

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Professional and Scientific Council

### September Council Meeting

**Thursday, September 1, 2022**

**2:10 p.m.**

**Room 3580, Memorial Union**

**Please join us!**

**This meeting will be in-person only.**



### Engaging with Professional and Scientific Council



The fall semester for students may have just begun, but members of Professional and Scientific Council have been hard at work in their new council year since July 1.

P&S Council's central mission is to advocate in ways that affect most or all of the 3,000+ Professional and Scientific employees at Iowa State University.

Professional and Scientific employees are elected each spring to represent their constituents on council from each of Iowa State's [four divisions](#): Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Operations and Finance, and the President's Office. Because of its size, the division of Academic Affairs is further divided into smaller representation areas, primarily populated by individual colleges, Extension and Outreach and Ames National Laboratory, among others.

Professional and Scientific Council works best when we hear from our constituents! We encourage you to be in touch with [the councilors who represent you](#) to offer feedback, share concerns, and ask questions. Email is a great way to start those conversations with your councilors. We also welcome our constituents at our monthly general meetings. Upcoming meeting dates are: September 1, October 6, November 3, and December 1, beginning at 2:10 p.m. in the Memorial Union.

Your feedback and concerns drive Professional and Scientific Council's annual strategic initiatives. At the September meeting Professional and Scientific Council will hold a second read [of the 2022-2023 strategic initiatives](#) to finalize them. The strategic initiatives influence the advocacy [Professional and Scientific Council pursues](#). This has included flexible working arrangements, stronger supervisor support for better employee outcomes, and yearly recommendations for compensation and benefits.

We look forward to your engagement with us!

### Interested in getting a graduate degree? Join us for our Sept. 13 Seminar Series event

**September Seminar Series event: The Value of a Graduate Degree and P&S Higher Education Benefits**

Join us September 13 at 2:00 p.m. in Memorial Union Room 3650 for this Seminar Series event. It will look at

the value of earning a graduate degree and the benefits offered by Iowa State University to support your development goals.

It will be held in-person and will be presented by Kim Putz, Assistant Director of Graduate Recruitment in Ivy College of Business and Ed Holland, Director of Benefits in University Human Resources.



Explore the motivations and benefits of people who earn a graduate degree, including accelerated career paths, increased salary potential, development of skills and abilities, and more. Learn about the variety of graduate programs available at Iowa State University and how you can take advantage of your benefits to achieve your goals - whether financial, professional, or whatever motivates you.

Following this presentation there will be opportunities to ask specific questions about tuition reimbursement benefits.

### **October Seminar Series event: Effective Professional Reference and Nomination Writing**

October 11 at 2:00 p.m. we'll hold an interactive session where you will learn how to write concise and effective nomination letters and letters of reference. We'll discuss how to: 1) align job or award criteria with your letter to maximize outcomes; 2) avoid unintentional biased language; and 3) be concise yet persuasive.

This event will be held virtually, presented by Jamie Sass, Director of the Ivy College of Business Writing and Speaking Center.

Always check the [Seminar Series page](#) of the Professional and Scientific Council web site for information about our events.

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## **Did you know? Ombuds service has returned to Iowa State with hiring of Laura Smythe**

Iowa State University resumed its ombuds service in April, 2022 with the hiring of new university ombuds Laura Smythe.

Smythe has an extensive background in ombuds work and conflict resolution. Most recently she served as university ombuds at the University of Idaho, Moscow. Since 2003 she has also run her own firm providing consulting in organizational culture and conflict resolution. She has served as the director of the Mediation Center of Greater Green Bay and has worked as a private practice attorney.



Iowa State's ombuds services are independent, neutral, and confidential for faculty, Professional and Scientific and merit staff, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate and professional students. The services are an informal resource for employees and not meant to replace an employee's ability and responsibility to speak with their supervisor to informally resolve issues.

Staff may contact Laura about topics such as individual and group conflicts, group dynamics, concerns about implementation/application of policies, [trainings](#), and coaching. Note that trainings is a new option not previously offered by the Ombuds Office.

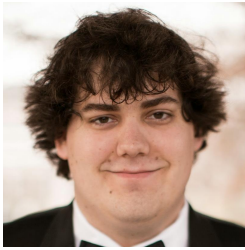
You can reach Laura at [ombuds@iastate.edu](mailto:ombuds@iastate.edu), via phone at 515-450-7186, or in person at 2101A-C Agronomy. You may also use a secure contact form available on the [Ombuds Office web site home page](#) with the "Contact Us" button.

Want to learn more? Mark your calendar for a Professional and Scientific Council Seminar Series presentation by Laura about the Ombuds Office December 13 at 2:00 p.m. Details will be coming later this fall.

**Reminder:** The Professional and Scientific Council Interest Group "P3: Pollinators, Plants and People" will tag monarch butterflies September 14, noon to 1 p.m., and 4:30- 5:30 p.m. at the Plant Iowa Beautiful pollinator habitat, northeast side of the Biorenewables Complex on Bissell Road. For more detail on this Interest Group, see the [August council newsletter](#).

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## Highlighting ISU Staff: Kellen Vance



This month we recognize accounts receivable specialist Kellen Vance of the university's Receivables Office.

Kellen was nominated by Accounts Receivable Associate Director Jen Schroeder, who commented, "Kellen has really stepped up recently within our office. Our customer service team received new laptops and docking stations in May. He took time to set up the machines, help with software installation and explain how the docking stations work. Kellen has also helped switch some of our staff exclusively to soft phones which included hardware research and training for staff. He has a passion for helping others and it has been an honor to watch him shine through our technology upgrades and transitions."

***Congratulations, Kellen, and thank you for all you do!***

You can nominate a fellow Professional and Scientific employee (or team of employees) for Highlighting ISU Staff! It only takes a few minutes. Submit your nominations using the Highlighting ISU Staff [form](#) to tell us about a P&S employee or team doing great work in your area. The form will ask you to tell us about who you are highlighting and why in 100 words or less, and to include a picture of the person, team, or output for which they are being highlighted.

One submission will be regularly included in the newsletter as determined by the P&S Council Awards Committee. Other submissions will be featured on social media with the tag #highlightingISUstaff, on council's Highlighting ISU Staff [web page](#), and/or included in future newsletters.



### **Jamie Sass is the 2022-23 Professional and Scientific Council President**

[Email](#) President Jamie Sass

Your Professional and Scientific Council representatives are here for you. Their names and contact information can be found on the [Council Members page](#) of our web site.

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