

**Faculty Senate Executive Board  
Minutes of the Meeting  
6 November 2001  
107 Lab of Mechanics**

[Approved minutes]

**Call to Order:**

The Executive Board of the ISU Faculty Senate met in 107 Lab of Mechanics on Tuesday, 6 November 2001, and was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by President Christie Pope.

**Attendance:**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

**I. Consent items**

Pope welcomed Jackie Litt as an observer to the meeting of the board and reminded members that another breakfast with President Geoffroy will be held this Friday, 11/9, from 7:30-8:50 a.m.. This time the Executive Board can bring nine guests plus Max Wortman and Pope. Originally the number, including Wortman and Pope, was five..

**A. Approval of the Minutes.**

The minutes of the 10/16 meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Board were approved as submitted, with the insertion of a dropped heading for Fowles' report.

**B. Approval of the agenda for the Executive Board meeting of 11/6.**

The agenda was approved.

**C. Approval of the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on 11/13.**

Our state legislators, who will meet on 11/8 to make their decisions about the budget, have been invited to address the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 11/13. According to Pope, right now it is unclear whether Teresa Garment will attend. In looking over the agenda set for the Faculty Senate meeting on 11/13, Mike Duffy wondered how much time will be available for Non-Tenure Track discussion. Pope reported that thirty minutes have been set aside for that discussion.

*Motion to accept consent items, including the minutes and both agendas, passed.*

**II. Reports**

**A. President** - none.

**B. Provost**

1. Thanks to Susan Carlson, the six recommendations from the review of the Office of Provost have been checked. The first, to keep the current structure, is unchanged, except for two part-time associate provosts that have been added to the staff: Susan Carlson and Alicia Carriquiry. We have also added either University or

Distinguished Professors to the Review Committee: Cornelia Flora (Sociology), Jane Farrell-Beck (Textiles and Clothing), and James Roth (Vet-Microbiology). The second recommendation, the need for a more autonomous role for the provost, is beginning to happen under our new president. This is much more so than before, especially in leading the Task Force on Strategic Effectiveness and Budget Priorities. Third, the President is giving us some resources to recruit and retain faculty, approximately \$2 million, for these matters and for new research initiatives. The fourth recommendation concerns the understaffing of the office, and Susan and I agree. There are several things I want to do but cannot at a time when we are asking academic units to make cuts. I do want to add at least one more full-time person at the assistant provost level plus more secretarial support. The fifth recommendation pertains to the slow response time, and that is linked to the staffing issue. It is hard to keep up with the e-mails, for example, although we try to delegate responsibility as much as we can. The sixth recommendation, that better communication is needed, finds no disagreement with us. We have been making a real effort to do that, and I hope you noticed the report from the task force that came by e-mail. A web site has also been set up by Diane Pounds.

Pope thanked the Provost. Hutter asked a question about the LAS Cabinet, stating his concern about the importance of making changes in how we recruit persons of color and women here. In response, the Provost asked Carlson to add that we are trying to increase the list of potential candidates too. A second question by Hutter concerned the LAS minutes, which state that applicant pools must be approved by the LAS dean and the EEO office: couldn't we say, he asked, that the pools will be sent to the Dean for advice? At this point if the EO office feels diversity has not been pursued sufficiently, it can call the Provost's office and Susan in turn will call the office.

**C. Caucuses and Councils:**

Max Porter distributed a handout on faculty/staff awards, and Wortman again stated his concern that this document only goes through administrative channels and not directly to the faculty. The same holds true for honorary degrees; as a result, says Wortman, we are not getting as many nominees as we otherwise would. Provost Rollin said we perhaps could send a document out to all faculty, with the suggestion that the full document be available through the department. Porter, who added that this measure will cover only the set of awards handled by the Provost, wondered about other awards, such as those given by the President. These, too, are awards that faculty are allowed to make nominations for, but many faculty do not know what they are. As a result, it appears that the nominating structure is doing most of this. Provost Rollin mentioned other awards, such as regents and alumni. What would help, said Porter, would be for the due dates to be the same for all awards.

**III. Old Business - None**

**IV. New Business**

**1. Proposals from the Department of Public Safety**

Gene Deisinger of the Department of Public Safety, began his presentation by noting

that President Geoffroy has solicited input for the two proposals from DPS. Concerning the second proposal, Deisinger stated that the Departments of Public Safety at all three regents universities have worked together to discuss adding a weapon.

The first proposal asks for a name change. Changing “law enforcement division” to “police division” is more than just semantics, according to Deisinger, who pointed out that sometimes people think we lack authority. In his view, this is the lesser of the two proposals.

The second proposal grants permission to the department to add the advanced taser stun gun. Officers already have two weapons: (1) what we call pepper spray is one (the spray, though, is stronger than what can be bought by a civilian); and (2) an expandable solid steel that can strike blows against the extremity. Both the spray and the baton are designed not to distract but to disable, and you have to be very close to the suspect to use either of these. Since 1995, said Deisinger, we have not used the baton, although we have used the spray.

