



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 29th, 2020; 6:30 PM
WebEx Meeting

- I. Call to order 6:30 PM
 - i. Roll Call – *via poll*
 - ii. Statement of Quorum by the Chair – *summer quorum met (1/3 of current senators met)*
 - iii. Approval of Meeting Notes from May 2020 – *NA – not finished*
 - iv. Amendments to the Agenda – *NONE*
- II. Speakers - *NONE*
- III. Executive Reports to the Senate (5 min each) –
 - i. Report of the President
 - a. *Graduate College now has a new PAG system, please let us know if you have any concerns/note any issues*
 - b. *We are accepting virtual conference applications and the university is allowing student travel for professional advancement*
 - c. *Graduate college just sent out an update (students are asked/required to have some sort of laptop)*
 - d. *Johns Hopkins has a list of post-doc opportunities*
 - e. *Questions*
 1. *Senator O'Leary: new PAG system can be utilized for signing up or application?*
 1. *Yes, must keep receipts*
 2. *PAG By-Laws were changed on May 26 so that there no longer needs to be a travel event (conference now, no necessary traveling required)*
 - ii. Report of the Vice President
 - a. *50th anniversary of GPSS, but since we can't celebrate it, VP-elect Johnson may be able to do something in the spring or later*
 - b. *July 31 is my last day; I'll be graduating*
 - iii. Report of the Treasurer – *SKIPPED (Senator Wongus not present)*
 - iv. Report of the Chief Information Officer
 - a. *SIO-elect Alucard and I met for several hours to make it a smooth transition*
 - b. *Also my last meeting, thank you again for being a great Senate*
 - v. Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair
 - a. *Be sure to participate in the town hall meetings going on around campus (the schedules are varied for availability)*
 - b. *This is also my last meeting, so thank you*
 - vi. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
 - a. *April 7 2021 will be the next conference*
 - b. *Discussion with Sarah Hoffman in order to maybe co-op another meeting that was initially set for the Fall*
 - vii. Report of the Wellness Chair



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- a. *Met with Director Brian Vanderheyden*
- b. *There will be a new training called Cognito that will allow staff/faculty and TA's to recognize stressors to advocate and implement brief interventions*

IV. New Business

- i. Senate Resolution SU20-04 Acknowledgement of Deanna Clingan-Fischer, ISU Ombuds Officer
 - a. *Considered read 6:44P*
 - b. *Motion to consider this by UC – 6:45P*
 - c. **APPROVED**
- ii. Senate Resolution SU20-05
 - a. *VP Klimavicz reads the document*
 - b. *Senator Johnson to Dr. Graves: were you consulted on this change*
 1. *No, I was informed of it; (Klimavicz clarifies that you were not consulted) – yes*
 - c. *Senator Fakta: what makes the office being under the VP/this structural change less independent than it was previously*
 1. *Ombuds is supposed to be independent and separate from students, administration, etc. and is under the president directly. It is perceived as neutral because you are going directly to the person in charge.*
 2. *Senior VP and Provost Office administration directly oversee faculty (they oversee tenure, promotions, disciplinary) which creates a perceived conflict of interest. Yet if these are the people who may favor faculty because they are directly above them, this may make them less approachable.*
 - d. *Senator O'Leary: does this resolution advocate for an alternative*
 1. *This is more a condemnation of decisions, not a call to action (but could be amended to have one)*
 - e. *Senator Losby: is Ombuds planning on upkeeping confidentiality? If so that may be helpful in reducing the concerns that we have*
 1. *They are planning on contracting through a company that offers Ombuds services rather than having a FT officer (the company is on the east coast, maybe Boston?). They will in theory be confidential regardless, but maybe not neutral or impartial*
 - f. *Dr. Graves: was informed that this agency would provide services and two individuals instead of one (on the Ombuds website maybe?)*
 1. *Klimavicz: yes that is where we saw the information, and it is unclear if one is staff vs students, etc.*
 2. *Graves: yes they have both reached out to me, and to get my perspective on issues related to ISU. One of the factors that was explained to me when I was informed was that there would be greater gender diversity overall in giving students and faculty a choice of whom to contact. I think (the latest I heard) this was initially thought to be temporary, but then there would be a new Ombud recruited to be on campus. But if the response is positive to having both, then the university may still have this be a long term arrangement with the outside company so it kind of depends on how it goes with this outside company and what the next step would be.*
 - g. *Senator Hall: What are we hoping to achieve by censuring the president?*
 1. *It's a formal condemnation of failure to discuss the changes with key university*



