

# 2020 Summer Report

**IOWA**

Undergraduate  
Student Government



Presented By: Adam Burghduff and Kate Struble

## Members of the UI community,

This summer has been one of the most difficult for student government. With COVID-19 and racial injustice rampant across the world, Undergraduate Student Government was faced with many tough challenges, tasks, and adversities. Despite all this, I can confidently say this has been one of the most productive summers in recent memory for student government. We authored letters to administration, created new programs and initiatives, and developed new strategies for how to conduct our daily activities during this pandemic. This organization has thrived during the pandemic and this report will lay out all the amazing work we have done this summer. This report will include everything from the FY21 Budget, the 2020-2021 Student Government Platform, and updates from every executive. This report would not be possible without the amazing work of every single executive and the people that support us all during this time. Now, President Wooff, and Vice President Mara Smith, will give you an update on our current progress from the year. We hope you enjoy this report.

*Adam Burghdoff* - Cabinet Director

It is no secret that our campus and community is facing some of the greatest challenges of a generation – and arguably the most dramatic changes of its history. Every aspect of the university – from academics to engagement, well-being to belonging, – has been fundamentally impacted and altered. This emergency mode has also changed the course of USG. Throughout this summer, rather than the normal transition into the administration, we jumped right into the deep end. For this first summer in years, our entire team of executives were hard at work on behalf of students. We spent months meeting with campus partners, planning for the Fall semester, and uplifting the concerns of the those not at the table. The urgency of our responsibilities increased dramatically – our focus shifted from seemingly smaller campus projects to major and urgent topics of health and safety. As we officially start the academic year, we are so proud of all that was accomplished this past summer. We spoke up on racial injustice, state budget cuts, student safety, and international student bans. We inspired the creation of the Reimagining Public Safety Committee and an increase in virtual learning and engagement. We planned for the year by forming our organization's platform, held feedback opportunities, and adjusted student services. In this report you will find so much more. Amid the many challenges of today and tomorrow, we look forward to a year of partnership and progress.

*Connor Wooff* - President  
*Mara Smith* - Vice President

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# TOP TEN

## **Cutting ties with Iowa City Police Department**



Ruth Kahssai, our Director of Justice and Equity, with the help of many other executives, USG alum, and staff members, wrote a letter to President Harreld and other upper level administrators with four specific demands, including cutting ties with ICPD. This letter led to the new Reimagining Public Safety Committee led by Vice President for Student Life, Sarah Hansen.

## **COVID-19 Letter**

Before students returned to campus, USG and GPSG wrote a joint letter to President Harreld and Provost Kregel regarding our concerns with in-person learning and engagement in the Fall 2020 semester.



## **Supporting International Students**



After the news that international students may face more obstacles surrounding returning to school this fall, we started regularly meeting with Dean Gamin of International Programs, members of the International Student Advisory Board and the Association of Big Ten Students.

## **Planning Initiatives During COVID-19**

Many initiatives were planned or undertaken this summer despite COVID-19. This included the airport shuttle, ORG TIP\$, a textbook drive, working with University Counseling Services and other offices to develop mental health initiatives for students during COVID-19.





## **Established Programming Budget Review Committee**

This summer we created the Programming Budget Review Committee (PBRC) to work with the Vice President for Student Life, Sarah Hansen, on the Division's DEI priorities.

## **Medical Amnesty**

After nearly five years of USG advocacy, medical amnesty (HF684) was signed into law by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds in June. The statewide law now provides limited legal immunity to underage persons seeking assistance in alcohol-related emergencies.



## **Governmental Relations**

Advocating for Hawkeyes at the state and federal level is always a top priority, especially during a pandemic. USG leaders provided campus updates to Iowa's Congressional delegation, held a virtual meeting tour with state legislators, and spoke out against severe state budget cuts to Iowa's three public universities.



## **Supporting Students Amid COVID-19**

Early in the summer when trying to navigate being a student in these unprecedented times, we hosted a town hall with GPSG. We collected questions, comments, and ideas from undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to help better support students.



## Senator Recruitment



As we do every fall, we opened applications to fill our open senator seats. This year we had 25 spots to fill, five of which were reserved for first year students. In the era of COVID-19, our typical tabling events and advertising in the dining halls no longer worked so we utilized Zoom for recruitment events and social media for outreach.

## Platform creation

Every summer after the election, a committee is created for platform writing. This year representatives from all the tickets that ran together worked to combine all the most important pieces of their platforms to create a list of projects to work on for the year.



# Executive Cabinet

<b>Connor Wooff</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Mara Smith</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Adam Burghduff</b>	<b>Cabinet Director</b>
<b>Emily Hagedorn</b>	<b>Director of Finance</b>
<b>Kate Struble</b>	<b>Director of Communications</b>
<b>Katie Michalski</b>	<b>Director of Operations</b>
<b>Airiana Mohr</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Kayla Cleland</b>	<b>Director of External Relations</b>
<b>John Dickens</b>	<b>Director of Governmental Relations</b>
<b>Ryan Longenecker</b>	<b>City Liaison</b>
<b>Emily Manders</b>	<b>Director of Sustainability</b>
<b>Regan Smock</b>	<b>Director of Academic Affairs</b>
<b>Verona Victoria</b>	<b>Director of Health and Safety</b>
<b>Dave Keffala-Gerhard</b>	<b>Director of Student Services</b>
<b>Ruth Kahssai</b>	<b>Director of Justice and Equity</b>
<b>Makayla Morales</b>	<b>Deputy Director of Communications</b>
<b>Anna Van Heukelom</b>	<b>Deputy City Liaison</b>
<b>Hallie Lartius</b>	<b>Media Relations Manager</b>
<b>Cailin Hall</b>	<b>Graphic Designer</b>
<b>Vrunda Patel</b>	<b>Graphic Designer</b>
<b>Nate Goodwin</b>	<b>Videographer and Photographer</b>

# Senators

<b>Sam Stucky</b>	<b>Speaker of the Senate</b>
<b>Jack Lauer</b>	<b>Speaker Pro Temp</b>
<b>Adeline Barron</b>	<b>Black Const. Senator</b>
<b>Kaitlin Soriano</b>	<b>Asian Pacific Islander Desi-American Const. Senator</b>
<b>Claire Miller</b>	<b>Disability Const. Senator</b>
<b>Shimin Park</b>	<b>International Const. Senator</b>
<b>Joseph Haggerty</b>	<b>LGBTQ+ Const. Senator</b>
<b>Paul Richards</b>	<b>Veteran Const. Senator</b>
<b>Keely Driscoll</b>	<b>Native American Const. Senator</b>
<b>Shalini Birari</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Kathryn Shumaker</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Sierra Wicks</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Joshua Brown</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Lauren Salloum</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Isabella Mullins</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Abigail Crow</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Joycelyn Jorebedom</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Cameron Coates</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>John Meis</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Patrick Johnson</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Sire Abram</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Yara Moustafa</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Sam Avery</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>
<b>Libbie Smith</b>	<b>Senator at Large</b>

# USG Finances

The University of Iowa has experienced immense financial strain as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as have our fellow students. Undergraduate Student Government has taken measures to attempt to alleviate some of these burdens by continuing to support critical student services.

