

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2008 -- 3:30–5:00 P.M.
GREAT HALL, MEMORIAL UNION**

Present: Anderson, D.; Anderson, P.; Baker, R.; Baldwin, C.; Beell, T.; Beresnev, I.; Bracha, V.; Butler, A.; Chaudhuri, S.; Clough, M.; Cooper, E.; Crase, S.; Cross, S.; Dell, B.; Doran, M.; Ford, C.; Freeman, S.; Haynes, J.; Hendrich, S.; Herrmann, P.; Hillier, A.; Katz, A.; Keren, N.; Korsching, P.; Kushkowsky, J.; Larsen, M.; Larson, S.; Love, M.; Martin, M.; Maze, T.; Moschini, G.C.; Muench, J.; Niday, D.; Osweiler, G.; Owusu, F.; Palermo, G.; Pleasants, J.; Porter, M.; Porter, S.; Pruetz, J.; Rosenbusch, R.; Ruben, R.; Rule, L.; Sadosky, L.; Sapp, T.; Schmerr, L.; Selby, M.; Smiley-Oyen, A.; Torrie, M.; Tuckness, A.; Vander Lugt, K.; van der Valk, A.; Wallace, R.; Walter, S.

Absent: Beetham, J.; Daniels, T.; Day, T.; Geske, J.; Hargrove, M.; Jackman, J.; Larkin, B.; Long, L.; Loy, D.; Luecke, G.; Manu, A.; Mayfield, J.; McQueeney, R.; Nutter, F.; Owen, M.; VanderZanden, A. M.; Windus, T.; Wong, J.

Substitutes: S. Brown for Grudens-Schuck, N.; B. Monahan for Hochstetler, A.; E. Ustundag for Napolitano, R.

Guests: Carlson, S. (Provost's Office); Christianson, I. (ISU Daily); Guffy, I. (GSB); Hoffman, E. (Provost); Hanson, K. (Ames Tribune); Holger, D. (Provost's Office); Kennedy, R. (GSB); Kane, K. (P&S Council); Rosacker, E. (University Relations); Tanaka, P. (University Counsel).

Executive Board Pictures: 3:15 p.m.

The picture-taking session was postponed in advance of this meeting.

I. Call to Order: 3:33 p.m.

A. Seating of Substitute Senators

(See attendance record above)

II. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of Faculty Senate, September 9, 2008: [S08/M/1]

B. Agenda for October 7, 2008: [S08/A/2]

C. Calendar: [S08/C/2]

D. Authority to Hire Employees Policy [S08-2]: Porter

E. Smoke-Free Campus Policy [S08-3]: Porter

Senator Porter interjected that the Governance Council has reviewed items D and E, and will invite questions today from the senate. Senator Beell moved to accept agenda; Senator Beresnev seconded, motion passed.

III. Special Order: Elaine Newell, Faculty Ombudsperson

President Ford introduced newly hired (two weeks prior) Faculty Ombudsperson Elaine Newell. She noted that her background included work as a lawyer in Georgia, work with the Georgia Board of Regents, work with the Michigan Civil Rights Department as disability liaison, work with the Iowa Board of Regents, and work with the Story County Legal Aid office. Ombudsperson Newell noted that she is available for consultation with faculty, P & S employees, and graduate students (although not AFSCME employees, because their union rules stipulate other protocols for conflict resolution). Her office is in 69 physics Hall, telephone 294-0268, email ombuds@iastate.edu, and has a website accessed from the main ISU website. Fielding question from the senate, Ombudsperson Newell noted that she could provide assistance with communication issues among contending parties, but that she should not be approached for strictly legal advice. Although she is licensed to practice law, the ombudsperson position does not include provision of legal assistance. She noted also that she would not serve formally as a mediator, but rather would act as a facilitator between or among contending parties.

IV. Announcements and Remarks

A. Faculty Senate President

President Ford noted that the Faculty Senate Executive Board as well as various Faculty Senate committees and task forces were all fully staffed and fully up-and-running.

B. Faculty Senate President-Elect

President-elect van der Valk noted that the Spring Faculty Conference topics had been winnowed down from six to two, and that the prevailing idea seemed to be the concept and practice of “sustainability” (or application of sustainable principles) at ISU. Sub-themes included sustainable campus design, sustainability in the curriculum, and ISU’s role in educating the populace about sustainability. A list of possible speakers to address these topics was being sought, with speaker suggestions invited from anyone.

