



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

22/M/5

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2023 – 3:30–5:00 P.M.
SUNROOM, MEMORIAL UNION

Present: Al Shihabi, D.; Bardhan, R.; Bennett-George, S.; Bigelow, T.; Burrough, E.; Cho, M.; Cook, K.; Davis, R.; Day, T.; Denizel, M.; Dewell, G.; Dubisar, A.; Faber, C.; Fleming, C.; Freeman, S.; Gillette, M.; Hall, S.; Hanson, V.; Hernandez, B.; Hornbuckle, B.; Janvrin, D.; Kang, S.; Kovnir, K.; Kreider, B.; Lonergan, E.; Lutz, R.; Mao, H.; Martin, M.; Mellata, M.; Morgan, E.; Munkvold, G.; Nair, A.; Padgett-Walsh, C.; Parsa, R.; Perkins, J.; Peters, D.; Peterson, D.; Poplin, A.; Prabhu, G.; Reddy-Best, K.; Roe, K.; Rosentrater, K.; Schaal, M.; Schieltz, J.; Schrier, T.; Schwartz, C.; Smalley, S.; Smiley, A.; Stacy-Bates, K.; Townsend, T.; Wallace, R.; Watanabe, O.; Wheeler, A.; Wilgenbusch, E.; Winer, E.; Wood, A.; Wu, H.; Xiang, C.; Zarechnyy, O.; Zerbib, S.

Absent: Armstrong, P.; Anderson, M.; Behnken, B.; Berger, D.; Bolser, K.; Cutrona, C.; Daniels, T.; Kedrowski, K.; McGrail, M.; Obbink, M.; Pistolesi, S.; Robertson, A.; Shin, Y.; Svec, C.; Vary, J.; Wade, N.; Wang, Q.; Williams, C.

Substitutes: F. Peters for Frank, M.; Q. An for Johnson, D.; D. Smith for Micich, A.;

Guests: Bratsch-Prince, D. (Assoc. Provost); VanDerZanden, A. (Assoc. Provost); Jordan, T. (Asst. Provost); Knief, A. (Parliamentarian); Budlong, J. (Univ. Relations); Boylston, T. (ASAC Chair); Clellan, J. (ISU Daily); Alrichs, J. (Student Government).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Jon Perkins at 3:32 p.m.

- a. Seating of Substitute Senators - As listed above, three substitute senators were seated.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. FS Agenda January 24, 2023 – [22/A/5]
- b. FS Minutes December 13, 2022 – [22/M/4]
- c. FS Docket Calendar – [22/C/5]

The Consent Agenda was adopted by voice vote, without opposition.

3. Special Order: Student Success Initiatives – Andrea Wheeler, Provost’s Faculty Fellow for Student Success and Adriana Gonzalez-Elliott, Director of the Academic Success Center – 3:35 p.m.

- Past President Wheeler provided an overview of the Student Success Initiative, which is one of the President’s Jump Start plan as one of the 9 priorities included in ISU’s Strategic Plan.
- As a focus on student success and retention, \$1.5M over a 3-year period is being allocated to move this project forward.
- There would be immediate funding for students most-impacted by the pandemic, and through the Student Success Center \$150K was allocated for supporting classes and students with unmet academic needs.
- Director Gonzalez-Elliott reported that the Student Success Center has now been able to hire a sufficient number of students (400-500/semester) as tutors with a more competitive hourly pay using these additional resources.
- Some immediate changes made were to increase tutoring group sizes from 5 to 8 students, and improve tutoring in critical areas such as chemistry, physics, and math, and for specific courses such as Econ 101 and Math 150.
- She also announced a new service: ‘The Academic Success Navigator Unit’ which improves time management and study skills support and training.
- Dr. Wheeler continued to explain that there were more “local” developments to assist student success in all 6 undergraduate colleges.
- She reported that a campus-wide ‘working group’ was established to develop a “whole campus” perspective to provide further advice and direction to these initiatives. This would take place at both college and university levels.
- Finally, they would like to have feedback on these initiatives sent to any member of the working group or to Dr. Wheeler directly (andreal@iastate.edu).
- Sen. Cook asked about the limited funds allocated to The Writing Center and how this was being handled. It was stated that the Writing Center has been reorganized and has become part of the Student Success Center and its increased funding.
- Sen. Bigelow spoke about several concerns regarding student accommodations; the Student Success Center is working with the Accommodations Office to address some of these issues and how student accommodation recommendations are made.
- Sen. Schieltz noted that many students come from high school without study and time managements skills and asked if there are additional things that ISU can do when on-boarding students to allow them to get a better introduction to these important skills which are critical to having student success.
- Sen. Janvrin stated that many students come without basic academic competencies and asked if there is any work being done to address this issue, as well as deal with student mental health challenges.

