

Executive Updates

Please add the executive updates for your department and councils for August 2020.
Thank you!

Report of the President

1. Be aware that travel restrictions may change (at any point this semester), that some travel may come with a quarantine, and that ALL University-related travel must be approved by a supervisor. This guidance comes from the Board of Regents.
2. Call for Physics/Math/Engineering rep for Graduate Council. Once a month meetings, discussing policy.
3. Call for a GPSS representative on the International Student Support Collaborative.
4. Call for information regarding mentorship - any 'do's' and 'don'ts' to pass along, anonymous case studies to share? CELT Graduate Mentorship Workshop Series, information posted on our Slack channel/upcoming facebook posts because I am co-presenting with Tera (Assistant Provost for Faculty Development).
5. Call for graduate students to give direct feedback to the Graduate College as part of a rapid response team. These motivated individuals must be ready for continued, involved communications on a regular basis.
6. New logo contest will continue through this semester (only one submission so far received).
7. Ongoing meetings with the Provost's Office regarding the censure, met with the President's Office and the new Ombuds officers - reconnected with Iowa State Daily.
8. Margaret Ellen White Award - applications are open!
9. https://www.gpss.iastate.edu/students/awards/MEW_award
10. Met with the new VP of Student Affairs (Dr. Younger) - supporting our further involvement in the larger University, new projects to partner on, town and gown relations & the Ames experience.
11. What do you want me to discuss with the administration and report back on?
12. Join a Committee! Meet your Execs, fellow Senators, get involved in your community!

Report of the Vice President

Setting up new Canvas site to assist with training and announcements

The Dean of LAS has offered to meet with LAS senators. Please email me if you are interested and an LAS senator and we will get this arranged.

Report of the Treasurer

1. Currently working on tracking down individuals that did not receive their Teaching, Leadership, or Research Awards
2. Join the finance committee!

- a. We will meet together to make decisions on allocations to graduate & professional student organizations, which could be \$1000 a year for each organization.
 - b. Our first meeting we will be discussing the allocation process to see where modifications to streamline the experience can be made.
3. The deadline for fall allocation application is Sept 25th. Please pass this information around to graduate and professional organizations in your departments. It is a great funding source for the organizations to invite guest speakers, hold workshops or make other educational events happen. The details are in the link below:
<https://www.gpss.iastate.edu/students/allocations>
4. I have received communication from one organization that their allocations did not carry over from the Spring. This has been resolved, but please forward any of these issues from your constituents to me at gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu

Report of the Senate Information Officer

1. For our virtual meetings, we will not be utilizing TopHat for our attendance; we will be exploring new opportunities for attendance taking as TopHat currently creates a delay in receiving attendance feedback, and it would be more ideal to streamline this process.
2. Exec and IT are currently working on some kinks in the PAG system as we have moved it to become more automated. Some updates also include the ability to file your reimbursement information via Workday.
 - a. If you or your constituents have issues with the PAG system, please let us know so that we can assist and continue to improve it for everyone!
 - b. CVM Professional students must receive permission from Associate Dean Dr. Jared Danielson prior to application for grants since PAGs are issued only for university-sponsored travel.
 - i. CVM graduate students do NOT have to go through this as they have supervisors and PIs that they will need to get permission from, but do not also need permission from Dr. Danielson
 - c. Further communication regarding the unique status of professional students (ie. M.Arch) will be added to the website as a reminder for students interested in utilizing PAGs
3. We are still looking to fill other Senator positions from other departments and academic units! If you know anyone please have them contact me, or encourage them to send the form online to their department contact.
4. We are looking to have a GPSS member serve on the Iowa State Daily Board as an ex-officio member of the board. Responsibilities include:
 - a. Knowledge base about ISU Daily to GPSS

- b. Assists in organizational positioning (information gathering, advocacy, messaging, and communication)
 - c. Ensures the ISU Daily knows about GPSS initiatives and and relevant voting topics
 - d. Communication with Editor in Chief on campus wide initiatives to ensure consistency in messaging
5. We will be filling up to three Graduate Student At-Large positions in Iowa State University's Student Government. These senators serve as liaisons between both StuGov and GPSS, and must be elected through both GPSS and confirmed via Student Government. These responsibilities include:
- a. Weekly meetings from 6-9:45P on campus at the Memorial Union, complying with university expectations and social distancing with COVID19
 - b. Office hours (currently suspended this semester) but one office hour a week will likely resume in the Spring if the MU switches to allowing office hours
 - c. Committee placement (a senator for StuGov must serve in at least one committee)
 - d. At-Larges are compensated \$200 a semester for their additional work to for GPSS, and at GPSS meetings will also have opportunities for reporting events relevant to GPSS
6. Canvas goals
- a. Education about roles
 - b. Education about committees
 - c. Education about allocations/other awards
 - d. Robert's rules

Report of the Senate Engagement Officer

1. Looking for senators that may be interested in joining university committees.
 - a. Faculty Senate Committees: Curriculum Committee; Student Affairs Committee; and Facilities and Educational Resources Committees;
 - b. Graduate Council: Biological and Agricultural Sciences; Physical and Mathematical Sciences and Engineering; Arts and Humanities; and Social Sciences and Education.
2. Assist in facilitating Senator training and communication on relevant topics.
 - a. Goals to maximize Senator engagement, participation while maximizing efficiency of meetings through utilization of Senate rules.
 - b. Additional "coffee hour" type opportunities for informal discussions.

Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Conference Chair

1. The 2021 Conference is Wednesday, April 7th

- a. Hoping for an in person conference this year but the committee will look into alternatives for hosting an online conference
2. Potential collaboration for co hosting the final round of the 3MT competition during the conference
 - a. Currently in communication with the Sarah Huffman
3. Potential collaboration with the Research Day on specific events such as a social networking event.
 - a. Working with the Office of the Vice President for Research may elevate the awareness for the conference as well as provide support and ideas for a platform should we need to host the conference virtually.
4. Join the committee!
 - a. We need individuals who are ready to help brainstorm and create an experience for graduate and professional students whether the conference is in person or online!

Report of the Graduate Health and Wellness Chair

1. Introduction for new senators.
2. Here is the Division of Student Wellness website!
<https://www.studentwellness.iastate.edu/> They have information on the 8 dimensions of wellness and resources for all of them. Regarding mental health during these times, it is important to explore remote resources, and TAO has some really great “self-help” type resources. <https://www.studentwellness.iastate.edu/mental-health-resources/>
3. The counseling center (SCS) has an updated intake process now. Learn more here: <https://www.counseling.iastate.edu/> Essentially, you’ll need to call 515-294-5056 and then fill out intake forms, and then a therapist will meet with you over a video call. All SCS therapy is remote this semester.
4. I want you to think and reflect with your constituents, how can ISU help promote graduate and professional student health and wellness? What ideas do you have for programming or advocacy?
5. Join the committee!
 - a. If you want to be involved in promoting the health and wellness of graduate and professional students, please join. We can share ideas and work together!