

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE Graduate Bulletin

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Special Issue
The 2006
UI Student
Government
Election



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Special Graduate Bulletin March

University of Iowa Student Government Election 2006

by

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

On **March 6 and 7**, all students will be asked to vote on a referendum to initiate the formation of an independent graduate/professional student government. The text of the referendum is below:

The University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) plans to establish a committee to initiate formal separation between the undergraduate senates and the graduate and professional senate in order to resolve all issues regarding election, representation, governance and allocation of student fees, which will complete its work of separation by December 31, 2006. Do you support the formation of this committee and its subsequent work to separate the undergraduate senates from the graduate and professional senate in UISG?

The Graduate Student Senate encourages all students to vote YES on this referendum on ISIS.

Information about this referendum, including the problems with the current system and some of the advantages for both graduate/professional and undergraduate students, are described below.

Goal: Our goal is the recognition of graduate and professional students as a distinct constituency of the university, with their own place at the table in university decision-making procedures alongside faculty, staff, and undergraduates.

Problems with Current System

•Graduate and Professional Students are currently represented through UISG, which is both perceived as and in fact is a primarily undergraduate organization.

-Undergraduates lack the requisite experience necessary to represent graduate and professional student concerns.

-There is a significant conflict of interest if the UISG President, who is inevitably an undergraduate, is expected to represent graduate and professional students in cases where their interest diverge from those of undergraduates.

-The result is that graduate and professional student concerns have traditionally gone unaddressed by UISG and the University.

•Graduate and Professional Student interests and concerns differ significantly from those of undergraduates.

-Graduate and professional students are not only students, but play a wide variety of complex roles within the university, as teachers, independent researchers, etc.

-TA issues, for example, occur for graduate students but not for undergraduates

-Tuition, while it may seem to be a common issue for both, is actually much different issue for graduate students versus undergraduates

-The 21-ordinance is a major concern for undergraduates, and has traditionally been one of the central concerns of UISG; graduate and professional students tend to be either unconcerned with this issue or have a much different view of the matter.

•Attempts to involve graduate and professional students in UISG have been unsuccessful.

-Graduate and professional students, quite naturally, resent being grouped with and represented by undergraduates.

-Graduate and professional students have much stronger collegiate identity, and much stronger collegiate governments, which already perform many, but not all, of the functions of UISG, but which, unfortunately, are not recognized as equal to UISG.

Advantages of Independence for Graduate and Professional Students

•Assuring representation of graduate and professional students in all relevant campus committees

-For example, the Council on Teaching currently has “student representatives”, but no graduate student representatives.

•Assuring that all campus constituencies are represented

-College of Pharmacy professional students are not currently represented in GPSS.

-Possibility of expanding to represent post-docs and other unrepresented groups.

-Makes it easier to expand when new professional programs are created.

•Assuring that student fees benefit all groups equitably.

•Allowing graduate students to co-operate with undergraduates as equals, rather than compete as a minority group with the whole.

•Consistency with other peer institutions.

-The trend in recent years has been towards the establishment of separate governing bodies for graduate and professional students.

-We are currently one of only three institutions in the Big 10 without an Independent graduate and professional student government.

-We are just asking for what many of peers already have.

Advantages of Independence for Undergraduates

•Undergraduate leaders can focus without hesitation on undergraduate issues and concerns

-Can speak more confidently on “student issues” if “student” is limited to “undergraduate”

-No longer need to try to justify the relevance of what they are doing to graduate and professional students.

•Graduate and professional students no longer have the ability to arbitrarily veto legislation which is not of concern to them

•Genuine co-operation between graduate and professional students can only result from having equal governing bodies.

•More unified voice on issues that are of concern to both groups

-Representatives of both UISG and the Graduate and Professional Student Government can speak on behalf of the issue, rather than, for example, only the single UISG President.

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Information for Graduate Students about the UISG Candidates: Below is a description of the candidates running for University of Iowa Student Government President/Vice-President. Each of the four tickets was asked to answer several questions of particular relevance to graduate students; their answers are presented in this handout.

