

- Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023; 6:30 PM
- Student Innovation Center, Room 0114
  
- Call to order 6:35 PM
  - Roll Call
  - Statement of Quorum by the Chair
    - Quorum Confirmed
  - Approval of Meeting Minutes
    - Minutes approved
  - Amendments to the Agenda
    - None presented
    - Agenda Approved
  
- Speakers
  - No speakers
  
- Executive Reports to the Senate (5 min each)
  - Report of the President - Christine Cain - [gpsspresident@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsspresident@iastate.edu)
    - Wakonse Conference
      - Hasn't been running in past years because of Covid
      - Information on website
      - Funding available for interested students, working with CELT
  - Report of the Vice President - Caitlyn Campbell - [gpssvicepres@iastate.edu](mailto:gpssvicepres@iastate.edu)
    - Nothing
  - Report of the Treasurer – Juan Panelo - [gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsstreasurer@iastate.edu)
    - Nothing
  - Report of the Senate Information Officer - Garrison Gunter - [gpsssio@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsssio@iastate.edu)
    - Student technology advisory group met
      - Meeting twice a semester
      - Discuss how student tech fee is spent
    - GPSC conference was covered on social media accounts
    - Voting on creating a social media chair position that will be elected at first meeting in August
    - Working on updating senators, if you are an outgoing senator let Garrison know so he can update roster, if you know who you're being replaced by, let him know that to
    - Creating informative video to guide through PAG process
  - Report of the Senate Engagement Officer - Efrain Rodriguez-Ocasio - [gpssseo@iastate.edu](mailto:gpssseo@iastate.edu)
    - College chair information
  - Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair - Ryan Everett - [gpssconfchair@iastate.edu](mailto:gpssconfchair@iastate.edu)
    - Conference happened on April 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 3 minute survey for next year, emailed to senators
    - Nearly \$5k in prize money, thank you Juan and sponsors!

- Keynote speakers Dr. Rachel Smith and Dr. Michael Brown from School of Ed.
    - Pres. Wintersteen gave closing remarks
    - Photographer will be getting headshots out within the next week
    - Met with MU event manager for dates for next year (see survey above)
      - Fridays available in Feb and May
  - Report of the Health and Wellness Officer - Kimia Noroozi - [gpsswellness@iastate.edu](mailto:gpsswellness@iastate.edu)
    - April 29<sup>th</sup> out of darkness campus walk for suicide prevention
    - People have said that student health and wellness is not doing a good job of circulating events
      - They send out a lot of emails, it just probably gets filtered away
    - Kimia is here to inform you about this stuff, senators are supposed to let constituents know about this stuff
    - End of the year social
      - May 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday
      - 5pm at one of the parks in Ames, don't know which one yet
      - Sending out form for more information
    - Health and wellness student leadership board application on website, paid position to work with the board directly
      - Deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>
      - International students ineligible
  - Student government senators at large – Eddie Mahoney – [ermahone@iastate.edu](mailto:ermahone@iastate.edu)
    - Hit a lot of bills
    - Overall budget of \$2.8B
      - \$300,000 over budget, but that will be covered by reserve
      - What will be changed next year to make sure this doesn't happen again?
    - Passed new contracts, \$75,000 per year contract to student food pantry
    - Renewed contract with therapy systems online
    - Renewed contract with university lectures program
    - Inauguration happened, turnover of new leaders, president and vice president
    - New speaker and vice speaker elected
  - Student leadership board health and wellness
    - Eligibility for international students depends on work status
      - If you're a full-time employee, unable to work hourly
      - If you're not full-time, you could be
- Unfinished Business
  - None Presented
- New Business
  - **SR S23-02**, Support for the Unionization Effort of Iowa State University Graduate Student Workers by Graduate Student Voices (GSV)