4. Special Order: RPA Council Chair Election

One candidate, Senator Tim Bigelow, had been nominated for serving as Chair of the RPA council. President Perkins called for additional nominations from the floor; none were received. Previously distributed ballots were collected and were counted.

5. Special Order: President-Elect Election

Two candidates had been nominated for serving as President-Elect for 2023-2024: Senator Meghan Gillette and Senator Rahul Parsa. President Perkins called for additional nominations from the floor; none were received. Sen. Gillette and Sen. Parsa addressed the Senate with personal position statements including experience, willingness, and future priorities and plans on how they would lead the Senate if elected. Previously distributed ballots were collected and were counted.

6. Unfinished Business*

- a. B.S. in Agricultural Communications [22-13] – Parsa
 - Sen. Parsa reviewed the proposal. Senator Hansen, who wrote the proposal, was available for questions. No questions were posed. Motion was adopted with a voice vote.

- b. Professional Masters in Business Administration [22-14] – Parsa
 - Sen. Parsa reviewed the proposal. Associate Dean Valentina Salotti was available for questions.
 - Sen. Bigelow – He cannot support a program where the only difference is a number of credits. The proposed curriculum is identical to current program; only difference is where the students come from. Could give credit for prior learning rather than create a new program with a different name.
 - Assoc. Dean Salotti – The two student populations are radically different. The current program is an exception to most common MBA programs, which is for working professionals. Typical number of credits ranges from 39-45, so bringing to 42 is designing the program for the population being served. The way we’re doing this now is by cutting electives, but it doesn’t mean the program needs to stay the same. Conversations took place with the Business College advisory board about future curriculum. These populations are different – one will not cannibalize the other. Population on campus entering directly from an undergraduate degree. The new program will serve students who are professionally employed and with work experience. The decrease in the number of credits is an acknowledgement that populations are different. It is, in a way, equivalent to awarding credit for experience.
 - Sen. Parsa – Noted that he teaches in this program and that they are radically different populations. De-coupling them is a good start, because you don’t have to do things that affect one population without thinking about the other. As we learn more about this population, we can make changes without thinking about the other program.
 - Assoc. Dean Salotti – The current MBA program is an immersive experience; however the students generally don’t have leadership experience. The curriculum looks the same but the student population is treated in completely different ways. The current program is cohort-based, do internal and external case studies, and provide consulting work to non-profits to grow students in the program.
 - Sen. Bigelow – He has been involved in an online accredited program at U. North Dakota. They had a similar situation – on campus students vs. working students. They did not resolve differences by creating a different program. They tailored

the courses to the students, rather than creating a whole new program. This creates new overhead based on the background of students.

