



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2023 – 3:00–5:00 P.M. – Lab of Mechanics 107

Attending (14): Bennett-George, S. [Pres-Elect], Wheeler, A. [Past Pres], Wallace, R. [Sec], Alshihabi, D. [FDAR], Bigelow, T. [RPA & ENG CC], Day, T. [VET CC], Faber C. [DSN CC], Frank, M. [Gov], Freeman, S. [J&A], Gillette, M. [HSC CC], Hanson, V. [CALC CC], Parsa, R. [Acad Affairs], Peterson [LAS CC], Townsend, T. [BUS CC]. **Absent (1):** Perkins, J. [Pres]; A quorum was determined to be present for the meeting.

Provost Office: Wickert, J. [Provost]; Bratsch-Prince, D. [Assoc. Prov.]; Vanderzanden, A.M. [Assoc. Prov.]

Guests: Knief, A. [Parliamentarian], Zunkel, K. [Inst. Research]

1. **Call to Order** – President Elect Bennett-George called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm
2. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. The Consent Agenda and minutes from the January 17, 2023 EB meeting were approved by voice vote.
3. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. No Unfinished Business was presented for this meeting.
4. **New Business**
 - a. No New Business was received for this meeting.
6. **Announcements**
 - a. Faculty Senate President – Perkins
 - President Perkins was absent from the meeting due to illness.
 - b. Faculty Senate President-Elect – Bennett-George
 - President-Elect Bennett-George noted that elections will need to be held for three Council Chair positions: AAC, FDAR, and RPA.
 - c. Past President – Wheeler
 - Enjoyed the presentation by Prof. Michael Bugeja on Chat-GPT
 - Senate should consider bringing in a speaker to discuss mental health.
 - d. Senior Vice President and Provost – Wickert
 - **Presentation on ISU Lists of Peer Institutions** – Provost with Karen Zunkel (Institutional Research)
 - The Provost explained that the Board of Regents has charged each of the Regent Universities with re-evaluating their lists of peer institutions and updating them based on the criteria each institution developed. It was noted that the “Peer 10” list for Iowa State University was developed in 1986 and has only been minimally updated since that time. Another peer list, IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) has 97 institutions listed as ISU’s peers.

- A committee of 13 members, representative of various units and functions of the university, was seated to evaluate the current lists of peer institutions and using various criteria, make recommendations on an updated, revised list of peers. This committee met in the Fall 2022 semester and developed a set of objective and subjective criteria by which potential peer institutions would be evaluated and compared. This information was conveyed with a PowerPoint presentation and explained the details of committee composition and activity.
- Dr. Zunkel then presented the methods by which the data were gathered and the criteria by which prospective peer universities were evaluated and compared with ISU. The comparisons were conducted using publicly available data, and were conducted on 24 potential candidate institutions, particularly for R1 institutions; there were 19 variables compared including both qualitative factors and quantitative factors. It was desired that ISU was placed somewhere ‘in the middle’ of the list or ranked peer institutions such that there were aspirational goals for improvement when compared to peers.
- Provost Wickert showed the ***current list*** of 10 peer institutions: Michigan State*, North Carolina State*, Purdue*, Ohio State, Pennsylvania State, Texas A&M, Univ. California – Davis, Univ. Illinois, Univ. Minnesota, Univ Wisconsin. (*institutions on current and proposed lists)
- He then showed the ***list of 10 proposed peer institutions***: Michigan State*, North Carolina State*, Purdue*, Colorado State, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Univ Missouri, Univ Nebraska, and Virginia Tech.
- The Provost then explained that all of the proposed peer institutions are R1 Land Grant universities with extension roles, range geographically from coast to coast, and have enrollments between 22,000 and 50,000 students. Nine of the 10 institutions have associated veterinary colleges, and three have schools of human medicine.
- Regarding the IPEDS list of peer institutions, the current number of 97 was reduced to 29 institutions; this includes the 10 proposed universities on the Regents Peer 10 list, the 7 institutions removed from the current Regents Peer 10 list, Arizona State Univ, and an 11 additional R1 universities.
- The Provost stated that these proposed Peer 10 and IPEDS lists will be presented to the Board of Regents at its March meeting in Des Moines.
- Provost Wickert thanked Karen Zunkel for her leadership, effort, and expertise in the development and presentation of the revised peer institution lists. This same presentation will be delivered at the Faculty Senate meeting on February 14th.
- Senator Peterson commented that although a list of peer institutions may not seem very important, identification of institutional peers does matter for letters of reference related to promotion. Some departments may wish to change the set of letter-writers and from which institutions they solicit letter of reference from. He also noted that the new list of peers will aid in making salary comparisons.
- **Update on the Iowa Legislature:**
 - a) Some education policy bills being developed. President Wintersteen and other Regent University Presidents testified before the House Education Committee. Noted that the months ahead will be challenging.
 - b) Questions were asked of the university in 4 areas:
 - What are the university’s administrative costs?
 - Number of academic programs – when were last academic programs

eliminated?

