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**Graduate and Professional  
Student Government**

University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government  
**Legislative Meeting**  
18<sup>th</sup> Session  
November 4, 2025

*\*Please join us at 6:30 for a gallery walk of the renderings of the IMU if you are able.*

1. Call to Order
2. Quorum & Roll Call
3. Presentations
  - a. IMU Renovations Team
    - i. Bill's opening remarks re: IMU changes, history of IMU FEMA funding and restrictions. Now that the time restriction has passed, we can renovate and update the IMU.
    - ii. Started the project around 2 years ago, using architects out of Iowa City. Already begun construction tearing out the Iowa House Hotel, working through the building systematically.
      1. Focusing on wellness, access, and overall usability of the space
      2. Creating new outdoor lounge space
      3. South side wall facing Hubbard Park will become pedestrian focused without parking. Making this area handicap accessible, which it currently is not now. A new front porch will be facing Hubbard Park with a clear access point to the building and food options
      4. Infused Wellness: using natural and tactile materials, natural lighting, focusing on sustainability (carpeting using sustainable materials such as old fishing nets). Nature-inspired color pallet and acoustic paneling made with recyclable materials. More usable lounge space and connecting areas with gaming areas. Food services open and available all in one main pathway (vendor lane). Transparency kitchen will allow people to see into the kitchen. Dining area seating is open with natural wood tones and lots of light, includes a space that has an 'indoor-outdoor' feel ("the garden").
      5. Questions:

- a. Plans to replace the bike parking that is removed? Yes. No plan in place at this time, but the intent is to replace.
- b. Future plans for projects (IMU ramp)? The plan is to eventually redo the IMU ramp and create better pedestrian paths within this area. Pedestrian safety is high priority.
- c. Cost of the IMU project and what is funded by students? \$81.4 million, large portion coming from the Student Fee.
- d. Is there an expected end date for student fee? No, they do not have an expected end date for the fee. This is intended to cover maintenance over time. This is typical procedure for building fees.
- e. Why is the fee separate from the building maintenance fee? Not exactly sure but likely cleaner for bookkeeping. Bill can look into this.
- f. Will the space for the food trucks remain the same? Yes, that access area will stay.
- g. Any flood control measures planned? Already have significant flood control measures after the flood of 2008. Note the absence of windows in lower levels where there used to be windows.
- h. Will the IMU stay open? Yes, the IMU will stay open the whole time with specific sections will be offline at different times for their construction.

b. Shared Governance Leaders

i. Thomas Knudsen, USG President

- 1. Structure as compared to GPSG; more senators (constituency and at-large) and more director positions. Also have an additional branch; justice and equity.
- 2. The judicial branch members are selected by the presidents (both outgoing and incoming).
- 3. Operates GIF funds jointly with GPSG
- 4. Fund student orgs directly through SABAC (GPSG's version is GPAC)

ii. Jillian Arnold, USG External Chief of Staff

- 1. Oversees the executive team
- 2. All executives are paid stipends
- 3. Initiatives: airport shuttle, uber vouchers, lease gap housing, renters guide
  - a. A lot of collab between the USG and GPSG executives and encourage collaboration between directors as well