- Bill emailed to senators previously
- General idea is that GPSS has a unique position to voice opinions to students and faculty
  - We can work with grad student voices (GSV) by voicing support for a union
  - Meant to help GSV get off the ground
  - This bill is to cement the position of GPSS on GSV
- Clarifying questions:
  - None
- Debate:
  - Constituents are worried that being in a union will change students' role as employees at Iowa State, and change what they're allowed to do
    - Constituents would be able to vote on this as they want
    - Senators can't share information about GSV beyond sending links to people, under this legislation, GSV would be able to share positive opinions about GSV as a senator
  - Is this bill in favor of a union, or a unionization vote?
    - This bill is supporting GSV in their effort to get to a point to have a unionization vote
  - How would this be any different from University of Iowa's grad student status?
    - Largely very much the same, just a slightly different administration
  - It seems like this bill is supporting a union, rather than supporting voting on a union, changing the bill to specifically supporting voting on a union would be a good move
    - Open to an amendment, but in the event of a union passing a vote, GPSS supporting that union from the start would be beneficial
  - How would GSV work with us?
    - GSV sees us as having separate jobs, but having the same mission of bettering the lives of grad students
    - GSV wants to work with us to accomplish this goal
  - What are three advantages of having a union?
    - A union is in a position to bargain with Iowa State for things like salary
    - Parent union would be able to provide legal help for things like worker's comp
    - Union can also operate on case by case basis at bargaining table, and can help do 1 on 1 negotiations when grad students don't need to worry what happens to a specific department

- We don't current have an arbitrator with would work on the side of grad students, HR currently works to protect the university, not the employee
- Union doesn't have ability to negotiate health insurance?
  - By Iowa law that is true
  - Can work on safe working conditions
  - Also, by clarifying grad students status, worker's comp becomes much more clear cut
- What have been pro's and con's of University of Iowa's (UI) union?
  - Not sure, but their union works very well there, based on communications with them
  - UI Students would have problems saying pros and cons of having a union, because it's so embedded in the system that no one really knows what it would be like if one didn't exist
- Move to amend wording of bill to specify that this bill supports voting on a union (Eddie Mahoney)
  - Motion seconded
    - Debate:
      - This will only get us to a moment of a vote, then we would need another vote to continue supporting GSV
      - This wouldn't disrupt future partnerships with GSV
      - This would still help bring GSV to the forefront
- Voting to amend first resolve to:
  - Rewording to make it say that GPSS supports the vote for whether or not to unionize, not that GPSS specifically supports unionizing
- Voting on actual document debate:
- Motion to close debate
  - Second
- Motion to adopt resolution with amendment
  - Seconded
  - Adopted with amendment
- **SB S23-02**, Reestablishing the Contracted Position of Senate Leadership: Social Media Chair
  - Legislation sent out to senators
  - Contracted position for social media chair, working with SIO
  - Paid position with stipend of \$100 per semester
  - Voted on next year
  - Questions:

- What channels does GPSS use? Will this position use other ones?
  - Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
    - Also discord
  - Not planning on expanding further
- What happens if no one fills it?
  - Nothing
- Is this an exec position or contract position?
  - Contract, like the minute taker
- SIO reviews every semester, is this person doing a good job?
- Debate:
  - None presented
- Adopt bill to establish social media coordinator?
  - Motion made
  - Seconded
  - Bill adopted
- **SB S23-03**, Adopting the College Chair positions and Created the College Chair Council
  - Bill sent to senators
    - College chairs were contracted positions for one year
    - This was to give time to decide if these should be implemented permanently
    - Keeps current stipend
    - Creation of college chair council, chaired by Senate Engagement Officer, report back to senate exec council
    - Can work to support initiatives that come from college chair council meetings
    - Council of college chairs will make everything run more smoothly
  - Questions:
    - Isn't number 3 of the last enacted clause redundant for someone else's job?
      - Might need to be reworded, but this means that College chairs will monitor their respective senators for compliance
      - College chairs will report senate information to exec team
  - Debate:
    - Sponsors of the bill are current college chairs
    - Enacted clause on line 32
      - Since this college chair position is being voted on by peers, Chair of the council should be a college chair, not a senate engagement officer (SEO)
        - This is intended to give a bridge between the college chairs and the exec team
      - Could this be reworded to make the SEO a ceremonial leader, that has no power?



