



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE Meeting Agenda

Monday, 31 August 2020; 6:30 PM  
WebEx Meeting

- I. Call to order 6:30 PM
  - i. Roll Call – *via participant list*
  - ii. Statement of Quorum by the Chair – *quorum met*
  - iii. Approval of Meeting Notes from June and July 2020 - *approved*
  - iv. Amendments to the Agenda – *NONE*
- II. Speakers
  - i. Chuck Doran from Ombuds office
    - a. *I was having a hard time connecting using WebEx, so I've connected via phones to speak on behalf of the Ombuds. I am happy to explain what the Ombuds is and then answer any questions. Thank you very much for invite us. My name is Chuck Doren and starting in July my colleague and I began with your Ombuds office. Our thing is to be here for you whether you're a graduate student, employee, staff, faculty. Literally the word is a Swedish word for means someone who is an ear to the people. We are supposed to create a barrier free access point for you to speak to us about things that are on your mind. We understand there is a longstanding relationship with Ombuds, and we are happy to see you speak up for the principles. Our job is to make sure that we follow through on the concerns brought to us. We are not advocating for any particular person. WE are advocates for a fair outcome. We hope to earn your trust and if you have any concerns that you reach out to us to help you do what you need to do.*
    - b. Questions
      1. Senator Durrazi: What authority does your office have?
        1. A: *the authority that we have (and any Ombuds within a university) is oftentimes spelled out in a charter. The charter is available for anyone to see at the Ombuds page (<https://www.ombuds.iastate.edu/>). We must follow the principles of the Ombuds office (ie. confidence, even if we report on trends). If people come to us with a crime or threats to harm themselves or others, we can report it, but we are not mandatory reporters. We are not within the structural confines of administration, so if people are trying to get information to certain people, we don't serve that purpose. I hope that provides some insight, and if it doesn't, let me know.*
      2. Senator Hall: *you were hired as a consulting firm and so what experience do you have within an R1 institution? And what kind of changes may we see*



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1. *A: Deena worked as an Ombud at various universities, and I've been doing this work since 1992 (I began as a mediator in dispute resolution then and in 1995 started as an Ombud). I've worked as both mediators and Ombuds, and combined we have roughly 60+ years of experience. There have been some different institutions that in terms of research universities that we've been at. For me, I have worked at multiple in different positions. So, I do encourage you to follow up with Deena to answer that question as well.*
3. *VP Johnson: Any more questions? I will put in a pitch: I recommend contacting them in case you need them, and both have been amazing to work with so thank you for joining us.*
  - c. *Chuck: We appreciate the opportunity, and we are committed to serving the graduate community as well as employees, staff, and faculty. Have a safe rest of the semester.*

*Johnson: And now we will turn this over to Dr. Graves.*

  - ii. *Graves: It's good to see everyone (at least those of you with cameras on). I'm so happy to see a new season of GPSS and thank Ellie and Carrie Ann for their service to the university by leading GPSS. I'll introduce myself. I am the Dean of the Graduate College and I've been an instructor since 1992. I did my undergraduate and masters here at ISU, so when you consider my time here, I've been here a very long time. My undergraduate advisor's office was in the building known now as Catt Hall, so I precede that controversy. I never would have imagined leading in this role; my job is to make your lives as comfortable as possible as students. That includes reliable sources of stipends, treated fairly in assistantship duties, and as you proceed though we want to make sure the operations that we use the POSC program, that those are efficient and graduate faculty serve you and we try our best to train faculty to be as effective as possible as mentors of graduate students. We want to help graduate students become aware of all the career opportunities available to them. We know that not everyone wants to be faculty members that are PhD students. We are happy to make sure that you're aware of all your options. We have several centers, such as the centers for communication excellence. This includes cover letters, grant proposals, etc. and any genre you can imagine. It's an exciting and tense time to be in the graduate college. We are all feeling anxious about COVID19 and how this is effecting daily life and the job market if you're about to graduate and so another thing that I'm pleased to contribute to is the safety and wellness of graduate students on campus. I work with administrators (as I'm not a public health experts). We want to make sure that we are addressing all different things, Black Lives Matter, many graduate students feel*



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*passionately about these things and it is on my mind every day as well. Anyone who wants to talk about it or work on solutions*

### iii. Questions:

a. *Rachel Saxon: You sent out an email today regarding changing modality of teaching courses, can you elaborate?*

b. *A: President Wickert sent out an email to faculty members. No one is forced to teach in person, and anyone who wants to change modality, you can absolutely go through the changes to do that. He wanted to make sure that faculty were aware of that, and I wanted to make sure that graduate students were aware as well. Many of you are TAs to an instructor of record, so if you are teaching in a certain modality and want to change it, it is for TAs or graduate instructors, the course of the procedure is to see the supervisor for the course and the instructor of record and to notify your director of graduate education to keep in the loop. Does that help?*

iv. *Elizabeth Krenkel: Are there graduate students who have requested to be online but are being forced to?*

a. *A: not to my knowledge I do not know of someone who has requested an alternate arrangement/teaching that has been denied/had not been met. I could be wrong, but I would be interested to know if I am. Just personally I do not know.*

v. *Graves: my standard of practice, if there is action that I can take, they must confirm for me that they want me to do something. I always want confirmation from students so that they can approve. Like the Ombuds, we like to be a safe place for students to come.*

vi. *Johnson: A few people said they did not get the email, so can you confirm that it came from me?*

a. *A: A few people may have been appointed this week and may not have gotten it. It went to 900 and something TAs, but it did not go to any RAs. They can email me at [graves@iastate.edu](mailto:graves@iastate.edu).*

### III. Executive Reports to the Senate (5 min each) – **PLEASE REER TO EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

i. Report of the President

ii. Report of the Vice President

iii. Report of the Treasurer

iv. Report of the Senate Information Officer

v. Report of the Senate Engagement Officer

vi. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair – *none*

vii. Report of the Wellness Chair

### IV. New Business



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### V. Senate Forum (7:50PM)

- i. *Senator Goyal: Unsure if I bring it here, or if I address an office, but graduate students were charged for a utilities/services, and yet graduate students are still required to pay these fees. Is there anything that we can do about this*
  - a. *President Field: The provost office has handled issues about mandatory fees in the past. Students are upset about these fees. The response that I was given is that a lot of these fees go to maintenance of these buildings (ie. the Memorial Union) so we must keep some source of income*
- ii. *Reopening of FA20-0XX Senator At-Large Positions*
  - a. *Nomination of Alexis Samano to as an ISU Student Government At-Large - accepted*
  - b. *Nomination of Bailey Goff as an ISU Student Government At-Large - accepted*
  - c. *Moved to add names to the bill, seconded, moved to approve via way of unanimous consent*

#### 1. **PASSED UC**

### VI. Roll Call and Announcements - *none*

### VII. Adjournment – 8:55P