1. **Call to Order**
President Faber called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and seated substitute senators through the Chat function.

2. **Consent Agenda**
   FS Agenda February 16, 2021 – [20/A/6]
   FS Minutes January 26, 2021 – [20/M/5]
   FS Docket Calendar – [20/C/6]
President Faber noted that there was a typographical error in the numbering of the agenda. With that modification, Senator Perkins moved to accept the agenda. Senator Wallace seconded. The motion was adopted.

3. **Special Order: Dr. Toyia K. Younger, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs**
Senior VP Younger said that she wanted to provide an update of activities in Student Affairs. The Department of Residence managed quarantine and isolation for students with COVID-19. Student Health
coordinated testing for COVID-19. They also led efforts in contact tracing. The Dean of Students Office facilitated notifications to faculty and staff about student absences and employment absences.

A number of different functions are united under Student Affairs. Senior VP Younger encouraged senators to register for and attend NCORE/ISCORE on March 3-5. Student Affairs is overseeing major renovations in the Memorial Union which are anticipated to be completed by 2022. ISU has had learning communities for 25 years. An anniversary celebration is planned for late April or May. The International Student Services Office has been exceptionally busy with international restrictions and changes to student visa status.

Senior VP Younger noted that there has been an increase in mental health cases over the past year. This was a priority for strategic planning prior to the pandemic and continues to be among the top priorities. Over the summer, many counselors were trained and certified in telehealth, to provide support virtually. The challenges that students report include the stress of leaving campus mid-semester in Spring 2020; returning home to place that might not be safe; losing employment and internship opportunities; family members who have lost employment; not seeing friends, not feeling connected, and feeling isolated; learning how to navigate classes in an online platform; caring for sick family members; social pressure to wear (or not wear) a mask. Besides telehealth, Student Affairs has developed other programming to support student wellness. Recreational Services developed virtual fitness classes. Student activities has developed large-scale programming online. Multicultural Student Affairs units are offering virtual programming.

Senior VP Younger highlighted increased demand for support from The Shop, the on campus food pantry in Beyer Hall. Working with ISU Foundation, The Shop was able to get 501c3 status to become eligible to receive food from the State of Iowa. This helps the pantry stock up on more items.

Senior VP reflected on features of Generation Z, including their propensity to confront and challenge authority, and desire to be included in discussions. This generation has not known a world without social media. Although they prize individuality and independence, they also crave a lot of human interaction. Accordingly, Student Affairs seeks to develop ways for students to be engaged on campus in programming with their peers. Furthermore, students are affected by larger social issues and movements. Students have raised concerns about police brutality and police funding and concerns raised by the Black Lives Matters movement. The political divides of the nation are reflected in the political divides among students. There is a lot of misinformation online that leaves students confused and angry.

Student Affairs has a Student Advisory Board with 30 students, and it meets once a month. Students have asked why masks continue to be mandated, when vaccines will become available, and when things will return to normal.

Senior VP Younger pointed out that Student Affairs overlaps with Academic Affairs, among other divisions of the university. The Demonstration Safety Team (led by Associate VP Evans and Chief Newton) anticipates and prepares for events and demonstrations that might occur on campus. Another group is working with people in Academic Affairs on assessment, which involves finding data (including retention, graduation rates, etc.) to support the story that we want to tell about ISU. These data are used to identify areas that could be improved and barriers that can be addressed so that all students can be successful.

In the chat, Senator Oberhauser asked, “Thank you for this overview and details about the Division of Student Affairs. Great programs! How can the faculty participate in and support your efforts to work
with our students? Within and outside the classroom?” Senior VP Younger replied that students report that they would like to work on research projects with faculty and present their findings at conferences, so that they can point to that experience to be more competitive for internships and jobs.

President Faber asked how faculty can work with Student Affairs. Senior VP Younger replied that faculty interested in volunteering should reach out to her directly. She said that volunteers are sought for the Demonstration Safety Team and planning groups.

President Faber pointed out that there is a recommended syllabus statement on mental health, which provides information about resources. But what should faculty know in order to better identify mental health struggles and how should they reach out to students who may be struggling? Senior VP Younger said that students who are struggling tend not to come to campus and feel disengaged or disconnected. Students who are doing well will take the opportunity to engage with faculty, chatting in online classes, posting questions, responding to questions. So faculty might present students with greater opportunities for interaction so that they can feel connected.

