



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 17, 2023 – 3:00–5:00 P.M. – Lab of Mechanics 107**

**Attending (14):** Perkins, J. [Pres], Bennett-George, S. [Pres-Elect], Wheeler, A. [Past Pres], Wallace, R. [Sec], Alshihabi, D. [FDAR], Bigelow, T. [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]. **Absent (2):** Muecke, M. [RPA], Townsend, T. [BUS CC]; 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]

1. **Call to Order** – President Perkins called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm
2. **Consent Agenda**
  - a. The meeting agenda was amended to remove the Special Order [Counsel Norton and Dean Graves presentation on Graduate School Unionization] due to presenter scheduling issues. The amended meeting agenda and minutes from the December 6, 2022 EB meeting were approved by voice vote.
3. **Special Order** [removed from agenda]
4. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. BS in Agricultural Communications [22-13] – Parsa
    - No additional comments received since first reading.
    - By general agreement, this item will be placed on the FS Agenda of Jan. 24 for its second reading and vote.
  - b. Professional Masters in Business Administration [22-14] – Parsa
    - No additional comments received since first reading.
    - By general agreement, this item will be placed on the FS Agenda of Jan. 24 for its second reading and vote.
  - c. Masters in Accounting Analytics [22-15] – Parsa
    - No additional comments received since first reading.
    - By general agreement, this item will be placed on the FS Agenda of Jan. 24 for its second reading and vote.
  - d. Policy Change: Degree Planning (Majors, Minors, Certificates) [22-16] – Parsa
    - Sen. Frank asked the question about what will be the impact on required classes for minors if there is a reduction of required credits/classes? Will this have an impact

on budgets and SCH-generated income from a reduction in classes offered and fewer credits being required.

- Provost Wickert stated that asking these kinds of questions is important when evaluating overall impact of curricular changes.
- There was continued discussion about this issue, and about how it should be discussed when presented to the Senate for its second reading.
- Further discussion included asking the question whether colleges could impose additional requirements for minors and certificates beyond the minimum requirements included in the proposal, as well as possible scenarios where combinations of majors, minors, certificates, and other multiple degrees might be needed to exclude combinations with excessive overlap in requirements.
- There is a need to periodically re-evaluate the policy regarding the number of credits required at ISU for minors and certificates.
- By general agreement, this item will be placed on the FS Agenda of Jan. 24 for its second reading and vote.

## **5. New Business**

No new business was received for this meeting.

## **6. Announcements**

- a. Faculty Senate President – Perkins
  - President Perkins announced that the George Washington Carver Day celebration will take place on February 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-7:00 pm (program begins at 5:30) in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union.
- b. Faculty Senate President-Elect – Bennett-George
  - President-Elect Bennett-George reported that a meeting of the Representative Committee is being scheduled to take place over the next few weeks.
- c. Past President – Wheeler - No report.
- d. Senior Vice President and Provost – Wickert
  - Provost Wickert distributed copies of a brief synopsis of Gov. Reynolds' proposed budget and explained those aspects relevant to the Regents institutions and to ISU, regarding line items, general appropriations, and proposed increases or decreases in state support.
  - The Provost recently attended a 'Legislative Breakfast' with members of the legislature in Des Moines. A range of questions and discussions involving House File 7 and other issues took place at this meeting. The discussions included matters of current curricula, training of students for in-state jobs, and other issues of interest to legislators.
  - He noted that it is likely that ISU will conduct required 'Free Speech Training' again this year.
  - He explained that the School of Education at ISU will be under significant scrutiny as far as curricular content and teacher training/certification are concerned. There will be a need to respond to any forthcoming legislative mandates or other required changes should they develop.
  - Associate Provost Bratsch-Prince announced that there will be a forthcoming 'Faculty Activity Survey' being sent to faculty over a period of approximately 8 weeks to assess how ISU faculty spend their time during the work week. This is a Board of Regents required survey, and the data it provides shows how significantly ISU Faculty are engaged in their various responsibilities. She noted

that of the Regents universities, Iowa State typically has the best response rate for completing these surveys!

