

University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government  
General Assembly Meeting  
February 13, 2024  
Iowa Memorial Union 337 MGC Room

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance:**

Executives:

In Attendance:

President Mason Koelm  
Vice President Adriana Kotchkoski  
Cabinet Director Khyathi Gadag  
Finance Director Matthew Klaes  
Physical Safety Director McKenna Raimer  
International Affairs Director Raghav Sharma  
Governmental Relations Director Sydney Wagner  
Mental Health Director Nanle Gusen  
Communications Director James Miller  
Grants Director Shaoshuai “Shirley” Chen  
Interprofessional Director Robin Nilsson

Not in Attendance:

GPAC Director Eric Field  
DEI Director Aimen Hameed

Delegates:

Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS)  
Nikta Kia | Absent  
Emily Puetz | Absent  
Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG)  
Abby Davison | Absent  
Chandler Brown | Absent  
College of Pharmacy Student Leadership Council (COPSLC)  
Rebecca Scribano | Present  
Sabrina Renner | Absent  
College of Public Health Graduate Student Association (CPHGSA)  
Ellie Madson | Present  
Nick Lembezeder | Absent  
Anna Guidici | Present  
Graduate Student Senate (GSS)  
Fine Arts & Hum. - Jordan R. Ismaiel | Absent  
Physical Science, Math, Eng. - Soheil Hosseini | Present  
Social Science & Ed. - Celine Fender | Absent  
Biology and Med. - Emily Hagan | Present

At-Large 1 – Karly Monaghan | Present  
At-Large 2 – Priyanka Kailas | Present  
Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA)  
Vi Phan | Absent  
Sam Allen | Absent  
Arshi Munjal | Present  
Tyler Jenness | Absent  
Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA)  
Rhianna Lightle | Absent  
Austin McLellan | Present  
Karlyn Simcox | Present

D.B. #8 FY24 GPAC Cycle 3 Approval Act:

Call for sponsor

Floor opened for questions and comments | None

Floor opened for debate | None

Call for motion to end debate and vote:

- Motion: Representative McLellan
- Seconded: Representative Simcox

Resolution Passed

Presentation by Liz Tobar, et al., with University DEI Taskforce.

The DEI Taskforce was formed after the recommendations by the Regents.

Primary Message from the taskforce: Diversity will remain a core value at the University of Iowa.

Shared Government and student representatives on the taskforce. HR reps as well.

March: Tell Dean

April: Tell Regents what plans and recommendations they have.

Roll of the taskforce is to improve and enhance what is being done in the DEI space.

Taskforce wants to hear from everyone around campus.

Terms:

- Access
  - o recruit diverse talent to campus
  - o need plan of access
- Opportunities – Accreditation system is always talking about providing opportunities.
- Diversity
- Leadership – What skills are needed to go out
  - o Critical thinking
  - o Listening
  - o Respect

- Measurable goals and measurable outcomes.

Diversity includes a lot of things.

Diversity of thought

- Healthy conflict is great.
- How do we build common ground when we are diverse?

Hearing a lot about communication.

- Challenging, because the Task Force is doing the work now.
- Can't necessarily report what you are doing while still figuring things out
- Recommending to President and Provost who then need approval from the BoR.
- Pres and Prov could always reject or refocus the recommendations.

Work will likely begin after all this happens.

Get questions all the time about why they are not making statements.

Challenges:

1. Cannot make broad statements unless approved by the BoR.
2. The reality is that statements don't really work.

Communication happens in this space, and representatives need to go back to their constituents.

- Go back to your ppl, have the convo, and report back.
- Challenge is, we need something back to the president next month.
- Trying to get in front of as many groups as possible.
- Website has been created where people can submit feedback.
- DEI Director Aimen is a representative on the Taskforce.

Discussion around freedom of expression. Respect diversity of thought and navigating when individuals have different opinions regarding what expression means.