USG, along with generous contributions from various parts of campus, came together to donate to the Dean's Emergency Fund to monetarily support students facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Additionally, the Programming Budget Review Committee collaborated with the Division of Student Life to create the Programming Budget for fiscal year 21, with allocations supporting marginalized communities on campus, students experiencing mental health crises, and suicide prevention.

Contracted costs for the Student Activity Fee (SAF) include groups that provide wide services to students like the Food Pantry, the Clothing Closet, and Student Legal Services as well as large student groups like SCOPE, Bijou, and Lecture Committee. The SAF Committee met this summer to discuss the significant leftover funds from fiscal year 20, and concluded those funds were to be reallocated to critical services in fiscal year 21. Further, the SAF Committee will collaborate with the Finance Team and the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement to renew the CampusLabs contract to continue the use of Engage for student organizations.

Moving forward, USG will continue to support students in this time of increased financial need by spending money efficiently and continuing to inform students of changes in the fluid nature of finances this year.

For more information and detailed financial reports please visit:  
[usg.uiowa.edu](http://usg.uiowa.edu)

An aerial photograph of a golf course during a large event. The scene is dominated by a vast, well-maintained green. In the upper half, a large crowd of people is gathered, interspersed with several tents in various colors (red, purple, blue, yellow) and a cluster of vehicles including a white van, a red car, and a white sedan. A white banner or flag is visible in the upper right. The lower half of the image shows two prominent, rounded islands of dense, mature trees and shrubs, which are part of the golf course's landscape design. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, organized outdoor event.

# Executive Updates

# Justice and Equity

This summer the Justice & Equity committee were faced with many social justice issues, from the inequities of COVID-19, the cyclical acts of violence of white supremacy onto Black people, addressing institutional and administrative barriers to the well-being and success of Black, Indigenous, and students of color on campus, and more. Justice & Equity also holds most of USG's intersectional members, thus making our work even more challenging. At the end of May I collaborated with Dr. Maria Bruno, Executive Director of Belonging & Inclusion and Assistant to the VPSL, to create a summer long space for Black students, staff, and faculty to process current events and our experiences at Iowa called the Healing Spaces.

Shortly after, I and others in USG, with the great support of staff, alumni, and multicultural student organizations, wrote a letter to Iowa admin demanding that the University of Iowa cut ties with the Iowa City Police Department, among other demands, after the tear gassing of peaceful Black Lives Matter protestors on June 3rd. This letter had the support of over 100 student organizations and 2 academic departments, and remains unanswered by U Iowa admin. Throughout the summer Kaitlin Soriano and I worked to bring public safety concerns affecting underrepresented and targeted students to different university offices in relation to student safety, also still largely unaddressed by staff and admin from these offices.

**"We'd like to thank BIPOC students and multicultural student organizations, and staff of color."  
-Ruth Kahssai**

**Director of Justice and Equity:  
Ruth Kahssai**

Justice & Equity co-committee chairs, Joycelyn Jorbedom and Kaitlin Soriano, many of our constituency senators, and I have also spent the summer meeting with a variety of campus partners in preparation for this unprecedented academic year. With the assistance of Mara Smith, VP of USG, USG senators, and staff from MISSE and the WRAC we created a group committed to creating programming and educational to center Black non-binary folks and Black women. With the support of Interim Director of the CDE Tab Wiggins, Interim Associate Director of MISSE Thomas Arce, our Black constituency senator Adeline Barron, and Black student leadership from Black Student Union, African Student Association, and GPSG, we continue to work to create a monetary support fund for Black students at Iowa. We have also worked with International Student Advisory Board Undergraduate Chair Mishma Nixon and Coordinator for the Pride Alliance Center Emma Welch, along with Director of Health & Safety Verona Victoria and Communications Director Kate Struble, on bettering the accessibility of COVID-19 information for underrepresented students. I worked with former Coordinator for the Afro House Shirleena Terrell, UCS Psychologist and Group Programs Coordinator Dr. LaNeisha Waller, and RVAP staff member Shalisa Gladney, to create a Black Student Support Group and Black Student Therapy Group for this fall semester. And last, Justice & Equity assisted in multiple USG and Iowa admin initiatives outside of the direct Justice & Equity group work. Much of our summer work continues into the fall, as well.

We'd like to thank BIPOC students and multicultural student organizations, staff of color such as Dr. Maria Bruno, Thomas Arce, and Interim LNACC Coordinator Isabela Flores, and faculty for their support this last summer.



**Director of Justice and Equity:  
Ruth Kahssai**

# Governmental Relations: Federal Level

The beginning of our summer started unlike any other. After returning home due to the coronavirus pandemic, we began to reach out to legislators at both the state and federal level advocating for student relief. Our team met virtually with both Senators Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley to give them campus updates and ask for their support of the All Dependents Count Act – a bill that would include many college students in relief that previously excluded them. We also attended the Board of Regents summer meeting successfully asking them to freeze tuition in the fall semester to give students relief.

In addition to this, we have worked on various federal issues that have emerged over time. We took meetings with our Title IX office when the Department of Education released new guidelines to try and educate and protect students. We worked with our Federal Lobbyist team to help strike down ICE regulations preventing international students from returning to campus in the fall. We met with City Council members to create comprehensive plans on reducing community spread, including providing downtown bars and restaurants with masks to hand out to customers, creating marketing strategies to encourage people to stay home and social distance, and implementing more outdoor seating opportunities downtown.



**Director of Governmental Relations:**  
**John Dickens**

# Governmental Relations: State Level

Over the summer protests erupted around the country fighting for racial justice and police reform. We met routinely with the Iowa City City Council to present student concerns and craft resolutions designed to protect the lives of and safety of those routinely discriminated against. We also worked with student leaders around campus to push the University to cut ties with the Iowa City Police Department after inexcusable actions taken against student protestors.

As the summer progressed, our team began our annual Summer Legislative Road Trip, except this year it could be more appropriately labeled "Zoom Trip." We met first with local state legislators from Johnson County, and will be expanding to other areas of Iowa as the semester progresses. For the past five years, the agenda for these meetings included the Medical Amnesty Bill, designed to encourage those under the legal drinking age to seek medical attention for themselves or a friend. This June session, the bill passed due to the hard work of previous USG members and state legislators. Now, we will begin a new push to help renters and landlords increase transparency by requiring them to go through a "move-in checklist" together. This will decrease discrepancies in security deposit discussions and protect both students and landlords from manipulation.

As we move into the Fall Semester, we are excited to continue advocating for students at the city, state and federal level. We will continue our Zoom Legislator Tour, push for more racial justice policies from all levels of government, and advocate for student pandemic relief as well as safe renting practices.



