



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 things 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 slewed 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*



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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 hat 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