**www.uiowa.edu/~gss
grad-senate@uiowa.edu**

Voting is March 6 & 7 on ISIS – log on to isis.uiowa.edu vote for candidates, and to vote YES on the referendum to initiate the formation of an independent graduate/professional student government.

KING KONG PARTY

Slogan: Party with a Purpose

<http://www.voteflip.com>

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Flip Arkulary (Junior - Religious Studies)

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Pamela Wong (Sophomore - Pharmacy & Chinese)

GRAD/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS ON TICKET:

Brett Barker (Pharmacy Grad Student),

Kim Lamon (Social Work Grad Student)



was the Event Coordinator for the 10,000 Hours Show Volunteer Fair. I am on the Graduate Social Work Student Association. I am also a member of the GLBTAU.

3. How do you think that a good friend would describe you?

Flip: A good friend would describe me as dedicated, honest, and industrious. I also think that my friends would describe me as down-to-earth, and easy to get along with. Another thing I have heard is that I am always cheerful.

Pamela: They would say that I am very studious. They would also say that I am very approachable and warm.

Kim Lamon: Hard-working, dedicated, and spirited.

1. Describe your platform and primary goals for office if you are elected, as they pertain to graduate students:

In our platform we openly endorse the March 6th/7th referendum which would ask students if they would be in favor of restructuring UISG to give the Graduate and Professional students more or full autonomy. Our Party will be campaigning for this over the next two weeks, and after the referendum is passed we will to be the most efficient in beginning the separation. We would also be in favor of appointing a senator from the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) to act as a non-voting leader of the committee. As of now, there will be fifteen people on the committee, and only five of which will be from the GPSS. We don't feel this is a fair number of Graduate and Professional Students, and would push for a GPSS leader to run the committee.

2. Tell us about any relevant student government or leadership experiences:

Flip Arkulary: I was one of the Founding Fathers of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, which has been very successful. I have also been a UISG Senator for two terms, and am the President of Habitat for Humanity. I have also served as the Chief Justice for the Interfraternity Council. I have worked on numerous political campaigns, and helped to run the Bull Moose Party campaign last year.

Pamela Wong: President of Slater Residence Hall last year. I am currently the Vice President of the Associated Residence Halls, a waitress at a downtown establishment, member of the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, member of the Event Committee for Dance Marathon, and a volunteer for the 10,000 Hours Show.

Kim Lamon: I am currently a second-year Masters in Social Work student. I graduated from Simpson college with a BA in Sociology in 2004. I am currently the Service Chair of the Graduate Student Senate. I am also on the Graduate Council. I

4. What is the most pressing issue or challenge facing UI Grad Students and how would you attempt to solve it?

We will ensure that it is affordable for Graduate Students to complete their degrees. We will work at the Regents and Legislative level to lobby for more funding for financial aid and research grants. We understand it is crucial that Graduate Students have funding to assist their continued-learning at the University of Iowa.

5. What do you think about the referendum regarding separating graduate/professional students from UISG? How will you vote?

We will vote yes. We feel that passing the referendum will ensure that Graduate and Professional Students are best represented. We believe that initiating this referendum will improve student government for both Graduate and Professional students and Undergraduates alike.

6. If elected, what actions will you take to ensure graduate and professional students' needs are met and concerns are addressed?

During this campaign, we will strive to make sure that students vote yes on the Referendum. After we are elected, we will put it into action.

We would also like to better utilize UISG committees, such as Academic Affairs and Student Services, to really include Graduate and Professional students in the leadership and decision-making process of these committees and work for better representation before the separation.

BIG AWESOME PARTY

Slogan: Get elected or die tryin'

<http://www.votethebap.com>

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Atul Nakhasi (Freshman - Biology)

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Julie Mickelson (Freshman - Business Marketing)

GRAD/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS ON TICKET:

Matt Kishinami (First year Law Student)

Kelli Andresen (First year Journalism/Mass Communication Grad Student)

1. Describe your platform and primary goals for office if you are elected, as they pertain to graduate students:

The student government of the University of Iowa must be representative of its student body. The University of Iowa has made significant gains in the diversity and quality of its student body, but such gains have not been replicated in the student government. A more diverse student government will have a greater reach to the plethora of students who call Iowa their home. Government exists to represent its people. How many athletes, minorities, underclassmen, graduate students, resident hall occupants, and non-political science majors occupy top positions in the current student government? Not many.