**Director of Governmental Relations:  
John Dickens**

# Governmental Relations: City Level

Over the summer, the City Liaisons worked on a host of issues, including attending City Council meetings, addressing COVID-19 concerns, and amplifying the Black Lives Matter movement. Throughout the summer, the City Liaisons attended every Council meeting to stay informed about current city matters and to inform Council about what USG was working on and any student concerns that have been raised. Early in the summer, the City Liaisons led the initiative of writing a letter to City Council advocating for utilities relief for students financially impacted by COVID-19. There are now several City programs that address rent/utilities and that are accessible to students.

During the summer, we held multiple meetings with individuals from campus administration, the Iowa City Downtown District, and City Council to discuss strategies for messaging about Covid-19. This included working with Anne Abbot, a College of Public Health PH. D student, to create a messaging framework that was utilized downtown. Most recently, we worked to advocate to campus administration, including the Office of the President, to encourage local bars to do better in mitigating transmission, as well as encourage the Governor to enforce COVID-19 mandates. Due to the University's advocacy, the bars in Johnson County were closed for four weeks which was later extended.



**City Liaison: Ryan Longenecker**  
**Deputy City Liaison: Anna Van Heukelom**

Next, the period of racial reckoning we are in has affected Iowa City greatly, most noticeably by the Iowa Freedom Riders organizing protests and pushing City Council to adopt a Black Lives Matter resolution. This resolution included the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a \$1 million allocation to public housing and the reformation of the ICPD. After the June 3rd incident with the Iowa City Police Department, where protestors were tear-gassed, flash-banged, and pepper sprayed, the City Liaisons worked with other USG Executives to draft the letter to campus administration calling for them to cut ties with the ICPD immediately. In the months since, we have continued to advocate at City Council meetings in support of IFR and Black Lives Matter and provide student input and concerns when possible.

Lastly, the Renter's Guide Survey was released in April and closed in August. The survey collects data from student renters on their rental experience from this year. The data will be put into the Renter's Guide and is set to be released later this fall for students to view as they are signing new leases.



**City Liaison: Ryan Longenecker**  
**Deputy City Liaison: Anna Van Heukelom**

# Academic Affairs

This summer the Academic Affairs Committee has been hard at work to improve the academic experience for all undergraduate students during this unusual time. We have advocated relentlessly to implement a Pass/Non-Pass option for all students who need it, as well as a transcript notation to describe that this is not a normal semester to all graduate schools or employers who view our students' transcripts in the future. Our Director of Academic Affairs collaborated with Directors in Big Ten schools across the country to combine a document that brings to light the immense reasoning that this option is necessary for the Fall 2020 semester.

Academic Affairs representatives have also communicated concerns around academic integrity, injustice in an online environment, access to closed captioning for every student in online classes, and alternative attendance options. We have had the pleasure of working with Interim Provost, Kevin Kregel, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Tanya Uden-Holman, and CLAS's Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, Cornelia Lang, to make this semester as accessible and inclusive as possible.

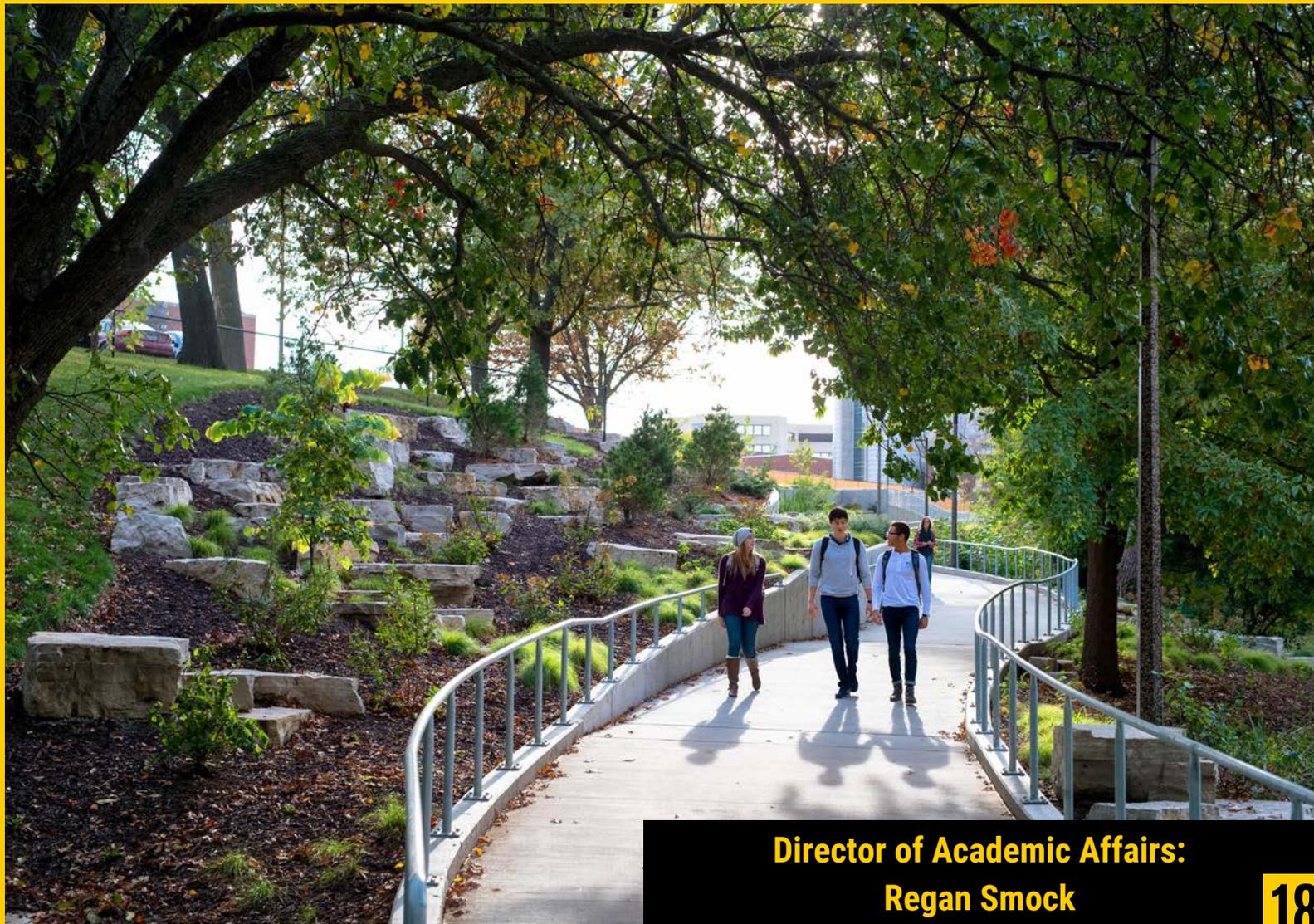
**Director of Academic Affairs:  
Regan Smock**

**"We have had the pleasure of working with Interim Provost, Kevin Kregel, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Tanya Uden-Holman, and CLAS's Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, Cornelia Lang, to make this semester as accessible and inclusive as possible."**

**-Regan Smock**

Academic Affairs has also worked hard to ensure that our Textbook Donation Drive was still able to happen during this strange time. We held this drive virtually and allowed students to utilize the link from the Class of 2021-2024 Facebook Pages. We also worked to plan for and implement strategies to support First-Generation Students through an unprecedented college experience, including planning for the First-Generation Summit.

