

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2007
3:00-5:00 p.m.
107 Lab of Mechanics

Present: Anderson, D. (Human Sci. Caucus); Crase, S. (President); Ford, C. (President-Elect); Freeman, S. (Judiciary & Appeals); Grudens-Schuck, N. (Secretary); Hendrich, S. (Academic Affairs); Mennecke, B. (Business Caucus); Olsen, M. (Eng. Caucus); Owen, M. (Ag. Caucus); Palermo, G. (Past President and RPA); Paschke, T. (Design Caucus); Porter, M. (Governance); Wallace, R. (LAS Caucus).

Absent: Thompson, J. (Vet. Med. Caucus); Van Der Zanden, A. M. (FDAR).

Provost's Office: Carlson, S. (Associate Provost); Hoffman, E. (Executive Vice President & Provost); Holger, D. (Associate Provost)

Guests: W. R. Madden (Vice President for Business and Finance); J. Stewart (Director, ISU Department of Public Safety)

I. Called to order – 3:00 p.m.

President Crase called this special meeting of the EB to order. The meeting was called to meet requests for campus-wide deliberation related to “Arming of Regents Sworn and Certified Police Officers” memo and report that were submitted to President Geoffroy from Vice President Warren Madden, in a timely fashion per the timeline of the BOR and Iowa State Legislature.

II. Announcements and Remarks – 3:05 p.m.

The meeting was judged to be an official EB meeting, to be added to the FS website. Official minutes were taken, and guests were apprised of the status of the meeting.

III. Background, updates, plan for voting, and potential questions for guests who will arrive later concerning report.

President Crase noted that September 10 was now the date requested by the BOR to have comments from the Regents Universities on this earlier date vs. the 14th, as stated previously. President Geoffroy has asked for an extension, reported Provost Hoffman, but it appears that at the present time, ISU now we will have to report by the 7th. We stated that we would prefer to give an account of a full Senate vote after the FS general meeting on the 11th.

Senator Paschke spoke in favor of employing the Caucus Chairs in the process of eliciting faculty feedback from departments. A point of order: A Special Order item status would be needed to introduce, and then to vote, at the same FS meeting. The EB decided that it would not take a vote today, although permitted, because the input of the general faculty was deemed crucial for this important decision. Senator Grudens-Schuck noted that President Geoffroy's fall

letter also provided an option for direct feedback to him on the issue. Grudens-Schuck also provided examples of questions and comments arising from departmental discussion in Agricultural Education and Studies, which occurred late last week, such as budgeting issues, impact on community-oriented efforts? Explore contracting with Ames Police?

Appendix does not show national percentages, noted Senator Wallace, but only comparisons among Peer 11 institutions. Senator Owen said 40-60 pgs show what armature would be specified.

IV. Arrival of guests Vice President for Business and Finance, Dr. Warren Madden; and Director of ISU Department of Public Safety, Jerry Stewart – 3:30 p.m.

Vice President Madden provided an overview of the recommendation to the three university presidents that routine equipment arming "sworn and certified" officers had been made by the BOR. He made reference to the report available, and said this was the first of the meetings held thus far across campus. Also planned were presentations to P&S Council on the 31st, and also to two student groups. Timelines were compressed, he affirmed. Madden clarified that the report was requested by Iowa State Legislature to be received by October 1, and timelines for BOR, universities were driven by such. He reaffirmed the September 10 current deadline for ISU report. President Geoffroy was presently out of the country.

Substantive issues included: 30,000 people on campus, all together, grows to 50-100K given events and times. Top 10 "community" in the state of Iowa; imagined as such. Activities mirror society at large, albeit many at younger age range. Campus communities attract lots of different types of people, including people who are attracted to two major intersections in Iowa that bring through traffic, including drug trafficking north and south.

Goal of Public Safety and Police Division is to provide a safe community for those who work at ISU. Historically, noted Madden, the university has not even been concerned with locking buildings. Issue of arming police division has "been there for a long period of time" and he informed the EB that police "were armed," but in 50s, with the Kent State tragedy and other societal pressures, armature was decreased. Madden was not aware that there was anything particular that occurred at ISU that spurred policy change. Now ISU employs 31 sworn officers, which would be the likely near-future eligible population.

Parking Division, together with Police Division, comprises the Public Safety Department. Quality of officer population has increased over the years, and Madden noted that they overall meet a higher standard, and administratively he had a "high degree of confidence" in the staff. The division desires to be a "full-service" force, he stated. Overall, Ames is a relatively safe community, observed Madden. He added that "we hope that continues." But we have activities, as do many campuses, in areas of alcohol and substance abuse. More serious crimes, assault, murder, and rapes--those statistics "generally look pretty good" such that they are low compared to similar communities.

