

S08/A/6

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2009 · 3:30–5:00 P.M.
GREAT HALL, MEMORIAL UNION**

EXECUTIVE BOARD PICTURES – 3:15 p.m.

Present: Anderson, D.; Anderson, P.; Beell, T.; Beetham, J.; Beresnev, I.; Butler, A.; Chaudhuri, S.; Clough, M.; Crase, S.; Dell, B.; Doran, M.; Ford, C.; Freeman, S.; Geske, J.; Haddad, M.; Haynes, J.; Hendrich, S.; Herrmann, P.; Hillier, A.; Hochstetler, A.; Jackman, J.; Katz, A.; Keren, N.; Kushkowsky, J.; Long, L.; Loy, D.; Love, M.; Manu, A.; Martin, M.; Mayfield, J.; Maze, T.; Muench, J.; Niday, D.; Osweiler, G.; Pleasants, J.; Porter, M.; Porter, S.; Pruetz, J.; Rosenbusch, R.; Ruben, R.; Sadosky, L.; Sapp, T.; Selby, M.; Smiley-Oyen, A.; Strohbehn, C.; Torrie, M.; Tuckness, A.; Vander Lugt, K.; van der Valk, A.; VanderZanden, A. M.; Wallace, R.; Windus, T.

Absent: Baker, R.; Baldwin, C.; Bracha, V.; Cooper, E.; Daniels, T.; Day, T.; Hargrove, M.; Korsching, P.; Larkin, B.; Larsen, M.; Larson, S.; Luecke, G.; McQueeney, R.; Moschini, G.C.; Napolitano, R.; Nutter, F.; Rule, L.; Wong, J.

Substitutes: V. Dark for Cross, S.; M. Retallick for Grudens-Schuck, N.; A. Knapp for Owen, M.; K. Zarecor for Palermo, G.; Z.J. Wang for Schmerr, L.; R. Dark for Walter, S.;

Guests: Geoffroy, G. (President); Carlson, S. (Provost's Office); Hoffman, E. (Provost); Holger, D. (Provost's Office) Kennedy, R. (GSB); Rosacker, E. (University Relations); Hanson, K. (Ames Trib)

I Call to Order – 3:33 p.m.

A Seating of Substitute Senators

(See above for substitutions)

II Consent Agenda

A Minutes of Faculty Senate, January 20, 2009 - [S08/M/5]

B Agenda for February 10, 2009 – [S08/A/6]

C Calendar – [S08/C/6]

Ford asked for change of order for consideration of items on consent agenda; Senate assented.

III Guest Speaker – President Gregory Geoffroy

Geoffroy noted that the recent sustainability symposium attracted approximately 300 students and faculty, with many instructive presentations. Geoffroy stated that in these challenging times, he was thankful for the new budget model because it provides incentives for resource conservation. He also expressed thankfulness for Provost Hoffman's leadership on budget issues, as well as for the culture of shared governance at ISU. He noted that the administration did not want economic issues to affect the role of faculty in shared governance, although he did believe that circumstances may at times require alacritous and expeditious action on the part of the Senate. He also expressed thankfulness to be living in Iowa, since conditions are far more dire in some other state university systems; our \$7.2M cut (thus far), for example, pales in comparison with Arizona's \$90M reversion. He noted that we do indeed have challenges. Gov. Culver has designated a 6.5% cut beyond the 2.5% already cut, which translates to \$25M less for FY 2010 than for FY 2009. With so much of the budget committed to salaries, this figure in turn translates to a reduction of 200-250 positions. Furthermore, this figure could grow even larger if March budget estimates go down from their present levels. Further mid-year reductions cannot be ruled out.

Geoffroy said that the good news, possibly, is that the federal “stimulus” bill recently signed into law may well include money that helps alleviate state budget shortfalls; however, no one can predict the disposition of such funds at this point. Other bright spots standing in sharp relief against the dark and gloomy economic forecasts include: strong admissions numbers (as large as last year even with a declining college-bound demographic in Iowa), private giving holding up despite economic circumstances, and sponsored funding (grants and contracts) holding up as well. Geoffroy noted that we need as an institution to maintain a strong focus on world-class academic excellence, and to be strategic and “targeting” in our budget adjustments.