4. Special Order: Dr. Peter K. Dorhout, Vice President for Research

VP Dorhout pointed out that he has been at ISU for three weeks and one day. In that time, he has been listening “around campus” to challenges people experience in the research enterprise on campus. He also wants to better understand opportunities on campus. His goal is to meet the mission of the VPR Office by promoting a vibrant environment that embraces ethical conduct of research as well as living up to ISU’s mission as a land grant university.

VP Dorhout sees the role of the VPR as facilitating the high-impact research referred to in ISU’s strategic plan. He is working to understand what the “grand challenges” statement meant in the university strategic plan. He identified a number of active research programs falling under three grand challenges of Healthy Lives, Sustainability, and Materials and Manufacturing. These aren’t the only initiatives for the VPR Office. He will work to ensure that ISU is inclusive and inviting to students, faculty, and staff to advance the research enterprise.

His vision for VPR Office include six bullet points. (1) VPR Office provides support for “challenging and world-class student and faculty research environments that create, apply, and share knowledge and address societal challenges to make Iowa and the world a better place.” Providing a first-class experience for students, which translates into a first-class experience for faculty. (2) Under his leadership, VPR Office is committed to develop and help manage investments, strategies and business models for research and centers, institutes, and partners. VP Dorhout emphasized that VPR Office will be transparent about our investments in the broadest sense at the university level. (3) VPR Office will advocate and champion for safe, effective, and ethical research practices and inclusive research environments for students, staff, and faculty at all career levels. (4) VPR Office will “display servant leadership and partnership in facilitating technology transfer, corporate relations, and economic development and engagement.” VPR Office will help tell the stories of key partnerships and impactful research and scholarship and creating of new knowledge occurring on campus. (5) VP Dorhout said that this will be done by facilitating collaborative relationships, organizing people around opportunities on the horizon. Ultimately, (6) VPR Office will bring people together in conversations that will advance the university advance faculty, and advance students. ISU President Wintersteen’s Innovation campaign is the latest installment in a long story for ISU, that is anchored in the land-grant mission of creating new knowledge and sharing it through education, extension, and transfer through IP development.
VP Dorhout highlighted different measures of research excellence. One is research expenditures ($360 million). Another is ranking among global institutions. In 2019, ISU was ranked in the top 100 worldwide universities for patents generation. (https://academyofinventors.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-2019-top-100.pdf [AB note, 3/3/2021: although this is the correct web address, it currently returns a 404 error.]) ISU has been recognized as a national leader in innovation and entrepreneurship by professional organizations. APLU had honored ISU with an IEP Innovation Award in 2020. ISU received the U.S. Administration for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Award in 2021. VP Dorhout said that each of these is an example of the outstanding foundation on which we build the future relationships with our stakeholders, future students, families in Iowa, industries inside and outside of Iowa that want to access new knowledge being created here. ISU sits in a nexus of talent, facilities, and collaborators, with extension offices in all 99 counties. All come together around the fabulous things that are happening here in the research enterprise.

He identified “challenges and opportunities” for the VPR office (bullet points quoted directly from his Power Point slide):

- Funding and Investing – what resources are available, how do we access them, and what is a sustainable balance of resources?
- Easing the administrative burden for faculty and staff in grants management
- Creating safe and inclusive research environments
- Communicate the land-grant mission and the uniqueness of ISU with state, national, and global stakeholders
- Provide access to excellence for students and ISU research partners

In the chat, Senator Winer asked, “Can you speak to any plans for OSPA? They are always understaffed and overworked. It can be challenging to get things done without very advanced notice, which is not always possible. These folks do what they can, but need resources and training to improve.” VP Dorhout especially appreciated the last sentence, acknowledging the need for resources and training to improve. He said that he didn’t have a direct answer to the question, but he understood that funding opportunities pop up with a short timeline, and our ability to respond to those opportunities makes us that much more competitive.

In the chat, Senator Smiley requested a “Comment about human research activity going forward.” VP Dorhout asked for clarification. Senator Smiley said that some faculty conduct non-survey research by one-on-one research. Currently, that research is shut down. The point of her comment was to ensure that the VPR Office allows ISU researchers to resume human research as soon as it becomes possible. VP Dorhout said that a VPR group meets on a regular basis and during the height of the pandemic, the Council on Research Group met every other week to discuss effective best practices, and how to reconcile recommendations from the CDC and recommendations from funding agencies about “restarting research.” He asked faculty to stay in contact with the VPR Office to provide their expert judgment about best practices to make things better for faculty researchers.

