

University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government
General Assembly Meeting
October. 24th, 2023, 7pm
Iowa Memorial Union 337 MGC Room

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

Presentation by Chanelle Reese with the Office of the Ombudsperson Presentation

- Presented National College Health Assessment information survey
- Provided overview of survey results for substance use, food security, physical activity, mental health, stress, sleep, sexual health, experiencing violence, and perceptions of safety.
- 89.9% of Graduate and Professional Students report being in good or great health
- Top 5 Academic Impediments are highly focused on mental health issues
- Mental Health: 35.7% - No or Low Distress; 52.3% - Moderate Distress; 12% - High Distress
- How do we compare to national graduate and professional students
 - More likely to make safe choices for physical health
 - More likely to have anxiety or another mental health condition
 - More likely to use alcohol or cannabis
 - More likely to report use of energy drinks or shots
- How do we compare to undergrads
 - Higher food security
 - Less likely to use substances
 - Less likely to experience violence
 - More likely to drive after drinking
 - Less likely to get 7-9 hours of sleep on weeknights

Floor open for questions:

- Are you able to look at the rates of diagnoses and struggling in departments with imbedded counselors versus those without? They can pull that info and send it to President Koelm
- Do you track trends over time for the data? Yes. However, the comparisons are based upon survey responses and the survey was changed in 2021, so there is not yet a large data set.
- Next step is focus groups with students.
- Do you have information on negative data (i.e., students that have not responded) and how does that skew the data? A lot of the data is anonymous and national. There are some data points we can check, and there were not major discrepancies for the tracked data points. (One separate
- What can we do to increase responsiveness for the survey? Last year GPSG sent out emails and social media blasts. We are looking to build out a larger marketing plan this year to increase responsiveness.

Presentation Karley Monaghan regarding Affordable Housing

- Johnson County affordable housing initiative
- Program: Seniors and students co-habiting.

- Students could live with seniors and help around the house and provide needed assistance.
- Students get cheaper housing than elsewhere around the area.
- Hoping to get a pilot group/committee and meet once a month to start the
- Email Karley Monaghan if you are interested in joining the committee or being a part of this conversation

Floor open to questions and comments:

- There might be issues with zoning and land use.
- Government relations might be a useful partnership
- These are similar to Air B&B zoning issues.

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
 Mental Health Director Nanle Gusen
 Communications Director James Miller
 Grants Director Shaoshuai “Shirley” Chen
 Interprofessional Director Robin Nilsson
 GPAC Director Eric Field

Not in Attendance:

DEI Director Madeleine Wood-Smith
 Governmental Relations Director Sydney Wagner

Delegates:

Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS)
 Nikta Kia | Absent
 Emily Puetz | Absent
 Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG)
 Abby Davison | Present
 Chandler Brown | Present
 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 | Present
 Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Fine Arts & Hum. - Jordan R. Ismaiel | Present
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 | Present
Arshi Munjal | Absent
Tyler Jenness | Absent
Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA)
Rhianna Lightle | Absent
Austin McLellan | Present
Karlyn Simcox | Present

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

President:

- Plan for Washington
- Center for advancement campaign
 - Met with alumni and representatives from the university
- Shared Governance decompress will happen next week
- Work with Regents is going well
 - Seems to be a little momentum
 - Working on getting data and pitches

Vice President:

- Plan for Washington
 - Attending Round-tables with people working on legislative committees, e.g., healthcare committee, student loan guidance, etc.
 - Full schedule of events on Tuesday

Finance Director (Budget, GPAC, Grants):

- Reminder: If you want an event, submit 4 weeks in advance.
- So far, we have only spent DC trip from contingency. There is approximately \$6,000 left.

Cabinet Director:

- Committee Meetings
 - Peer to Peer Committee Meeting
 - Improving Peer to Peer mental support
 - Graduate Student Employment committee
- Seeking new DEI Director

Cabinet Updates and Period of Q&A

GPAC Director Eric Field:

- Still getting rapid funding requests; thanks to GPAC committee members.

Physical Safety Director McKenna Raimer:

- Attending a lot of meetings around campus to discuss safety
- Student advisory meeting: they redesigned their department and it looks positive

International Affairs Director Raghav Sharma:

- Lunch and Learn Event: November 9, 2023

DEI Director Madeleine Wood-Smith:

- Not present

Governmental Relations Director Sydney Wagner:

- Not Present

Mental Health Director Nanle Gusen:

- Fresh Check Day was successful.
- Working with wellness and counseling center
- Been meeting with director of counselling service and suicide prevention taskforce.
- Collaborating with external organizations and undergrad student government for additional resources to improve well-being.

Communications Director James Miller:

- Request for headshot and bio from any delegates that have not yet sent them

Grants Director Shaoshuai “Shirley” Chen:

- Update on Grants for Cycle 1
- Received notice that students and departments need to immediate update to allocate resources
- Huge appreciation for team members
- \$10,491 total allocation: \$6,500 specifically for travel grants, \$3,991 for research

Sustainability Director Abby Crabtree:

- Request: If you have a committee meeting that she can attend for info, that would be appreciated.
- Met with Undergraduate counterpart to discuss approaches.

Interprofessional Director Robin Nilsson:

- Meeting with Committee on Friday
- Plan to solidify schedule for events

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):

- No update

Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA):

- No update

Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA):

- Halloween Party for law school is this Friday
- ABA and AALS completed once a decade accreditation last week.
- Semi-annual meeting with law school funding; discussed improving ranking and DEI.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Lunch and Learn Event | Raghav Sharma

D.B. 4 FY23 Grants Funding Cycle 1 Approval Act:

Call for sponsor: Representative McClellan

Floor opened for questions and comments |

Motion to enter debate:

Motion: Representative McLellan

Second: Representative Monaghan

Floor opened for debate:

Q: How are things allocated and amounts chosen? Want to make sure 25% of travel applications are approved. Research criteria, wanted to give top 3. Research has higher cost so there are more limits to the amount.

Q: Can people denied this round apply again next cycle? Yes, and that is heavily encouraged.

Q: Historical data on the spread of funding? Less than 1/3 is usually research. Historically we have also had less travel grants in the past few years due to COVID, so this is a substantial increase.

Q: Is the grants committee the only body that grants travel funding? GPAC would provide funding for student organizations and there are additional ways to fund travel. This is for traveling primarily for conferences.

Q: Total amount allocated? For this cycle, \$10,000, six cycles per year.

Call for motion to end debate and vote:

- Motion: Representative McLellan
- Seconded: Representative Simcox

Resolution Passed

Call for motion to adjourn

- Motion: Representative McLellan
- Seconded: Representative Simcox

Meeting Adjourned