President-elect van der Valk noted that the Compensation Committee (the former “Welfare Committee”) has been resuscitated/reactivated. Their charge is to assess compensation at ISU, and to review policies that determine salary increases. The initial emphasis will be on NTER faculty.

C. Provost

Provost Hoffman noted that there is a President’s Council on Sustainability, and that the President had looked to hire a sustainability director but didn’t, this time around. She noted that there is a potential for a 21% increase in energy costs (due to rising fuel prices), and that therefore for economic reasons alone, sustainability was a vital campus concern.

Provost Hoffman provided updates on various searches: The VPRED search has six candidates coming for November visits; she advised that faculty were invited to attend forums during the visits (dates to be announced). In other news: visits by Design Dean candidates will occur in early spring semester; the Engineering Dean position

advertisement is soon forthcoming, with candidates on-campus in mid-spring; bringing up the rear, Human Sciences Dean candidates are anticipated later in the spring.

Vice Provost Susan Carlson and University Counsel Paul Tanaka spoke about ISU's sexual assault policy, which is of interest to the Regents following the recent brouhaha at the University of Iowa. Vice Provost Carlson noted that ISU's policy is a good one, but nevertheless review and creation of a draft updated policy is underway. A consultant from Des Moines has been hired to assist with the review; work is currently ongoing, with final policy language to be established by December 11 of this year. Common principles will connect policies at the three Regents institutions, but probably a unitary policy will not be the outcome. Senator Palermo asked how the sexual assault policy relates to the current conduct policy; Counsel Tanaka said we don't know yet. Senator Vander Lugt asked who acts as the victim's advocate in cases of sexual assault complaints, and Vice Provost Susan Carlson answered that ISU provides independent advocates.

Provost Hoffman then proceeded to attempt to dispel "urban myths and legends" regarding the new budget model. She noted that despite appearances, collaboration among units was still important and would be encouraged/rewarded in some way; incentives were being designed to counteract disincentives. President-elect van der Valk asked about the problem of "curriculum creep", fomented by the desire to maximize credits; Provost Hoffman said we have to be vigilant and re-assess as time goes on. Senator Freeman noted that Distance Ed courses might now be duplicated for the same reason, and that wouldn't it be better to consolidate this type of teaching rather than fragment it? Senator Vander Lugt noted that the new budget model encourages larger classes and bigger teaching loads for individuals, but there was no apparent increase in resources to defray the greater costs. She also asked about who received credit for teaching in collaboration across units; Provost Hoffman noted that the money follows the instructors, so that credit could be split when multiple instructors from separate units collaborate on a single course.

D. Caucus Chairs

President Ford invited caucus chairs to identify members of their respective caucuses, and to note current doings/agendae within caucuses. Senator Freeman spoke for the missing Senator Owen, for Agriculture and Life Sciences; Skip Walter spoke for Business; Senator Anderson spoke for Design; Senator Selby spoke for Engineering; Senator Torrie spoke for Human Sciences; Senator Wallace spoke for LAS, and Gary Osweiler spoke for VetMed.

During his introduction, Senator Wallace noted that he is currently serving on a task force that studies the feasibility of establishing a faculty club. This proposed social club, a feature at many other universities, might help improve relationships and encourage collaboration across departmental boundaries.

V. Old Business

A. M.S./Ph.D. Wildlife Ecology [S08-1] – Hendrich

Senator Hendrich invited questions before the merger/name change was voted upon. Nary a question was asked, so a vote was called, and the motion passed.

VI. New Business

A. Employment Verifications and Background Checks [S08-4] – Porter

Senator Porter noted that the Governance Council had received a draft of this policy from PLAC, and that the Governance Council was recommending that post-docs not be subjected to the same sort of mandatory automatic background-check scrutiny as permanent employees. Senator Porter invited questions or discussion, but none whatsoever arose from the oddly quiescent assembly.

VII. Good of the Order

Ryan Kennedy, representing GSB, noted that GSB is advocating the establishment of a possibly mandatory-for-all-undergraduates 0.5-credit or 1-credit course in financial literacy; BYU, for example has such a requirement. GSB would like feedback from the faculty before going further. Provost Hoffman said there was great interest in doing this at Human Sciences; Senator Freeman noted that Professor Virginia Blackburn was awarded a Miller Grant to create such a class two years ago, and that she should be consulted.

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Beell moved to adjourn; Senator Doran seconded; motion passes.