



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 6, 2020; 6:30 PM
WebEx Meeting

- I. Call to order 6:30 PM
 - i. Roll Call
 - ii. Statement of Quorum
 - iii. Approval of Meeting Notes from January 27th, 2020 – *approved 6:32 PM*
 - iv. Approval of Meeting Notes from February 24th, 2020 – *approved 6:33PM*
 - v. Adoption of the Agenda – *adopted*
- II. Speakers
 - i. Dr. William Graves
 - a. *Concerned as always about wellbeing especially now with COVID19*
 - b. *Recognition of how complicated the situation has now become with graduate coursework as well as how this will affect research, etc.*
 - c. *Highlights*
 1. *About a week ago the graduate college finished the collaborative effort with others on campus to create the P/F option for 500 and 600 level courses (follows similar policy to undergraduate courses)*
 2. *In every way possible, the Graduate College is trying to relax deadlines ie. Applying for graduation or scheduling oral/preliminary oral exams*
 1. *Greater degree of oral exams; allowed for the entire exam to be remote*
 2. *Still possible for people to do oral exams if the space on campus allows for students and other individuals to be at least 6 feet apart*
 3. *Many programs require a seminar, and some students will record them on a platform of some kind and then posts the seminar/distributing it to members of the department*
 1. *Lots of creativity, questions being asked remotely live, etc.*
 4. *Different departments are handling it differently but having access to research space, buildings, etc. is an issue; the safety of everyone overrides everything else*
 5. *No graduate student should feel any pressure to work in a place on campus where they do not feel safe (Graduate College and other departments will support anyone who feels unsafe in their workspace)*
 - d. *Questions*
 1. *Sen. Venkatesh: students have expressed that there is peer pressure, even though major professors have made it clear that if they don't want to come, they don't have to. However, if I have colleagues going to work daily and I do not want to go to work, there is external pressure still there. Students are afraid to come forward, so why doesn't the Graduate College simply enforce that people work at home?*
 1. *The University on a daily basis is reviewing research protocols and space use protocols; there are lots of meetings being brought up about this. This is not a decision that the Graduate College can make, but we can make sure that the leaders that do*



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make these decisions know.

2. *Sen. Viju: Thank you for being in a meeting with us. What resources are available regarding mental health and counseling.*

1. *There is a [FAQ document](#) that has mental health resources. [Student Counseling Services](#) is doing everything remotely at this point and remains a source of support.*

- e. *Sen. Hall: There has been no explicit email that says research assistantships are stay-at-home and it seems to be expected that RA's are being required from their PIs to continue their research. How are you addressing those situations?*

1. *These are not normal times, there is a [staff FAQ](#) and we cannot expect students to perform and behave and hold them to the same expectations that we would in normal times where we are not dealing with a pandemic. We have asked advisors and POS committee members to take that into account and understand that for the next several weeks or months even that they may be directed to activities that was not planned necessarily for the stage of this research.*

2. *We have communicated to faculty that this is not the time to add on the 'icing' on the cake to make an acceptable project even more exceptional; we must maintain standards of quantity and quality, but adjustments can still be made.*

3. *There have been a few situations where we have had to communicate and work with the department head to adjust, but we are able to handle things in a particular way. There isn't a one-size fits all unfortunately unless the administration shuts down all research aside from essential projects (ie. Care for animals, plants). We have to navigate this on a somewhat individual basis.*

- f. *Sen Hall: Suggestion for an anonymous way for graduate students to give feedback*

1. *This may be part of the survey that is currently being developed for all students*

- ii. *Roberta Johnson, Director of Financial Aid*

- a. *Assistantships you will be paid for all the way through the way through the semester*

1. *If you find yourself facing a financial hardship, reach out to the FinAid office because there may be some grant dollars available for you*

- b. *If you owed more than \$200, you previously couldn't register, but now there the limit is \$5000*

- c. *There will be no late fees for the month of March, and since life changed a lot since before the deadline for March payments, there have been different changes*

- d. *Please reach out to us regarding payments, charges; today may be the first day that you can register for summer school and fall, so if you're planning on being here, those processes will be open for you.*

- e. *We appreciate your patience while we try to be as equitable as possible for our students; we also want to put the safety of everyone above everything, but we also want to support you and make sure you get the resources you need to*

- f. *Questions*

1. *Sen. McInnis: What website can we find that information on new updates?*

1. *It should be on the COVID19 update page, as the decisions are made they should be updated there even though the page is getting longer.*