- Sen. Parsa – He asked if they were they in the same classroom.
 - Sen. Bigelow – The online students were completely online, come to campus 1-2 times per year, and do the labs in a fast format. Just because you have students from different background doesn't mean you need to make a whole new degree for them. There are other ways to handle that. If you need a completely different program, make a new program with new courses rather than saying that sometime in the future you'll make them different.
 - Sen. Cook – Stated that he is inclined to support the proposal, but Sen. Bigelow is raising some interesting questions. Word that is at the top of his mind is 'overhead'. What are the extra costs? Especially sensitive to this, since in LAS where programs are being cut. The Ivy College of Business isn't in the same position, but what is the overhead?
 - Assoc. Dean Salotti – The MBA is already a viable program, and they believe this program will grow. It is well-staffed to support programs in an online format. On question of overhead, this will be a simplification. Managing the two different populations that the system views as the same is a challenge. The salesforce treats the students the same. Having the programs separated will create efficiencies.
 - With no additional discussion, the question was moved to a vote, and the motion was adopted with a voice vote.
- c. Masters in Accounting Analytics [22-15] – Parsa
- Sen. Parsa reviewed the proposal. Dept. Chair Brad Trinkle was available to answer questions. No questions or comments about the proposal were received. Motion was adopted with a voice vote.
- d. Policy Change: Degree Planning (Majors, Minors, Certificates) [22-16] – Parsa
- Sen. Parsa reviewed the proposal. ASAC Chair Terri Boylston available to answer questions.
 - Sen. Roe – It seems like a student could take a minor at Iowa State by only taking 3 credits.
 - Academic Standards and Admissions Committee Chair Boylston – Part of the rationale is looking at the last 32-credit rule. The last 32 credits of the 120 need to be at Iowa State, so applied that same ratio to the minor and certificate. For most minors and certificates, its not going to be possible to complete them with only 3 credits at ISU. Of 3000 students, 296 have applied transfer credits to minors, approximately 11% of those credits were transfer credits. This all came about from discussions happening well over a year. This involved a Task force with FSCC. When reviewing Secondary Majors, it was discovered that the current catalog has no criteria. Some secondary majors were easier to complete than minors or certificates. This proposal was meant to bring those more in line. The goal is to give opportunities to students to get those additional credentials on their resumé.

- Sen. Parsa – The point of this proposal is to make the certificates and minors more accessible.
- Sen. Bigelow stated that he was very much in favor of the changes. He has concerns about why so few credits would be required at Iowa State, although it is a minor concern. [No pun intended.] It is hard for engineering majors to get minors, and this is an opportunity for more students to get minors. He is voicing strong support for these changes.
- Sen. Hornbuckle also voiced support for the proposal. He especially likes the change to 3 standalone credits for minors. What’s the one course that will make this credit different from your major?
- Dr. Boylston – You can certainly find some of the curriculum where a major and minor are essentially the same. Department and college curriculum committees must be diligent in looking at very similar majors and minor. It is up to these curriculum committees to ensure the curricula are reviewed and offer differences.
- Sen. Peterson – At the LAS Caucus meeting, senators were told the Associate Deans haven’t been able to provide much feedback on this. Dropping of requirements for courses to be at ISU hasn’t been explored. Can’t analyze students who would follow the new rules because current students have to follow the existing rules. Hoping for more time for the colleges to reflect on and dive into how this could impact existing enrollments.
- With no additional discussion, the question was moved to a vote, and the motion was adopted with a voice vote.

*The Secretary would like to acknowledge the assistance of President-Elect Sarah Bennet-George for recording minutes of the ‘Unfinished Business’ portion of the meeting during his brief absence from the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, President Perkins announced the results of the elections:

- Senator Bigelow was endorsed to serve as Chair of the RPA Council.
- Senator Parsa was elected to serve as President-Elect for 2023-2024.

7. New Business – 4:30 p.m.

No New Business items were presented for this meeting.

8. Announcements – 4:31 p.m.

a. Faculty Senate President

- President Perkins announced that the most recently updated *Faculty Handbook* is now available on-line, and includes all of the approved edits, revisions, and additions.
- Regarding the social event held at the conclusion of the December 2022 Faculty Senate meeting, feedback received included many positive comments and noted the opportunities to informally interact with other senators and administrators in a collegial setting. The decision was made by the Provost to fund another similar meeting at the conclusion of the May 2023 FS meeting.

