



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

22/M/7

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2023 – 3:30–5:00 P.M.

SUNROOM, MEMORIAL UNION

Present: Al Shihabi, D.; Armstrong, P.; Bardhan, R.; Behnken, B.; Bennett-George, S.; Berger, D.; Bigelow, T.; Cho, M.; Cook, K.; Cutrona, C.; Day, T.; Denizel, M.; Dewell, G.; Dubisar, A.; Faber, C.; Frank, M.; Freeman, S.; Gillette, M.; Hall, S.; Hanson, V.; Hernandez, B.; Hornbuckle, B.; Janvrin, D.; Kang, S.; Kedrowski, K.; Kovnir, K.; Kreider, B.; Lutz, R.; Martin, M.; McGrail, M.; Micich, A.; Morgan, E.; Munkvold, G.; Parsa, R.; Perkins, J.; Peters, D.; Peterson, D.; Poplin, A.; Prabhu, G.; Robertson, A.; Roe, K.; Schaal, M.; Schieltz, J.; Schrier, T.; Schwartz, C.; Smalley, S.; Stacy-Bates, K.; Townsend, T.; Wallace, R.; Watanabe, O.; Wheeler, A.; Wilgenbusch, E.; Winer, E.; Wood, A.; Wu, C.; Wu, H.; Xiang, C.; Zarechnyy, O.; Zerbib, S.

Absent: Anderson, M.; Bolser, K.; Daniels, T.; Davis, R.; Fleming, C.; Mao, H.; Mellata, M.; Obbink, M.; Rosentrater, K.; Shin, Y.; Svec, C.; Vary, J.; Wade, N.; Williams, C.

Substitutes: M. Rahe for Burrough, E.; R. LeSar for Johnson, D.; J. Dekkers for Lonergan, E.; A. Thoms for Nair, A.; A. Butler for Padgett-Walsh, C.; J. Burnett for Pistolessi, S.; J. Gagnon for Reddy-Best, K.; T. Derrick for Smiley, A.; Y. Jia for Wang, Q.

Guests: Wickert, J. (Provost); Bratsch-Prince, D. (Assoc. Provost); VanDerZanden, A. (Assoc. Provost); Knief, A. (Parliamentarian); Budlong, J. (Univ. Relations); Clellan, J. (ISU Daily); Bootsma, M. (Acctng); Beard, J. (ISBA); Myers, M. (WLC); Moss, W. (BBMB); Smith, D. (School Ed).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Jon Perkins at 3:31 p.m.

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

2. Consent Agenda

- a. FS Agenda March 21, 2023 – [22/A/7]
- b. FS Minutes February 14, 2023 – [22/M/6]
- c. FS Docket Calendar – [22/C/7]

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

3. Special Order: Funding Projects and Initiatives Related to ISU's New Strategic Plan - Sophia Magill, Senior Advisor to the President

- Sophia Magill introduced senators to the Strategic Plan Web Site page and the call for proposals for initiatives consistent with achieving various goals of the Strategic Plan. This includes strategic faculty hiring, programs in research in the defined critical areas of study, and degrees of the future. There have been several informational sessions scheduled for faculty to meet and discuss focus areas for collaborative studies and coordination of proposal submissions. The 9-year Strategic Plan has a number of critical areas identified; on the web page she reviewed the "Call for Proposals" section and the procedures involved with proposal submission. She stressed the importance of selecting the appropriate part of the on-line form that identifies how the proposal aligns with a goal or goals of the Strategic Plan. Budgets are submitted in a downloadable Excel Spreadsheet format that can be populated with the information requested in a standard format. In addition to the budget, a *budget narrative* explaining the project costs that are included in the budget is also needed, as is a project impact statement, and an explanation of how specific metrics to assess success of the proposal's outcome(s) will be used. The deadline for the next round of proposal submissions is April 28th. Ms. Magill then took several questions from senators.

4. Special Order: Campus Security - Michael Newton, Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Chief of Police, and Assistant Chief Carrie Jacobs

- ISU DPS Chief Michael Newton spoke in response to inquiries about ISU's preparedness for violent incidents such as that recently taking place on the campus of Michigan State University. He reviewed the vision, mission, and focus of the ISU Department of Public Safety, noting the police force is composed of 41 officers, and this division of the university includes the Police Department, Risk Management, DPS Emergency Management, and the ISU Parking Division. He assured those attending the meeting that ISU DPS trains several times per year for situations such as those taking place at Michigan State in 'Active Threat Mitigation' activities. ISU DPS Staff train at multiple events each year within the department and with other agencies such as Ames Police, Story County Police, State Police, etc. to enhance inter-agency cooperation and efficiency. He described the ranked priorities of action, in order, as: Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Property Preservation. The incident response training normally involves activating a 'Violent Incident Response Team'. Assistant Chief Carrie Jacobs explained that this team strives to undergo threat mitigation and de-escalation of violent incidents using a threat assessment management approach. In addition to immediate actions in response to potentially violent incidents, DPS also conducts Office Space Assessments to determine the arrangement of furniture, possible entry points, ingress/egress, and other physical aspects of the workspace to be able to minimize potential threats to workers in violent incident situations. This is part of an overall program of 'Safety Planning'. Chief Newton also shared an ISU-Specific phone app 'Iowa State Safe' for faculty and students – this provides immediate connection to DPS and automatic GPS location of the caller to efficiently report incidents, observations, threats, or concerns to DPS. This app is meant to replace the 'emergency phones' formerly located at various places around campus which were using outdated

technology and would be too costly and inefficient to update. Chief Newton then took several brief questions from senators.

