing, and family-friendly -- will close Aug 2017). Recommending converting Park Lawn Hall to grad housing in 5-6 years. Next steps: continuing to work with UISG about off campus housing, etc to drive that market in a more favorable way for us. President Harreld, UI, Iowa City gov, and Coralville gov are doing a study on this as well.

F. Tuition Update -- Josh Schoenfeld

State budget is really tight, has allocated money away from education. Regents have asked the legislature for \$4.5 mil for UI, and we basically know that it's not going to happen. Last year we asked for a \$1.5 increase and didn't get that. Tuition continues to increase more for grad/prof and for non-resident undergraduate students. GPSG [fought this](#) last FY. Affordability is great among our peer universities for UG tuition. But Dental pays highest tuition in our peer group, Medicine is up there as well.

G. Graduate/Professional Teaching Task Force Update -- Nicole Jardine

GPSG is in charge of testing a workshop-style program for new TAs that involves pedagogy, cultural competency, and resource awareness. GPSG will fund snacks, GSS committee will be in charge of coordination. Currently, none of our peer CIC institutions have mandatory TA training so this is where we can make significant progress and set ourselves apart from the competition.

H. Next GPSG Meeting

1. October 4, 2016 at 7pm

I. Upcoming Deadlines

1. FY17 Fall Supplemental - Friday, September 16, 2016 at 5pm
2. Grants Cycle 1 - September 8, 2016 at 11:59pm

III. Member Government Check-In

A. CCOMSG

No meetings yet

B. COP

President Harreld will be getting their flu shots at the COP. Groundbreaking ceremony of new building next week.

C. GSS

Obermann screening of documentary: GSS will support, but amount uncertain. Travel Funds chairs would like to do workshop, maybe with GPSG, on how to write a successful grant application.

D. IASDA

Annual golf trip, Dental prom, Vendor fair, Practice Opportunity fair. Summer pre-dental academy (started by GPSG's own Shaun O'Neill!) did very well: gives UGs a look at what dental students do.

E. ISBA

Law school very interested in tuition issues.

F. MBAA

Working on big annual event at IMU. Having a tailgate this week.

IV. [University of Iowa Strategic Plan](#)

- A. Email [nicole-jardine@uiowa.edu](mailto:nicole-jardine@uiowa.edu)