



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate

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

**Attending (14):** Perkins, J. [Pres]; Bennett-George, S. [Pres-Elect], Wallace, R. [Sec], Alshihabi, D. [FDAR], Bigelow, T. [RPA & ENG 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 (1):** Wheeler, A. [Past Pres], Day, T. [VET CC], Townsend, T. [BUS CC]. A quorum was determined to be present for the meeting.

**Provost Office:** 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 3:05 pm

**2. Consent Agenda**

- a. The Consent Agenda and minutes from the February 7, 2023 EB meeting were approved by voice vote.

**3. Unfinished Business**

- a. No Unfinished Business was presented for this meeting.

**4. New Business**

- a. FH 2.9 Definitions – Duplication of definitions in Sect. 2.9 & 7.2.7 – [22-18] – Frank - Reviewed duplication of specific definitions in noted sections of the *Faculty Handbook* and to avoid confusion, it is proposed that these sections be edited to include the “day” definition to only one location.
- b. FH 6.3.1.1, 6.3.2.1, and 6.3.3.1 – Eligibility for University, Distinguished, and Morrill Professors [22-19] – Frank - Sen. Frank described the proposed change as to extending the eligibility of Term [Full] Professors for the recognition as Distinguished, University, or Morrill Professorships. No award criteria or nomination/selection procedures will be changed.

A motion was received by Bennett-George, second by Peterson to modify the first paragraph of FH Section 6.3 that recognition of this honorific status would be added to precede the recipient’s existing title [e.g. Morrill Teaching Professor]. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

- c. Discontinuation B.S. Biophysics [22-20] – Parsa - Declining enrollment of current Biophysics majors (<5) and changes in the discipline as to definitions of Biophysics, along with incorporation of much of the topics in biophysics that are now taught as part of the current Biochemistry major prompted the department to request the discontinuation of this degree.

## 6. Announcements

- a. Faculty Senate President – Perkins
  - Announced that Sophia Magill will make a Special Order presentation on the ISU Strategic Plan and the initiatives to move forward with funding proposals related to advancing the Strategic Plan goals.
  - A Task force has been established to examine credit for prior learning.
- b. Faculty Senate President-Elect – Bennett-George
  - Nomination forms will be sent out at the end of March for election of new council chairs for AAC, FDAR, and RPA.
- c. Past President – Wheeler
  - No report (Absent)
- d. Senior Vice President and Provost – Vanderzanden
  - Adam Schwartz, Ames Lab Director, has announced that he is stepping down from that position; a search for a new director will be initiated soon, with the committee being chaired by Peter Dorhout and James Morris.
  - Legislative updates from “Funnel Week” include:
    - The Tenure Bill did not advance
    - A bill requiring Post-Tenure Review every 3 years is advancing; since ISU has performance reviews each year, the university is likely already compliant.
    - A bill to appropriate funds for cybersecurity (ca. \$2.5M) is proposed
    - Bills related to teacher preparation and the banning of DEI initiatives at Regent institutions are also advancing.
    - A bill to greatly re-organize state government is advancing.
    - Noted the re-appointment of Regents Sherry Bates and Nancy Dunkel, and the appointment of Robert Kramer to the Board of Regents.
  - The new Vice President for Extension and Outreach Jason Henderson has recently visited campus; he begins in his new position on April 3, 2023.
  - An update on the U.S. Diversity Committee (with the AAC to get further confirmation) notes that 98 courses have been submitted to the committee for review and approval. At present, 60 courses have been approved, with 46 courses to be listed on the web site by the end of March; these will also be included (along with other subsequently approved courses) in the updated University Catalog by the end of May 2023..
  - Regarding questions on transfer credits, meetings have been recently held with community colleges to discuss this topic considering new learning outcomes. Further review is needed to evaluate transfer courses and equivalency to ISU courses to determine acceptability and credit parity.
  - Assoc. Provost Vanderzanden concluded by providing an update on Fall '23 admissions; the current acceptances are up ca. 5.3% over the same time last year. This is attributed to increases in applications from students in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.
  - Sen. Peterson asked about the phasing-in of new policies, particularly in the context of the current “catalog freeze”.
  - Sen. Peterson stated that he was concerned that students are being afraid, concerned, and feel like they are not supported by the institution, and that the messaging to students is not being done strongly enough to engender confidence.
- e. Council Chairs:
  1. ACAFF - Parsa – No new items from Academic Affairs.

2. FDAR –Alshihabi – Noted that participation in institutional service is declining, particularly as it relates to governance. This aspect of faculty responsibility should be better-defined. There appears to be a lack of reward and or recognition for service; it is not adequately valued in the promotion process. Similarly there is a lack of recognition for faculty who collaborate with administration at all levels of the university. Following discussion, it was proposed that a consultant be retained to deliver one or more two-hour presentations to faculty which addresses the role of institutional service. Plans for delivering this presentation will be coordinated and scheduled for delivery on campus in the future, perhaps after the start of the Fall 2023 semester.
  3. GOV – Frank – No additional updates.
  4. J&A – Freeman – Noted that at this time if year, appeals will begin to be received; none at present.
  5. RPA –Bigelow – RPA met with Ed Holland (Univ. Human Relations - Benefits) to discuss the forthcoming audit of the Dependent Eligibility Verification Survey that will take place during the Spring 2023 semester into June.
- f. Caucus Chairs:
1. CALS - Hanson – CALS is undergoing trainings and updates of a Civil Rights Review
  2. BUS – Townsend (Absent) – Report by Perkins: The Provost has put together a committee to review Dean Spalding.
  3. DES – Faber – The caucus met last week. An election for At-Large senator is ongoing. Questions for the Dean were developed. Some of the issues included whether the college can be more effective on various trainings, the process of re-structuring the governance of the college, and the relationship between the Faculty Senate Caucus and other college committees.
  4. ENG – Bigelow – The caucus met with the Dean on Feb. 28. Work is taking place on establishing new definitions of faculty expectations on research and workload.
  5. CHS – Gillette – Discussed the forthcoming vote on the Graduate Council inconsideration of the course-only Master’s degree proposal. It was recommended that this process be put through the Faculty Senate review as with other matters of academics and curriculum. The EB discussed this briefly. Other related issues discussed included requests about admission to the graduate faculty when some term faculty were denied graduate faculty status on the basis that term faculty did not have enough research components in their positions, resulting in ineligibility for term faculty renewal as members of the graduate faculty.
  6. LAS – Peterson – No report.
  7. VET – Day – No report (absent).

**7. Approval of FS Agenda for 21 March 2023**

The proposed FS Agenda for 21 March was approved by voice vote.

**8. Good of the Order**

- Sen. Hanson suggested that improvements be made in the instructions and advice given when onboarding new senators to enhance the understanding of the importance of the roles senators have on the Faculty Senate.

**9. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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