ISU is also larger spatially, with more office space, than historically, but now also employs fewer officers. Since 9/11, and spurred somewhat by the tragedies at Virginia Poly Tech, combined

with the desire to provide a rapid response, drove in part the request. Right now, we need to call state patrol and other outside forces, which takes time, noted Madden. Right now, security forces, bodyguards, Ames Police, and others who are on campus now carry arms. Judgment is that individuals who are "best able to respond" to the kinds of incidents that we might find "should be armed." If this proposal is approved, he hoped "that there will never be an instance where those fire arms need to be used." Right now, special conditions permit Madden or President to arm officers, at times this has occurred with Drug Task Force activities. In the past, such as for visiting dignitaries or federal officials, there have been requests that our officers be armed, and this was approved, usually interagency. This has been a limited number. An even more limited number of faculty-staff or students or domestic interactions have required armed responses.

Jerry Stewart spoke next. He shared that he has been with law enforcement for many years, but began in public education as a school teacher before law enforcement. He recognizes that this is an emotional issue. We should be concerned, he noted, and not just about protecting officers, but about protecting "us."

Senators Owen and Mennecke asked about current certifications. Stewart clarified that officers were trained the same as police officers on armed forces, including ongoing professional development and arms training.

Stewart reviewed in detail the Virginia Tech incident with respect to response time, projected effect of weaponry on limiting death toll, and communications issues regarding the danger during this time on the Virginia campus. He also noted that in order to retain good officers, they needed to feel as if they could do their job best, and that included being armed. ISU was at risk for losing good officers if the proposal did not pass.

Past-President Palermo asked whether the director could state with confidence that the outcome of the Virginia incident, and other such potential incidents, were changed or more limited in loss of life and injury, due to the presence of increased armature. Stewart responded that overall, he believed that armed responses, in these extreme circumstances, limited bad outcomes. Senator Mennecke asked if the justice and crime literature demonstrated such; Madden said that he believed it did. Stewart did not state that the literature was unequivocal.

Senator Grudens-Schuck asked about long-term potential shifts in budgeting to serve the needs of arming officers, and away from already-successful threat assessment and community police initiatives, including effects on staffing. Stewart affirmed the success of threat assessment efforts at ISU, led by Dr. Gene Deisinger, a clinical psychologist. Stewart noted that he already submitted a request to Facilities to add a second staff person to this unit.

Senator Porter spoke about the need for faculty to be educated about current, and potential new, avenues for providing leadership for safety on campus. Senator Mennecke noted that the community-sponsored Police Academy provided high quality learning in this regard.

Senator Olsen probed the particulars of a "middle ground" between full armature and "holds" that might be possible. Currently, Stewart clarified that officers have access to guns, but the guns

are kept in a locked cabinet in the Armory, and special permissions and access are needed. This lengthens to the time-to-response in a way that was less acceptable to him.

Senator Olsen declared that he did not favor the argument that the proposal should be passed in order to retain good officers; rather, safety of campus and offices should be primary. Stewart agreed on priorities, but noted that the unusual circumstance, in the current era, of not being armed would nonetheless affect decision making by staff. Not being armed, “a lesser level of protection,” might also increase liability because peer institutions are armed. This was noted in a recent accreditation report, available on the web.

President-Elect Ford asked for clarification of the current and future role of tasers if the proposal was passed. Stewart provided both technical and practical illustrations of the differences between guns and tasers, and how they complemented rather than substituted for each other.

Senator Anderson asked for data regarding the frequency of requests by ISU for back-up from Ames Police. He was directed to the report for statistics.

Senator Paschke raised the issue of the need for better warning and communications systems, and asked if budgets for these were being developed, and how funds for arming might lessen ability to move forward on communications. Madden and Stewart spoke to the need and shared plans for increasing both, again as complementary.

President Crase thanked our guests. She spoke to the need for them to be at the FS meeting to answer questions on September 11.

V. Plans and alternate plans as per BOR due dates

It was agreed to work through the Caucus Chairs to stimulate discussion, and garner straw votes by department, on this issue to be prepared for the earliest due dates. However, the EB was also prepared to engage the full Senate on the issue in the case of an extension of time. Full engagement was the preference of the EB.

VI. Adjourn – 5:00 p.m.

Senator Owen moved to close; seconded by Senator Mennecke.

Motion passed.

Minutes by Nancy Grudens-Schuck, FS Secretary.

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

Documents

1. Accreditation new release <http://www.dps.iastate.edu/wordpress/?p=158>
2. “Arming of Regents Sworn and Certified Police Officers” as <arming.pdf >