My name is Eleanor Field. I am the returning President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate at Iowa State University and a 4th year Ph.D. Candidate in Entomology. I am joined by both our current Vice President, James Klimavicz, and our Vice President-Elect, Carrie Ann Johnson. This year comes with many challenges, and we are ready to face them.

We are in what feels like a critical point in our society: responding to the covid-19 pandemic, and facing deep-rooted structural issues relating to racial equity. Now, more than ever, enabling access to education is critical. Within our Universities, we are fostering creative solutions to global problems and challenging our students to think critically and constructively engage in social debate. We recognize the difficult decisions being made regarding budgets, and the sustained work from administrators, faculty, and graduate assistants to keep our Universities open.

We appreciate the Board’s decision to not increase tuition for the upcoming year, as this alleviates some of the stresses felt by students in financial uncertainty and may allow many to remain in school. We thank the Board members for their continued work on advancing higher education, and for their support of graduate and professional students at the Regent Universities of Iowa.

* Eleanor Field

June 4th, 2020