iii. Sam Mitchell, Staff Council VP

- 1. Sam works in the Chief Medical Office

2. Similar to Faculty Senate, Staff council presidents are set into the three-year roles.
  3. Structure: Mirrors a house and a senate, comprised of 60 members; 39 representing Job Functions and 21 representing ORG
  4. Collaboration: meet with President Wilson and Provost Kregel regularly, meets with healthcare leadership
  5. Committees: councilors must serve on committees
  6. Examples of work: advocated for mental health care to be included in the insurance coverage
  7. Goals of this year: belonging, work-life balance, professional growth and retention, improving the performance review process
    - a. Belonging: Staff Appreciation Grants available to build community
    - b. Council Corner sessions; time to hear feedback from staff and include campus partners (such as Legal Services) for assistance. Different each month.
    - c. Puts out a monthly newsletter for staff including resources
- iv. Roxanna Curto, Faculty Senate VP
1. Serves as the voice of the faculty. Meets with President Wilson and Provost Kregel regularly. Focusing on issues that affect faculty and the university as a whole.
  2. Structure: faculty vote for senators from within colleges (four different tracks for faculty and members from all tracks are able to vote and be elected). The councilors are approximately 20 faculty elected from senators. Their presidential structure is unique in that the VP is preparing to be president the next year, then past president after that. This ensures there are always a few faculty members available.
  3. Policy changes will go to the senate. Historically, all major policy changes have been approved by the senate. Senators also serve on Presidential Charter Committees centered around various topics. Some issues discussed among the faculty senate during their meetings include the Compact, parking/transport, etc.
- v. Questions:
1. Where do post-docs fit in? Staff Council does not technically represent them, but they invite postdocs to stay informed.
  2. Taking classes for credit
  3. What should grad students know about you all?
    - a. Faculty: Grad students sometimes ask for guarantees for certain things but that is not within Faculty Senate's ability, even though they want to help and advocate.
    - b. USG: We are a lot more similar than different, you were all in our shoes at one point.

- c. Staff: staff and grads often work well in collaboration and rely on one another to ensure the university functions
    - 4. Serving on the Presidential Charter Committees:
      - a. Staff council appoints their members to serve, USG tries to have general students serve on these committees instead of directors
  - 4. Old Business
  - 5. New Business
    - a. [D.B.6 Editorial Ad-hoc Committee Formation Bill](#)
      - i. Editorial Ad-hoc Committee Presentation
      - ii. Presentation notes: would like to put together a committee that would run a newspaper/periodical that would work across disciplines and colleges. A hybrid between a peer reviewed journal and a periodical, distributed to every grad and professional on campus.
        - 1. Bill includes recommendations: for open membership to GPSG members at first for all functional roles of this project
        - 2. This would allow G/P students to learn about what is going on outside their programs and colleges, build community, and engage creatively.
        - 3. Could include: department highlights, faculty features, student work
      - iii. Questions: no questions
      - iv. Debate:
        - 1. Travis proposed friendly amendment to change a date that was incorrect. Accepted and amended.
        - 2. Veena asked how this can continue after the end date of April 2026. A: this committee would disband after April 2026, but could be reestablished at that time or the beginning of the next school year.
        - 3. John proposed a friendly amendment to change “biannual” to “semi-annual” to remove ambiguity. Approved and amended.
      - v. [D.B.6 Voting Link](#)
        - 1. Passed.
    - b. [D.B.7 FY26 Grants Cycle 2 Approval Bill](#)
      - i. [FY26 Cycle 2 Results](#)
      - ii. Presentation notes: see results attached above
      - iii. Questions:
        - 1. KK asked if it is permissible for someone to get one of each grant in the same cycle (travel and research). A: yes, if the person qualifies for both. However, one person cannot get two of the same grant in the same fiscal year.
      - iv. Debate: None
      - v. [D.B.7 Voting Link](#)

vi. Passed.

6. Member Government Announcements

- a. Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS)
  - Next board meeting tomorrow
  - AGNS Nightingale Gala planned for April 18th
- b. Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG)
  - i. New medical student-run magazine USHA, focuses on poc and queer grad/professional student content while inviting the wider community to participate
  - ii. DVIP Bench press competition on 11/7 from 3-7pm in MERF
  - iii. Fall Fest – November 17<sup>th</sup>, 12-1pm in MERF
- c. College of Pharmacy Student Leadership Council (COPSLC)
  - i. Get your flu shot!
  - ii. Planning college-wide Jeopardy on 11/11
- d. College of Public Health Graduate Student Association (CPHGSA)
  - i. Spooky Ice Cream and Hot Cocoa social was a success
  - ii. Upcoming events: SNAP food drive, finals study session 12/11
- e. Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
  - i. 3-minute thesis finals 11/13
  - ii. Funding Cycle 2 for travel grants is open
  - iii. Working with grad college and basic needs to make sure students are aware and can access resources
  - iv. Congrats to Ballard & Seashore Spring 2026 Dissertation Fellowship recipients
- f. Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA)
  - i. District 8 Conference 11/7-11/9 (28 attending)
  - ii. National Leadership Conference 11/19-21 (20 students attending)
  - iii. Pumpkin decorating contest
- g. Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA)
  - i. Halloween Party this past Saturday
  - ii. Many law students affected by the government shutdown (rent, essentials, food insecurity)
    - 1. Law building has a satellite food pantry but insufficient and the IMU pantry is inaccessible.
  - iii. Bridge connecting Myrtle lot is problematic and unsafe
    - 1. Need to work with facilities/maintenance to make sure this bridge is winter-ready (it is often slippery)