- Functions very similarly as other committees currently
  - Why would a co-chair not lose voting power?
    - Because that's the way things work under Robert's rules
  - Motion to amend line 32 to strike SEO chair and replace them with a college chair
    - Voice vote non-determinant
    - Vote by placard
      - Amendment fails
- What is the benefit of college chairs?
  - Much more engaged with Deans that previously
  - Great reception at college level
  - Seen student organization who didn't know what GPSS was express interest in GPSS
  - College of engineering, great response from college
  - Also CALS
  - Main benefit is reach into the administration of the university
  - Very effective at creating a community
  - Helped with communication, questions for exec senators are easy to bring forward
  - Identifying issues is easier
- Motion to adopt bill question raised
  - Motioned
  - Seconded
  - Passed by voice vote
- **SB S23-04**, Establishing an Executive Officer Position and Permanent Standing Committee Dedicated to Graduate and Professional Student Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)
  - Bill sent to senators
    - Needs to be executive position because of the large workload for this person
    - Also gives them a budget line for things they want to do
    - Stu Orgs would have the opportunity to apply for DEI specific related initiatives
      - \$250
    - Centralizing DEI in GPSS
    - In response to potential Iowa State law looking to defund faculty related to DEI
      - Opens funds towards these efforts
  - Clarifying Questions:
    - Can student fees be used to fund this position?

- Yes, because that rule is only applied to employees
- Is there an overseeing organization that this position would work closely with?
  - Ideally this would be connected to VP of DEI on campus, no promises for this
- How does this interact with prior DEI GPSS efforts, and why is this not contracted?
  - Executive team is currently overrun with work, person who has access to budget opens doors to dealing with administration
  - This could be a trial, but an executive position makes it much more likely that someone will run and do a good job in this position
- Would unionization affect this?
  - Not sure, but because this is labeled as a scholarship, and these positions don't fall under employment, they don't think it would matter
- How would student government handle this?
  - Stu gov has had a director of DEI for a long time, as well as a committee
  - Not a paid position, but a budget of \$2500 per year
- What's the benefit of this being separate from stu gov?
  - This position would be able to deal specifically with graduate student issues
- What kind of events does stu gov do with this \$2500 per year budget?
  - Hosting events as DEI committee
    - Town halls
    - Peace talks about different topics
    - Events for people that couldn't go home for holidays
- Floor open for debate:
  - Support for this
    - This works very well for students government, and establishing a position like this for GPSS would work very well
- Call for question
  - Seconded
  - Vote to adopt bill
    - Passes
- **SB S23-05**, Graduate and Professional Student Senate Budget for Fiscal Year 2023
  - Bill sent to senate
  - More funding for executive positions just created

- Increasing money available for PAG grants and various awards
- More social events
- We had a surplus last year, and have had a running surplus for years
  - We're not going to run out of money, and if we don't have enough money come in from fees, surplus will cover it no problem
- What does URLA stand for?
  - University relation and Legislative Affairs committee
- Why is the surplus not moved to the reserve?
  - Reserve is a line item that GPSS is not allowed to touch, unless we are in an absolute crisis
- Open for debate:
  - Call for amendment
    - Line 31 include spelled out URLA
      - Seconded
      - Passed
- Call to question on bill
  - Seconded
  - Vote on amended bill
  - Passed by voice vote
- **SB S23-06**, Amendments to the GPSS By-Laws
  - Bill sent to senators
  - Questions for first section:
    - When will these changes go into effect?
      - Next fiscal year
    - Article 7 Budget, 2.2.1.2
      - Senators at large
        - There are only three, not four
        - We can amend these by-laws, and don't need to worry about the budget we just passed
    - Move to amend article 7 2.2.1.2 to say three senators at large and \$3,600 per year, \$1,200 per year
      - Seconded
      - Amendment passed
  - Debate:
    - How many college chairs are there?
      - Currently, only 6 of the 8 positions are filled
    - No further debate
  - Questions for second section:
    - None
  - Debate:
    - Amendments:
      - Rearrange wording of 1.7 to make it say IDEA
      - 1.9.2, rearrange as well
      - Friendly amendment



- Kimia elected
  - DEI officer
    - Veronica nominated
    - Elected
  - SIO officer
    - Garrison nominated
    - Elected
- Senate Forum
  - Nothing
- Roll Call and Announcements
  - Social: Graduation is on that day, so the social will probably be the week after
  - If anyone wants to become a senator next year, have them come to the social
- Adjournment
  - Adjourned at 9:20 PM