

Iowa State University Faculty Senate
Research Planning and Policy Committee

Charge: Reviews issues of long and short-term importance to ISU research efforts. Serves as the advisory committee to the vice president for research, and prepares reports and recommendations on items of importance to the faculty and/or the VPR. The chair also serves on the Faculty Senate Resource Policy and Allocation Council.

December 5, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Attending: VPR Sarah Nusser, Susan Wohlsdorf-Arendt, Jorgen Johansen, Shui-Zhang Fei, Michael Kimber, Chris Seeger, and Julia Badenhope (Chair). Absent: Martin Thou and Sridhar Ramaswami.

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Review of Minutes. Motion to approve- Kimber, seconded, Seeger. Unanimous approval by attendees.
- 3) Discussion: Research Profile Sub-Committee assignment. (Kimber and Badenhope)
 - Group organized at the request of the ISU Strategic Planning Committee, Chaired by Steve Freeman. Goal is to develop strategies to increase the quality and quantity of research at Iowa State University.
 - Short time frame: November through February; heavy reliance on existing information and consultation with faculty and administrative “knowledgeables”
 - Emphasis on building on strengths; flesh out a few meaningful goals and strategies/tactics to achieve goals. Metrics de emphasized in initial discussion.
 - Will report back in Jan/Feb when we have produced tangible products. The existing work is still very broad and the group is in process of developing foci and goals.
- 4) VPR Strategic Plan draft- review and discussion (Nusser)
 - Reviewed the *Vision, Overview, and Mission*: emphasis on reputation, and relevance to society; ethical and transformative; connected and situated.
 - *Philosophy*: faculty centric, active research in entire arc of career, new frontiers and new partners outside of ISU.
 - Strategies and tactics: support faculty as drivers of research activity; enhance compliance in ethical dimensions; promote research impacts systematically with ISU sponsors, partners and stakeholders, strengthen supports for research.

- Challenge: create outrageous ideas, be transformative, step outside the box, engage user-centric thinking, and develop new partnerships.

Discussion:

This approach doesn't prescribe topics or areas of focus for researchers but instead emphasizes the ongoing generation of great ideas through unprecedented, risky, creative and new endeavors. This allows faculty to pursue ideas within and across disciplines and institutional structures. This is a positive approach that validates broad participation in research (inclusive).

Support for faculty over entire career arc, not just early years; supports shifts in topical foci and a range of activities -from small start up activities to longer-term programs.

Limited budgets will make implementation difficult without synergy with colleges; resources must be focus strategically and institution wide. VPR Office interested in formulating integrated strategies. One approach to provide a foundation for partnerships might be a joint assessment (Badenhope), such as college level focus groups with researchers to tease out gaps and barriers to research and supporting/effective programs that work well. Gaps could then be studied and effective strategies developed, based on shared understanding of the problem.

Motion to Adjourn: Seeger, seconded, Fei. Unanimous.