Iowa State University
Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE
Meeting Agenda

Monday, Sept 28, 2020; 6:30 PM
WebEx Meeting

I. Call to order 6:30 PM
   i. Roll Call
   ii. Statement of Quorum by the Chair
   iii. Approval of Meeting Notes from August 2020 – approved 6:32P
   iv. Amendments to the Agenda
      a. Move to push F20-07 to above Executive Reports
         1. Motioned, seconded - approved

II. Speakers
   i. Dr. Toyia Younger, Senior, Vice President Student Affairs
      a. Good evening everyone! It’s been a very odd Monday with weird technical issues such as
         Outlook being out. I’m the new Senior VP for Student Affairs. I am thankful for your leadership
         for connecting and meeting me. It’s very important to connect with the student body. I
         understand the challenges of working full time and also taking classes and being worried about
         your own things, and they are sometimes different from our undergraduate requirements. I
         admire you for your commitment to everything you do and this group. I just wanted to introduce
         myself. I sometimes ask myself how or why I relocated in the middle of a pandemic, but I just
         wanted to share a little bit about Student Affairs. We have a new Dean of Students, and as we
         rebuild the team, know we are accessible and here to help learn about the things that are
         important to you. Your leadership has been very helpful in connecting. When I came into the
         position there were some priorities. I was sent home on my birthday in March and was hoping
         to be back in an office. I hope we work collaboratively and I want to be able to represent the
         voices of students to senior leadership and hear your concerns. I am available and accessible to
         you and am here to answer any questions you may have.
         1. We have worked on increased testing and have seen a decrease in COVID numbers since
            September, and now we are focusing on mental health
         2. Our priorities are focusing on the pandemic handling (will we return to campus, what will
            that look like) but also diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues that have come to focus
            with George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other stories. And we have the election coming up.
            I previously served as a chief diversity officer, and I had realized that diversity and equity
            work is not just one person’s job. I have been partnering with Reg. Sturart and the Chief
            Diversity officer on several things, but also within my division recognizing that we didn’t
            really have a person working on it within each unit. We have created a DEI position within
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Campus Life (currently interviewing for) but there is still so much work to be done. I hope to increase those efforts but also throughout the entire division. Some of the thing we will have to work on will be in partnership including Academic Affairs, especially on these major issues. I’ve been in higher ed for over 20 years now on a variety of campuses, and I have seen what happens when a university tends to be more reactive, so my commitment is to be more proactive instead.

ii. Kelsey Fisher, representative from Center for Communications Excellence
   a. We want to make sure you can do well on your own after you meet with us
   b. We have slew of programs, and we will go through them in more detail:
      1. Academic Communication Program (several courses such as Thesis Chapter writing, Grant writing, etc. which will help set a pace for yourself)
         i. Writing seminar series, workshops, bootcamps
         ii. Tools such as the online resource database and research writing tutor
         iii. Several seminar series available that you can sign up for in Fall 2020
      2. Thesis Dissertation Intensive Writing Retreats
         i. November 2 from 8-12p (registration is required in advance)
         ii. Prolonged quiet time to work on writing your thesis or dissertation
         iii. Valuable feedback on the writing itself
         iv. Strategies to keep on track
      3. Online Resource Database and other resources
      2. Graduate Peer Review groups
         1. 5-10 students in similar disciplines may work on projects together and giving feedback to one another
         2. Invest in the process of critical and constructive peer review and cultivates a supportive professional scholarly community
         3. Lots of benefits to graduate students
      4. Can contact and email me if you have any questions; we would love to have you!

iii. Dr. Carolyn Cutrona, Associate Dean of the Graduate College
   a. I handle disability accommodations or any other adjustments that may be necessary in their assistantship. I’m here to provide visible and invisible accommodations, and I am very particular about mental health as I am a psychologist. I also do a lot of assistance in problems solving, in that I work with the Ombud officers. If there is a difficulty with a graduate student and you give them permission to contact the college, they often contact me. I’m also very sensitive to those of you working and having kids at home, as my daughter and her wife are teaching 1st grade right now to my grandson at home. We know it is a weird and stressful semester, and we are here for you. I encourage you to use the services provided to you like the CCE. There are so many other opportunities for you and grad school doesn’t teach you how to
write and we aren’t all English majors/degree holders.
  b. We also have a series of structured communication opportunities (seven sessions, two hours
each) in order to have constructive conversations about race. Just keep an eye out as it is
sponsored by the EO office and the Graduate College.

III. Special Matters
  i. SO F20-07: Establishing a Temporary Special Committee
     a. Passed via UC – 7:19PM

IV. Executive Reports to the Senate (5 min each) – PLEASE REFER TO EXECUTIVE REPORTS
  i. Report of the President
  ii. Report of the Vice President
  iii. Report of the Treasurer
     a. Extension of allocation deadline by two weeks
  iv. Report of the Senate Information Officer
  v. Report of the Senate Engagement Officer
     a. A few emails from you all about being in committees, and there have been some other issues
     b. No other major updates from faculty senate, aside from looking at the next semester
  vi. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
  vii. Report of the Graduate Health and Wellness Chair

  Committees can have non-GPSS participants in a taskforce but not the committee itself (separate but works
  on particular topics of interest from the committee)
  viii. Report of Student Government Senators
  ix. Report from LAS Committee

V. Internal Matters
  i. SO F20-08: Nominating Graduate Students to the Student Government Senate

VI. New Business
  i. JR F20-01: Joint Resolution: Support of Iowa State Action to Mitigate COVID-19 Cases on
     Campus
     a. The document pushes for outlines and guidelines for what in person classes
     b. Discussion about language of the bill looking at liability of COVID19 cases (Re: Ames
        community and the university)
     c. Discussion about the intent versus language of the bill and how it is important to recognized
        that the language is vague but allows for open ended discussion
     d. 31-3-13 – PASSED

VII. Senate Forum
  i. Allocations are done by organization and not be department, not organization; each one can apply

VIII. Roll Call and Announcements

IX. Adjournment – 8:21P