

Graduate Council Meeting November 11, 2021

Present: Professors: Badovinac, Beck, Cwiertny, Doucette, Forbes, Gardner, Greyser, Hoffman, Hribar O'Shaughnessy, Qian, Van Otterloo; Graduate Students: Harper, Post; Graduate College Personnel: Arbisi-Kelm, Danger, McKibben, Teitle, Thein, Sparks, Varga.

Absent: Professors: Kang; Graduate Students: Sells, Waldstein; Graduate College Personnel: Campo.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Thein @ 08:17 AM.

1. Announcements

Dean Thein welcomed Council to the end of semester meeting for the group. She presented to the Board of Regents with her counterparts from ISU and UNI. The presentation focused on the impact of graduate and professional education across Iowa, innovations, and how graduate students are supported. She also reported that the PhD in Criminology and Data Science MS proposals were reviewed by the Council of Provosts and slated toward review by the Academic Affairs Committee and full board review in February. December will be Dean Thein's first Graduate College commencement as the dean, and she is enthusiastically preparing for the day. Our External Relations Director, Katie McKibben, is looking for masters and doctoral students to speak at the respective ceremony. The 3MT final competition is tomorrow 11/12/21. The December 9th meeting will be canceled. Have a wonderful end of the semester and see you in 2022.

GSS travel fund applications are now open on the GSS website. Senators should be sending out reminders to their respective departments. GSS will bring back coffee hour at Cortado for the rest of the academic year to establish a stronger graduate student community. The first coffee hour is scheduled for 12/2/21 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM. In the Spring the Graduate and Professional Student Government will bring back Friday Night Vibes. The Jakobsen conference is changing from a one day event to a professional development series regarding communicating research. The change is expected to branch out in helping the larger graduate student community. If you are interested in hearing more, reach out to Jen Teitle.

Graduate Council student member, Riley Post, was the College of Engineering 3MT winner, congratulations!

2. October 21, 2021, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Discussion of Free Expression on Public Campuses.

Todd Pettys, College of Law professor, joined the University of Iowa in 1999 after practicing law in Seattle. Since coming to Iowa he has been a constitutional law instructor. He has given talks across the state, including a meeting with the Board of Regents. He discussed how laws are viewed by the courts differently for students in public K-12 schools than on public college campuses. He discussed viewpoint discrimination and why the courts find it troubling. He reviewed the first amendment rights faculty and staff have, and how first amendment speech interacts with employment.

Graduate student employees facing pejoratives at our institution are trying to navigate multiple offices, policies, and left feeling helpless. Since teaching assistants are not teaching in the K12 environment, they must respond in a noncoercive way. A way to establish classroom expectations is to point to discipline specific knowledge, methods, and behavioral norm. In a moderated classroom experience the instructor is guiding interaction. An instructor can talk about the impact words have on chilling speech, the distress others experience, and the professional risks when using alienating words.

The university has developed [free speech webpages](#). Information on support and assistance is available on those pages. Students, staff, and faculty may confidentially contact the [Office of the Ombudsperson](#) with a problem or concern.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:35 AM.