



**Graduate and Professional
Student Government**

Legislative Meeting Minutes

19th Session

September 8, 2026

1. Quorum & Roll Call
 - a. [2026-27 Attendance.xlsx](#)
2. Call to Order
3. Brief Modern Rules Review
 - a. Delegates were reminded to use microphones when speaking so remarks can be captured on the recording, and were reminded that during a bill's questioning period, questions may only be directed to the bill's sponsor (with a Point of Privilege available for accommodation needs).
4. New Business
 - a. D.B. 1 GPSG FY2027 Operational Budget
 - i. [Bill](#)
 - ii. [Copy of Budget](#)
 - iii. Notes:
 1. Nathan Chen (Finance Director) presented the FY2027 operational budget of \$150,000, an increase from \$130,000 in FY2026 reflecting an updated, higher estimate of GPSG's student population.
 2. GPSG Costs line items reviewed included: the GPSG Ball (\$9,000, up from a \$5,000 budget / roughly \$8,500–\$8,600 actual spend last year); the Airport Shuttle (reduced to \$1,000 now that the International Programs Office funds most of that cost); the Lease Gap Housing Program (\$3,500, fully used in FY2026); the Winter Clothing Drive (increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500); and continued funding for Birdie personal safety alarm distribution with Campus Safety.
 3. No new annual allocation was proposed for several rarely-used support funds; the Name Change Fund and Emergency Support Fund each retain their existing \$250 balance, consistent with USG's budget, and will be replenished from the GPSG contingency account if they run low.

4. A one-time increase to GPSG director/executive stipends was proposed — the first such increase since approximately 2020 — with Directors at a \$1,750 base, the Finance and Cabinet Directors at 1.5x that amount, the Vice President at 1.75x, and the President at 2x.
5. \$46,000 was proposed for the Grants Program from the operational budget; additional grants funding was noted as likely to be proposed separately from the contingency budget.
6. The remaining funds are distributed among the seven member governments using the established formula (half divided evenly, half by proportional college enrollment); total member government allocations increased by roughly \$4,000–\$5,000 over FY2026, using preliminary enrollment figures pending updated Registrar data.
7. During questions, delegates asked about: bulk-purchasing GPSG merchandise from the contingency account rather than the recurring operational line; the historical basis for the member-government allocation formula; how unused member-government funds revert to the GPSG contingency account at year-end rather than carrying forward within the same government's allocation; and a process concern (raised by IASDA and CPHGSA) about member governments whose funding routes through a separate college account rather than directly through SOBO — Nathan agreed to follow up with SOBO about streamlining that process.
8. Debate was limited to 25 minutes by motion; no objection was raised.
9. For information only (not a vote of this body), Nathan also reviewed the FY2027 contingency budget/spend-down plan — a current balance of approximately \$123,428 — which must stay between \$20,000 and \$80,000 per the GPSG Constitution by fiscal year end. Planned contingency items discussed included the merchandise purchase and additional group fitness funding brought later in the meeting (see D.B. 2 and D.B. 3), a \$1,470 single-instance allocation for fall group fitness classes already approved by President Jacob under his constitutional spending authority, additional supplemental funding for the Grants Program and Student Legal Services, and additional member-government programming funds. The contingency spend-down plan requires approval from the Student Activity Fee Committee rather than a vote of this body.

iv. Vote results:

1. Aye - Unanimous
2. Nay - 0

3. Abstain - 0
- b. D.B. 2 Group Fitness Funding
 - i. [Bill](#)
 - ii. Notes:
 1. Shruti (Physical Health and Safety Director) presented the bill via Zoom to continue GPSG's group fitness class program for graduate and professional students.
 2. The bill increases program funding to \$5,000 and extends the program period to cover Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.
 3. Student feedback cited in support of the program included enjoying classes with similar peer groups, scheduling that fits graduate students' timing better, and requests to continue the classes.
 4. In response to a question, Shruti noted that West Campus locations have been prioritized for convenience and that the yoga class has drawn the most interest and attendance so far; the specific split of classes (yoga, cycling, strength) between East and West Campus recreation facilities has not yet been finalized.
 - iii. Vote results:
 1. Aye - Unanimous
 2. Nay - 0
 3. Abstain - 0
- c. D.B. 3 Merchandise FY2027 Allocation
 - i. [Bill](#)
 - ii. Notes:
 1. Nathan Chen presented the bill to allocate \$5,000 from the GPSG contingency account to purchase GPSG-branded merchandise (e.g., pens, stickers, magnets, and potentially larger items such as umbrellas or blankets) for use in tabling, outreach, orientation, and other promotional events.
 2. Nathan noted that GPSG's existing merchandise supply has been exhausted and that this purchase is intended to last approximately two to four years.
 - iii. Vote results:
 1. Aye - Unanimous
 2. Nay - 0
 3. Abstain - 0
- d. D.B. 4 Constitutional Amendment—U2G Delegate Eligibility
 - i. [Bill](#)
 - ii. [GPSG Constitution](#)
 - iii. Notes:
 1. Max Hanson presented a proposed constitutional amendment to allow Undergraduate-to-Graduate (U2G) program students to serve

as GPSG delegates during their “blended year” — when they are still classified as undergraduates — provided they do not concurrently hold a position in undergraduate student government.