We also had the ability to start planning for a Mentoring Pilot Program hosted within the College of Law. It is Student Government's mission to ensure that every undergraduate student has access to some form of mentorship during their time at Iowa. This pilot is aimed at collecting data so that we can institutionalize similar programs across campus in years to come. Academic Affairs representatives have also worked to ensure that we are utilizing our platform to communicate important information to students including, promoting Tutor Iowa's resources, explaining the University's Learning Model, and spreading the news that textbooks ordered from the Hawkshop were only available online this year. After this busy summer, we are excited to see what challenges and accomplishments the rest of the year will bring!



**Director of Academic Affairs:  
Regan Smock**

# Operations

Over the course of the summer, the Director of Operations reconstructed aspects of both the USG SharePoint and USG website, particularly in conjunction with the recent name change of the organization (from UISG to USG) and university-wide rebranding. The Director of Operations also coordinated with the Internal Affairs committee on many of their initiatives.

- Created a USG Directory accessible to all USG-involved students which consists of contact information, position title, and experience within the organization.
- Created a communication system for USG members to easily request changes for the USG SharePoint and website.
- Led multiple website-editing zoom meetings which consisted of other USG Executives and Senators
- Updated Executive contact information on the website and SharePoint. Archived webpages with outdated or otherwise irrelevant information.
- Redesigned the USG Members webpage to reflect USG's cohort organization. Designed and published a new USG Constituency Senator webpage. Designed and published a new Green Bandana Project webpage.
- Collaborated with the USG Director of Communications to create a new, more-accessible communication form for constituents.

Most notably, the link to the USG website was changed to comply with the new organization name. To aid in the rebranding, process the Director of Operations collaborated with University of Iowa Marketing + Design staff about a large-scale website redesign project that will be finished by winter 2020.



**Director of Operations:  
Katie Michalski**

# Operations: Secretary

This summer, I took notes for all of our cabinet meetings, edited them, and uploaded them to the USG SharePoint each week. I also tracked each executive's attendance at these meetings. As part of this I created new documents for tracking attendance for Executive and Senators in the fall. Senator Patrick Johnson and I began an initiative to install "no touch handles" on doors around campus in heavily trafficked areas. These included public residence hall restrooms, IMU spaces, and main campus buildings such as the Pomerantz Career Center. Our vision of no touch handles included simple door attachments that allow students to open the door with either their foot or elbow.

After reaching out to numerous campus partners, we discovered that this initiative was already underway in many highly trafficked areas across campus. This project was started by Key and Access Services as well as UI Facilities Management. We were supposed to receive information on the full scope of the project, but never did; although, we were notified of the first installation of these devices. For the residence halls, we kept pushing for information and progress on this front. After many emails, we were told that these modifications were not possible due to current fire and safety codes within the building. Housing and Dining was reluctant to make these changes due to their grandfathered contracts that they did not want to update.

Working with the Internal Affairs Committee, I was part of the process to update all of the USG official documents. Senator Abigail Crow and I changed the document to reflect our name change from UISG to USG, make the language clearer, send formatting corrections to Katie Michalski, and add in the previous legislation passed for a Transfer Student Representative.

- The documents we updated included the Bylaws, Constitution, Executive and Senate Codes of Conduct, and Elections Code.
- Formatting changes were sent to Director of Operations Katie Michalski.

Again, working with Internal Affairs, I helped with the new senator application process by contributing ideas for making this process more accessible and helping with logistics.



**Secretary:**  
**Airiana Mohr**

# Finance

- Transitioned into my role with the help of former Director of Finance and current Cabinet Director Adam Burghduff. This involved learning about USG accounts, financial forms, and long-term goals for the organization.
- Created and presented informational finance content for both internal USG use and for USG social media.
- Set up payment schedules for student stipends for groups the Student Activity Fee funds to create more financial flexibility for USG.
- Added funds from Late Night Programming to the Org Tip\$ program to increase use. Reviewed end of FY20 account balances with the Student Activity Fee Committee.
- Advised updates for the Finance Committee funding guidelines to be in line with all-virtual student organization programming this fall.
- Fulfilled final year of the University of Iowa's contract with Campus Labs' Engage site.
- Reached out to the Center of Student Involvement and Leadership to discuss options for renewal or new services.

**\$250,000+**  
**donated for**  
**the Emergency**  
**Relief Fund**  
**from Student**  
**Government**  
**and other**  
**organizations**

**Director of Finance:**  
**Emily Hagedorn**

### **Programming Budget:**

- Created a charter for the Programming Budget Review Committee with Cabinet Director Adam Burghduff to establish a timeline for the new Programming Budget.
- Communicated with groups formerly on the Programming Budget about changes made (if they either moved to the Executive Budget or were prioritized during the Programming Budget formulation).
- Collaborated with the Division of Student Life and VPSL Sarah Hansen to develop priorities for the budget.
- Deliberated line items for the \$56,000 budget with the committee, keeping efficacy and DEI as paramount requirements.

### **Sponsored Student Organization Reform:**

- Met with several Sponsored Student Organizations (SSO's) to hear their questions and concerns about funding.
- Began brainstorming SSO funding reforms to take place next year in order to better fulfill the needs of large student organizations.
- Workshopped "Bid Process" for SSO's to give them more capital up front to cover their fixed costs.

### **Contracted costs and Student Activity Fee review:**

- Met with several of the large contracted cost groups under the Student Activity Fee to review their programming plans and budgets for the fall in light of COVID-19.
- Communicated need to reduce costs due to summer 2020 fees not being assessed.
- Assured contracted costs that their fixed costs and contracts would be fulfilled.



**Director of Finance:  
Emily Hagedorn**

# Sustainability

## 2030 Sustainability Goals

- Continued discussions about the progress of the 2030 Sustainability Goals. Advocated for pressure to advance the construction of the goals.
- Presented to the 2030 Sustainability Goals Committee about the creation of a new goal to specifically include goals centered around diversity equity and inclusion, including expansion of Environmental Justice Academics and environmentally related scholarships to Underrepresented Students in Sustainability

## Green Initiatives Fund (GIF)

- Created organizational system for the Green Initiatives Fund for easy access for future members of student government
- Updated information about the Green Initiatives Fund on the USG website, created an FAQ and participated in discussions about marketing GIF.
- Created the new 2020-2021 Green Initiatives Fund committee.

## Pesticide Use on Campus

- Met with the Pesticides Research Intern to address pesticide usage on campus, discussed further steps with pesticide use after the pesticides research report comes out.
- Worked with the University of Iowa Environmental Coalition and University of Northern Iowa's Good Neighbor program to create a plan to address pesticides use.



