IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2014 – 3:30–5:00 P.M.
GREAT HALL, MEMORIAL UNION


Substitutes: None

Guests: Rastatter, B. (BOR President); Wickert, J. (SVPP); Bratsch-Prince, D. (Associate Provost); Rosacker, E. (University Relations); Rippke, S. (Parliamentarian); Tehan, A. (P&S Council); Kleinheksel, C. (GPSS); Bauer, Z. (GSB); Bock, A. (AFSCME)

I. Call to Order
   A. Seating of Substitute Senators
      President Dark called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and seated the substitute senators.

II. Consent Agenda
   A. Minutes of Faculty Senate December 10, 2013 - [S13/M/4]
   B. Agenda for January 21, 2014– [S13/A/5]
   C. Calendar – [S13/C/5]
      Senator Smiley-Oyen moved to accept the consent agenda and Senator Wallace seconded. Motion passed without dissension.

III. Special Order: Bruce Rastetter, President of the Board of Regents (BOR)
      President Rastetter described his background and gave an overview of the role of the BOR before describing current BOR activities. The BOR Appropriation and Performance Committee is well into motion. They are looking at a variety of things going on across the country. The committee recognize the importance of being fair, and making decisions in an open and transparent way. There will be public meetings. A
recommendation will be made to BOR in April, with the goal of making a decision in June. That decision will become part of the legislative request in the next year.

The BOR Efficiency Committee will aim to ensure that our strategic mission is achieved (accessibility, affordability, and improving quality at the public universities). The committee will “look at everything,” including athletics. This process will be bottom-up, and will include faculty at the very beginning.

The BOR has asked the three university presidents to step up advocacy, and encourage alumni associations and faculty to lobby on behalf of BOR’s budget priorities. Within each university, the process is to “upstream” budget requests. The university president recommends to BOR what budget should be. BOR decides priorities. Then that becomes the BOR’s request. It’s important for constituencies to advocate for that. One example of improved connection with the legislature is the proposed tuition freeze: the BOR has told the legislature that if they come through with a 4% general fund increase, the BOR universities will freeze tuition for in-state undergraduate students.

Senator Bigelow asked about insufficient classroom and laboratory space. President Rastetter replied that the BOR was taken aback when capital projects were not approved last year. He thought they could have explained better why building and architect costs are what they are.

Senator Amidon asked about rumored proposals for redistributing state appropriations and the upsides of different proposals. He also asked whether the BOR will continue to encourage the three universities to collaborate, or whether they will encourage campuses to compete entrepreneurially. President Rastetter replied that he wanted campuses to collaborate. There are limited resources in the state. Iowa has two AAU public universities and it is critically important to maintain that status. The best way to do so is to focus on strengths of the universities. As to the first question, when the 40-40-20 distribution was established, all three universities had 90% IA students: UI 47%, ISU 37%, UNI 14%. Since then, the populations have changed with UNI 92% IA, UI 50%, and ISU 66-68% (approximately 18000 residential students at ISU). Master degree and particular degree programs have grown at UI. Having money follow Iowa students probably is not practical to do, but the committee is looking at distribution.

With respect to performance funding, President Rastetter added that the BOR would like to be thoughtful and in front of that issue, rather than having the legislature mandate something. We should make a recommendation to the legislature about what we think would be best to do.

Past President Hendrich asked President Rastetter to elaborate on what he sees as the main outcomes for the efficiency study. What’s driving it? Are there problems within the system that need to be addressed? President Rastetter replied that he has no preconceived ideas of what will happen. The study would look at accounting costs, and look into selling off non-core assets. Any savings within each university will go back into the
He added that it is important to engage in this study when you don’t have to do it. The study would look at how universities purchase goods and services. It would look at academic duplication. (President Rastetter added, “not in a threatening way.”) Rather the focus would be to make sure that our good programs become great. This is one area about which President Rastetter admitted the BOR does not have great knowledge. When they approve 86 program expansions and eliminate 35 programs, they don’t know whether the numbers should be different; they rely on the recommendations. The study would help to establish a benchmark that is logical. The study needs to include the faculty. Any groups the BOR hires will be on campus and interactive. The BOR will have a website for anonymous recommendations.

Senator Olson observed that things valuable in an education are not always measurable. The more we focus on measurable things, the more we stray from things we want as a society, such as creativity, critical thinking, etc. A recent study showed a negative correlation between students test scores and measures of success (quality of life, economic activity, creativity, wealth). She asked that we make sure that we don’t move in directions where these are eroded. Senator Rastetter replied that the Appropriation and Performance Committee invited Iowa’s College of Education to give a presentation on different performance studies. The attainability of a degree (in 4 or 5 years) is very important for student success and reducing college debt. BOR members are finding the process very thoughtful, very educational. The three university presidents will weigh in at end of February.

