

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2007 - 3:33–4:45 P.M.
SUN ROOM, MEMORIAL UNION

Present: Anderson, D.; Anderson, P.; Baldwin, C.; Beetham, J.; Beresnev, I.; Bracha, V.; Braun, E.; Butler, A.; Carter-Lewis, D.; Clough, M.; Crase, S.; Cross, S.; Ford, C.; Freeman, S.; Grudens-Schuck, N.; Hargrove, M.; Haynes, J.; Hendrich, S.; Hochstetler, A.; Jackman, J.; Jolls, K.; Korsching, P.; Larsen, M.; Long, L.; Loy, D.; Luecke, G.; Madon, S.; Manu, A.; Martin, M.; Mayfield, J.; Mennecke, B.; Murdoch, A.; Olsen, M.; Owen, M.; Owusu, F.; Palermo, G.; Paschke, T.; Porter, M.; Porter, S.; Rosenbusch, R.; Ruben, R.; Sadosky, L.; Sapp, T.; Schmerr, L.; Selby, M.; Thompson, J.; Torrie, M.; Vander Lugt, K.; Wallace, R.; Windus, T.; Winkiel, L.

Absent: Babcock, B.; Bado-Fralick, N.; Beell, T.; Cai, Y.; Chacko, T.; Daniels, T.; Day, T.; Geske, J.; Ghandour, M.; Larkin, B.; Larson, S.; Love, M.; Maney, A.; Martin, C.; Nutter, F.; Oh, H.; Pruetz, J.; Thacker, E.; VanDerValk, A.; VanDerZanden, A. M.; van Leeuwen, H.; Wong, J.

Substitutes: M. Bouillon for Jeffrey, C.; M. Christian for Zanish-Belcher, T.; M. Harris for Rule, L.

Guests: Carlson, S. (Provost' Office); Goldman, A. (Ames Lab); Hoffman, E (Provost); Holger, D. (Provost's Office); Fiegel, L. (University Honors Program); Guffy, I. (GSB); Rosacker, E. (University Relations); Takle, G. (University Honors Program); Vrchota, D. (Chair, Gov & Doc. Committee); Woodin, D. (P&S Council).

I. Called to Order – 3:33 p.m.

A. Seating of Substitute Senators

President Crase called for Substitute Senators to announce their presence and names, and she apprised them of their privileges and duties.

II. Consent Agenda – 3:32 p.m.

- A. Minutes of Faculty Senate, September 11, 2007 - [S07/M/1]
- B. Agenda for October 9, 2007 – [S07/A/2]
- C. Calendar – [S07/C/2]
- D. Faculty Handbook: Class Attendance [S07-4] – Porter
- E. Faculty Handbook: Non-Discrimination/Affirmative Action Policy [S07-5] - Porter

Changes and corrections to the minutes were requested by Senators Madon and Senator Porter. Motion to approve amendments by Senator Paschke, and seconded by Senator Wallace.

Motion passed.

Past President Palermo pulled item D: Faculty Handbook item from consent agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda minus item D and with minutes amended as approved, by Senator Rosenbusch, with Senator Madon's second.

Motion passed.

III. Special Order: Overview of the University Honors Program – Dr. Gene Takle, Interim Faculty Director; and Dr. Laurie Fiegel, Administrative Director, University Honors Program – 3:40 p.m.

Dr. Takle provided a Powerpoint® presentation to elaborate his talk. He stated that the University Honors program served 1,000 high ability students (447 new freshman this fall); across colleges. Staff serving the program included 6.5 FTE and 76 student volunteers. Dr. Laura Merrick, not present, also provides support for assisting students to prepare for, and then apply to, national scholarship programs. Takle observed that the Honors program also serves to “set the bar for the entire campus” academically. Takle became affiliated 1.5 years ago, but Liz Beck had provided leadership for many years, and had pioneered several innovative instructional and course structure mechanisms that remain in place. A new concept is that of "professional learners" as another way to express the function of researchers, and there is a need to mentor students in discovery and ways to generate new knowledge. The program also serves non-Honors students, especially in the research part of the mission. The program is also engaging graduate students as mentors in addition to faculty mentors. Another goal was to "showcase" products of research conducted by students in the program. These were not, stated Takle, "toy problems" but rather were intended to be scholarly and worthy of showing as scholarship. Venues for showcasing included the capitol in Des Moines and the annual undergraduate poster session.

Areas for improvement: lack of integrative coursework beyond the first year (i.e., freshman); high attrition beyond first year (only 25% graduate "with honors" designation); perception and reality that "Honors demands more rather than being "different yet challenging." Other challenges included college-set requirements, including those need for accreditation fulfillment, advising challenges in structuring Honors degree programs, lack of courses in 2nd and 3rd year, and lack of consistent, early guidance of the capstone Honors projects.

Take stated that the program was eager to gather input from Senators and others on how to better meet the needs of high-ability students.

Senator Madon stated that she has received requests for mentoring an Honors program student, and the current request was received for the spring. She asked for more information about this process in relation to the program. Takle said this activity was a freshman option, and was not required to graduate with Honors.

