SERVICE

Through service, students can contribute to the strength of the department and the wider community while developing important leadership skills. As committee members, organization leaders, and conference organizers, students play a crucial role in shaping the future of the department and the University as a whole. Below is a partial list of organizations and events that our students contribute to and help lead.

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ENGLISH (AGSE) represents the graduate students on the department’s faculty Executive Committee, serves as a liaison between students and faculty, greets and orients new students, holds meetings to discuss student concerns, and hosts fundraising, informational, and social events. Each year the organization chooses a group of students to represent it in faculty committee meetings. See https://uiowaagse.wordpress.com/.

GENERAL EDUCATION IN LITERATURE PROGRAM ASSOCIATE Each year the department’s General Education in Literature (GEL) program hires a group of experienced teaching assistants to serve as Program Associates. The duties of the Program Associates include leading the pre-fall orientation for new teaching assistants, helping to lead the fall 1 s.h. colloquium for new GEL teaching assistants, and advising a small group of 4-6 new teaching assistants through the academic year. The announcement to apply for a Program Associate position goes out to all GEL teaching assistants in the spring. All those with a teaching assistant appointment the following year are eligible to apply.

CRAFT CRITIQUE CULTURE is an annual interdisciplinary conference focusing on the intersections of critical and creative approaches to writing both within and beyond the academy. It brings together established scholars and graduate students for a two-day conference around a selected theme. The conference is planned and run by students who serve on the organizing committee, moderate panels, volunteer, and present papers.

THE IOWA JOURNAL OF CULTURAL STUDIES describes itself as “a fully open access peer-reviewed publication edited by graduate students at The University of Iowa that mixes traditional approaches and contemporary interventions in the interdisciplinary humanities and interpretive social sciences.” See http://ir.uiowa.edu/ijcs.

THE IOWA REVIEW is a nationally recognized literary magazine. It invites volunteer readers (mostly MFA students, but Ph.D. students are welcome) to join the fiction, poetry, or nonfiction reading groups. Volunteers read and evaluate unsolicited submissions and are listed as Editorial Assistants on the masthead. For more information on joining a reading group, please email iowa-review@uiowa.edu. Find out more about TIR at iowareview.org.

COGS. UE Local 896-COGS is the graduate student union at the University. Union members can serve in various capacities. As the COGS website explains, “At all levels of our Union – Local, Regional, and National – democracy dictates. Members directly elect all Officers, Committee Chairs, Stewards, and Delegates on an annual basis.” See http://cogs.org.

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE (GSS) is a University-sponsored and funded organization made up of elected or appointed graduate students from each department within the Graduate College. GSS is supervised by the Graduate College Dean and exists to give graduate students a voice to engage in dialogue with University administration, as well as to provide opportunities for professionalization, public outreach, funding and showcasing graduate research, and social events. GSS’s primary obligations are its Travel Funds Committee and the Jakobsen Memorial Conference Committee, but senators may also serve on the Social, Student Teaching, Voices, and International Student Committees. Alternatively, some senators are elected to represent GSS as delegates on Graduate and Professional Student Government and Graduate Council. See https://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/home.
GRADUATE COUNCIL is made up of four graduate student representatives, one of whom is the GSS President, faculty representatives from various colleges, and Graduate College administrators. Council members receive reports on the effectiveness of the Graduate College and graduate programs and work together to improve graduate education. Council members also vote on proposed changes to program curricula. See https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/faculty-staff/graduate-council.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT (GPSG) is the student government for graduate and professional students at the University of Iowa and is responsible for supervising and funding all graduate and professional organizations. It represents the University’s nearly 10,000 graduate and professional students, and advocates on their behalf to university administrators, the Board of Regents, and state and federal legislators.

Its mission is to improve the experience of graduate and professional students at the University of Iowa. GPSG is a representative democracy, with delegates elected from all graduate and professional students at the University of Iowa. Delegates from each college (Graduate, Law, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, and Business) are elected by college-level student organizations. For the Graduate College, that body is Graduate Student Senate. In addition to the delegates, GPSG is comprised of its Executive Officers and its Committee Chairs, elected each spring. GPSG itself holds monthly meetings and is also heavily involved in campus-wide initiatives and committees. See https://gpsg.uiowa.edu.