b. Faculty Senate President-Elect – No report

- c. Senior Vice President and Provost
- Assoc. Provost Dawn Bratsch-Prince discussed the current funding initiatives as part of fulfilling aspects of the University Strategic Plan.
 - In particular, she discussed the Faculty Hiring Initiative which is directed to recruit faculty in key areas that integrate ISU's research strengths and priorities. The university is initially investing approx. \$3.5M in new faculty hires which focus on the following areas of emphasis: climate science, cybersecurity, critical materials development/analysis, and human health initiatives (as well as the social impacts of all of these areas).
 - The arrangement from administration regarding these hires is that 50% of the new faculty hire's salary would be covered by this program for the next 3 years. Successful proposals for new hires will address these areas of emphasis. Proposals are due on March 1st; decisions will be announced on April 1st.
 - Assoc. Provost Annmarie Vanderzanden spoke about the 'Degrees of the Future' initiative, which is being developed based upon student interest in emerging fields and employer demand for having graduates with experience in specific areas of inquiry. This initiative is intended to recruit students from new demographic sectors, and to increase overall enrollment.
 - Proposals at the planning stage for review are due March 1 through May 1. Successful proposals will then need to follow up with implementation proposals with the target for starting the new curricula in early 2024. The Provost Office/web-site may be contacted for further information.
 - It was announced that Sophia McGill [Office of the President] is leading the Strategic Plan Jump Start initiatives.
 - Faculty are reminded that it is necessary to respond to the communication regarding Conflict of Interest disclosures and should complete the on-line form.
 - Dr. Vanderzanden reported that ISU has completed another successful Winter Session, serving approx. 1,500 students and offering 52 courses between Fall '22 and Spring '23 semesters.
 - The 2023 Iowa Legislative session has begun - Senators were reminded that ISU has a specific legislative liaison which functions as an advocate for the university in communication with legislators. Faculty may choose to also provide direct input to legislators, but are reminded that if they do so, this communication should be from a personal e-mail address (i.e. do not use their ISU e-mail address) and do not use ISU-owned computers for these activities. Faculty and staff must be certain that any direct communications with legislators is done as a private citizen, and cannot be construed as being submitted as a representative of Iowa State University.
 - Over the next few weeks, faculty should receive a communication regarding the Regents 'Faculty Activity Survey' (sent to 1/8th of the faculty each week for a period of 8 weeks) to sample activity and time spent by faculty in a typical week. The compiled data are then submitted to the Board of Regents. ISU faculty have historically reported well over 40 hours/week spent on their various responsibilities, and of the 3 Iowa Regents institutions, ISU has had the largest percentage response to this survey when compared to SUI and UNI.

- Dr, Vanderzanden concluded her remarks with a brief discussion of the current ‘Chat GPT’ issues of using Artificial Intelligence in various places within the academic setting, including academic dishonesty and challenges when assessing student writing and research products. It was reported that a small group (Dr. T. Boylston is the FS representative) was assembled to evaluate this issue and make recommendations to faculty on how to address this issue. The group is working toward answering questions such as when use of AI/Chat GPT would be prohibited, when it could be used, can it be used only with specific attribution, etc. She noted that some universities are developing ideas on how AI can be used with students to enhance the learning experience. It is clear that the technology is evolving and it may be necessary to modify existing assignments, syllabus statements, and evaluative criteria to respond to this new technology.
- CELT has developed several teaching talks about using AI/Chat GPT, and some new technology is being developed to aid in the detection of AI-prepared materials.
- Sen. Peterson asked if the various CELT talks would be recorded and made available to faculty who cannot attend the specific time when the live presentations are being made. This request will be forwarded to CELT for follow-up.
- d. P&S Council - No report
- e. Student Government – Student Government Vice President Jaden Alrichs provided an update on activities with participation at the current Iowa legislative session with a group of 10-12 students forming an advocacy team to communicate concerns with legislators. Among the most important issues they are discussing are student mental health issues. Mr. Alrichs also noted:
 - The annual funding allocation process has begun for student clubs and other groups.
 - Student Government will be voting on issues related to student fees.
 - Mentioned a student-centered podcast “State of Things” that discusses ISU issues and supports various events with communication and promotion.
- f. Graduate and Professional Student Senate – No report.

9. Good of the Order

- President Perkins reminded the body about the forthcoming George Washington Carver Day on February 1st, with activities taking place at 5 pm in the Memorial Union Great Hall.
- President Perkins also announced that Past President Andrea Wheeler will officially become a US citizen next week, and offered congratulations!

10. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by President Perkins at 4:55 pm

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