The Big Awesome party under the Nakhasi-Mickelson leadership plans to give a true representation of the university through their ticket. Everyone wants to have good teachers, affordable tuition, efficient transportation, pleasant resident halls, fair university policies, and a safe environment.

High-quality faculty must be attained and maintained. This will help open up top-level jobs to the current graduate students of the university. A prestigious faculty will also help lure more competitive students who are more likely to attain well-placed positions in the job market. This will in turn produce a greater number of donations, grants, and alumni support for the university. And in the end an affordable tuition level can be sustained through the increased support.

Finally, the pride and prestige of the university will reach unprecedented levels. Research funds for graduate students must not only be sustained but increased as well. The university graduate schools must stay technologically-advanced and make sure our students have the best facilities available to them.

When our graduate students enter the real world they must be prepared and should be proud to stand up as Iowa alumni.

2. Tell us about any relevant student government or leadership experiences:

Nakhasi was President of a class business during junior year of high school at Waterloo West. He was also one of the leaders of Senior Seminar, a mandatory meeting session for all seniors once a week meant for college preparation. He was a tennis team captain for two years and the leader of

the academic decathlon team as well. Nakhasi currently serves on the Student Traffic Court at the University of Iowa. Mickelson was a four-year Vice-President for West Des Moines Valley. She also was the golf team captain and volunteered heavily since a young age.

3. How do you think that a good friend would describe you?

A good friend would describe Atul Nakhasi as one who is highly motivated and determined. He has a high intellect and is very hard working. Nakhasi works in an efficient manner and will overcome any necessary obstacles in order to achieve success. He is not easily deterred and has strong leadership qualities, which he hopes to exemplify through the position of student government President. Julie Mickelson is a very active and driven person. She is dedicated to helping others and works diligently. Julie has a passion for leading and representing others and seeks to continue doing so at the University of Iowa.

4. What is the most pressing issue or challenge facing UI Grad Students and how would you attempt to solve it?

The relationship between alumni and faculty is one major point that should be improved for the benefit of all university graduate students. There should be a greater administration responsibility to establish influential associations with top employers.

University of Iowa graduate students should not have to struggle with finding top-level jobs and should have a curriculum that better prepares them for this placement. This can be accomplished by putting greater pressure on administration to attract prestigious faculty and create a difference between a typical graduate degree and one from the University of Iowa.

5. What do you think about the referendum regarding separating graduate/professional students from UISG? How will you vote?

We will vote in favor of the separation. The majority of all other universities have different senates for the undergraduate and graduate students. The concerns for both groups are different, and thus those who represent each group should be different. Having undergraduates represent concerns that don't deal with their constituency is illogical. The separation of the senates has long been over due, and it should finally take place.

6. If elected, what actions will you take to ensure graduate and professional students' needs are met and concerns are addressed?

We will maintain continuous and productive communication with graduate students. In fact, Nakhasi plans to go to medical school and Mickelson to business school as well. The concerns of the current graduate students will be those of both one day. So they know the importance of sharing the concerns of those who are currently in graduate school. Nakhasi and Mickelson will make sure to establish a powerful relationship with the Graduate Student Senate and take all their feelings into consideration when decisions affecting them are at hand. We cannot forget who represents over 1/4 of the university student population. And Mickelson and Nakhasi will be two of those who stand up for all people, including the graduate students.

THE IC PARTY

Slogan: Do you see what IC?

<http://www.votetheic.com>

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Shannon Thomas (Junior - Communication Studies and French)

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Zachary Johnson (Senior - Biology)

GRAD/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS ON TICKET:

Zarine Anklesaria (Health Management and Policy Grad Student)

Aggie Thompson (Second Year Pharmacy Student)



father for Beta Theta Pi. He was this year's Homecoming King as well as active in the community with Habitat for Humanity.

3. How do you think that a good friend would describe you?

In a word, Shannon would be described as driven. Zach is sincere and passionate about his causes.