In the chat, Senator Oberhauser asked, “Can you talk about some ways to expand and support interdisciplinary research, especially in the humanities and social sciences. Some cross college collaborations can be challenging with different support networks.” VP Dorhout said that he had given this a lot of thought. There are a number of examples where the best technological solution to particular challenge cannot or will not be embraced without understanding the cultural context or social implications of connecting, utilizing, or enacting a particular technological solution to a problem. VP Dorhout added
that he thinks nothing speaks to this more directly than some of the grand challenge research themes: building sustainable ecosystems or sustainability writ large. Sustainability cannot be addressed simply by one perspective or one type of solution rather than another. Some of the richest solutions come about by bringing together interdisciplinary teams. VP Dorhout said that a tool he’s used in the past (a tool that is more challenging to use with current pandemic protocols) is to bring groups together around a particular subject, inviting anyone who wants to come. Ask the participants: how do we address a particular challenge? Some of these groups have been formed around anticipated RFPs or requests for information in early stages on a funding opportunity, whether through a private foundation or the federal government. The goal is to pull teams together well in advance of that funding opportunity’s being made public. VP Dorhout hopes to implement this strategy when we’re able to gather together again in person.

In the chat, Senator Nair wrote, “Supporting pre-award groups within college has been working great. I am very pleased with support offered by CALS. It will be nice to know how Grants hub fits in.” VP Dorhout replied that he is still learning how Grants Hub and different colleges address their own individual needs. There are specialists in the colleges who better understand their respective grant agencies and can provide better input and guidance than a central module like Grants Hub. However, there are also colleges and units that don’t have that kind of expertise, and Grants Hub can support them. But he wanted to better understand how Grants Hub operates before commenting specifically on particular gaps and opportunities.

5. **Unfinished Business**
   None

6. **New Business**
   None

7. **Announcements**
   7.1. **Faculty Senate President**
   President Faber acknowledged some bills in the Iowa legislature that have implications for Iowa’s public universities. Two bills address freedom of expression:
   - SF 292 is a bill that directs BOR to conduct a survey of the political party affiliations of employees at the BOR institutions (which includes more than 10,000 people).
   - House Study 199 requires Iowa public universities to post syllabi online for all undergraduate and graduate level courses by the start of class and remain posted for two years. The syllabus must include course requirements, major assignments (including tests), required reading, and the general subject matter of lectures or discussions.

   Two bills propose to ban tenure:
   - HF 49 proposes to discontinue tenure at all three universities.
   - SF 41 prohibits a tenure system from being formed at public postsecondary universities in Iowa, such as community colleges.

   Every year, a bill to eliminate tenure is proposed. This year, the bill has advanced farther than in years past. ISU has lobbyists working to inform legislators about the benefits of tenure. What can faculty do? President Faber recommended that faculty let the lobbyists do their work. Faculty who are tenured who speak up on the issue are viewed as being self-interested, and their activity can backfire. BOR opposed the bill eliminating tenure, as do State House Democrats. Some agricultural interest groups (including Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, and Iowa Cattlemen’s Association) have registered their opposition to one or both bills (per KCCI, Feb. 13). President Faber added that the national political climate has an impact on the local political climate. President Faber also called senators’

Faculty have asked President Faber about the safety of in-classroom teaching with the rise of coronavirus variants. CDC has issued new guidance on masks (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html). She thought the guidance was helpful for thinking about what masks will be most effective for classroom teaching. The mask should fit snugly and should have layers.

President Faber received a request for nominations of undergraduate and graduate students for a new Dean of Students advisory council. The council will meet twice a semester on important topics impacting students. The nominations are due by March 1: https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cVoCh6F5RDhY8MS.

At the next FS meeting, there will be elections for one seat on the Athletics Council. At-large college nominations are due by Friday, February 19.

Senator Swalwell asked if the university has plans if these bills pass. Provost Wickert replied that there is a comprehensive and coordinated legislative strategy by all three universities and BOR. ISU President Wintersteen works on legislative relations everyday. A lot of legislative lobbying happens in one-on-one meetings between ISU President Wintersteen and a legislator of BOR officers and a legislator. Right now, ISU is tracking over 300 bills that would in one way or another affect operations ISU. In addition to the bills President Faber described, there are other bills related to business operations, spending authorization. Provost Wickert admitted that he does not know what will be passed. Through the legislative process, bills change – things are added and things are subtracted. He assured senators that everyone understands the seriousness of the bills and the complexity of the current relationship between BOR universities and the legislature. BOR is working very hard to be helpful to the universities on these issues.

