

Executive Updates October 2020

Report of the President

-Special Student Fee Committee has met once so far, we will be meeting again (once or twice more this semester, more in the spring). Discussions are confidential, recommendations by the committee for fee increases/decreases are given to the President, who then sends their request to the Board of Regents for approval.

This year, the Board of Regents froze all fee increases that were scheduled to be implemented this year

-Childcare Taskforce, final recommendations given to the President, responses returned. Should be made public by now, if not - very soon!! Includes short, long-term recommendations

-The President has endorsed the Campus Sustainability doc

-Looking at options in the spring for flexible 'study days' or some light breaks to help give students catch-up time during the semester

-New search committee formed for library dean

-Biennial review of campus drug/alcohol intervention and prevention is underway

-ISU is speaking out against the Visa proposal (a federal move to tighten visa rules, affecting international students), federal liaison staff is on it

-Graduate students WILL NOT be able to register for classes in the winter term

-Have any Senators received Margaret Ellen White nominations? Willing to extend the deadline.

-Reminder: [Test Iowa](#) (in Des Moines) provides free testing if you would like to be screened prior to winter travel. I believe it's free.

Anniversary of veterinary students joining GPSS!

Report of the Treasurer

- Allocations applications are closed, meeting with Finance Committee to complete the process
- If you are on the financial committee, I will be reaching to schedule out meeting.

Report of the Senate Information Officer

- If you are a sub, you/your senator need to communicate with me so that I do not mark the senator absent without representation
 - GPSSSIO@iastate.edu OR let me know in the meeting if you are a sub
- If you have ideas as to how to make the nomination/election process of senators more smooth, please let us (exec team) know! This is a project we are working on as still we are having communication issues with departments not contacting us once they elect senators, etc.

Report of the Senate Engagement Officer

- Please contact me if interested in filling the role as an GPSS representative for ISU Daily or on Iowa State Student Conduct Hearing Board.
- Looking for volunteers to lead legislation drafting focus groups as part of GPSS main meeting breakout sessions.
- Next faculty Senate meeting is Nov. 10. Please let me know if there is any specific information you want me to present at that session.

Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Conference Chair

-GPSC committee had their first meeting

-Moving forward with a primarily virtual conference with some in person perks

-Developing a pre-conference poll to determine the interests of students (will send poll out through senators)

-Some support coming in from different colleges (recognition of the conference as a valuable resource for graduate and professional students)

-No word on 3MT collaboration→ update: will not be hosting the final round of 3MT but plan to showcase 3mts!

Report of the Graduate Wellness Chair

1. Today is GPSS's Green dot action day. We are working towards being proactive by shifting the norms to not tolerate sexual violence. There are some reactive strategies as well, like bystander intervention training. GPSS is committed to the action of spreading resources and encouraging bystander intervention training. Let me know if you want stickers or buttons! Many other clubs and organizations at ISU are participating as well! More information here: <https://www.studentwellness.iastate.edu/green-dot-action-month/>
2. Student wellness has implemented Collegiate Recovery Community as a support-based and student-focused program to provide and connect students in recovery or seeking recovery from issues such as substance use, gambling, gaming, and more to the necessary services, resources, and opportunities to help them thrive at ISU. More information here: <https://www.studentwellness.iastate.edu/collegiate-recovery-community/>
3. The committee is starting to plan events, with likely one in November, and some over our 8-week winter break. Please fill out this survey for feedback on how the wellness committee can be helpful! https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4GyacFEZyVvWizP
4. Finally, join the Wellness Committee! Send an email to gpsswellness@iastate.edu that you are interested in joining and we can find the best time for all of us to meet about twice a month.

Report of Student Government Senators

- Campus Affairs committee was vetoed by President Fritz and was tabled indefinitely, therefore no campus affairs committee :(
- Please feel free to email us if you have any topics of interest you would like us to address in Student Government! We want to represent you well!

Report from LAS Committee

1. We had a meeting last week on October 20th. Associate Dean Hogben brought graduate students' concerns to the LAS Dean's team. These concerns were: having graduate students involved in administrative discussions, having consistent communication with graduate students, addressing grad student work load, and addressing course delivery mode changes during the fall semester.
2. GPSS Senators from the LAS Committee have been appointed to two LAS-specific work groups: Abesh Bera has been appointed to the working group on physical and biological laboratory courses, and Caroliena Cabada has been appointed to the working group on graduate students.

- a. Abesh reported that the working group is helping design and implement physical and biology lab courses that need to be structured differently due to the pandemic. Additionally, spring 2021 course offerings will maintain the same delivery modes as the fall, however, the working group is trying to take lessons learned from the fall to make sure that the spring will run smoothly.
 - b. From the graduate student working group, we developed and distributed a survey to LAS graduate students asking about the fall workload and course delivery modes. This survey is in two parts: the first asks about the classes that you are taking as a student, and the second part asks about the duties of your assistantship, if you're on an assistantship, and asking specifically about overwork. This information will be incredibly helpful for the LAS workgroups and Dean's team to understand the graduate assistant experience across the college, so please remind your constituents to turn that survey in. The deadline for that survey is Thursday, October 29th — this Thursday.
 - c. The summary of the survey results will be shared with LAS graduate students in early November.
3. The committee did discuss course modality switches and the current process that's in place to temporarily switch any hybrid or face-to-face courses to online for only two weeks. Associate Dean Hogben is working on a document to make it clear what the process is and make it clear that these switches are temporary. However, we brought up that there are instructors who want the option to permanently switch to an online course.
4. The next meeting of this committee will be Tuesday, November 17th.