4. What is the most pressing issue or challenge facing UI Grad Students and how would you attempt to solve it?

One of the most day to day issues that Grad Students face is that of parking; both in space and in cost. Unfortunately, we can't wish space into existence, so we have to address cost. There are two ways we propose to solve this: 1) commuter parking passes which would allow free lot parking as well as ramp parking for off hours of the day, and 2) allowing an allotted number of parking tickets to be returned to the UI without being paid.

5. What do you think about the referendum regarding separating graduate/professional students from UISG? How will you vote?

We support the findings of the committee researching this issue and believe that the best solution will be the separation of the GPSS from the SA. The problem that potentially lies with this, however, is that there will be an even greater lack of communication. To combat this, we propose better use of newsletters as well as periodic meetings combining the graduate senate body and the undergraduate senate body. These meetings would be solely focused on issues that involve all students, thereby increasing the effectiveness of each senate's meeting as well as work in a unified way on the issues that really matter to all students.

6. If elected, what actions will you take to ensure graduate and professional students' needs are met and concerns are addressed?

The key term of The IC is "engage." This means engaging more students into the UI and IC communities as well as into the UISG processes. We want to make UISG more accessible to students, thereby engaging them and ensuring that their voices are heard. UISG currently pays a student to act as a Marketing and Public Relations Executive. We would like to see that position being used more effectively and efficiently to reach out not only to Undergraduate Students but Graduate Students as well. The web is another underutilized tool that has great potential. By cyberizing, we would be able to offer more to all students by, again, making UISG more available and accessible.

1. Describe your platform and primary goals for office if you are elected, as they pertain to graduate students:

There are many issues that pertain not only to undergraduate students but also to graduates. Here are a few that we have chosen to address in our platform because we see them as realistic solutions, not idealistic dreams.

1) We would like to address the issue to parking, particularly for those who serve as TAs. One specific idea we've had to do this is to work more closely with the Student Traffic Court. This would enable us to work to reduce the cost for commuters as well as implement a standard of 3 "freebie" parking tickets.

2) As you well know, UISG has been battling around the issue of separating the GPSS from the undergraduate senates. We support the establishment of a committee to further look at this idea as well as their findings. Should the GPSS, UCS, and UAS decide to separate, we maintain that they reconvene three to four times per year to address issues that are relevant to all students. This will help increase the communication and information flow as well as provide a better venue for effective change.

2. Tell us about any relevant student government or leadership experiences:

Shannon is a second-year Resident Assistant on the Honors Learning Community. She is serving as the Director of Event Production for The 10,000 Hours Show, a board member for a local non-profit (The James Gang), and sits on two of UISG's charter committees (Financial Aid Advisory Committee and University Lecture Committee). Last semester Shannon was a TA for a first-year seminar course.

Zach is the current Undergraduate Collegiate Senate Executive. He sits on the board for the Iowa Children's Museum, a non-profit organization, and is the Vice President and founding

GOT MCELLIGOTT/STARK?

Slogan: Does a student body good

<http://www.doesastudentbodygood.com>

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Peter McElligott (Junior – History and Political Science)

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

Addison Stark (Senior/Entering Grad Student - Chemistry)

GRAD/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS ON TICKET:

Kristopher Thornburg (Industrial Engineering Grad Student)

Punit Vyas (Public Health Grad Student)



Does a Student Body Good

tees.

Addison has been active in UISG since the all university elections in March 2005. In that time he has chaired the Academic Affairs committee, as well as being actively involved in the Scholarly Presentations and Research Grants and Governmental Relations committees.

1. Describe your platform and primary goals for office if you are elected, as they pertain to graduate students.

Graduate students are a diverse group. There are many more international graduate than undergraduate students. Many graduate students have families, while some lead single lives. Often the needs of these students are overlooked by not only UISG, but also much of the rest of the University administration. One example is affordable family housing for students. When not threatened entirely by prospective tennis courts, areas like Hawk-eye Court go without basic services, such as internet, that the University provides its undergrad on-campus housing. Students from China cannot visit their family at home without voiding their visas. We want to make sure that these needs are not only addressed but satisfied, by pushing administrators to develop and carry out programs that will meet the needs of its diverse graduate student body.