7. Director Announcements

- a. Communications Director
  - First committee meeting last week
  - Use marketing request forms!
- b. DEI Director
  - i. Working with USG on major food drive for the local area

- ii. Putting together a guide for Trans Week of Visibility to offer resources
- c. Government Relations Director
  - i. DC trip to advocate for SNAP accessibility and student loan access
  - ii. Mental health advocacy; reaching out to the Governor's office and legislators
  - iii. Election infographic
  - iv. Joint initiatives with USG: letter writing campaign, capitol visit, public policy and advocacy career panel
- d. GPAC Director
  - i. Currently between Cycle 2 and 3
  - ii. Rapid requests: holiday-themed events by individual student orgs will usually not be funded by GPAC. This is to ensure funds are equally and adequately distributed and if every small org was granted holiday funding, GPAC would run out of money too quickly
- e. Grants Director
  - Cycle 3 applications close on 11/17
- f. International Affairs Director
  - i. Planning for next semester
  - ii. ISSS international education month (November)- will host a table
  - iii. Increase in International Student Fee (F-1 status and J-1 status)
    - 1. \$125 to \$225 (fall/spring), \$62.5 to \$112.5 (summer)
    - 2. Due to inflation and ISSS need to adequately fund itself
- g. Interprofessional Director
  - i. Fall Fest was a success!
- h. Mental Health Director
  - i. No major updates
- i. Physical Health and Safety Director
  - i. Nite Ride Discussion continuing November 7<sup>th</sup> at charter committee meeting
    - 1. Other solutions: Cambus On-Demand or Johnson County TripConnect
  - ii. Safety walk 11/5 at 6pm
  - iii. Bike infrastructure checkup
  - iv. Question: Travis asked as it gets cold, will the fitness events shift indoors?  
Yes, that is the plan!
- j. Sustainability Director
  - i. 11/18 from 5-6:30 planning on hosting a climate conference event in Big Ten theater
  - ii. With help from Physical Health and Safety committee, have completed half of the bike repair station audits
  - iii. Taking recs for secure bike parking locations on east side
  - iv. Funded another GIF initiative to help ophthalmology department recycle contact lenses

- k. Finance Director
    - i. Finance Legislation Updates:
      - 1. Winter clothing drive
      - 2. SLS immigration support
      - 3. Other ideas; reach out to Patrick
    - ii. SAF timeline: changes are pushing up the timeline to submit proposed SAF changes by about 6 months. Discussions will need to happen earlier on executive end. Due to changes in Iowa law.
  - l. Cabinet Director
    - i. October 1:1s, each monthly meeting is required.
    - ii. Transition documents
    - iii. Committee support needs:
      - 1. We have Canva Pro & Adobe Pro
      - 2. Committee projects allocations: talk to Patrick
  - m. Vice President
    - i. Council of Delegates Teams channel has been deleted and all info moved over to general
    - ii. Engage contract review
    - iii. Complain for a Cookie/Coffee
    - iv. Alumni Board has officially launched, more info coming this Spring
  - n. President
    - i. DC Hawkeye Caucus was a success
    - ii. IMU renovation tour, exciting to see the progress and vision for the space
    - iii. Know Your Rights summary document is being approved by participants, then we will work on distributing that information
    - iv. Budget Review Board meeting on Thursday
    - v. Exec team is scheduling college visits
    - vi. Grad and Professional event: Let's Do Lunch (see poster)
8. Adjourn