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stakeholders including GPSS

2. *A lot of people who visit Ombuds are graduate students so we have a*
 - h. *Senator Nathanael: was the faculty senate informed of the change before or after?*
 1. *President Field: I reached out to faculty senate and they did not seem to know anything about it. The impression that I got it is that nobody knew.*
 2. *URLA Jansen: confirmed as the representative on the Staff/faculty senate that it was not discussed, and was there a reason*
 - i. *Klimavicz: there was no reason given*
 1. *Dr. Graves: I also was not given any reasoning*
 - j. *Alucard: I just also want to clarify that a censure itself is a call to action, even without specific goals or demands. As seen with the CVM this year, the censure was perceived as a call to action, and we did give demands, but it won't just sit there even if we do not spell out action items for the university administration.*
 - k. *Senator Bera: if we do censure/call for action to shift the Ombuds office back, especially with the way everything unfolded, what is the guarantee that we will have neutrality/impartiality even if it moves back*
 1. *Klimavicz: they must ensure confidentiality*
 - l. *Senator Bera: Is it possible to have them as a standalone entity?*
 1. *Klimavicz: unfortunately, there has to be an attachment to the university in case something has to be escalated; it's not necessarily possible to completely have independent Ombuds in practice*
 2. *Senator Johnson: there is definitely an implicit call to action in this*
 3. *Senator Fatka: I definitely think this is something that we could always*
 4. *Senator Bera: is the executive team planning on meeting the VP/Provost or the Ombuds office; since there was not discussion of the faculty senate either, this may be a good time to have this meeting*
 1. *President Field: this censure would allow us to talk about it right now. We have had conversations with the exiting Ombud officer.*
 2. *Klimavicz: we have had meetings with the provost, but we are hoping*
 5. *Dr. Graves: can I offer an idea? There will be discussions coming up with the provost, and we could consider waiting to vote on this until after the discussions. It is just one possible idea.*
 1. *President Fields: the call to action can come as a second step, but I think that its important to lead with "you guys handled this wrong" to address it immediately and powerfully. This should not affect students from having this service.*
 - m. *Senator Alucard: I just want to again stress that we can always have conversations later about the call to action, but that a censure is a strong way again of saying "we need to address this now". This was seen with the CVM as we did come with a list of action items, but we knew there would be discussions and modifications afterwards*
 - n. **28-0-3 PASSES**
- V. Senate Forum
- i. *Senator Johnson: thank you for serving as senators and executive members, and I am honored to have worked with you.*



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- ii. *VP-Klimavicz: I yield the chairship to Senator Johnson.*
 - a. *It's been an honor to work with you as the VP. We have done a lot: new constitution, restructured the exec council, wellness for GPSS, it's been a long year. We have preserved through covid19, it has been hard to stay neutral as a chair, and I have done my best, I will soon be leaving but you will be in good hands with Carrie-Ann. This will be a challenging year, TAs will be on the frontlines as UG come from across the world, and everyone from Ames and ISU will be at a heightened risk. I found the graduate college to be supportive fo the grad/student body. Various levels of administration up to the federal government have made it clear that reopening is more important than the health and safety of our 5000 graduate students, and other students on campus. Now more than ever it is important for us to support each other. Stand up for what's right, talk to department chairs, write to legislators, we must stand together.*
- iii. *Chair Johnson: do we need to take a poll to take our final attendance*
 - a. *Klimavicz: I haven't seen anyone else*

VI. Roll Call and Announcements

VII. Adjournment

- i. *7:19P call to adjourn*