

University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government  
General Assembly Meeting  
Tuesday, November 28, 2023  
Iowa Memorial Union 337 MGC Room

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

Presentation by Office of the Ombudsperson – Chanelle Reese

**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  
GPAC Director Eric Field

Not in Attendance:

DEI Director Madeleine Wood-Smith

Delegates:

Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS)  
Nikta Kia | Here  
Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG)  
Abby Davison | Here  
Chandler Brown | Here  
College of Pharmacy Student Leadership Council (COPSLC)  
Rebecca Scribano | Here  
Sabrina Renner | Here  
College of Public Health Graduate Student Association (CPHGSA)  
Graduate Student Senate (GSS)  
Biology and Med. - Emily Hagan | here  
At-Large 1 – Karly Monaghan | Here  
At-Large 2 – Priyanka Kailas | Here  
Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA)  
Sam Allen | Here  
Arshi Munjal | Here

Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA)

Rhianna Lightle | [Here](#)

Austin McLellan | [Here](#)

Karlyn Simcox | [Here](#)

## **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

### President:

- Meeting with HELP and STEM committees
- DEI discussions with Regents

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

GPAC Director Eric Field:

- None

Physical Safety Director McKenna Raimer:

- Opportunity to work with Sexual assault prevention groups and research opportunity

International Affairs Director Raghav Sharma:

- Lunch and learn had 25-30 attendants with campus safety, ISAB, MISSE, COGS

DEI Director Madeleine Wood-Smith:

- Not present

Governmental Relations Director Sydney Wagner:

- Building connections out in DC – building awareness of important issues

Mental Health Director Nanle Gusen:

- None

Communications Director James R Miller:

- None

Grants Director Shaoshuai “Shirley” Chen:

- None

Sustainability Director Abby Crabtree:

- **None**

Interprofessional Director Robin Nilsson:

- None

### Reports of Officers and Standing Committees:

Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS):

- Re-piloting a mentor/mentee program – looking for any colleges that have a similar program to get any advice
  - Austin will send email to connect Nikta with law school organization that have a mentor/mentee program
  - Grad College has some contacts for a mentor program
  - Pharmacy has a contact too

Graduate Student Senate (GSS):

- Starting up coffee hour again for GSS
- Attempting to launch Lunch and Learn events with other campus offices

Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA):

- Halloween party last month
- Imbedded counselor is leaving

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- D.B. 6 FY24 Grants Funding Cycle 2 Approval Act
- Interim DEI Director Election

D.B. 6 FY24 Grants Funding Cycle 2 Approval Act:

Call for sponsor: Representative McLellan – Shirley Chen

- Cycle 2 had 43 applications
- Top 25% were funded last cycle, however we have less applicants this cycle, so we have more money

Floor opened for questions and comments |

- Would allocating \$8,000 this cycle mean we have less in future cycles? – No, we have enough to allocate \$9,000 per cycle, but cycle 1 had a lot of applicants so we allocated \$10,000, meaning we have ~\$8,000 to allocate this cycle.
- Rhianna – I think that if we have the money now and they asked, we should fund as much as we can. We don't know the future.
- Shirley – I agree

Floor opened for debate |

Call for motion to end debate and vote:

- Motion: Representative McLellan
- Seconded: Representative Simcox

Resolution: Passed

## Interim DEI Director Election:

Floor opened for questions and comments |

Karlee Colby – PhD in Philosophy – sparked her interest as a woman in the philosophy program. Program is very international and diverse. Everyone has their own struggles and wants to help everyone.

Max Holt – first year in medical school – lot of work in DEI in undergrad around religious accommodations. Excited to serve and help the university in this area and has previous leadership experience.

Adam Kahn – first year law student – has previous experience with DEI at undergrad and wants to help address disability awareness and bring in more inclusivity and wants to help other students that are facing issues. Wants to problem solve for other students.

Aimen Hameed – 4th year PhD in Educational leadership – large advocate for DEI, personal experiences with DEI and how inclusion is not always included in the conversation, previous leadership experience in college and event planning experience in undergrad. Other campus positions on various committees.

Ganrong “James” Fu – 1st year PhD in Learning Science – DEI is intertwined with learning especially now. Inclusive learning environment is important for everyone to succeed. Promoting equity and diversity help with learning, and that is the goal of the University.

Mila Argueta – graduate in English – wants to get involved because of personal experiences, outside of school experience promoting DEI and undergrad research experience around DEI, wants to be involved in communities that matter.

- Austin asked about previous undergrad experience – the previous experience had a lot of pressures around DEI, and they have found that there is a lack of awareness in Iowa, and the pressure allowed people to fight more, and they want to bring that here.

Robinson Rodriguez – law student – part of the law school’s DEI committee surrounding admission, interested in the position based on personal experiences, there are resources in Iowa that they want to highlight. Working on a pro-bono project involving name change processes.

Stephen Presti – 3rd year pharmacy – worked as an RA in undergrad that included DEI initiatives, wants all students to feel a sense of belonging and increase the DEI programs on campus. Interested in working on the committee even if they are not elected.

Floor opened for debate |

- Commitment issues with some candidates on other committees

- Want diversity based on colleges too

Call for motion to end debate and vote:

- Motion: Representative McLellan
- Seconded: Representative Simcox

Election Results – Aimen Hameed

Meeting Adjourned