5. Special Order: Dependent Eligibility Verification Survey – Ed Holland, Director of Benefits

- Mr. Holland reviewed the rationale for performing the Dependent Eligibility Audit and the survey to verify basic information needed to document dependents. He provided examples of considerable cost savings when ineligible dependents are removed from the system. This audit/survey affects only those faculty and staff who are claiming dependents on their benefits profile. Dependents are defined as a “spouse or domestic partner”, and any child or children as defined as being biological, adopted, stepchildren, and other relationships. The survey will be done by an outside vendor: Willis Towers Watson (WTW); data collection and documentation of dependent status on this survey will not involve ISU Human Resources; do not submit documents or other verification information to HR. The survey will address the fundamental question “if there is a relationship, or if it doesn’t exist.” Notification about the forthcoming survey was sent to Faculty and staff on March 8th; the program will be in on March 27th and run through June 2nd – documents of different forms can be used to verify dependent status. For non-US citizens employed by the University, contacting WTW will allow employees to determine what kinds of documents will be needed to confirm dependent status. Additionally dependent status may also be re-evaluated and changed if necessary, during the normal enrollment period in November. Concerns were raised about personal information being released, and it was noted that there will be an appeals process for dependents deemed ineligible by WTW.

6. Special Order: Athletic Council Election

- At this time, candidates who have expressed interest in serving on the Athletics Council made brief (~ 2 minute) presentations explaining their background and reasons why they would like to serve on the council. Candidates standing for election to two (2) positions were: Eric Badding, Jon Beard, Michael Bootsma, Sarah Davis (statement read by Kenny Cook), Megan Myers, Walter Moss, Doug Smith, and Pablo Stinga. Ballots were cast and results of the election will be announced at a later part of the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

a. No Unfinished Business items were presented for this meeting.

8. New Business

a. FH 2.9 Definitions – Duplication of definitions in sections 2.9 and 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. This action is presented for its first reading.

b. FH 6.3, 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. This action is presented for its first reading.
- 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. This action is presented for its first reading.

9. Announcements

- a. Faculty Senate President - Perkins
 - President Perkins expressed his concerns about recent legislative DEI initiatives.
- b. Faculty Senate President-Elect – Bennett-George - No report
- c. Senior Vice President and Provost - Wickert
 - The Provost reviewed current legislative actions regarding DEI activities at Regents campuses. The Board of Regents will form a committee to evaluate various DEI-related courses, staff, and other investments in these initiatives. At present the 3 universities are to pause any new DEI programs. The Board will develop its own review of these actions in response to House File 616 which prohibits spending state funds on DEI initiatives. ISU will remain committed and work to build and maintain a welcoming environment.
 - There has been no development on any appropriations bills; no date has been announced where tuition rate increases will be announced; this might possibly be done in the month of April.
 - It was reported that ISU is on-track to receive \$20M for the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab from funds appropriated by the legislature to be added to ca. \$40M from Governor Reynolds targeted funds from federal sources for the VDL project.
 - A search for the new director of the Ames Lab has begun to replace Adam Schwartz who is stepping down from the director position. The search will be initiated over the next few weeks and is expected to last between 6 and 9 months.
 - Sophia Magill is leading the University's Jump Start Initiative committee and various initiatives to advanced ISU's Strategic Plan goals. To date, approximately 20 proposals have been received and decisions made as which will advance will be announced over then next 2-3 months. This includes the Strategic Faculty Hiring initiative to recruit faculty in key areas of research.
 - The Provost noted that ISU has been named as a 'top producer' of Fulbright Scholars in the USA.
 - The Provost concluded his remarks by reminding senators that Vice President for Extension and Outreach John Lawrence has now retired and that a reception to honor his service to ISU and the citizens of Iowa will be held tomorrow afternoon, 3-5 pm, in the Kildee Pavilion.

President Perkins asked for any comments or suggestions from faculty for his presentation on faculty compensation to be presented to the Board of Regents at its April meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the results of the Athletic Council representative election were announced. Megan Meyer and Michael Bootsma were elected as Faculty Representatives on the Athletics Council.

- d. P&S Council - No report
- e. Student Government – No report.
- f. Graduate and Professional Student Senate – No report.

9. Good of the Order

- Faculty Senate Secretary Wallace asked the body for suggestions of faculty who would be willing to host visits from members of the Board of Regents for the Faculty Senate faculty visitation program, with visits to be scheduled for the end of April and the first week of May.
- Parliamentarian Amanda Knief announced that Olympic Track and Field athlete and medalist Allyson Felix would be speaking in the Great Hall at the Memorial Union on March 27th (8 pm).

10. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by President Perkins at 4:57 pm

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