

GPSS October Committee Updates

CELT Advisory Committee --- Adam Foley

The CELT Advisory Board met for the second time this semester on Tuesday, October 20th. Each semester, one meeting is dedicated to discussing a topic of interest amongst the group, which contributes to discussions in teaching and learning. This semester, the topic of Distance and Online Education was chosen. I solicited feedback from students within the Graduate College, via an online survey. Experiences, challenges, and implications to/for Distance and Online Education were gathered, and shared with the group.

The main points raised by **graduate students** included:

- Concern for the rigor of materials and information
- Oversight of distance and online courses seemingly not as thorough
- Expectations of instructors in distance and online courses seemingly not as strict
- Observations of gaps in learning between online and in-person courses
- Problems with effective testing
- Concerns as to how engaged faculty members are
- Interactions between students is critical and often missing
- References for face-to-face interactions.

In addition, other members of the board raised points from a **faculty perspective**:

- Organizing information can be difficult
- Evaluating online courses poses a challenge
- Are faculty members being forced to teach online courses?
- There is a great deal of work upfront in designing online courses
- What are the budget implications of bringing in additional revenue from online courses?
- How do we create a learning community online?
- Difficulty arises when there is a need to interact with the physical environment
- Are we accommodating all students, ability-wise?
- Are these courses formally incorporating into teaching loads?
- Importance of viewing the online environment on its own terms
- There needs to be a structured rubric for evaluating online courses
- We can't assume every student has the technical skills

As a result of our discussion, a sub-committee was formed to discuss the topic further and provide resources and recommendations for CELT and the university community. I will be serving on that sub-committee, and will provide updates as they become available.

Education Abroad Committee --- Brandie Martin

Our committee focuses on approving study abroad programs across all Iowa State programs. We receive proposals, which are usually continuations from previous trips, each month and make sure they fit academic criteria and usually approve. There is nothing to report that is pertinent to graduate students.

Faculty Senate --- Greg Peiffer

Faculty Senate met on October 20th. Main discussion centered on the current budget cuts. What are the options? What is gained with each option and what are the potential pitfalls, keeping in mind the long-term vision of the university?

Subcommittees for Faculty Senate:

Academic Standards and Admissions Committee --- David Failing

At our first meeting, we discussed data on entering first year-students with large numbers of transfer credits, and what this means for advising and other transition programs across the university. This is not a trend we see leveling off anytime soon, so respective departments need to think of how to respond to it. We also discussed data on the new Regent Admission Index and its impact on the academic profile of incoming first year students (higher mean GPA, mean ACT, and mean class rank than under old standards). Lastly, a future item of business for the committee will be to discuss the status of prerequisites university-wide. Are students being held accountable for them? How are we handling students who are not held accountable? Since graduate students teach a large number of first year courses, input from GPSS would be greatly appreciated. Anyone who has something they would like me to bring to the committee re: prerequisites should email me at dfailing@iastate.edu.

Curriculum Committee --- William Marsh

There is a draft of a new policy for allowing students to walk in the spring commencement even if they finish in the summer. All of the other issues involve undergrad programs.

Facilities and Education Resources Committee --- Aaron Zutz

This committee has not met yet.

Graduate Council --- Anthony Stender

1. We voted on and passed a motion to discontinue areas of specialization in business (this was carried over from last spring).
2. We discussed potential problems with distance education. More and more universities are allowing students to take grad courses online. However, this raises concerns as to how students can have an assistantship, take an oral exam, meet testing requirements, be given quality advice by their advisor, etc. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that a sub-committee would be formed that will prepare a list of the main concerns with distance education. The sub-committee will report back during our November meeting.

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3. We held a brief discussion on collaboration between ISU and graduate programs in other countries. This is a popular practice in Europe, but we decided to table the discussion unless or until it becomes a matter of greater interest by the university.
4. We discussed the new criteria regarding commencement, now that summer commencement has been discontinued. The new policy is geared towards students who will finish their research in the summer. These students now can either walk in spring or in fall commencement, if they meet certain requirements.
5. We passed the following measures:
 - a. Proposal for grad minor in applied scientific computing
 - b. Proposal for grad certificate in entrepreneurship and innovation
 - c. Proposals for Master of Engineering-coursework only in Civil Engineering, Information Assurance, Materials Science and Engineering, and Chemical Engineering
 - d. Proposal to change the name of AESHM
6. We've also been discussing the current policy on grad student salaries during times of distressed financial conditions. A lot of our time has been spent on this topic, and currently we are in the process of drafting a recommendation on how state funds and external funds should be handled during financial crises. However, this is only a recommendation on our part, and the president will have to make a final decision on whether or not to make a university policy.
7. Last year a committee was formed on post-doc benefits. We briefly discussed whether or not this committee should be continued, but then we tabled the discussion until November.
8. We are planning to hold an extra meeting in December for the single purpose of preparing for the President's visit in January.

Keep Iowa State Beautiful --- Rebecca Beile & Anita Krause

No update.

Margaret Sloss Women's Center Advisory Board --- Maggie Luttrell

The next meeting of this committee is on November 20th.