[Further reading on DEI Initiatives](#)

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

COBRA:

- Our old Constitution is incredibly long.
- We have drafted a new constitution.
- Proposed changes:
  - Combine Constitution and Charter into one document.  
(No proposals for changing the charter)
  - Revise Constitution Preamble
  - Expand Constituency
  - Reordered provisions

- Quorum Section
- Remove individual Sections for each Director and create a new section outlining the establishment of Directors as determined by the Council of Delegates
- Rework Committees Section to allow more flexibility
- Rewrite Special Requirements for President and Vice President Candidate Eligibility to remove forced candidate pools for the President and Vice President candidates
- Remove Election Procedures section and rely upon norms
- Remove Parliamentary Authority requirements
- Add a provision to allow Constitutional amendment submission outside regular meetings in exceptional circumstances.
- Error corrections
- Cleaning up language for efficiency and clarity
- An email will be sent two weeks prior to the next meeting outlining

**Election:**

- Next meeting, we will be electing the Executive Core
- The materials will be provided two-week in advance to allow the Council of Delegates adequate time to review the applicants

**Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

President:

- Dr Tovar, Mason, and Charlie had a meeting with the undergrads regarding DEI. The information was substantially the same as was presented here. DEI will look less like a central office and more like a network of specialized force.

Vice President:

- Election Committee meeting this Friday.
- Activity fee committee meeting; will have updates next meeting.

Finance Director (Budget, GPAC, Grants):

- If you have questions, ask Finance Director.
- If you need to plan events, let him know.

Cabinet Director:

- Working with directors for events.
- Finished one-on-one meetings.
- Setup elections commission meeting for this Friday.

**Cabinet Updates and Period of Q&A**

GPAC Director Eric Field:

- Not present.

Physical Safety Director McKenna Raimer:

- No updates.

International Affairs Director Raghav Sharma:

- The committee is due to meet this week.
- Meeting with Student Advisory Board; 10-yr anniversary and awards upcoming.
- Create a larger networking opportunity for students around the state.
- International taskforce for connecting students across United States.

DEI Director Aimen Hameed:

- Not present

Governmental Relations Director Sydney Wagner:

- Tracking Iowa Legis bills
- Mental Health Advocacy
- Legislators to campus to speak with students and representatives

Mental Health Director Nanle Gusen:

- Planning student retreat
- Collaborative planning for Holistic Wellness Week event
- Work is split between sub-committees to delegate tasks
- Security alarm distribution updates will be coming soon
- Event organized through the healthy minds around the world panel
  - Feb. 26; 12:30 – 1:30 PM
  - Students share how they are coping with Mental Health issues

Communications Director James R Miller:

- Building Resources page and will need support from different colleges to know what recourses to include

Grants Director Shaoshuai “Shirley” Chen:

- Met with committee members last week
- Focus for applying travel grants
- Creating information session for applying to grants
- Need more reviewers; please put out call to constituents

Sustainability Director Abby Crabtree:

- Hospital Construction Roundabout meeting occurred
  - New discussion regarding having joint
  - Input on new med building
- E-waste initiative setbacks; may need to scale back the collection sites
- Looking to host an event in April for Earth month

Interprofessional Director Robin Nilsson:

- Plan to have a roller-skating event this month.
- Want to have an event to go see a Heartlanders hockey game
- Potential jet-skiing event on the horizon

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees:

Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS):

- No update

Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG):

- No update

College of Pharmacy Student Leadership Council (COPSLC):

- No update

College of Public Health Graduate Student Association (CPHGSA):

- No update

Graduate Student Senate (GSS):

- Coffee hours at Cortado have begun this semester
- Learn Over Lunch Seminar series over zoom
- Jacobson research showcase upcoming in March
- Graduate Student Event for awards upcoming

Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA):

- No updates

Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA):

- Planning Barristers Ball for April 6
- First annual Pickleball tournament
- Beginning a project regarding food insecurity and nutrition

Jordan: Delegate from GSS.

A group of GSS senators are working to co-write a letter to send to University Administration. Would like GPSG to co-sign this letter.

Letter topic: Issues with how the university utilizes police and the arresting of students.

UIP has been disproportionately representing trans students and people of color, especially at protest. Protests re: Palestine financial ties

The letter is intended telling the university there needs to be a better process by which issues can be brought, especially focusing on how utilizing the police force is probably not the best answer.

Even if you do not support the protestors, it is not the best answer for the university to arrest student protestors.

The university should reconsider its relationship with its police department and how they utilize those police.

Call for motion to adjourn:

- Motion: Representative McLellan
- Seconded: Representative Simcox

Meeting Adjourned