Monday, March 27th 2023; 6:30 PM
Memorial Union Sun Room

Call to order 6:32 PM
- Roll Call
- Statement of Quorum by the Chair
  - Quorum Confirmed
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - Minutes approved
- Amendments to the Agenda
  - None presented
  - Agenda Approved

Speakers
- Shawn Norman, Senior Vice President for Operations and Finance
  - Overview of where university funds come from
    - 31% from tuition ($508M)
    - 25% from grants and contracts ($414M)
    - 23% from athletics, resident halls, and bookstore ($371M)
    - 17% from state & federal ($277M)
    - 4% from Fedloan ($66M)
    - 1% from Investment income ($13M)
    - Has this changed throughout the years?
      - Enrollment is dropping, but it’s leveled out
      - Research is growing
  - Where does this money go?
    - 53% to salaries and benefits
    - 18% to financial aid and scholarships
    - 13% to operation and maintenance
    - 10% to supplies and equipment
    - 4% to utilities
    - 1% to debt payments
  - Three-year revenue trend
    - Bar graph showing where revenue is coming from, fairly stable over 3 year period
  - Three-year expense trend
    - Again, stable behavior
  - 2024 Budget
    - $12M state appropriation request
    - Governor budget proposal
      - $4.4M increase to state appropriation
    - Budget assumptions
      - $20M for Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Phase 2
      - 1% salary increase and 7% utility cost increase
  - Sophia Magill, Senior Advisor to the President, Strategic Plan
9 year plan, 2022-2031
- Vision: Advance lang grant ideals by putting human creativity to work
- Using Iowa State’s values and vision, four pillars were created to focus on for Iowa State’s plans
- Aspirational statements: Be the most student-centric leading research university, be the university that cultivates a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment, etc.

Strategic plan jump start initiatives:
- University-wide student success
- Recruiting new students
- Etc.

Advisory committee
- John Lawrence, Sharon Perry-Fantini, Dristi Darr, Christine Cain, other university leadership

Seeking innovative ideas that meet aspirational goals
- Faculty and staff must submit online through the strategic plan website
- Deadline is April 28th
- Truncated due to fiscal year schedule
- Review “To Be Statements”
- Timeline to select efforts is July 1
- This is a process, think about how you might help accomplish these goals

What about the budget for this plan, what would each proposal get?
- That isn’t specifically said, because depending on where you are on campus, $10k could be a lot or a little, and it puts restrictions or distractions on these proposal
- Total budget depends on what proposals are submitted

Is it better to benefit campus wide, or department?
- These are university-wide initiatives, but doesn’t preclude a department effort

Would the project proposer be responsible for the project?
- Yes

Are these year-long projects, or how do extensions work?
- Committed funding will be on one year periods, and may continue based on project progress

If a grad student wants to submit a proposal, who can be the sponsor?
- Any faculty or staff member

Can budget include course releases or personnel?
- Budget includes areas for this

You can work with exec team to develop an idea
  - William Graves, Dean of the Graduate College & Heather Greenlee, Associate Dean of Student and Scholar Success
Grad student won award from midwestern associate of graduate schools for a master’s thesis
- Kyra Streck, Major professor: Kelly Reddy-Best

Opportunities
- Emerging leaders academy – April 10th application deadline
- Assistantships opening for doctoral students
  - Information on graduate newsletter

Graduate Assistantships
- Updates to financial support
  - 3% increase to minimum required stipend
  - 50% reduction for three fees rather than one
- Deposit frequency changing starting May 15
  - Twice monthly rather than once
- If you’re not on appointment for the summer, and come back in the fall, the first deposit isn’t until September 8
- Only a problem if appointment begins after August 16
- No-interest loan to students in this category is going to be available, paid back gradually later in fall
- Will there be a similar gap for people who teach in the second half of summer?
  - Maybe, he’ll look into that
- Will students be prompted if they are eligible for this program?
  - Maybe, he’ll look into that
- If we have questions, how do we contact you?
  - Talk to president Cain, or email him directly