Senator Smiley-Oyen acknowledged that student debt is a burden. But she asked that President Rastetter keep in mind that our tuition is much lower than most universities. The legislature needs to realize that other factors contribute to student debt beyond tuition debt. President Rastetter agreed.

Senator Zarecor asked what the BOR is doing to facilitate relationship between community colleges and the public universities so that transfer students make a more seamless transition. One struggle is to make sure that two years at community college are strong enough so that students here can be successful. President Rastetter replied that he has had a variety of conversations about that topic. One issue has been the 26 different articulation agreements between the public universities and community colleges. Students expect that credit at community college will transfer. We need to make sure that the quality of those credits are similar to quality students receive here. Of course, the BOR does not govern community colleges. Senator Zarecor asked whether there is any chance to work together at a higher level. President Rastetter replied that that would require legislative change. One important thing is to make sure that key people within the universities talk to the people at the community colleges (e.g. relationships between DMACC and ISU or between UI and Kirkwood). We should enhance and encourage these relationships.
IV. Announcements and Remarks
A. Faculty Senate President-Elect
President-Elect Schalinske reported that the agenda is in progress for the April 22 Spring Faculty Conference on “Online Education.”

B. Provost
1. Vice President for Research
Sarah Nesser was named the Vice President for Research to commence February 1. She has an excellent vision for facilitating, growing, and expanding the research enterprise on campus as smooth. Working with CEAH is one priority.

2. Economic Development
There will be restructuring in economic development in order to elevate visibility and coordination. The intent is to bring together all pieces in working with companies (small business, Pappajohn Center, tech transfer office)

3. Ames Lab Director Search
Five finalists have been identified: two internal, three external. Interviews will start next week.

4. Research Misconduct Case
Provost Wickert clarified facts about the findings of research misconduct that led to the resignation of Dong Han. For further details, Provost Wickert directed senators to see the contribution to Inside Iowa State co-authored by ISU President Leath, Interim VP of Research Oliver, and himself. He emphasized that as unfortunate as the situation was, our system for identifying and investigating research misconduct worked.

5. BOR Meeting
ISU has requested approval and support for capital projects.

C. Faculty Senate President
1. Office of Equal Opportunity Training
President Dark asked senators to encourage their constituents to complete harassment training by February 3.

2. LEARN Committee
The report from Mindwires Consulting should be delivered to the LEARN Committee soon.

3. Campus-Wide Wireless Upgrade
President Dark alerted senators that contractors may move in and out of classrooms between classes. The goal is to ensure strong wireless signals at all campus locations. Expected dates and locations will be posted to the IT website.
4. Committee on Student Affairs
President Dark announced that faculty representatives have been appointed to the newly created Committee on Student Affairs.

D. Other (GSB - Bauer; GPSS - Kleinheksel; P&S Council - Tehan)
Mr. Bauer said that GSB is looking to conduct feasibility studies of the proposed Bike Share program.

Mr. Kleinheskel asked senators to encourage their students to submit abstracts for the upcoming Graduate Research Conference (April 4). GPSS will also hold a Graduate Info Session next Monday. GPSS will also be sponsoring a panel session on preparing for and succeeding in academic interviews.

Ms. Tehan announced an upcoming Spring Professional Development conference.

V. Special Order: Election of President-Elect
Rob Wallace was elected President-Elect.

VI. Unfinished Business
No comments. Motion passed without dissension.

B. Revision to FH 9.3.3 – [S13-10] - Owen
No comments. Motion passed without dissension.

C. Revisions to FH Chapter 7 – [S13-9] – Owen
No comments. Motion passed without dissension.

D. Revision of FH 5.4.1 [S13-13] - Cunnally
No comments. Motion passed without dissension.

E. Revision of Conflict of Interest in FH Chapters 7 & 8 [S13-14] -- Cunnally
No comments. Motion passed without dissension.

VII. New Business
None.

VIII. Good of the Order
Past President Hendrich called senators’ attention to the upcoming Student Success Summit (April 3). The focus will be on how to enhance success (including improved graduate rates) for student sub-populations who are not achieving average level of success.

Senator Freeman asked senators to think about and pray for those affected by the shooting at Purdue University.
IX.  Adjournment  
The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014 — 3:30-5:00 P.M., GREAT HALL, MU

Respectfully submitted February 4, 2014,

Annemarie Butler  
Faculty Senate Secretary