Deisinger displayed Model 26 of the advanced taser stun device, which expels from a distance of 21 feet two probes that have barbs on the end of them. It is highly accurate and very effective. Of 579 officers who volunteered to be shot, 577 dropped in their tracks. The two who dropped only to their knees got just four steps beyond that. One officer fell and twisted his knee. The advanced taser stun device has an accountability feature whereby AFIDS injected by it can be traced to a particular officer. About 20 to 40 tags are injected, and inside the weapon there is a time and date stamp that cannot be edited. The stamp, which can track 484 firings, overwrites starting with the 485th. According to Deisinger, a Use of Force form must be filled out each time the advanced taser stun device is deployed.

After Deisinger’s presentation, Pope said she wants a resolution approving or disapproving the two proposals ( the name change and the advanced taser gun) and asked for a motion following discussion. Hutter said he would need to hear someone explain the other side, Wortman concurred, and Deisinger obliged. Admittedly, said Deisinger, the taser gun looks like a firearm. Although it may give the officer an edge for that very reason, it also may cause a suspect to whip out a gun. A disadvantage, noted Deisinger, is that the taser involves electricity and sharp barbed points that can penetrate and injure human skin. These are reasonable concerns because the points can penetrate through three inches of clothing, and the shock can penetrate two inches of clothing.

The question, said Deisinger, is why do we need it and why do we need it now? According to Deisinger, it is not painful but rather like a charlie horse in that it tightens up your muscle groups within the probes. He stated he did not feel the barbs at all and noted that the barbs are later removed. Deisinger acknowledged, however, that if shot in the eye, it would harm your eyesight. Ideally, though, you want the top probe in the chest and the bottom one in the thigh.

In discussing the advanced taser stun gun, Deisinger admitted that violent crime does

not make this necessary, pointing out that the upward trend in violence can be attributed to greater reporting rather than an actual increase. He did say, however, that there are many more reports of the use of firearms or knives--a total of 60 reports in the last five years. He also stated that the department regularly responds to domestic violence for which the two weapons already mentioned are pretty useless. The problem is that the department deals with more mentally ill persons, many of whom put up resistance. The proposed advanced taser gun, said Deisinger, was not available even two years ago and is a vast improvement over the old stun gun.

Wortman said the proposal made him think crime must be rising dramatically in order to justify this, even though he knows that the Ames Police work mainly with drunks and suspects that the same holds true on campus. In Iowa City the issue is traffic. The question, says Wortman, is why this taser gun at this particular point in time? He noted that the answer he has received is because of the rise in domestic violence in married student housing. Deisinger responded that although the department has a cooperative arrangement with the Ames police, the help they receive is not always timely. In a recent incident, said Deisinger, we alerted the Ames police as we went out the door, yet we got to the site in two minutes and the Ames police in fourteen.

To Duffy's inquiry about the cost, Deisinger said that the taser is \$400, the cartridge is \$15-\$20, and the batteries \$8 a pack. For 32 officers, the cost would come to \$15,000, but the tasers would be issued only to state-certified professional police officers who go through annual training in the use of force with the other weapons and annual firearm certification.

Provost Richmond wondered about the impact of the barb on a woman or child, to which Deisinger responded that a child being shot would be unusual. He added that he is not aware of any test subjects other than adult males. What, asked Woodman, about pacemakers? Deisinger conceded that there would be a brief disruption but one that cardiologists say would not be life-threatening because the voltage and wattage operate within an acceptable level. Gary Phye noted that the taser seems less injurious than the steel bar but pointed out that not missing with a steel bar is no less likely than with a stun gun. According to Deisinger, the barbs seldom need to be surgically removed. Usually they feel like a minor sunburn for a day or so afterwards.

Is it possible, asked Wortman, for the taser to be issued in colors other than black to avoid confusion with a regular gun? Deisinger said they come in yellow, orange, and black. To Hutter's concern lest tasers be the start down a slippery slope, Deisinger said it is not a substitute for a firearm. We are being up-front about that. This, he said, is what we need excluding firearms, and we do not intend to use it as a stepping stone. He noted, however, that he would not guarantee that the department will not go forward with this if you do not approve this. Hutter answered that the gravity of the evil compared to the probability of its need doesn't warrant it. He also noted that the department seems preoccupied with traffic violations. Deisinger stated that traffic control has never been what we mainly do even though traffic enforcement, together with alcohol enforcement, do cut down on overall crime.

Investigating and closing theft cases is our third most common task.

Deisinger concluded his presentation by noting that the taser gun is being considered by 30 schools. Pope, reminding the board that the decision about the taser gun will be made by December 1, stated that we have three options. Hutter suggested that it be referred to a council, and Woodman recommended that it be forwarded to the full senate.

***Motion was passed to forward to the Faculty Senate the proposals from the Department of Public Safety for a name change and for the advanced taser gun.***

**2. Free speech policy**

Pope noted that the free speech policy also has a time element. *Motion made to endorse the free speech policy and send it to the Faculty Senate.* Janice Dana noted that the handout does not list the criteria, such as the size of signs. On the matter of amplified speaking, Wortman said it is his understanding that you cannot have it without permission. The matter is of concern to Hutter because of the disruption of classes.

***Motion made to endorse the free speech policy and send it to the Faculty Senate was passed.***

**3. New Major in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine.**

The motion recognizes that a department was reorganized and restructured but left a department without a degree.

***Motion to approve the new major and forward it to the Faculty Senate for action was passed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Constance Post,  
Faculty Senate Secretary