Dr. Fiegel spoke also to the process of inviting 2nd year students from colleges into college-based Honors programs, which require a sufficiently-high GPA and a different process, but includes including a senior project.

Senator Wallace asked whether the "senior" project could be turned into a "junior" project due to overall student fatigue. Students may be offered, noted Fiegel, a (new, proposed) junior year seminar to prepare them for the senior project has been considered. An early start was generally advised, she noted in agreement with Wallace.

Senator Porter asked about getting into the website for faculty who participate. The program reported that this technical issue had been resolved. President-Elect Ford asked about the type of 3rd year courses that would be offered. Dr. Takle said perhaps a globalization course, or a "how to design a project" or evaluation methods or ethics across the curriculum. These had, in fact, been tried but the courses did not have high enrollment.

Senator Beetham inquired about students from community colleges who scholastically performed at a high level. Dr. Fiegel said the program was looking at the issues, but at this point in time, a GPA must first be generated from ISU before a non freshman was invited into the program. Beetham also wondered how, under the new budget model, that these students would fare, given that Honors programs and activities are time-intensive student experiences.

Senator Selby observed that in her program, it appeared that students who dropped out of honors programs may not only have had to fulfill special requirements, but questioned the overall benefit of being in the Honors program. The College of Engineering already likes to involve students in research, so that "goes away" as a unique benefit of the Honors program.

Takle talked about the desire to target students early toward national scholarships of high status—this would be an added benefit. Also, he noted that the senior project for Honors students working through colleges may not be authentically "research" and might be elevated through participation in the University Honors program. Such participation would add products and other items to the resume that would put them ahead for graduate school competitions and scholarships. Selby did agree that earlier would be better for the application process and that there needs to be early preparation for national-level, high-status scholarship competitions.

President Crase thanked Drs. Takle and Fiegel for the update.

IV. Announcements and Remarks – 3:50 p.m.

A. Faculty Senate President – Crase

President Crase reported that the BOR would conduct a larger study, which would include arming campus police, but also would investigate issues that encompassed security issues more broadly. A "naming" issue was also approved for the College of Design, as was for the east side dining center, improvements to Jack Trice Stadium, and name changes of programs and departments proposed from ISU. There were other issues related to ISU as well, but she did not intend to speak to all.

President Crase stated that the EB and others were continuing to work on the documents related to NTER-F, not by changing it, but by working to understand and communicate key points. She has been involved in meetings, and future meetings set for broader participation.

They also need to be working on concerns about lecturers and clinicians who are coming up for the six-year review. Meetings are planned, with the Provost's Office and the Council of Chairs, and FS. These meetings designed to let people know about issues that are coming up when the policy that mandated the reviews was first put into place. This is the first time that the policy will be activated. "Promoted or let go" is part of the policy and this aspect is a concern for some units and many individuals. The FDAR Council is most directly involved in this.

B. Faculty Senate President-Elect – Ford

No remarks.

C. Provost – Hoffman

No remarks.

V. Old Business – 4:10 p.m.

A. Non-Tenure-Eligible Research Faculty [S06-22] – Executive Board; see NTER-F Task Force Report and Appendices, on-line at: < <http://www.facsen.iastate.edu/> >

(Discussion only, after call for the Committee of the Whole)

President Crase noted that she wished for us to discuss and not vote at this time because the issues were complex and not sufficiently-well understood by all at this time.

Past President Palermo moved to enter into Committee of the Whole. Senator Owen seconded.

Senator Vander Lugt asked for an explanation of the format of the procedure. Palermo said that during Committee of the Whole, actions could be taken, such as a straw vote could be taken, and discussion would be open, but decisions would not be made, in particular in regard to NTER-F, wording of a policy would not be changed.

Senator Porter clarified that minutes would not be taken during the discussion of the issue during Committee of the Whole.

Discussion ensued.

Arise from the Committee of the Whole moved by Palermo, and seconded by Ford.

Motion passed.

VI. New Business – 4:45 p.m. – Class Attendance Policy, and Discrimination and Harassment

Past President Palermo spoke to a motion to postpone consideration for vote to a date not later than the December meeting. He requested a postponement as follows: “When the FS passed resolution S06-14 there was a citation that requested that the *Handbook* include a link to the student attendance policies that included both accommodations for learning disabilities and also religious preference questions. The text that was cited at that time was on the university website, quoted in full. In the intervening six months the cited text—which was the basis of our approval—has been *substantively* changed. I’m asking for the postponement in order to have the senate and the GSB, and Ian Guffy in particular who brought this to our attention, that the text was modified at the Policy Library level without input from the constituent bodies to the best of our knowledge. Postponement would enable the Faculty Senate and the GSB to meet again and go over the changes to see, in fact, if there were substantive changes or if the changes were essentially editorial. That is the basis for the motion for postponement for time definite. This is not a debatable motion except for the time definite to January 2008.” Senator Owen seconded.

Motion carried.

VII. Good of the Order – 4:45 p.m.

None.

VIII. Adjourned – 4:45 p.m.

Minutes by Nancy Grudens-Schuck, Faculty Senate Secretary

<p>NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007 3:30-5:00 P.M. – GREAT HALL, MEMORIAL UNION</p>
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