**Director of Sustainability:**  
**Emily Manders**

## **Athletics**

- Met with a member of ISAAC to discuss sustainability initiatives within athletics and the creation of a sustainability committee in ISAAC.
- Researched and held meetings regarding the Iowa Farm Bureau, and the University of Iowa's partnership with the IFB through America Needs Farmers.
- Advocated for America Needs Farmers to align with the University's DEI goals, take off the anti-climate change rhetoric on the ANF website, and to reimagine ANF to support small farmers like its intended original goals.

## **Environmental Justice Academics**

- Met with the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and several faculty and staff about the expansion of Environmental Justice classes offered to students in the environmental majors like the sustainability certificate, EPPL Major, Environmental Science major, Sustainability major etc.
- Presented to the Sustainability Certificate Committee about the expansion of Environmental Justice academics.

## **Waste**

- The residence halls have decided to not offer recycling services during the fall semester. Miscommunication has surrounded this, and recycling may be offered at the residence halls with dining halls. Compost and Landfill services continue to be offered.
- Discussed the lack of recycling with Housing staff, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, and the City of Iowa City. Researched the implications of the lack of recycling including fees for cardboard in the landfill and the legality of not offering recycling services for large unit residence halls.

# Student Services

## Airport Shuttle

- The Airport shuttle contract was renewed with COVID-19 regulations in place. Demographic data is now being collected with more efficacy so that the service can be optimized for the students who most commonly use it. Advertisement was a key part of the shuttle.

## Health and Safety Partnership initiatives

- Student Services and Health & Safety have begun to look into options for consistent, sustainable, and accessible menstrual products and product placement for students on campus.. The COVID-19 pandemic has impeded implementation of these plans, but work is being done to find suitable options for menstrual products for all students.

## ORG TIP\$

- The goal of ORG TIP\$ is to increase the number of student leaders who are trained in skills that promote the well-being of the student body. ORG TIP\$ has begun a partnership with Late Night Programming to fund monthly themed trainings that coincide with the current ORG TIP\$ schema of operations. Plans are in the works to adapt and expand ORG TIP\$ to be more accessible and impactful to different sizes of student organizations.

***"Plans are in the works to adapt and expand ORG TIP\$ to be more accessible and impactful to different sizes of student organizations."  
-Dave Keffala-Gerhard***

**Director of Student Services:  
Dave Keffala-Gerhard**

**Coralville Bussing:** The contract has been renewed with the City of Coralville and USG, meaning the Coralville bus route is once again up and running during Thursday and Friday evenings as a reliable way for students to reach the Coralville mall and River Landing from Campus. Similarly, to the Airport shuttle, plans are in the works for demographic data to be collected from riders so the service's performance may be optimized for the riders who most need and use the service.

**Hammock Park:** The work that was started as a result of legislation passed in the spring semester of 2020 to create a hammock park has resumed. The Committee for Student Life has resumed communications with University administration to speedily finish this project.

**Deputy Position:** A position is in the process being created and adapted to assist the Director of Student Services with matters under their purview. This new position should help aid to the efficiency of current services and help in the creation of new ones.



**Director of Student Services:  
Dave Keffala-Gerhard**

# External Relations

This summer, External Relations was faced with the unique problem of having to re-format the way that we approach connecting to the student body. We helped host a virtual town hall over Zoom with GPSG, giving students a place to voice concerns about the return to campus.

We hope to do more of these throughout the year and look for other ways to connect (virtually) with students. We also continued to develop USG for U which is our monthly newsletter. Towards the latter half of the summer, we worked on fall recruitment for our senators, which was a series of virtual Q&A sessions with current senators and resume workshops with the Pomerantz Career Center.

We look forward to finding new ways to reach the student body during these changing times!

**"External Relations was faced with the unique problem of having to re-format the way that we approach connecting to the student body."  
-Kayla Cleland**

## USG *for U* MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*USG exists to represent, serve, and empower all undergraduate students at the University of Iowa.*

**HEY** *Hawkeyes*

Hi Hawkeyes!

USG hopes you are doing well and are settled into your new routine this semester. As we get through midterms season, please remember to take care of yourself, and that there are many people and resources available to you for support. If you have any questions for us, please feel free to email us at [usg@uiowa.edu](mailto:usg@uiowa.edu).

Happy October!

- Mara Smith, USG Vice President

**Director of External Relations:  
Kayla Cleland**

# Health and Safety

This summer has brought about multiple challenges for the Health and Safety Committee. In preparation for the 2020-2021 academic year, the health and safety of all students and members of the Iowa City community was our top priority. Most of our efforts were attuned towards the immediate impact of COVID-19 on our campus community, implementation of the new Title IX regulations, and compilation of mental health resources.

As our campus scrambled to tackle different avenues through which the health and safety of our members might be compromised, we raised concerns about the return to campus and its impact on the Iowa City community. Beyond this, we assisted with the COVID-19 training video developed for students and staff and developed safety measures and regulations while working in tandem with the Iowa City Downtown District.

Additionally, we supported the implementation of the new Title IX regulations with the Interim Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct, contributed to the creation of Mental Health at Iowa, a website providing a comprehensive list of mental health resources, and continued to plan the execution of the Green Bandana Project, which raises awareness for suicide prevention.

Though this summer brought about multiple challenges, we are prepared to adjust to the dynamic nature of COVID-19 and will continue to advocate for the health and safety of all students and members in our community!

**"The health and safety of all students and members of the Iowa City community was our top priority."  
-Verona Victoria**

**Director of Health and Safety:  
Verona Victoria**

# 2020 USG Platform



# 2020-2021 USG Platform

## Internal Affairs

- Better USG's transition systems
- Increase more collaboration between committees
- Assist USG members in connecting to campus and community partners by creating a contact glossary
- Partner with the Career Center in modernizing the USG interview process
- Build on the USG demographic survey and actively recruit for a more inclusive student government
- Maintain and develop strong relationships between senators
- Ensure a successful brand change across the organization
- Review the USG election process and audit the impact of previous changes
- Require NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute) trainings for all student government executives within the first semester

## External Relations

- Reach out and present to student organizations about USG and the services we provide
- Host events to gather feedback from a variety of corners on campus
- Bolster USG's involvement on campus and in the community by creating an internal event and volunteer calendar
- Increase USG's accessibility and transparency by hosting campus roundtables and forums
- Host a student leader networking night to increase collaboration between student organizations
- Increase communication between USG and student organizations by further developing the liaison program and creating tailored communications
- Encourage student leaders to attend senate by increasing advertisement and coverage of the meetings
- Partner with the Division of Student Life in hosting workshops on how to operate student organizations in a virtual semester