Policy Library Advisory Committee (PLAC) --- Joshua Neuman

No update yet. First meeting with representation is on October 27th.

Student Affairs Advisory Board --- Becky Filipowicz

The following items were discussed at the SAAB meeting during the month of October:

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- H1N1 Prevention kits have been made available at all C-store location on campus. These kits are being sold to the students at cost and contain a face mask, thermometer, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, and a pamphlet about H1N1 prevention and symptoms.
- The Ames Police department is working with Vice President of Student Affairs Tom Hill and Campus Town representatives to reduce the number alcohol related incidents occurring in and around Campus Town. A majority of these incidences have been noted to be caused directly and indirectly by the increased number of out of town visitors and the Ames Police department wants to ensure the safety of ISU students.
- The tuition proposal for 2010-2011 was discussed in regards to the impact it may have on deterring students from staying in school or applying to school and the need to keep current student focused projects financed (i.e. student retention/graduation).
- Strategies to increase student retention/graduation rates discussion targeted areas that need to be improved upon to successfully achieve an increase retention/graduation rates (e. g. tutoring, reducing stress, increasing number of professors to better serve student needs, decreasing class sizes).
- Student Veterans Reception took place Friday, October 23, 2009 from 3:00-5: p.m. at the Union Drive Community Center mezzanine. This reception honored ISU's student veterans. Rebecca Filipowicz was in attendance to represent SAAB.

Student Affairs Budget Advisory Committee --- Cassandra Jones

The Student Affairs Budget Advisory Committee met for the first time October 23rd. Highlights were that approximately \$2 million was cut for the FY 2010 budget, but was largely restored by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This year, that money will not be available and we will likely have to cut an additional \$2 million, for a total cut of \$4 million. We will be meeting to discuss the priorities of the Student Affairs Office so they have some direction as to where those cuts can be made without dramatically affecting student life. We will be asking that the Offices of Financial Aid and Admissions be exempt from mandated cuts.

Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) --- Eric Nonnecke

There has not been a meeting for this committee yet.

Student Health Insurance Committee (SHIC) --- Madhu Monga & Andrew Teesdale

No update.

Transportation Advisory Council

1. We discussed methods to improve the general understanding of bicycle regulations, laws, and safety issues.

a. We are considering a joint (DPS, GSB, GPSS, TAC) campaign for Spring:

i. Would encourage people to ride their bikes—but to ride them with a clearer understanding of the “rules.”

ii. Halley Stille (Director of Student Affairs for GSB) handed out a few sample documents including: a recent ISU Daily Article, a sample brochure with bicycle safety information, and examples of stickers that could be placed around the frame of a bike which would direct the owner’s attention to web resources regarding bike safety/education/registration.

b. Again, to emphasize the importance of Bicycle Registration; you only need to register once, and when you do it’s registered “forever.” If you get your bike stolen or if it is impounded, this is a safeguard that can help you claim your bike.

c. More Information:

City of Ames’ Public Works [Bicycle Website](#)

City of Ames’ [Shared-use Paths Map](#)

ISU DPS [Bicycle Regulations](#)

FP&M Bicycle Routes and Parking Location [Map](#)

2. We discussed some parking permit issues and tabled some others to the next meeting. The only noteworthy item for our purposes was in regard to 3-wheeled “motorcycles.” These are considered the same as cars because take up a larger area than a conventional motorcycle. Thus they require an automobile permit, NOT a motorcycle permit.

3. Halley proposed a change in the number of GSB representatives for the TAC. Currently there are 6 positions, though many have remained unfilled for the last several years. The change would reduce the number of positions to 4; but would essentially serve the same populations: one representative each for the Greek Community, Off-Campus Students, Residence Halls, and an At-Large position.

University Committee on Disabilities --- Erica Smith

The disability awareness week took place on October 19th - 23rd and was the major topic of our October meeting. I mentioned to the committee that there were not a lot of activities geared towards students. The advisor of ADA, Steve Moats, said the student organization only has a handful of active students and these students found it difficult to organize and plan events due to the week falling right after midterms. Therefore, the possibility of another disability awareness week geared to educating students about disabilities was proposed for the spring. A tentative campus awareness survey was also distributed and discussed for improvements with hopes to release the survey soon.

University Committee on Lectures --- Ian Ringgenberg & Tara Joyce

- Continuing to review budget proposals for potential speakers through the end of the academic year. The COL is also providing support and answering questions about how to maneuver the system for student groups proposing a speaker. Specific information on potential speaking engagements is confidential until an information release is made public to the student population.
- Dr. Drew for VEISHEA (maybe...hopefully)
- In favor of Varsity Theater purchase
 - Repurpose it into a student life center
 - <http://www.iowastatedaily.com/articles/2009/10/06/news/doc4acc16f7525d6188170222.txt>

Work/Life Advisory Committee --- Lisa Hetzel

- Website: <http://www.provost.iastate.edu/worklife/>
- Upcoming events: November 10th 11:30-1pm
Mary Sigmann will present "**Creating a Clutter-Free Life**" in the Campanile Room. (Bring a friend and lunch)
- Updates: A subcommittee is working on a Parental Leave Policy. Currently, the subcommittee is reviewing parental leave policies from other institutions.