**University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government**

**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**Date:** []  
**Location:** Iowa Memorial Union, Room []  
**Meeting Called to Order:** [7:00 PM]

**Attendance: Meeting started at 7:06 pm after quorum was met.**

**Executives:**

* **President:** Khyathi Gadag
* **Vice President:** Abigail Crabtree
* **Cabinet Director:** Airiana Mohr
* **Finance Director:** Patrick Johnson
* **Physical Health and Safety Director:** Austin Olberding
* **International Affairs Director:** Krishna Venkatapur
* **Government Relations Director:** James Miller
* **Mental Health Director:** Bethany Walczak
* **Communications Director:** Ganrong "James" Fu
* **GPAC Director:** Nathan Chen
* **Grants Director:** Nanle Gusen
* **Interprofessional Director:** Brigitte Ledferd
* **DEI Director:** Lara Zeng
* **Sustainability Director:** Josie Welker

**Delegates:**

* **Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS):**
  + **David Mares-Davila**
  + **Sam Bjornson**
* **Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG):**
  + **Jennah Johnson**
  + **Innes Hicsasmaz**
* **College of Pharmacy Student Leadership Council (COPSLC):**
  + **Ian Patterson**
  + **Sabrina Renner**
* **College of Public Health Graduate Student Association (CPHGSA):**
  + **Emily Killian**
  + **Allison Darling**
* **Graduate Student Senate (GSS):**
  + **Fine Arts & Humanities: Mansour Golpour**
  + **Physical Science, Math, Engineering: John Stevenson**
  + **Social Science & Education: Mavis Gyesi**
  + **Biology and Medicine: Kshitija Kale**
  + **At-Large 1: Kyleakin Helm-Kwasny**
  + **At-Large 2: Travis Fischer**
* **Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA):**
  + **Vi Phan**
  + **Sam Allen**
  + **Anna Hedges**
  + **Kathryn Volz**
* **Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA):**
  + **Adam Kahn**
  + **Nihita Valluru**

**Meeting Guests: Well-Being and Mental Health Campus Collaborative**

Tanya Villhauer

Joni

Holistic well-being and success is in the university’s strategic plan, is a priority for President Wilson, and is implemented across the university. Recently the collaborative has been active in working with campus groups (students, hospital, etc.) and understanding what the university is already doing, understanding where they can do more, and then identifying what can be done to fill those gaps. They’re also focused on culture building – changing attitudes and the ways people interact on campus.

What the group does: set yearly strategic priorities, lead collaboration to elevate and expand research, develop and communicate a framework to support success, ensure strategies are inclusive and culturally responsive, and develop key performance indicators. They have a communications subcommittee that works to use current and existing university communications systems to communicate the initiatives.

Year 1-2 Accomplishments

* Formed steering team
* Inventory of 500+ campus resources
* Focus groups and listening posts
* Revised the definition of well-being
* Expanded the crisis line to faculty and staff
* Implemented supervisor training for mental health support
  + Supervisors can be the best source of knowledge for local level understanding of how folks they work with are doing.
* Piloted common evaluative questions for well-being services
* Added questions on the employee survey about belonging in the workplace which mirror the student questions about belonging on campus

Collaborative is focused on campus as a whole instead of just student side or just faculty and staff side. Keep the idea of one campus and one community.

Highlights for Graduate and Professional Students:

* Connection and Belonging event on March 28 (Time TBD)
  + “The Unfinished Symphony”
  + 2750 University Capitol Center (UCC) - AOD Office
  + For Graduate and Professional students, spaces can be difficult to identify, especially spaces just for graduate and professional students.
  + Not a lot of spaces to practice formal deliverables like dissertations or event to bounce ideas off early on in the process outside of just the academic units
  + This will be an informal opportunity for students to practice and present their research to those outside of their discipline. This is a low-stakes environment for presenters to answer questions, make connections, and bounce ideas.
* Togetherall (see previous notes from Dec. 3)
  + Now accessible for students
  + Website/app/online community to connect people with mental health concerns. Sort of like Reddit but a safe space where people can ask questions and get feedback from peers.
  + Counselors will monitor 24/7 and can contact UI services if needed
* Well-Being at Iowa website
  + Wellbeing.uiowa.edu (launched in September officially)
  + A central, accessible place to find resources for students, faculty, and staff for resources related to their wellbeing (not just mental health but other things as well)
  + Modeled off of the old mental health at Iowa website during the pandemic
  + Searchable with filters for audience, topic, and type
  + 24/7 crisis support information
  + Peer support services
  + Articles on mental health and well-being
* Intro to Mindfulness
  + 4 week workshop through student wellness (open to graduate and professional students)
* Earthminds
  + Partnership with local nonprofit
* National College Health Assessment will be open from Feb 17 to March 9
  + VERY IMPORTANT
  + Graduate and Professional students take this
  + There are incentives to do it, but the data is SUPER important for informing campus leadership about how campus is doing especially in terms of health and well-being
  + Every 2 years
  + Online and comprehensive (does take a bit to do, but important to push to constituents)

Year 3 Updates:

* Built and Natural Environment Subcommittees
* Peer-to-Perr Support Subcommittee
  + R U Ok? Staff and Faculty
  + Togetherall for Students
* Communications Subcommittee
  + Fall Into Wellness
* Collaboration for new suicide prevention signs across campus (update with logos and websites and crisis line)
  + Focus on high-risk areas
* Community Resources
  + Johnson County Trip Connect – transportation from 5-midnight throughout Johnson County. Helpful for getting to work or other places when traditional transit is not available. There is an app for it. Roughly about $2 per ride.