An unanswered question in the chat came from Senator Parsa: “Can we refuse to disclose our party association?”

7.2. Faculty Senate President-Elect
None.

7.3. Senior Vice President and Provost Legislative Relations
Provost Wickert said that the first “funnel” date is March 5. On this date, viable bills will be separated from bills that stand no chance of passing.

Provost Wickert said that letters to the editor are not especially effective ways of lobbying legislators, and are often counterproductive. He added that we have seen some of that.

Cold Weather
Provost Wickert thanked senators, their colleagues, and departments for making necessary changes in response to the extremely cold weather. Provost Wickert said the university works with the National Weather Service and other emergency personnel in the state. We have a fifteen-minute passing period between classes. If the temperature and wind can cause frostbite in fifteen minutes, that’s reason not to
have in-person classes. Provost Wickert reminded senators that a UI student died from exposure during the polar vortex. So the decision was made out of an abundance of caution.

**Budget and Enrollment**
The enrollment for Spring 2021 exceeded the enrollment target (planned in the summer) by over 200 students. With greater enrollments than planned for summer, fall, and spring, and with an unplanned winter session (which brought in $3.6 million in tuition revenue), each college is in a position of having more tuition revenue than originally budgeted for last summer.

**Free Speech**
Following on the presentations to FS and faculty forums about free expression and the syllabus statement, Associate Provost Bratsch-Prince is compiling a FAQ to post on the Provost Office’s website (and possibly CELT’s website).

**Winter Session 2021-22**
Based on the positive feedback from students and faculty from this winter session, the decision has been made to have another winter session. More students enrolled in ISU’s winter session than at UI or UNI. It helped some students get ahead on their academic careers, and others to make their spring loads lighter. Some students completed degree requirements. ISU will adopt a “crawl, walk, run” approach to winter session planning. This year, the winter session was five weeks, which was possible because of the shorter fall and spring semesters and “messed up” academic calendar. Next year, there will be a more normal academic calendar. So the winter session will be four weeks of instruction between normal-length fall and spring semesters. A team (including the Officer of the Registrar and Winter Session Committee led by Associate Provost VanDerZanden) is working to develop a proposal to modify our academic calendar, and will bring the proposal to BOR in the next couple of weeks. They are thinking through complex details.

**Summer and Fall 2021 Semesters**
Provost Wickert sent a memo two weeks ago describing the planning for fall semester. The default perspective is that we will start to return to a “new normal,” which is not exactly what we had before the pandemic but more normal than what we have right now. This “new normal” will default to in-person instruction, research (including human subject research), and employee work arrangements; faculty and student travel pending BOR approval; and visitors on campus. Provost Wickert emphasized that he is not saying that fall will be perfectly normal. There will still be a Cyclones Care Campaign. But other things might change. For example, we might revisit flexible attendance policies, which have increased the teaching load on faculty. One assumption that is fueling this is that there will be widespread availability and access to a vaccine.

In all likelihood, summer will be a “bridge” between the spring and where we hope to be in the fall. The Academic Continuity Workgroup (led by Associate Provost VanDerZanden) is discussing this.

Provost Wickert stressed that no specific decisions have been made, but these are what we are aiming for. We will make adjustments based on health and safety and academic continuity as circumstances warrant.

In the chat, Senator Shielz asked, “When will a decision on Fall start date be announced? I have already registered my strong opposition to moving the fall start date a week earlier with Carmen Bain, but if it is going to happen, we all need to know ASAP (for me, it may require totally changing planned summer/fall Montana camp courses)” Provost Wickert said that an announcement will be made in a couple of weeks.
The calendar needs BOR approval first. Each university is anticipating changes for next year. We will be in a position to make a decision within a couple of weeks.

In the chat, Senator Parsa asked, “Provost Wickert can you comment on the funding from the state?” Provost Wickert replied that there has been no movement. The focus has been on policy bills (described by President Faber and Provost Wickert). The financial bills have not yet been taken up. ISU President Wintersteen testified before the House Appropriations Committee about a general university increase and restoration of cuts from last year. VP Dorhout testified about research in the biosciences.

