



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 26, 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 April 2020
 - iv. Amendments to the Agenda – *approved 6:34P*
- II. Speakers
 - i. President Fields:
 - a. *Listening as much as possible to various groups*
 - b. *Crisis response groups → disbanded to create smaller groups and focus on how to open in a safe way to also have teaching and research conducted safely, but it will not be normal*
 - c. *The budget is all up in the air, and they have lost millions and are projected to lose millions*
 - d. *Stay in touch with graduate college, PI, academic advisor, etc. (going through checklists and go over safety measures as well)*
 - e. *PPE and hand sanitizer available, attempting to increase access to face masks and also focusing on teaching*
 - f. *Very difficult to say what the state will look like in two months*
 - g. *Ames hospital is at maximum capacity of critical patients*
 - h. *Be safe, be patient,*
 - i. *Questions*
 1. *Senator Sahayaraj: how is the communication between PIs and students ensuring the safety of students while also allowing for work?*
 1. *Offered two courses: a student can email Dr. Graves be an advocate for them, and the second option is they can talk to the Ombuds*
- III. Executive Reports to the Senate (5 min each) – **PLEASE REER TO EXECUTIVE UPDATES**
 - i. Report of the President
 - a. *Food drive has been opened (summer hours in update)*
 - b. *Survey for graduate student wellness*
 - c. *50th anniversary – celebration we will be focusing on creating a new logo*
 1. *Open it up to senators and constituents for a contest (graphic design logo)*
 2. *Will be submitted to the executives so that we can make them blind submissions to be voted on*
 3. *Winner will be awarded \$100 along with them having the new logo*
 - ii. Report of the Vice President
 - a. *What the university is planning to do for course delivery for the Fall*
 1. *How to reopen the university*
 2. *Course type categories: large lectures (fully online), medium (prefer delivery to be blended ie. a fraction of students would be in person on certain days), small lectures will be similar;*



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- labs (blended environment – alternating who is coming in, depends on specialty equipment), studios would be F2F or blended, recitation similar, field trips would have to be done by proposals and would be vetted with potentially propose PPE, or alternatively cancelled; capstones will be blended with F2F as needed*
3. *Vet students: anything that has to be taught in a certain way such as surgery they will follow accreditation protocols of the accreditation body (ex. AVMA)*
 4. *Concern for TAs: there potentially could be a lot of work for TAs (we want to know if you're doing more work that you should be)*
 5. *Questions:*
 1. *Senator McInnis: can this be typed up and delivered to us?*
 - (i) *Yes and feedback will be asked for; it depends on a lot of things such as number of people,*
 2. *Senator Johnson: I know that this will triplicate my work alone, so keep that in mind*
 - (i) *That means we are taking care of 2/3 of students online for part of the week while we are taking care of 1/3 of students in person as well*
 - (ii) *Potentially to be recorded/live, but will follow-up*
- iii. *Report of the Treasurer*
 - a. *There will be a bill tonight to adjust our budget in accordance to our bylaws*
 - b. *Loss of money will likely greatly reduce our budget – working on other ways to make budgetary adjustment and am looking for feedback*
 - c. *Senator Iennarella-Servantes: where is the main part that we as the university losing money from*
 1. *One of the financial directors or someone closely involved can be contacted so that*
 2. *Past semester was doing refunds for students such as meal plans, housing/rental agreement; we got some money from the CARES Act, but there will also be decreased enrollment*
 - d. *The summer budget disproportionately affects GPSS and decisions were made without our involvement and a letter was constructed by Ellie and James so that this hopefully never happens again*
 - iv. *Report of the Chief Information Officer*
 - a. *A couple of things but are not really resolved*
 1. *Working with IT, changing the officer emails (unlikely to have issues with receiving emails)*
 2. *Creating a new email for Wellness Chairs*
 3. *Working to make meetings live*
 4. *Recruitment for the fall*
 5. *Will update social media as needed*
 - v. *Report of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair*
 - a. *Explore the policy library and all the different components and pieces that are since changed with COVID19*
 - b. *If you travel a lot, please reach out and contact them before June 19th (discussion period)*
 - vi. *Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair*
 - a. *No real updates, working on planning next years conference (hopefully in person)*
 - vii. *Report of the Professional Advancement Grant Chair*



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- a. *No updates here*
- IV. New Business
 - i. SB SU20-01: Amendments to the Professional Advancement Grants By-Laws
 - a. *SIO-Elect Alucard: motion to consider read 7:01P*
 - b. *THESE WILL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY*
 - c. *45-0-0 - **PASSED***
 - ii. SO SU20-02: GPSS Meeting Schedule for Summer 2020
 - a. *Questions:*
 - 1. *Senate terms end July 31st*
 - 2. *Senator Arp: The idea is that we don't want to say you don't have to come, but if you have a valid excuse it will likely not be an issue*
 - 3. *Senator Hall:*
 - 1. *Will we be voting on anything, or could this information be communicated via email?*
 - (i) *We won't know if we will have senate voting (it depends on anything that needs to be voted) so there is no firm response unfortunately*
 - 2. *Could we receive updates more often than just these meetings?*
 - (i) *One of the problems with how quickly we are able to communicate this information is based on confidentiality issues, etc.*
 - (ii) *A lot of information we are asked not to pass it right away or outside of small circles*
 - (iii) *It is difficult for us to release information daily because of this*
 - (iv) *The best way to get information quickly is to get the COVID19 Graduate update page for sharing with constituents*
 - iii. *31-8-3 **PASSED***
 - iv. SB SU20-03: Adjustments to the FY2020 Budget for Compliance with GPSS By-Laws
 - a. *Explanation of the surplus and the lack of consistency between StuGov and GPSS agreements*
 - b. *Passed 35-0-4*
- V. Senate Forum
- VI. Roll Call and Announcements
 - i. *Senator Sahayaraj: Is there a better way to obtain information about the current policies/guidelines in place? I have checked the current website, but I want to know if there is a better way to communicate this*
 - a. *We are trying to be careful to avoid email fatigue (possibly to the other extreme)*
 - b. *A lot of that specific information is going to the PI because the obligation falls on the employee of ISU, not the graduate student.*
 - 1. *There is a checklist in place where the PI must go down the line and give to their DOGE/department chair, and it sits at the college/administration level*
 - 2. *Everything is so specific, so if you want to see the checklist, I would ask your PI directly to see it, or ask them what information they are getting from the doge*
 - ii. *Senator Genc: A professor for a PhD student is leaving and now they have no funding but they have a year left; is there also a thing in place for these particular cases?*
 - a. *Contact the Graduate College and look into funding through them*
 - b. *This happened to Marcus, and the department came in and provided the funding/PI so it is*



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doable, so reaching out to the department may also help this situation even before contacting the Graduate College

- c. There is currently no specific funding set aside for this through GPSS*
- d. Retention funding also exists within the Graduate College that does fit this specific situation*
- iii. Senator Morris: I want to applaud the Executive Council and recognition that this situation is serious and we must set a good example as graduate students*
- iv. Meetings:*
 - a. June 29 meeting added*
 - b. July 27th meeting added*

VII. Adjournment