- iii. *Joel Hughes (not present)*

III. Special Orders



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- i. Senate Bill S20-08 Graduate and Professional Student Senate Budget for FY2021
 - a. *Removed scholarship of scholarship engineer (no need to pay for it anymore)*
 - b. *Changes in regular allocations; last year we approved \$17000, so this year we want to increase that to \$18000*
 - c. *Looking at the Student Activity Fee (making sure we are getting the correct amount) – waiting for their response*
 1. *We can use this number for now, and an amendment can always be written later*
 - d. **VOTING: 44-1-62 PASSED**
- ii. Spring 2020 Regular allocations Senate Bill
 - a. *All applications have already been discussed by finance committee and they have all been approved*
 - b. *Questions?*
 1. *Sen. Hall – How much of the 2019 budget was allocated for Spring?*
 1. *\$15,000*
 2. *Sen. Steiner- [Plant Biology] had applied but never heard anything back.*
 1. *That application was not received in the system and the treasurer was contacted and she is going to apply again next semester.*
 3. **45-0-1 vote PASSED**
- iii. Elections – *passed to VP Klimavicz to be chair*
 - a. *President*
 1. *Currently have one nomination for Eleanor Field → nominations close*
 2. *Poll vote (since voice vote cannot occur) 47-4-1 PASSED*
 - b. *Vice President*
 1. *Currently have nomination for Carrie-Ann Johnson → nominations closed*
 2. *Poll vote 51-1 PASSED*
 - c. *Senate Engagement Officer*
 1. *Currently have 2 nominations → Sen. Wongus and Sen. Iennarella-Servantez*
 1. *Sen. Wongus: I would like to say that it's been great to work with you. The reason I want to work with this position is because our operating within the community, we have a lack of participation. As I thought about it, I see that we have one major focus component that would help with the GPSS growth and development. The first portion would be Senator training. I would love to see New Senator Workshops at the beginning of each semester. Senators may be intimidated by Robert's Rules. I would also like to work with the Social Committee and would also like to increase visibility on campus so that students are aware of what we do here. Through that, working to build upon what GPSS does and can do for the constituency council. Secondly, I would like create more transparency and feedback opportunities, and I would like to highlight and advocate for senators to initiate efforts within their own departments, such as a coffee hours, etc. so that we can advocate for their needs. Lastly, I would like us to hold an open forum with the general graduate and professional student body at least once a semester. We also need to put together what our mission and our purpose is and specific action items for GPSS.*
 2. *Sen. Iennarella-Servantez: I'll keep this short, but I'm one of the VM senators. I want to*



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facilitate the cross-communication between VM, graduate college, faculty, and administration. I have learned that as a DVM-PhD student that there is a huge disconnect as to what our program looks like. It's easy for me to put myself in a student position in a classroom or in a research lab. At VM we have started coffee hour because I realized that if I didn't have a rapport with them, we have been able to expand that to staff and faculty and it's allowed the removal of some barriers. If I'm selected for this position, I want to make sure we have an open line of communication so that we can communicate with different members of our community.

3. *Questions (up to 15 minutes – 7:33 to 7:48PM)*
 - (i) *Sen Losby: Thank you for running. I just want to make sure that you have the time needed to fill this position.*
 1. *Sen. Wongus: This past year I have had a lot of growth with time management, and my work and school schedule will be more manageable. Work responsibilities are being better delegated, so I would definitely have time to dedicate to this position.*
 2. *Sen. Iennarella-Servantez: I was able to take 28 credits and remain a leader in the veterinary medicine curriculum, and based on what I'm used to taking on historically, I only have two classes next semester and have a full time research position available (based on the design of the DVM-PhD program)*
 - (ii) *Sen. Johnson: How would you implement the plan to engage senators more (directed at Sen. Iennarella-Servantez)*
 1. *Chelsea: Coming to meetings early and staying late to engage with others, and I want to extend the coffee hour to GPSS senators not just VM. I'm appreciative that everyone is able to meet when I email.*
 2. *Chuck: nothing to add*
 - (iii) *Sen Eilers: Comment that both of them do take through the time to address issues and both of them would do an excellent job*
 - (iv) *Sen. Johnson: What past leadership positions have you had?*
 1. *Chelsea: Curriculum Committee, Student Leadership, I was also a research scientist for a biologic company, and I have also served in the graduate student associations and I am the president of the Veterinary Nutrition club.*
 2. *Chuck: I do not have as many connections across campus that Chelsea may have, but what I do have is experience. Prior to my time here I was a political consultant (went into different campaigns across the country) and was able to implement policy in order to improve performance. I advise multiple organization, including the interfraternity council and work on addressing student engagement.*
 - (v) *Sen. Arp: Senator Wongus, you had many ideas during you initial talk, which are your priority?*
 1. *I would priority 2: we need to do some form of assessment of overall senate to understand what we are doing well and what we are not doing well. Also, in terms of the other ideas, I would also focus on senator training, specifically a new senator workshop.*