In the chat, Senator Nair asked, “Will the Fall semester end the week of Thanksgiving like previous year?” Also in the chat, Senator Smiley asked, “Is the plan to return to a 15 wk semester of classes - or stick with a 14 wk semester?” Provost Wickert said that the plan for next year is to have a normal 15-week semester. The semester was shortened for this year only. We started early and ended at Thanksgiving as a special response to COVID. That’s not part of the plan for next year.

In the chat, Senator Watanabe asked, “If 2 [doses] of vaccine are not available to the faculty two weeks before the semester start, will the University continue to allow faculty at-risk to teach online?” Provost Wickert replied that that’s pretty far off in the future. We’re not interested in risking anyone’s health, and we’ll make decisions based on the best health practice. Right now we’re assuming that vaccination is widespread and available. Provost Wickert said that Senator Watanabe is asking about what happens if that assumption doesn’t work out, in which case the plan will have to change. Provost Wickert noted that we were able to move 6500 classes online in Spring 2020. We don’t want to do that in the fall semester. National experts are saying that the vaccine rollout is slow right now, but will ramp up to widespread availability in late spring or summer. Lots of things have to happen to make the fall semester happen.

In the chat, Senator Davis asked, “When will a decision be made regarding autumn study abroad programs?” Provost Wickert replied that this is a BOR decision. In March 2020, BOR instituted a ban on student international travel that remains in place. We have announcement no international travel in the spring or summer. We are some ways away from making a decision about the fall.

In the chat, Senator Townsend asked, “do we have a hard no on being vaccinated as teachers?” Provost Wickert said that that’s right. Collaborating with community colleges and Iowa’s Independent Association of Colleges, BOR made a formal request to IDPH to include postsecondary faculty in “teachers,” as in other states. That request was not approved. Senator Townsend added, “[Glad] to hear the regents were looking out for us.”

In the chat, Senator Smiley commented, “Comment about starting a week early and taking Thanksgiving wk off -- means only 1 wk of classes after break. Any chance of taking M-T off earlier in the semester and W-Th-F off at Thanksgiving -- so fac and students have a breather. 14 wks is a LONG haul without a break, which is what this schedule would involve.” Provost Wickert appreciated the comment.

In the chat, Senator Frank asked, “Another calendar question: regardless of dates, will the 21/22 academic year be contained within a 9-month period again?” Associate Provost VanDerZanden asked Senator Frank to discuss the matter offline so that she could understand the question better. The proposal moves the start and end dates of the fall semester up one week and leaves the spring semester unchanged. There will still be Thanksgiving break and Spring Break. These breaks will enable students to get additional work done before the end of the semester.
In the chat, Senator Parsa asked, “Can you comment on the international admissions?” Provost Wickert said that international offers are about lagging about 6% of our normal number. However, a change was made in how we process some of the application information, which creates a slight lag in when things get done. So it’s misleading to compare our numbers now with the same time last year. Provost Wickert anticipates that the numbers will improve.

In the chat, Senator Hornbuckle asked, “Comment on 9-month faculty responsibilities in light of starting a week early?” Provost Wickert replied that the semesters are normal length and requested clarification. Senator Hornbuckle said that by moving the start date of the semester, the summer shrinks by one week. Summer is important for faculty research and for students being away from campus taking advantage of other opportunities. Provost Wickert thanked him for the comment.

7.4. P&S Council
None

7.5. Student Government
SG President Fritz said that representatives from SG will participate in the Big 12 Day on the Hill with other Big 12 universities, where they will prepare and present a legislative agenda to federal representatives.

SG President Fritz said that her team met with Associate Provost VanDerZanden about the winter session. By and large students reported enjoying the experience. It was a good way to complete extra credits and keep busy over the winter break.

During the week of March 8-12, SG will host Women’s Week 2021 virtual conferences. Invited speakers include Gloria Allread and Women in Politics panels of Democrats (including Jackie Norris) and Republicans (including U.S. Senator Joni Ernst).

SG President Fritz also announced that SG elections are coming up.

7.6. Graduate and Professional Student Senate
GPSS Senate Engagement Officer Iennarella-Servantez announced the call for nominations for Graduate Teaching, Research, and Leadership Awards (https://www.gpss.iastate.edu/students/awards).

8. Good of the Order
President Faber invited people who wanted to socialize after the meeting to stay afterwards.

9. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 3:30 p.m. – Webex

Respectfully submitted March 3, 2021,

Annemarie Butler
Faculty Senate Secretary