# 2020-2021 USG Platform

## Sustainability

- Improve education on recycling and composting practices
- Hold landlords accountable for providing opportunities to recycle
- Expand the new IMU compost bins throughout the university
- Manage the medical waste of single-use masks
- Reduce single use plastic usage on campus
- Make composting accessible and valued throughout campus
- Promote the implementation of a sustainability general education requirement across colleges
- Review existing sustainability classes and reduce whitewashed sustainability education
- Expand outreach on little-known facts of sustainability
- Improve and promote the sustainable purchasing guide
- Expand advertising for the Green Initiatives Fund
- Expand and the use of acknowledgements on University of Iowa property
- Improve sustainability within overlooked communities on campus
- Advocate for more meatless options within dining and promote the alternatives through events like chef cook-offs
- Work with on-campus dining and events to reduce single use programming and to-go meals
- Support bicyclists of Iowa City and the transportation committee in making sustainable transportation more accessible
- Connect the sustainability efforts of the university with those of the city
- Host workshops and trainings with student organizations on how they can become more sustainable
- Partner with chapter leadership in revamping sustainability within Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Align student government's initiatives with the university's 2030 sustainability goals
- Establish biodiverse native planting practices
- Reduce harmful pesticide use on campus, particularly neonicotinoids

# 2020-2021 USG Platform

## Health and Safety

- Require and improve mental health trainings for all faculty and staff
- Promote the Green Bandana Project across campus and implement a suicide awareness campaign
- Strengthen cultural trainings for University Counseling Service staff
- Create a guide to navigating off-campus mental health resources and insurance options
- Launch a campaign to destigmatize mental health resources and promote UCS
- Promote a campus-wide campaign on sexual assault prevention
- Educate students, faculty, and staff on responding to sexual assault disclosures
- Conduct a campus and city lighting audit alongside the UI Department of Public Safety and the City of Iowa City
- Promote the Rave Guardian app and work with ITS to include it within Hawk Tools
- Advocate to expand the NITE Ride program and increase advertisement of the service
- Advocate for Student Health to host mobile units in residence halls and other accessible campus locations
- Work with Student Wellness to promote their Mindfulness program that assists students in managing their stress
- Strengthen alcohol overdose prevention programming within Fraternity & Sorority Life and Residence Education
- Increase accessibility to high-quality menstrual products across campus
- Create a health and safety app through university Information Technology Services
- Execute a campus wide flu shot campaign in partnership with Student Health and UIHC

## Justice and Equity

- Create an academic support and retention guide for first-generation students on campus
- Foster strong relationships between students and staff who utilize the cultural centers through events, programs, and listening sessions
- Advocate for more accessible gender-neutral bathrooms
- Push for educational opportunities surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion within major campus programs such as Orientation, On Iowa!, and Homecoming

# 2020-2021 USG Platform

- Partner with Orientation Services and International Programs in enhancing the international student orientation experience
- Educate domestic students on what it means to live in a global community
- Institute resources in Student Health to remove any language barriers
- Expand the translation of financial guides to include additional languages
- Conduct a student led accessibility audit of high trafficked facilities on campus
- Work with Student Disability Services in creating a guide on how to facilitate accommodations requests for students, staff, and faculty
- Urge the Office of Admissions to partner with LGBTQ+ high school organizations during the recruitment process
- Expand the Safe Zone training to faculty and staff across campus
- Streamline the process to report faculty and staff who commit acts of bias
- Advocate for the creation of a peer to peer international student mentorship program
- Continue the pursuit of a Black Student Support fund on campus
- Work with Student Life and University Counseling Services in providing healing spaces for BIPOC students, staff, and faculty

## **Academic Affairs**

- Create opportunities to build relationships between students and their instructors
- Advocate for the inclusion of mental health days in class attendance policies across campus
- Improve the transfer student experience by hosting networking events and resource fairs
- Host a scholarship fair to connect students to current financial aid opportunities
- Implement a tuition and financial aid education campaign
- Host workshops to assist students in filling out the FAFSA
- Work to increase online educational resources available to students
- Partner with the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates to develop a campaign to embrace and share research opportunities across all areas of study
- Implement a mentoring pilot program on campus and create a guide on how to expand these opportunities to all academic units

# 2020-2021 USG Platform

- Work to require that every faculty member undergoes a training on diversity, equity, and inclusion before entering the classroom
- Advocate for the creation of experiential learning components for undergraduate students like Tippie RISE
- Collaborate with 1stGen@Iowa to support first-generation students in their academic and career endeavors

## **Finance**

- Directly connect with multicultural and/or underrepresented organizations to ensure knowledge of USG funds and services
- Improve transparency and advertisement of USG finances and the funding process
- Free up funds for student organizations by supporting the “50-50 in 3-5” plan and working with current services and organizations to find outside monetary sources
- Hold regular USG funding meetings and workshops with student organizations across campus
- Increase advertisement of the Green Initiatives Fund on campus

## **Student Life**

- Partner with student and community artists in expanding public art on campus
- Continue to promote the USG airport shuttle and improve the service
- Update and market the Not Being Rich @ Ulowa guide
- Promote the use of After Class and campus events website
- Create online community spaces to promote socialization opportunities among students
- Empower student employees by hosting roundtables and other opportunities for feedback
- Promote basic needs resources like the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet Reform the Org Tip\$ program to increase training opportunities to better serve student organizations
- Establish a drive for graduation robes and materials
- Better the relationship between USG and Fraternity & Sorority Life by hosting regular meetings with council presidents
- Create an involvement and engagement audit to coincide a degree audit

# 2020-2021 USG Platform

## Governmental Relations:

- Advocate for a statewide move-in checklist policy designed to increase transparency between renters and landlords
- Advocate for increased appropriations to the University of Iowa and create opportunities for all students and parents to add their voice to our advocacy
- Develop a social media and messaging campaign to show the impact of rising tuition
- Collaborate with ISU and UNI to create a unified advocacy approach to the Board of Regents and Iowa Legislature
- Create a legislative advisory committee designed to connect students with local state legislators
- Host elected officials and regents for student-led visits
- Encourage City Council to require new housing to match Iowa City's 2030 sustainability goals.
- Advocate for adequate and affordable housing in Iowa City that reflects the needs of students
- Continue to survey student renting experiences to create and promote resources for off-campus living
- Collaborate with campus partners to create a comprehensive off-campus housing tool that is easily accessible and holds landlords accountable
- Coordinate with campus partners to provide voter registration opportunities and increase civic engagement among the student body
- Host student-focused forums with candidates and elected officials for all levels of office
- Ensure students have the necessary form of voter ID by promoting the temporary voter ID card and advocating that the Iowa One card be made voting eligible
- Advocate for election day to be recognized as a university holiday
- Partner with community advocates for racial justice in pushing for change within the Iowa City Police Department



# Letters to Administration

August 4, 2020

Dear President Bruce Harreld and Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Kregel,

Throughout the summer, we have kept our fingers crossed in hopes that we could safely return to in-person learning this month. We have engaged with campus leadership in the “return to campus” planning process to share the student perspective and advocate for student needs. We were excited to return to normalcy—academically and socially. However, the persistent increase in COVID-19 cases in Iowa, and specifically Johnson County, has become troubling, especially as most students are scheduled to move back to Iowa City in the coming weeks. While we deeply miss our traditional learning environments and collegiate social experiences, the rising cases and risks associated with COVID-19 make returning to campus an alarming prospect.

