

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
October 28, 2008
107 Lab of Mechanics

Present:

Torrie, Ford, Crase, Freeman, Martin, Hendrich, Selby, Owen, Palermo, Anderson, Porter, Walter, VanderZanden, Wallace, Van der Valk, Carlson, Hoffman

Absent:

Osweiler, Holger

I Call to Order

By Ford at 3:05pm (at which point a quorum had materialized)

II Consent Agenda

A Agenda, Executive Board Meeting, October 28, 2008

B Minutes, Executive Board Meeting, September 30, 2008

Freeman moved for approval, Hendrich seconded, motion passed

III Announcements and Remarks

A President

Ford passed out the President's Council pie chart sheet dated 10/17/2008. Ford noted that this is the 20th anniversary of the ISU faculty senate; suggests we celebrate the occasion with a party, invite past senator, invite past senate presidents to speak, hire musicians, photographer; Ford asked for those interested in planning to contact him.

COIA membership question: Ford noted that COIA (Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics) is an organization of university faculty senates that looks to promote reform and academic integrity. Ford asked whether there was interest in having ISU join; following discussion, Ford asked that the matter be referred to the Academic Affairs Council.

Hiring authority policy: Porter and Walter note that PLAC had made a minor change to the proposed document, relating to multiple appointments. Walter moved that EB accepts the revision, along with a friendly amendment that the change must be brought to the attention of the full senate. Porter seconded, motion carried.

Sexual assault policy review: Carlson notes that review is underway in the aftermath of the recent fiasco at the U of Iowa. Freeman noted that the ISU policy relates to students rather than staff. Carlson believes there will be no need to modify the ISU policy, although the role of faculty in dealing with complaints by students (about other students) will perhaps need to be clarified.

Torrie noted that the Human Sciences governance document was being revised, and in fact had been revised following a comment period, but that there were plans to distribute the as-yet-unseen final document for approval within a very short time-frame.

Torrie voiced concerns that the document as revised would allow administrators too much leeway to make arbitrary changes to elements included in the appendices; discussion followed about what elements are appropriate for inclusion in the main document rather than in the appendices—also, some concern about what it really means that the Dean must make changes “in concert” with personnel—an issue of vague/unclear language. Torrie saw this as a “potentially undemocratic” circumstance; it was agreed that EB could not resolve the issue, and Hoffman volunteered to ask the Dean to not force the vote on 10/29/08 (as scheduled), in light of the rampant consternation among faculty and staff.

B President-Elect

Van der Valk noted that David Orr is the hoped-for marquee speaker for the spring faculty conference, and us hoping we can afford his \$5000 fee (which is, in any case, \$170,000.00 less than Al Gore’s). It was thought that Orr was well-known enough to expand the audience, and might entice financial support from other units at ISU. Recommended that he speak in the evening, to maximize participation by non-conference people. Hoffman suggested contacting Pat Miller to explore support from the SU lectures program. The general program for the spring conference event is now done, and the speaker line-up is being finalized.

Van der Valk noted that the faculty compensation committee was up and running, and was in the process of putting together documentation of the status of faculty salaries at ISU. Van der Valk also noted that the committee on committees was looking to determine whether there were unnecessary or redundant committees extant; there is a general need to itemize which university committees have (or should have) faculty senate representation. FERC (Facilities and Educational Resources) had been on the chopping block, but no longer; Ford seeking a chair.

C Provost

No report

D Council/Caucus Chair Reports

Freeman noted that four appeals cases had suddenly precipitated upon the J&A Council, and that committees had been established for review. A question had arisen about whether, in the case of a review committee meeting over the summer that included B-Base faculty (paid for working in August-May only), such faculty members should be compensated for their efforts. Hoffman wondered whether the timeframe for appeals and review could possibly be accelerated so as to not create this problem?

Porter noted that the Governance Council meets on Friday 10/31/08, and that the issue of post-doc inclusion among positions requiring formal background checks may be controversial after all; the Council may therefore ask that the matter be withdrawn from the consent agenda for the senate meeting on 11/4/08.

IV Old Business

None

V New Business

C Modified Duties Policy – Ann Marie VanderZanden

VanderZanden noted that the scope of the policy exists as it does because the policy was primarily devised as a retention tool; this was the reason that NTER faculty were not included. For the same reason, elder care was not provided for, because it was imagined that the faculty needing to be retained would tend to be of a demographic that was more likely to be concerned with taking care of newborns (or new adoptions). It was also imagined that the Regents might well support a policy with limited scope, while a more broadly inclusive (\$\$\$) policy would be shot down in flames, it being a bit of a political hot potato (mixed metaphor alert!--the secretary's, that is, not Anne Marie's). VanderZanden noted further, in anticipation of raised eyebrows, that "primary caregiver" was defined very clearly so that only one partner would be eligible for policy coverage; there had been considerable discussion about the potential for abuse of the policy, and how to determine whether or not an individual was indeed acting in the role of "primary caregiver". VanderZanden noted further that funding needed to come from the Provost, because smaller units may not be able to afford to cover eligible members.

Following VanderZanden's presentation, Ford asked whether the EB approved of what the FDAR had wrought. Van der Valk protested that the policy was too narrowly tailored, did not adequately serve the needs of the existing (that is to say, lots older, on average, than the new hires) faculty, and that it should indeed include provisions that would support care for elders, what with all the old moms and dads out there. Selby, Palermo, and Owen countered that a broader scope was not politically acceptable in current times, and that adoption of this limited policy would be in effect a "foot in the door".

Palermo suggested an amendment to the policy draft to the effect that the modified duties benefit be an entitled benefit "as a matter of right", and subsequently made a motion to accept the amended proposal as part of the consent agenda for the upcoming senate meeting. Selby seconded; motion passed with 12 yeas and a single nay.

A Teaching Academy Task Force – Arnold Van der Valk

This one not addressed; presumably the discussion was postponed.

At this point the clock struck 5. Owen moved to extend the meeting 5 minutes. Crase seconded, motion passed.

B Children in the Work Place – Ann Marie VanderZanden

VanderZanden briefly reviewed the proposed CIW policy language. A brief discussion flowed, during which it was pointed out that in the first paragraph, the proper modal auxiliary that conveys the authors' intention is "should". Agreement all around to make this editorial change; VanderZanden moved to accept the amended proposal as part of the consent agenda for the upcoming senate meeting. Walter seconded, motion passed.

VI Approval of Senate Agenda for November 4, 2008

This apparently didn't happen, exactly, what with the fog and flurry of a meeting running overtime, but the EB (the secretary believes) intended to give its formal approval as it normally does.

VII Good of the Order

Nothing here—all were by now in full escape mode.

VIII Adjourn

At 5:15.

NEXT MEETING – December 9, 2008