

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2009
3:00-5:00 p.m.
107 Lab of Mechanics**

Present: Torrie, M; Ford, C; Crase, S; Freeman, S; Martin, M; Hendrich, S; Owen, M; Sapp, T (for Palermo); Anderson, P; Porter, M; Walter, S; Osweiler, G; VanderZanden, A M; Wallace, R; van der Valk, A; Holger, D; Hoffman, E. Absent: Selby, M; Carlson, S.

I. Call to Order 3:07pm

II. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda, Executive Board Meeting, March 3, 2009

B. Minutes, Executive Board Meeting, February 13, 2009

Consent agenda accepted without a vote.

III. Announcements and Remarks

A. President

Ford noted that 4 Senate meetings remain, and gave an overview of upcoming items, including many that relate to budgets. Also task force reports forthcoming, but not much has been indicated as coming forward from Senate Councils.

B. President-Elect

Van der Valk noted that the faculty compensation committee is working on a third draft of their report; one finding is that some NTE faculty work for very low pay relative to others at same rank; implication was that this was chiefly an issue in LAS.

C. Provost

Hoffman noted that she suffered a broken foot (!) She also noted that at this point the budget reduction stood at \$31M (!!), rather than the \$25M estimated earlier. She noted that "stimulus" money would be forthcoming, but no sense yet of how much or when. She noted that significant tuition hikes were not anticipated by administration. Hoffman stated there was no salary freeze planned, but no pay raises anticipated. Possibility for early retirement incentives. Eligibility for benefits may change so that ½ time rather than 1/3 time employment becomes the minimum; also, furthermore there may be no employer contribution matching for pensions until employee has been here 3 years, and TIAA/CREF may provide for some different options than now available. Ford noted that he is concerned that NTE faculty could be vulnerable to exploitation, as in favoring 1/3-timers over ½-timers for the benefits savings, or termination just prior to being vested. Hoffman agreed that this was a potential problem. On the bright side, Hoffman noted that funding for NIH and NSF was up, so grantsmanship all the more essential these days.

Hoffman noted that budget study teams are brainstorming strategies for dealing with shortfalls. Proposals forthcoming, which could include cutting some programs. Hoffman also encouraged input on the three Dean searches currently underway. Holger noted that no Engineering Dean videos would appear on the website until all Dean candidates have appeared on campus, to assure an equal playing field.

Holger noted that the Academic Standards and Admissions Committee is studying how the revised admission standards (RAI, or Regents Admission Index) are affecting numbers of admitted and admission-denied students. For the coming year, there have been 8170 unconditional admission offers made, which is slightly below normal.

D. Council/Caucus Chairs

Porter noted that the Governance Council has edited the research policy, and that open meetings may be a topic to explore. Holger said beware of open-meetings stipulations, because of onerous advance-notice publication requirements that could ensue. Freeman noted that the J+A Council will be addressing the

research misconduct policy in the fall of 2009. Walter noted that the Business College caucus has recently discussed NTE salaries. Hendrich noted that the Academic Affairs Council has discovered an issue among the GSB concerning student unhappiness about costs associated with course readers that are used in lieu of textbooks—the issue being that a textbook can be re-sold but usually not a reader. Holger noted that there is further unhappiness with certain textbook/CD packages that the bookstore will not buy back (presumably as part of an agreement with the publisher). Hendrich noted that there seems to be a trend towards reduction of electives within degree programs so that students are required to earn a greater proportion of credits within their home unit—which is exactly what you'd expect with the new budget model's incentives. Hendrich pointed out that efforts by units to create courses that draw students from outside the home unit may therefore be efforts made in vain.

IV. Old Business

A. Policy on Content of External Letters [S08-16]

Freeman noted that there has been some dissent concerning the restriction on asking an external reviewer whether his/her institution would hire the candidate, because some units feel they need to know this to remain competitive. However, AAUP's position is that the question is arbitrary and unfair, since the candidate is supposedly being evaluated by unique-to-ISU standards.

B. Discontinuation of M.S. in VDPAM

Hendrich described the rationale for this non-controversial proposal.

C. Children in the Workplace Policy

VanderZanden clarified the policy's intent.

V. New Business

A. Guiding Principles for Budget Evaluation

Sapp noted that RPA Council has developed a one-page set of budget-evaluation principles as a proposed Senate resolution, edited down from a draft that spanned four pages. Sapp noted it was urgent because significant budget cuts are imminent. Discussion ensued; it appeared to several discussants that the document appeared to single out CELT and Honors as favored programs. Suggestion made to revise the document so that no examples are cited so that it appears conceptual/dispassionate in nature, and to emphasize that it is a resolution only (not policy). Further suggestions made to speak of efficiencies of centers and institutions rather than to speak of cost reductions. These suggestions for revision offered as a friendly amendment (not clear whose); motion to accept the revisions by Owen, seconded by Wallace; motion passed. Agreed that the amended resolution will be put forward as a special order at the subsequent Senate meeting on 3/10/2009.

B. Faculty Grievance Procedures

Freeman explained that the proposed revised procedures came at the behest of Deans, who wanted clarification of the existing policy as well as a tightened timeline for grievance dealings. The proposal now has been converted to "Handbook language".

C. Modified By-Law Changes

Porter noted that the changes were pulled from the Senate consent agenda earlier this year, because Jack Girton had objected to the removal of one committee by van der Valk's Committee on Committees.

D. Communication Technology Policy

E. Communication Technology Allowance and Reimbursement Procedures

Hoffman explained that this was essentially a tax-compliance issue; because of the overlap in use between job-related and non-job related domains, cell phones and blackberry-type devices need to be purchased by employees rather than provided by ISU.

VI. Approval of Senate Agenda for March 10, 2009

Ford asked that the above new business items V. D and E be removed from the consent agenda, so that the Governance Council could have time for discussion/review; the EB agreed without motion or vote.

VII. Good of the Order

Nothing offered.

VIII. Adjournment

At 5:00p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 31, 2009

Minutes assiduously recorded and respectfully submitted by Michael David Martin, duly elected Recording Secretary of the Iowa State University Faculty Senate, upon this twenty-sixth day of March in the year two thousand and nine *Anno Domini*.