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2. *Chelsea: no rebuttal*
 - (vi) *Sen. Hall: When we talk about senator engagement, we have a broad and diverse group of people, and I was wondering as to how you feel that can be addressed*
 1. *Chuck: building to a community, especially as a new senator I didn't know what to expect, and was confused in the first meeting, even being familiar with Robert's Rules. I would want that first meeting to be much more engaging*
 2. *Chelsea: I would like to see multiple avenues to provide feedback*
 - (vii) *Sen. Johnson – isn't senator onboarding part of the SEO position?*
 1. *Chelsea: how things are filled and what is outlined in the descriptions, but I'm happy to look them over more in depth.*
 2. *Chuck:*
 - (viii) *Sen. Young sub – Kate Alucard: how do you plan on implementing senate training/onboarding for people that are not elected at the traditional time, ie. The Student Government Senator At-Large filled by the StuGov VetMed Senator?*
 1. *Chuck: Given how I would love the workshops; I feel that outside of that timeframe it's difficult to get everyone in the same room at the same time. I do feel that it would have to be a much longer one on one*
 2. *Chelsea: If a senator were to come on board at a separate time, I would look for those with similar backgrounds and interests, etc. Establishing common ground is important, so that we can get them trained/*
 - (ix) *SEO Jansen: I'm here to help you and there should be trainings online and I'm creating videos and other tools for others to help utilize.*
 - (x) *Sen. Arp: I was wondering if based on what SEO Jansen said, how would you represent ISU/GPSS at the various levels?*
 1. *Chelsea: important to get feedback from GPSS (that's what I've done as a VM senator)*
 2. *Chuck: I strongly believe in an open-door policy, and I am somebody that likes to reach out and find feedback.*
4. **30-15-1 – Chelsea Iennarella-Servantez**
- d. Senate Information Officer
 1. *One nomination for Kate Alucard → nominations closed*
 2. **44-4 PASSED**
 - e. Treasurer
 1. *No nominations → open nominations*
 1. *Senator Johnson nominates Senator Wongus → accept*
 2. **39-10 PASSED**
 - f. Wellness Officer
 1. *Current nomination is for Senator Madelyn Losby (chair of Wellness Committee)*
 2. **44-1 PASSED**
 - g. Conference Officer
 1. *No nominations → open nominations*
 1. *Nominated for Senator Saavedra – declined*
 2. *Nominated Abigail Kropf – accepted*



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2. 49-1 PASSED

- IV. Recess (8:08P-8:13P)
- V. Executive Reports to the Senate: (3 min/section) **PLEASE REFER TO THE EXECUTIVE REPORT (notes are only those not listed in the Executive Report)**
- i. Report of the President
 - a. *Essentially everything we have done has been put on hold or cancelled, and against all of our discussions have essentially shifted to focus on COVID19*
 - b. *We will keep people in the loop but as you know these searches are confidential*
 - ii. Report of the Vice President
 - iii. Report of the Treasurer
 - iv. Report of the Chief Information Officer
 - a. *Thank you for being members of the Marketing Committee and maintaining updates on social media, etc. especially on LinkedIn and Instagram*
 - v. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
 - vi. Report of the Conference Officer
 - vii. Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair
 - a. *Sen. Chatterjee: applications have been online, are there students who are still getting PAG for a reimbursement request, even for people who have had conferences that were cancelled*
 - b. *Sen. Hall: there have been few issues with people not getting responses from the GPSS PAG email*
 - viii. Report of the Student Government Senators
 - a. *Know that the CELT has resources for students, and there is also access to laptops/computers as well as internet on campus*
 - b. *It is not an acceptable solution to cancel classes outright, with very few exceptions*
 - ix. Report of the Committee on Graduate and Professional Student Wellness
 - a. *GPSS Wellness Week has been tabled, but we are looking for online engagement opportunities*
- VI. New Business (8:34P)
- i. SR S20-09 Adoption of the Final Report of the GPSS Constitution Revision Committee
 - a. 44-0-3 PASSED
 - ii. SB S20-10 Adjusting GPSS Officer Stipends and Wakonse Funding
 - a. 44-1-3 PASSED
 - iii. SB S20-11 Amending the SG and GPSS Articles of Cooperation
 - a. 45-0-2 PASSED
 - iv. SB S20-12 Amending GPSS By-Laws Finance Procedures to Improve Transparency
 - a. *The finance committee will provide a report prior to any voting (at least seven days prior) on allocations. This will include funded and nonfunded requests, and any applicable justifications as to why things were rejected.*
 - b. *Any other supporting information will also be provided in this report. The report must be approved in the form of a senate bill (may be debated by line item), but it wasn't outlined in the constitution. This follows Robert's Rules. This is much less than what is required at other graduate institutions, so this will just allow for better transparency so that constituents can find the information*
 - c. *Committee members will meet and vote on the application one-by-one, and we have been doing*



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it this way for a long time.

- d. *Question about meeting minutes?*
 - 1. *Contact treasurer is easier and may be difficult; it may confuse individuals*
- e. *Concern for work-tags to be showing*
 - 1. *No confidential information should ever be shown, be it work-tags, etc.*
- f. *If the report is too general, it may confuse people*
 - 1. *But it is on us as senators to know what we are looking at and to be able to make an informed vote about budgets*
- g. *Removal of amendment → rise from informal conversation*
- h. **41-6 PASSED**

- VII. Senate Forum - none
- VIII. Roll Call and Announcements – no announcements
- IX. Adjournment **9:13PM**

Senators Present: 52

Sub: 2