**We cannot, in good conscience, support in-person classroom learning and full opening<sup>1</sup> of residence halls in the Fall 2020 semester amid our current environment.** A return to in-person learning, as planned, even using a blended learning strategy, acts as an invasive choice constraint given that three out of every four UI students are concerned about contracting COVID-19 on campus this semester.<sup>2</sup>

We ask that the University of Iowa move all non-essential in-person learning, activities, and events to a virtual format. No student should be on campus unless absolutely necessary,<sup>3</sup> especially when virtual learning options are accessible and efficient.<sup>4</sup> Simply put, virtual learning should be the rule and not the exception until COVID-19 can be controlled effectively and continuously. Furthermore, we urge the University to significantly reduce density in campus residence halls by only allowing access to students in urgent need of housing and dining.

Decisions that impact tens of thousands of students, staff, faculty, and community members must be made on the basis of the latest available data, including:

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<sup>1</sup> With the exception of emergency housing and dining for residents and resident assistants.

<sup>2</sup> *University of Iowa COVID Student Survey*, U. of Iowa 2 (July 27, 2020), <https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu/sites/coronavirus.uiowa.edu/files/2020-07/University-of-Iowa-COVID19-Student-Survey.pdf> (indicating 75% of survey respondents are either very or somewhat concerned they might become infected with COVID-19 if attending the University of Iowa on campus this fall).

<sup>3</sup> We acknowledge that there are certain programs that require specific experiential learning environments, including but not limited to, healthcare student clinics, research activities, and fine and performance arts, that require necessary in-person interactions. These programs should continue in person so long as the university can provide and maintain steadfast public health policies and procedures, including the use of PPE, social distancing, regular hand washing, sanitization, etc.

<sup>4</sup> See Wayne Jacobsen & Matt Anson, *Pandemic Response Survey: Virtual Instruction*, U. of Iowa Office of the Provost 1–2 (June 17, 2020), <https://assessment.uiowa.edu/sites/assessment.uiowa.edu/files/2020-06/PRS-Virtual-Instruction.pdf>.

- In every 50-person classroom in Johnson County, there is a 61% risk level that *at least* one COVID-19 positive individual will be present.<sup>5</sup> In every 25-person classroom in Johnson County, there is a 37% risk level that *at least* one COVID-19 positive individual will be present.<sup>6</sup> Even in a 10 person classroom in Johnson County, there is a 17% risk level that *at least* one COVID-19 positive individual will be present.<sup>7</sup>
- 46,021 individuals in Iowa have tested positive for COVID-19. 64% of those who tested positive were symptomatic; 48% of those who tested positive were between the ages of 18 and 40.<sup>8</sup>
- 886 individuals in Iowa have died from COVID-19. 2% of those deaths were individuals between the ages of 18 and 40.<sup>9</sup>
- Daily, there are still extremely high numbers of new positive cases of COVID-19 in Iowa; on July 29, 2020, there were 585 new positive cases.<sup>10</sup>
- The University of Iowa currently leads the Big Ten Conference in confirmed COVID-19 cases within the Athletic Department.<sup>11</sup>
- As of August 3, 2020, the University of Iowa Athletics Department reported 33 positive cases of the 603 COVID-19 tests conducted since the end of May (a 5% positive test rate).<sup>12</sup>
- In a study of patients who recovered from COVID-19, 82% had persistent symptoms after an average of 60.3 days from the onset of initial symptoms.<sup>13</sup> Other studies have reported that, "Ongoing problems include fatigue, a racing heartbeat, shortness of breath, achy joints, foggy thinking, a persistent loss of sense of smell, and damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain."<sup>14</sup>

These facts are startling, but they likely misportray the disproportionate adverse effects COVID-19 continues to have on racial and ethnic minority groups throughout the U.S.<sup>15</sup> **We would be remiss to not highlight this important intersection given the immense progress the**

<sup>5</sup> Aroon T. Chande et al., *COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool*, Ga. Inst. of Tech. (accessed July 30, 2020), <https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu> (noting that estimates may be affected by under testing and under reporting of COVID-19 incidence).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Additionally, only one in six individuals in Iowa has been tested. State of Iowa Gov't, *Positive Case Analysis*, COVID-19 in Iowa (accessed Aug. 4, 2020), <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/pages/case-counts>.

<sup>9</sup> State of Iowa Gov't, *Outcome Analysis – Deaths*, COVID-19 in Iowa (accessed Aug. 4, 2020), <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/pages/outcome-analysis-deaths>.

<sup>10</sup> State of Iowa Gov't, *supra* note 7.

<sup>11</sup> Weiyi Cai et al., *More Than 6,600 Coronavirus Cases Have Been Linked to U.S. Colleges*, N.Y. Times (July 29, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/28/us/covid-19-colleges-universities.html>.

<sup>12</sup> KCRG News Staff, *Five more in University of Iowa Athletics Test Positive for COVID-19*, KCRG (Aug. 3, 2020), <https://www.kcrg.com/2020/08/03/five-more-in-university-of-iowa-athletics-test-positive-for-covid-19>. See also, Mark Emmert, *Iowa Men's Basketball Team Stops Workouts After Two Players Test Positive for COVID-19*, Des Moines Register (July 28, 2020), <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/sports/college/iowa/basketball-men/2020/07/28/iowa-basketball-two-hawkeyes-test-positive-covid-19-forcing-two-week-stop-workouts/5527720002>.

<sup>13</sup> Angelo Carli et al., *Persistent Symptoms in Patients After Acute COVID-19*, JAMA (July 9, 2020), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768351>

<sup>14</sup> Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, *From 'brain fog' to heart damage, COVID-19's lingering problems alarm scientists*, Science (July 31, 2020), <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/07/brain-fog-heart-damage-covid-19-s-lingering-problems-alarm-scientists>

<sup>15</sup> The Atlantic, *The COVID Racial Data Tracker*, COVID Tracking Project (accessed July 30, 2020), <https://covidtracking.com/race> ("We've lost at least 30,648 Black lives to COVID-19 to date. Black people account for 23% of COVID-19 deaths where race is known.")

**University of Iowa needs to make toward diversity, equity, and inclusion—a need amplified by the Black Lives Matter movement and activism by university students, staff, and faculty.** Acknowledging these disparities, virtual learning and virtual engagement could mitigate the continuation of this inordinate impact on the lives of students who identify as Black, indigenous, and/or persons of color.

We recognize the challenge this unprecedented situation presents to the entire University of Iowa community and respect the hard work that went into the development of the current return to campus plans. Based on case analysis by The New York Times, “What is clear is that despite months of planning for a safe return to class, and despite drastic changes to campus life, the virus is already spreading widely at universities.”<sup>16</sup> Even the best possible return to campus plans at the University of Iowa do not negate the fact that statistically speaking, students will become infected with COVID-19, some are likely to die, and others will suffer additional adverse physical and mental health effects in an in-person learning environment. We believe that it is not a matter of *if* our community sees a COVID-19 outbreak this fall—it is a matter of *when*.