Announcements
- Graduate pages now have median time to degree data listed

Feedback Requested
- mheather@iastatee.edu
  - Bridge funding programs
  - 12-weeks funding
    - Arrival of a child
    - Temporary incapacitation
  - Annual performance evaluation
    - Helps a student grow and know what they could be doing better, and how they’re doing based on advisor expectations
  - Cyclone family weekend
    - October 14

Performance Evaluations
- Annual Evaluations
  - Doctoral student (required)
  - Master’s (recommended)
  - Section 9.3.1 of graduate college handbook
• Current State
  ○ Surveyed graduate programs
  ○ 59 responses
• 10 dimensions of performance
  ○ Quality of scholarship
  ○ Scholarly Productivity and focus
  ○ Knowledge of Discipline
  ○ Research Skills
• 10 Dimensions of Performance
  ○ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 scale, 1 is worst, 5 is best
• Vision is that this system would be used by people who evaluate many students
• What are potential consequences?
  ○ This isn’t meant to be a punitive system, this is meant to enable a student to grow as a researcher by hearing feedback from their professor

• Executive Reports to the Senate (5 min each)
  ○ Report of the President - Christine Cain - gpsspresident@iastate.edu
    ■ Strategic plan initiative and “To be” statements
    ■ Workday structure release and student impact
    ■ Graduate council
      ● Vote did not pass for new policy inclusion of a course only master’s of science
  ■ VPSA
    ● Watching legislature for HF 616
  ■ Student Union
    ● Making space for graduate students
  ■ Awards Committee: Research, Teaching, and Leadership Awards
    ● Great submission turnout
    ● Will be announced at our research conference on April 12th
  ■ DEI Work Group
    ● Working to establish…
      ○ Permanent committee and board member position
      ○ Allocations to DEI specific initiatives to student orgs
  ■ Feedback on campus mobility
  ■ Submitting graduate issues and news coverage
  ■ About my position
    ● 5-20 hours per week, average of 10
    ● Representing senators on campus
      ○ Meet with provost, president, dean Graves
      ○ Attend Board of Regents meetings
      ○ Sit on various councils for university development
      ○ Help executive team
  ○ Report of the Vice President - Caitlyn Campbell - gpssvicepres@iastate.edu
About my job

- Available on canvas and bylaws
- Preside over senate meetings
- Sets the agenda, communicates senate meeting information to senators
  - Lots of logistical stuff, including onboarding senators at the beginning of the semester
- Chair the rules committee
- Attends leadership meetings with the president
  - Assumes the responsibility of the president when absent

Report of the Treasurer – Juan Panelo - gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu

- Allocations Bill
- Working on budget for next fiscal year
- Manage the money of GPSS
- Spend more time during allocations and budget planning, but other than that not very time intensive position

Report of the Senate Information Officer - Garrison Gunter - gpsssio@iastate.edu

- Created end of the year report template for transition to future leadership
- Have all the nominees needed for CASTLE advisory group, will be meeting with vice president and CIO Kristin Constant in the next month
- Discord seems to be going smoothly
  - Any feedback?
- First time applicants are still getting confused about the automated PAG email, I am talking with the PAG contact in the graduate college to resolve this problem
- If you can’t attend, tell Garrison in advance that you’ll send a substitute
  - Email Garrison, not Caitlyn
- If you’re interested in the position
  - He chairs election committee
  - Monitors attendance
  - Onboards senators
  - Keep record of attendance
  - Co-chair marketing and public relations committee
  - Oversee PAG system

Report of the Senate Engagement Officer - Efrain Rodriguez-Ocasio - gpssseo@iastate.edu

- Role responsibilities
  - Role needs to be more thoroughly defined
  - Keeping tabs on things at university and state level that might affect graduate students
  - Getting involved with board of regents
  - Establish a concrete plan for legislative engagement
  - Developing position guidelines
- List of university-wide committees maintenance, and identifying good representatives for these committees
- Being a representative yourself when there isn’t a good representative

○ Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair - Ryan Everett - gpssconfchair@iastate.edu
  - Coming up April 12th never too late to register for food and workshops
  - Keep inviting friends, family, and colleagues
  - Day-of registration
  - Presentation slots are full – Poster abstracts due Wed. 3/29
  - Keynote speakers are Dr. Rachel Smith and Dr. Michael Brown from School of Ed.
  - Photographer (Blake Lanser) confirmed for headshots (Will be in MU campanile room from 9:30am to 2pm)
  - We need 8 to 10 more faculty judges – SENATORS, please invite faculty you know will follow through (we need poster judges for one hour, either 11-12, 12-1, or 1-2; AND presentation judges available from 2:30 to 4:30
  - Responsibilities overview:
    - Serve on social committee
    - Organize GPSS conference
    - Backend heavy
    - Slow spring semester is good for this job
    - Fall is slower for this job
    - 20 hour weeks in the spring

○ Report of the Health and Wellness Officer - Kimia Noroozi - gpsswellness@iastate.edu
  - Student health and wellness advisory board application will be up soon
    - Because its paid hourly, international students can’t apply
    - Showing up to leadership and board planning meetings
  - Student health and wellness symposium for next year, date has been set
    - If you want to get involved, talk to Kimia
  - Position responsibilities:
    - Regular meetings with student health and wellness leaders
    - Depends on what event is coming up, generally 3-8 hours per week
    - Chairing social committee

○ Student government senators at large – Eddie Mahoney – ermahone@iastate.edu
  - Student government is in crunch season
  - Keeping seat as graduate senator next year
  - April 14th is inauguration
  - Last week approved new contract with Iowa State Daily
    - They get a bit more money and will be audited
    - Have to have more graduate student coverage
- Passed bills related to ASSET to fund non-profits in the area
  - $260,000
- Big picture bill
  - $2.4 million
- Concerns that Stu Gov will be $400,000 over-budgeted
- If you’re interested in being part of student government, there will be an email with open positions in executive cabinet

- Unfinished Business
  - None Presented
- New Business
  - Spring allocations bill
    - Finance committee present the bill
    - 18 allocation requests
    - $15,703 requested
    - $12,290 approved
    - $9,346.02 allocated
    - What happened with the Pakistan Student Organization?
      - Request wasn’t done properly, budget wasn’t created well, just a broad description of money use
    - What happens if a budget needs to change?
      - If this change is communicated and approved, the org can spend the money on something else
    - Floor open for debate
      - No debate
    - Bill passes

- Senate Forum
  - PAG streamlining, anyway we can streamline this would be great
    - We’re working on it
  - Upping allowance for PAG grants from $200 to $600, also, why do you have to apply a month in advance?
    - Still putting budget together for next year, so can’t answer limit increase
    - The money amount is so inconsistent month to month that it’s very hard to increase a limit like this
    - The month deadline is decided by a bill from a few years ago
    - Updates to the PAG system take a long time because of working with graduate IT department
  - Are all executives positions one year terms?
    - Yes
    - No term limits
    - August 1 – August 1
  - “Non-funded” end of year social
  - More discussion of GPSS funds
  - More snacks at senate meetings
    - Costs too much
Loan program for paycheck gap
  - Math department solution was no interest loans a few semesters ago, people were very unhappy

Was GPSS involved with the solution to move to bimonthly payment?
  - No, not really

Where does GPSS stand on students being employees of Iowa State? Is there any standing on this?
  - No official standing
  - Students have a lot less restrictions (we can take stances on university policies)
  - Intended to benefit us, but it doesn’t
  - Students when it’s convenient for the university, employees when it’s convenient for the university
  - There would be lots of limitations to what we can do, if we were full employees

Anything smaller we can get changed for grad students in the meantime?
  - Nothing we can’t try

How are grad students at university of Iowa classified?
  - They are unionized grad students
  - Even if we have a unionization rep, Iowa State isn’t required to address anything beyond pay and benefits, not including insurance
  - Bring up a bill to the senate to state where GPSS lies on the issue, if you want to

Bill templates are on GPSS website

Rules committee doesn’t give opinion, just whether something is formatted wrong on the bill

Is there any executive position that manages the recreation fee?
  - President and treasurer

Roll Call and Announcements
  - GPSS conference

Adjournment
  - Adjourned at 9:07 PM