- Data on the performance of tenured faculty.
- Set of questions around DEI initiatives: How much is spent on DEI activities? What is the number of DEI-related courses? How much cost/effort is expended on DEI compared to other academic programs?
- The EB then discussed several of these issues and concerns about them.

- Update on Workday Student:

- a) The Provost provided a handout that gave an overview of the current status of the development and testing of Workday Student. The transition will be a phased roll-out of the various components of the new management system:
 - The first section will go live over the summer with the Admissions module; this will include students that will arrive in Fall 2024.
 - Academic Advising and registration will go live in Spring 2024, with financial aid, U-Bill, transcripts, and graduation modules to follow by being activated throughout summer and Fall of 2024.
- b) It was reported that using hundreds/thousands of iterative tests of the system, the results showed that it was working correctly in 98.4% of the situations tested. The EB then discussed aspects of the new system and how faculty will be engaged and affected during the roll-out.

- Associate Provost Bratsch-Prince discussed the following:

- a) A celebration gathering for faculty receiving national awards, honors, recognition, and prestigious nominations was held on 6 February 2023, noting that the number of these notable faculty continues to increase at ISU.
- b) Development of a new policy for ISU employees performing duties out of the state or out of the country is being developed. This will bring the university into compliance with various state and federal regulations, and clearly define business practices associated with ISU employees not working within the state of Iowa.

- Associate Provost VanderZanden suggested that the Special Order (Item Number 4) on the proposed agenda for the 14 February Faculty Senate meeting be deferred to a later meeting, This would allow the US Diversity Committee to continue its work for several more weeks, and thus provide a more comprehensive overview of the committee's activities and report on all courses that have been proposed and approved.

- A question was raised regarding the backlog of international students who have applied to ISU but have not yet been accepted. It was noted that this issue is due primarily to delays in granting visas for the students from their home countries, and is largely out of the control of the university to improve upon this situation.

e. Council Chairs:

1. ACAFF - Parsa – No new items from Academic Affairs.
2. FDAR –Alshihabi – Noted that President Perkins attended the last FDAR Council meeting. An update on the status of the Institutional Service Task Force was provided. Sen Elliot Weiner is investigating how the College of Engineering is evaluating faculty. Discussion about graduate admissions and required tests of English competency for international students; TOEFL requirements, placement issues, and remedial English courses create additional burdens for some students, which is of concern.

3. GOV – Frank – No report.
4. J&A – Freeman – No report
5. RPA – No updates at this time. Sen. Bigelow is working to get up to speed on current issues after recently becoming chair of the RPA Council.

f. Caucus Chairs:

1. BUS – Townsend – No report
2. CALS - Hanson – – No report
3. HSC – Gillette – Questions were discussed about the School of Education regarding House File 7 and how it relates to curricular content and delivery. The representative from CHS on the RPA Council talked about policy related to dependents, and procedures that may be be differentially burdening some groups. Guidance would be helpful on clarifying which documents and procedures are needed to accommodate necessary changes.
4. DES – Faber – The caucus has not met. There is a faculty liaison group as well as the FS Caucus in the College of Design, and they have looked at governance structures. They still need to meet with the dean. There is window replacement project going on, and the big question at this time is about how faculty offices are going to be used.
5. ENG – Bigelow – Trying to find a time to meet; no report.
6. LAS – Peterson – Caucus met and discussed several issues: 1) Clarifying eligibility for a Morrill Professorship for Term Professors. 2) Jump Start/’Degrees of the Future’ initiative – Market analysis (outside consultant) should be conducted to evaluate areas of need, competition with other institutions, and job/industry opportunities to be identified such that data-driven decision-making should identify potential growth area of academic programs.
7. VET – Day – Caucus met to discuss several issues with the dean; no further updates.

7. Approval of FS Agenda for 14 February 2023

The proposed FS Agenda for 14 February was presented. Motion by Faber, second by Frank to remove item 4 (Update from US Diversity Committee) from the agenda. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Motion by Frank, second by Faber to accept the modified agenda; the motion was adopted by voice vote.

8. Good of the Order

- Secretary Wallace asked the Executive Board if there was continued interest in hosting members of the Board of Regents for faculty meetings as a continuation of this program begun in 2016. There was general agreement that the executive board wanted to continue the program, and that Dr. Wallace can proceed with invitations to members of the Board of Regents to schedule campus visits, likely in April 2023.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert S. Wallace, Secretary - ISU Faculty Senate