Thus, the choice is between providing students and families stability through virtual learning *before* an anticipated outbreak or turmoil due to uncertainty in learning and unplanned reversions *after* an outbreak. We implore the University of Iowa to choose the former, and we hope the institution stands as a leader in higher education to make the difficult, but responsible, decision to value our community’s health above all else by using the safest option: virtual learning and engagement.<sup>17</sup>

Respectfully,

University of Iowa Student Government  
Undergraduate Student Government  
Graduate and Professional Student Government

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<sup>16</sup> Cai et al., *supra* note 11.

<sup>17</sup> The University would not be alone in moving the start of the semester virtual. See Chris Quintana, ‘The Virus Beat Us’: Colleges are Increasingly Going Online for Fall 2020 Semester as COVID-19 Cases Rise, USA Today (July 29, 2020), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2020/07/29/covid-college-fall-semester-2020-reopening-online/5530096002> (“After planning ways to reopen campuses this fall, colleges are increasingly changing their minds, dramatically increasing online offerings or canceling in-person classes outright.”).

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To President Bruce Harreld, Provost Montserrat Fuentes, Vice President Sarah Hansen, Director of Public Safety Scott Beckner, and Dean Angie Reams,

From the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Nina Pop, Sean Reed, and countless others beyond the last few months—we are tired. Tired of complacency with systematic racism, state sanctioned violence, and the lack of a response to the national movement occurring to protect Black lives. Black students are not only affected by the secondhand trauma of these events through watching violent videos and reading accounts of police violence, but also the consistent policing of their bodies, autonomy, and ideas due to racial oppression. As such, Undergraduate Student Government is in support of the protests and organizing of University of Iowa students and community. In addition, tensions have flared between protesters and law enforcement due to policing at peaceful protests, heavy militarization of police, and unnecessary use of violence against students and community members while expressing their First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

Last night, Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Iowa City Police Department and Iowa State Patrol were both present as hundreds of peaceful students and community members chanted “HANDS UP, DON’T SHOOT”. Police then tear-gassed and flash-banged the protestors with no provocation. Several students fell unconscious, and one student had a seizure. As protestors fell to the ground and called for medical help, police continued their attack. University of Iowa students, Iowa City Community members, and folks across the state of Iowa watched a live-streamed video in horror as protestors could be heard yelling ‘MEDIC’ while the police retaliation continued.

Iowa City is now added to the list of cities where police have used warfare tactics against peaceful protesters. Other cities in Iowa, including Davenport, Des Moines, and Sioux City, have seen police already engage in unprovoked uses of force against peaceful demonstrations. This is unacceptable for our campus community.

These attacks on peaceful protestors reflect a trend of racial discrimination in Iowa’s criminal justice system. According to [The Sentencing Project](#), **Iowa is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for the disproportionate incarceration of Black individuals.** For every white person imprisoned, there are 11.1 Black persons imprisoned; this is almost twice the national average. Discrimination in the justice system is fueled by Iowa’s police practices, causing damage to communities of color and particularly the Black community.

Students have every right to protest without fear of state sanctioned violence. The official statement from President Bruce Harreld and Provost Montserrat Fuentes on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> states, “We value

the First Amendment and freedom of expression and believe civil discourse and the respectful exchange of ideas are the cornerstones of higher education and this great institution". However, this value has not been demonstrated through the heavy policing and violence against protesters including the use of, but not limited to, tear gas, flash bangs, and pepper spray. Furthermore, we would like to follow in the footsteps of other Big Ten institutions, such as the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and The Ohio State University, to enact widespread change in our campus community to protect Black lives. Beyond this moment of worldwide unrest, Black and non-Black students of color have also cited concerns of heavy policing, minimization of student concerns and complaints, and unnecessary, over-policed presence in our campus community.

As Undergraduate Student Government, we are tasked to represent, serve, and listen to our student constituents. Due to these long sustained, and now heightened, concerns of police presence and violence, we as the University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government demand:

1. The University of Iowa immediately cease contractual agreements with the Iowa City Police Department for all on-campus investigations, services, and events.
2. The University of Iowa cease affiliation with the Coralville Police Department and Iowa State Patrol.
3. The University of Iowa Department of Public Safety cease mutual aid service contracts with the Iowa City Police Department and strongly reevaluate Joint Patrol operations.
4. The University of Iowa Department of Public Safety complete an internal audit of policy, hiring practices, and services to ensure that the Department of Public Safety is safe and accessible for all students. Further, this internal audit must be communicated to University of Iowa students and Iowa City community members for accountability.

Linked below is the student-driven petition to end the University of Iowa's relationship with the Iowa City Police Department, Coralville Police Department, and Iowa State Patrol.

#### [Petition to Protect Black Lives at the University of Iowa](#)

Below, you will also find the University of Iowa student organizations and groups in support of this statement, these demands, and the petition.

To echo the call to administrators in the Undergraduate Student Government & Graduate Professional Student Government statement released Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020: "How have not only the University of Iowa, but you yourself contributed to the policing of lives, education, and voices of Black students on our campus?"

We are waiting, and time has already run out.

Respectfully,  
University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government

# Raise Your Voice on BLM and other issues

Join the Iowa City City Council's discussion on #BlackLivesMatter this Tuesday, June 16th at 7pm. Use the link below to access the meeting via Zoom.

[bit.ly/3hxUOAE](https://bit.ly/3hxUOAE)



## Tell us about your renting experience!

Your feedback will help us write the next annual Renter's Guide. View this year's Guide at [uisg.uiowa.edu](https://uisg.uiowa.edu).



[bit.ly/2S8pZaw](https://bit.ly/2S8pZaw)



## USG FINANCES

LET'S CHAT!



SWIPE TO LEARN MORE >>>

## Be a Poll Worker.



The opportunity for every American to vote in a free and fair election is at risk. Because of COVID-19, the older Americans who typically carry most of the burden of keeping our polling places open must stand down this year to protect their health.

**IOWA** Undergraduate Student Government

# Senate Meeting

TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 1ST

7:00 PM via Zoom

## UPCOMING ORG TIP\$ EVENTS

Sexual Health,  
with Student Health

Wednesday, September 30th 3-00pm

Mental Health: Adapting to COVID-19, a Student Perspective,  
with the Pride House

Tuesday, October 20th 3-00pm or 7-00pm

Diversity in Mental Health,  
with the Pride House

Wednesday, October 21st 3-00pm or 7-00pm

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Undergraduate Student Government in advance at [david.keffala-gerhard@uiowa.edu](mailto:david.keffala-gerhard@uiowa.edu).

ORG  
TIP\$

STUDENT  
HEALTH

LATE NIGHT  
PROGRAMS

IOWA

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Undergraduate  
Student Government