2. The amendment would revise current constitutional language, which presently bars U2G students from serving as delegates during their blended year, to instead permit it on a case-by-case basis subject to Executive Board review.
3. Discussion covered whether U2G delegates, who do not pay graduate tuition/fees and are not eligible for some GPSG-funded benefits (e.g., the GPSG Ball, group fitness classes), should nonetheless be able to vote on GPSG budget allocations; CPHGSA's board (composed largely of U2G students) was raised as an example motivating the change; several delegates suggested that individual member governments could instead revise their own election eligibility rules.
4. Per constitutional procedure, this was a first reading/presentation only. A motion to table the amendment for further debate and a vote at the October 6, 2026 legislative meeting was approved without objection.

iv. Vote results: Not held this meeting — the amendment was tabled by unanimous voice vote for further debate and a vote at the October 6, 2026 legislative meeting.

1. Aye - N/A (tabled)
2. Nay - N/A (tabled)
3. Abstain - N/A (tabled)

5. Member Government Announcements

- a. Association of Graduate Nursing Students (AGNS) – Held its first meeting on September 2; began planning this year's Gala and looking to expand volunteer/planning opportunities. The chair also noted that AGNS is a newer member government whose membership currently skews toward MSN students, with an effort underway to also involve DNP students.
- b. Carver College of Medicine Student Government (CCOMSG) – No specific updates; the group is getting organized for the semester.
- c. College of Pharmacy Student Leadership Council (COPSLC) – Updating its bylaws/constitution to add a Treasurer-Elect position; centralized immunization clinics across pharmacy student organizations; and completed Engagement Week, with the new student cohort enthusiastic about getting involved.
- d. College of Public Health Graduate Student Association (CPHGSA) – First general body meeting is September 14; hosting a voter registration event on September 28; the Iowa Public Health Association legislative forum is October 8.
- e. Graduate Student Senate (GSS) – Held its first general assembly last Thursday and is organizing committees; Cycle 1 travel grant applications are being

reviewed (deadline was September 22) and Cycle 2 opens October 1; next meeting is in early October.

- f. Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA) – Held its first monthly meeting on August 25, including a dental-student “Fever Week” with roughly eight to ten events (e.g., CrossFit, a pop-up coffee and sand volleyball tournament, and barbecues); a vendor fair is scheduled for this Thursday.
- g. Iowa Student Bar Association (ISBA) – Welcomed its 1L class in mid-August and held its first meeting last Monday, with a focus on parking and transportation concerns; planning is underway for its Halloween party (“Scarristers”) and formal (“Barristers”), plus a mental health week; 1L elections are underway for a GPSG representative and three additional 1L representatives.

6. Director Announcements

- a. Communications Director – Fernando reminded delegates to submit their Pictures and Bios for the GPSG website; outlined two goals for the year — building engagement analytics across GPSG's communication platforms and increasing overall engagement by 20% — and announced a partnership with the Tippie College of Business marketing department to offer for-credit communications positions supporting the Communications Committee. Delegates were invited to join the Communications Committee.
- b. DEI Director – Announced an event on September 23 and discussed plans to support international-student diversity (including an international food event/partnership) as well as a broader inclusivity initiative planned for this year.
- c. Government Relations Director – Reported on outreach to state and federal legislators, including a planned Capitol visit in October or early November, and noted that GPSG previously provided funding toward a pediatric research fund that may see renewed legislative interest heading into the upcoming legislative session.
- d. GPAC Director – Cycle 2 funding is open; GPAC (the allocations committee) also supports travel funding for graduate students presenting research in other states.
- e. Grants Director – No update given at this meeting.
- f. International Affairs Director – Oscar reported ongoing work to improve outreach to international students who are less registered/engaged; discussed a possible resolution or bill to extend the Lease Gap Housing Program; and is mapping recent U.S. immigration policy changes (including a shift away from “duration of status”) to help international students prepare, with more information posted on the International Affairs page of the GPSG website.
- g. Interprofessional Director – Announced the GPSG Ball is scheduled for April 17 and is recruiting members for the Interprofessional Committee, which meets every other Wednesday.
- h. Mental Health Director – Rachel was unable to attend; delegates were referred to her slide for updates.

- i. Physical Health and Safety Director – Shruti reported that the group fitness classes bill passed; she is continuing to coordinate with Campus Safety on distributing Birdie personal safety alarms, co-hosting Fresh Check Day (with the Mental Health Director) on the 30th, and coordinating with USG on Stop the Bleed and blood donation campaigns.
 - j. Sustainability Director – Mauricio reported meeting with a campus sustainability contact and Sam Mitchell (Staff Council) to discuss a potential partnership.
 - k. Finance Director – Nathan reported that the operational budget has passed and that he will now focus on fund transfers/disbursement; he is also coordinating a discounted Nights & Weekends parking pass (about \$36/year) that can be used for meetings and evenings/weekends.
 - l. Cabinet Director – Announced open graduate/professional student appointments to university committees, including the Financial Aid Advisory Committee and the University Charter Committee, and encouraged interested delegates to reach out.
 - m. Vice President – Shannon announced the first meeting of the Constitutional Bylaw Review and Amendment Committee (COBRA) next week, an upcoming Board of Regents breakfast, and asked delegates to schedule one-on-one meetings with her.
 - n. President – Jacob recapped a successful start-of-year orientation season (including a visit to the College of Public Health) and noted that GPSG's merchandise supply is now depleted; reported meeting with counterparts from Undergraduate Student Government, Faculty Senate, and Staff Council ahead of a joint Shared Governance evening (5:00–7:00 PM in the Richey Ballroom, IMU) featuring remarks from University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson and a panel discussion, including a look at sustainability priorities for the university's next Strategic Plan (2027–2032); previewed an upcoming Board of Regents meeting and continued work on the Burlington Street Bridge replacement project; and thanked delegates for their attendance before adjourning the meeting.
7. Adjourn