- On January 4<sup>th</sup>, a call for proposals was sent out to engage in strategic faculty hires in critical areas of research and scholarship. Approx. \$3.5M has been set aside for funding research areas including climate science, sustainability, and human health; these areas add to existing strengths at ISU. These include strategic hires, with those that bridge colleges and research areas receiving high priority. Proposals are due by March 1, 2023.
- Associate Provost Vanderzanden spoke about the “Degrees of the Future” initiative; the intention is to develop curricula leading to new academic focus areas, potentially across disciplines. The initiative will take place in two stages; an initial ‘Proof of Concept’ stage that defines what the degree is and then a market analysis of its potential to attract students in critical areas.
- The required attributes of a ‘Degrees of the Future’ proposal is that it
  - a) needs to be intentional;
  - b) must result in a tuition revenue increase; and
  - c) must reach student markets that have not been previously served.
- She also reported on the U.S. Diversity course status. The committee has received ~61 course proposals for review. Of those, at present, 34 courses have been approved and 4 rejected. Future USD Committee reviews of courses will take place on Feb. 2 (12 courses to review), Feb. 8 (8 courses to review), and Feb. 22 (2 courses to review)
- It is estimated that there will be in excess of 2,000 seats available for meeting U.S. Diversity course requirements.
- A question was raised that after these initial reviews of submitted courses are completed, will there be another call for other courses to be submitted for review to be considered to qualify for US Diversity course status? The timing of any future requests for additional courses would need to be discussed with the committee.
- It was noted that a temporary chair needs to be appointed during the time current US Diversity Committee chair Kelly Reddy-Best is on leave.
- A final comment by Provost Wickert noted that the recurring ‘Tenure Bill’ had been re-introduced in this legislative session.

e. Council Chairs:

1. ACAFF - Parsa – No new items from Academic Affairs.
2. FDAR –Alshihabi – Noted that they have been having problems filling one or more committee chair positions.
3. GOV – Frank – The Council will have its first meeting of the new semester next Thursday. No additional information to report other than the previously discussed review of the FS Procedures Manual and the potential modification of the eligibility of Term Professors becoming eligible for the Morrill Professorship.
4. J&A – Freeman – Reported that J&A has been comparatively “quiet”. He reminded senators to look at the newly updated Faculty Handbook, which is now available on-line. With respect to the new Progressive Corrective Action policy, the comments received so far have been positive.
5. RPA – President Perkins has been serving as the temporary chair following the resignation of Sen Muecke. An interim chair of the RPA Council will be elected at the January FS meeting to serve the remainder of the ’22-’23 Academic Year.

f. Caucus Chairs:

1. CALS - Hanson – Caucus had a meeting with Dean Robison and Assoc. Dean. McDonald about budget and careful review of programs and needs; also discussed concerns related to AI/ChatGPT issues and winter session.
2. BUS – Townsend – No report (absent).
3. DES – Faber – Reported that the caucus has not met for this semester as of today, and that they are “down one member”; there is a vacancy which they will attempt to fill with a new ‘replacement’ senator.
4. ENG – Bigelow – Caucus has not met.
5. HSC – Gillette – Sen. Gillette reported that the caucus met earlier today and discussed the proposed changes of the master’s degree and a creating a coursework-only degree. One question was asked: Why does the Graduate College not have this approval process through normal FS academic/curriculum review channels? This still raises the question about what does it mean to have a master’s degree from ISU. She reported that the Term Faculty Equity/Market adjustment study has been completed. It was noted that in the College of Human Sciences there has recently been a lot of academic adviser turnover; also, that there is a lack of sufficient funds to support travel or professional development.
6. LAS – Peterson – Caucus meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>; looking for additional information on candidates for FS President election.
7. VET – Day – Caucus met with the Dean and are working through several budget decisions.

**7. Approval of FS Agenda for 24 January 2023**

The proposed FS Agenda for 24 January was presented, reviewed, and the Special Order on Graduate Student Unionization (EB agenda item 3 above) was removed from the FS agenda. As agreed, the agenda was approved by acclamation.

**8. Good of the Order**

- Senator Freeman expressed appreciation for the social gathering after the last FS meeting of the Fall '22 semester, and thanked the Provost for supporting it.
- He further noted that from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, the Iowa Agriculture Expo will be taking place in Des Moines.

**9. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Wallace, Secretary - ISU Faculty Senate