Questions:

* How has the reception been for mental health support training for supervisors
  + Voluntary. 800-900 who have completed it. Reporting better confidence and skills in recognizing signs and knowledge about campus resources.
* Who all is included in supervisors for training
  + Not professors. Currently just faculty and staff supervisor roles.
  + Josie recommended including professors for supervising graduate students
* Well-Being used to provide a nutritionist but no longer is available?
  + Student Wellness is who provides this service. They did hire a new person (Emily). Can reach out to them to get scheduled
* How much has the committee been involved with the renovations of the new wellness center in the IMU and using data to inform the construction?
  + Focus Groups with the shared governance groups. Have looked at some data especially from the college assessment data.
  + Close hotel on Feb. 10. Goal to open wellbeing center in Fall 2026
* Is it feasible for the committee to visit with the graduate colleges or have a Zoom meeting to share this with their leadership. Suggested that they meet with the member governments.
  + Khyathi and Abby will send a list.
  + Challenge has been identifying contacts.
  + GPSG will share on Instagram and other social media.

**Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

* **President (Khyathi Gadag):**
  + Based on discussion with Dr. Tovar, AOD still has kept their services in existence. Ongoing work to align with Board of Regents directive while keeping services.
  + Meeting with GSEC yesterday about free speech and civic dialogue. University will be focusing heavily on these two topics moving forward. GPSG will be making this a priority in the coming years.
  + GPSG and USG leadership have been in touch with Dr. Flecther about mental health fee. Idea is to make it a $3 increase every 2-3 years instead of doing a $17 increase this year. Plan is to present to board of regents.
  + Legislative season has started. Khyathi will provide more updates as they come. Identifying the tone. Will provide more updates as we near Hawkeye Caucus.
  + Three more meetings. Next meeting will be campus safety collaborative. March and April are elections. Please come in person if possible.
  + Bethany asked for clarity on when they will be meeting to give data to Board of Regents on Mental Health. Khyathi clarified that the data will be used for the next administration to present during the appropriation cycle.
* **Vice President (Abigail Crabtree):**
  + In her last meeting with Pete and Laura, they talked about the restructuring of some of the departments like GWSS that are combining into a new School. This is a financial and enrollment-based decision that started two years ago and is not a response to any recent legislation or political moves. Timing was not great. All subject matter will still be taught (no lost content) just in a different department. Not losing any faculty or staff since they are not solely in the GWSS department. Students who are currently under those majors will graduate with them. All new students will be under the new major.
  + Funding freeze – We are paying attention as changes continue to be made to this. If you have funding questions, send them to Abby. Not a lot of people understand the legal limitations of executive orders, so know that not every piece will move forward. Send questions to Abby and James Miller (GR).
* **Finance Director (Patrick Johnson):**
  + USG City liaison has left their role. Patrick and James working with Deputy City Liaison (now City Liaison) on Lease Gap Housing. Lease Gap Housing is a few weeks in July/August where USG and GPSG will be contracting with the Graduate Hotel to reserve rooms for just graduate and professional students at a discounted rate. Hoping to do 20 rooms with two queen beds (so that rooms can be split if desired). Will also be discounted parking. Program used to work through the Iowa House Hotel which will be closing.
    - ISAB identified that students may also have lease gaps in the winter and may want to expand the initiative to this time of year as well.
      * Patrick said they are looking at this. Again, new potential increase in Student Activity Fee will ensure that we set aside money in our operational budget every year for the program (20 rooms) instead of pulling from contingency. Otherwise won’t be sustainable.
      * James Miller also looking at off campus housing options to help with the winter lease issue. Working with his committee on this.
    - ISAB also wanted to know about using the dorms for this program.
      * Used to be what the program was. Is no longer able to be supported due to low staffing from housing and dining. Physically cannot do the cleaning or staffing and services for students.
  + In the next month or so will be looking at the student activity fee. It is likely going to increase but will be marginal. Patrick will provide more details at the next legislative meeting after the fee committee meets. This money will help us support grants and other programs. Will increase for undergrads as well.
* **Cabinet Director (Airiana Mohr):**
  + Lara (DEI) is in Singapore for research until February but accessible via email.
  + Have been working with Brigitte (interprofessional) on the GPSG ball. Likely in April. Pause to ask when each member government’s ball is.
    - Nursing – Yes. April 26?
    - Med – Yes. March 29. Annual Frolic on April 12
    - Pharm – Yes. Feb 15
    - GSS – No Ball
    - Law – Yes. March 8
    - Public Health – Yes. No Date Yet (April 12 or 26th)
    - Dental - Yes. May 3rd
  + Reminder to Directors to add their updates to the Director notes to be added to meeting notes. Delegates please continue to read those.
* **GPAC Director (Nathan Chen):**
  + Cycle 3 opened last Tuesday. Closes on Feb. 14. Mass Email Went out
* **Physical Health and Safety Director (Austin Olberding):**
  + Winter Clothing Drive – over 200 students served (more info later)
  + Future programming
    - Sexual Assault Awareness Month (with WRAC)
    - Vaccine Initiative (with USG)
    - Skin safe program (with USG)
    - Safety Walk (with Campus Safety)
    - Law Building safety concerns (with Campus Safety)
    - Newton Road Project – nearing completion
* **International Affairs Director (Krishna Venkatapur):**
* **Government Relations Director (James Miller):**
* **Mental Health Director (Bethany Walczak):**
* **Communications Director (Ganrong "James" Fu):**
* **Grants Director (Nanle Gusen):**
* **Interprofessional Director (Brigitte Ledferd):**
* **DEI Director (Lara Zeng):**
* **Sustainability Director (Josie Welker):**
  + Connected with Environmental Coalition to collaborate on their river spring clean up
  + Connected with Environmental coalition, USG, UHD, University staff council, and OSE to work on plans for the spring donation event, setup meeting with UHD
  + Spoke with Blake Rupe and OSE about the Iowa Water Issues lecture series – set up planning meeting