An issue that has come up again and again in UISG is the separation of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate from the two Undergraduate Senates. Again and again it has been defeated out of ignorance or apathy. This year, Addison and two other student senators introduced a referendum that will, if passed, create a committee to finally undertake this separation. We are very supportive of this referendum as we feel that it will allow graduate students to deal with the issues that affect them without compromising their time and energy.

2. Tell us about any relevant student government or leadership experiences.

Peter served as a freshman senator, was the president of Mayflower dormitory's government, is one of the founders and the current president of the political science honors fraternity, he is a member of the University of Iowa Lecture Committee, is the Events Coordinator of the University Democrats, and served as an intern with Senator Tom Harkin.

3. How do you think that a good friend would describe you?

Addison-I was unsure how to answer this question so I turned to my friend Melanie for some guidance. After talking to her for a bit I understood what my most genuine qualities are in a friendship. Most importantly I always pay attention to details and make sure that I am around to help out my friends. I tend to draw people in instead of alienating people since my personality isn't static or one-dimensional. I definitely have my priorities but I always find time to kick back with my friends.

Peter- What I hope the first word to come to a friends mind when they think about me is loyalty. If you are not loyal, what else are you? I also think my friends would describe me as fun, adventurous, open-minded, and idealistic. My friends laugh about how passionate I can get about many issues and how after reading a great book I'm sometimes too emotionally drained to go downtown. I work hard never to judge my friends, or strangers for that matter and I know my friends appreciate the straightforward answers I give them when they ask for my opinion.

4. What is the most pressing issue or challenge facing UI Grad Students and how would you attempt to solve it?

We see the most pressing challenge of being a graduate student as having to play so many roles; as a student, a teacher, a researcher, and often a spouse and parent. Making the transition from being a student in one period to being the teacher in the next period is no easy feat, as Addison can attest to (this is his second semester of being a TA, he has taught in both the math department and the chemistry department). This is a large issue that has no real solution. The only way to work to better this situation is with sufficient representation for graduate students. The best route to achieve this is by fully supporting the upcoming referendum, and to put ample work in the separation of the GPSS from the SA. Hopefully a more autonomous GPSS would give grad students more time to work on the issues that affect them. Additionally, UISG as a whole needs to be more sensitive to and supportive of the diverse needs of graduate students. Again, international students, students with families, students working as both teachers

and researchers – all must be given the attention and support they need to be successful and satisfied in their work here at the University of Iowa.

5. What do you think about the referendum regarding separating graduate/professional students from UISG? How will you vote?

We support the referendum wholeheartedly and believe in the separation of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate from the Student Assembly. We feel that more meaningful work will be completed by two separate governing bodies. For example, when issues that are more pertinent to graduate students, then their governing body will be able to deal with it most effectively and efficiently without having to justify their actions to the undergraduate student senate, and vice versa. This will allow better representation for both bodies. We will both be voting yes, along with our entire party since we feel that this is such a vital issue to guaranty the equal representation of all student voices.

Of course, we don't think graduate and undergraduate students should be entirely segregated from each other. Undergrads and grads alike can learn and benefit from interacting with each other and collaborating on projects on campus. We'd like to look into ways of encouraging that type of interaction in a way that is beneficial to both sides. A good way to do that might be encouraging more integrated student groups that combine both graduates and undergraduates working toward similar goals.

6. If elected, what actions will you take to ensure graduate and professional students' needs are met and concerns are addressed?

Since Addison will be a graduate student next year, this will be one of our administration's utmost concerns! Our two-pronged approach seeks to both give grad and professional student more autonomy from the undergraduate students as well as to address the disparities in funding and programs for international students and students with families. One important step to ensuring that the needs of graduate and professional students are met is, of course, facilitating the separation of the graduate and professional student senates from that of the undergraduate student senates. In addition, we must keep our ears open to voiced concerns. To be more receiving of concerns we intend to have Addison attend as many different professional and graduate college government meetings as possible. This way there will be a clear bridge to the executive office of the student body. We fully intend to represent the whole student body, not just those who want to be able to shake their underage groove thang's downtown.