**Reports of Delegates**

* **Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS):**
  + Crush for Your Crush – Candy Gram fundraiser
* **Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG):**
  + Prom on March 29
  + Annual Frolics on April 12
  + Just finished updating student lounge in the hospital. Bigger space with more lockers.
* **College of Pharmacy Student Leadership Council (COPSLC):**
  + Pharmacy ball Feb. 15
  + Iowa Pharmacy Day on the Hill upcoming Wed. On Feb 5. Talk to legislators about legislation that impacts their practice.
* **College of Public Health Graduate Student Association (CPHGSA)**
  + Met with executive committee of the college to express the letter related to student concerns with them. No feedback yet but the letter was received.
  + Feb. 28 will be hosting rural health summit open to all students faculty and staff. 9-1 in the public Health building or on zoom. Will be free food.
* **Graduate Student Senate (GSS):**
  + Annual Jacobsen conference on March 29 12-5 in IMU. Practice presenting their research and chance to win prized. Connected by curiosity driven by discovery. Will forward registration link
  + Searching for faculty staff and post docs to serve as judges. Slots will be 30 minutes
  + Will be partnering with Grad College office of student success and belonging to host an event during graduate student appreciation week.
  + Drafted a letter for asking and transportation concerns. Will bring up to GSS general meeting and the after edits will present to GOSG for further evaluation.
* **Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA):**
  + Tomorrow is Dental Lobby day at the state capitol
  + Already had ASDA (national dental org) district conference. Sent 66 members.
  + Annual ASDA session at the end of February in Kansas City to vote on new legislation.
  + ASDA national month of giving is this month. IASDA is hosting a food drive. Please bring nonperishables! Ask Anna & Katie reps for where to put them
  + Had a trivia night recently that went well. Having a talent show soon more to come.
  + May 3 Frolic
  + Questions about licensing and royalties. Airiana and Patrick will follow up with licensing about this issue.
    - Dean said that they have indeed had royalties issue in the past but it’s actually being enforced.
    - Wanting 15%
* **Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA):**
  + Formal on March 8 – waiting on funding approval
  + Mental Health Week being planned for law students
  + Trying to cooridnate a pickleball event that will be much later on in the spring

**New Business:**

* **Legislation Title:** FY25 Grants Funding Cycle 3 Approval Act
  + 36 applicants for cycle 3 - 4 research and 30 travel (2 disqualified). No service grants
    - 34 allowed. 2 applicants were disqualified. 1 had already received a GPSG grant in the fiscal year. 1 applicant applied in the wrong cycle.
  + Awarded about 47% of the applicants ($8,000 total)
  + Grants Committee voted to increase the allocation for Cycle 3 to $8,000, allowing for full funding.
    - Also voted to remove the hidden DEI component of the scoring rubric. Will continue to reevaluate and modify the rubric to either remove or make this component more transparent.
    - Created 2 new subcommittees:
      * Outreach – Will work with awardees to prepare spotlights
      * Impact Evaluation – Will evaluate the impact of grants
* Had to do a by hand vote due to issues with GPSG voting link. In the room, did by hand and by chat for Zoom folks.
  + Aye: 11
  + Nay: 0
  + Passed!

**Old Business:**

* None.

**Adjourned at 8:37 pm**