Geoffroy noted that the Regents are creating a strategic plan, and that we design ours following their efforts. He advised that ISU take the long view, perhaps to 2050, noting that that year represents (roughly) the point at which current students will be at the end of their professional careers. As general principles, Geoffroy suggested that ISU be a magnet that attracts outstanding students and faculty members; be recognized as an institution that addresses globally significant issues such as food, health, and climate; and finally, as befits a premier land-grant university, maintain its identity as an institution that provides outstanding service to the state.

A question period followed. Van der Valk asked whether the proposed 4% (+/-) tuition increase would offset budget reversions, and Geoffroy replied that it would make about a \$4-5M difference. Van der Lugt asked what, if anything, about the budget model provides incentive for interdisciplinary work among faculty, since the model seems to do the opposite; Geoffroy replied that the Provost and Deans must work together to overcome this. Zarecor expressed her concern that the College of Design would lose out because of its relative lack of focus on funded research; Geoffroy replied that Design has some options for dealing with this and that he has no concerns about the College’s long-term viability.

IV Announcements and Remarks

A Faculty Senate President

Ford noted that the Modified Duties Policy (MDP) is on hold, following its recent endorsement by the Senate, due to budget issues; he requested the faculty’s patience. Ford noted that the Senate Executive Board (EB) had dissuaded him from offering his proposal to lengthen the maximum time for a Senate meeting (from 90 to 110 minutes); he asked that Senators help overcome the agenda overload by attempting to deal with matters brought before it expeditiously. Ford then asked for a show of hands from the entire Senate regarding the 90-vs.110 minute issue; the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of 90 minutes. He then asked senators to express (again by a show of hands) support for either a 3:30-5:00 meeting time (as presently conducted), or an alternative 3:10-4:30 meeting time. Approximately 2/3 (certainly a majority, at any rate) preferred that the meeting time remain at 3:30-5:00.

B Faculty Senate President-Elect

Van der Valk noted that the faculty compensation committee was conducting a study on NTER salaries, and that there would be information shared at the next Senate meeting regarding its findings.

C Provost

Hoffman began by thanking the various Senate councils and committees for their assistance with past planning efforts, and noted that she will be asking for further Senate involvement in strategic planning. She addressed Van der Lugt’s earlier question (to the president) regarding incentives for interdisciplinary work, noting that there are grants aimed at attracting interdisciplinary project proposals. She also expressed thanks to the Senate for dealing with the MDP issue, and pledged to be an advocate for faculty in dealing with the Regents on this matter. Hoffman updated the Dean searches, noting that candidates for Design Dean were set to visit the campus within the next three weeks; Engineering Dean candidates here just after Design, and then Human Sciences Dean candidates just after Engineering.

V Old Business

A Governance Document Checklist [S08-14] – Max Porter - AMENDED

<http://www.agron.iastate.edu/~loynachan/gov/GovDovChecklist.htm>

Porter noted that 2 items from “best practices” would move into the “required” area on the checklist, and that he was adding a friendly amendment concerning the streamlining of editing procedures, allowing non-substantive changes to be made without Senate review. Katz asked whether the guidelines were a model for all governance documents, and if so how would these changes to the guidelines be disseminated? Loynichan answered, noting that the suggestion was that the Senate formally announce changes at the point they occurred. Geske offered a friendly amendment to the effect that the guidelines include a statement about adherence to the principle of open meetings in dealing with governance document revision. Van der Valk then offered the clarification that what was before the Senate was a set of guidelines, not the governance documents themselves, so that Geske’s amendment was unnecessary. Holger warned that “open meetings” requirements may lead to an unintended burdensome notifications protocol. Mayfield then noted that the Faculty Handbook already states that ISU adheres to the principle of open meetings, and noted further that since the guidelines being considered are about procedure rather than policy, the Senate should cease debate. At this point Ford asked for a show of hands for acceptance of the guidelines; it appeared to be unanimous approval.

B Policy on Selection of External Reviewers [S08-15] – Steve Freeman

C Policy on Content of External Letters [S08-16] – Steve Freeman

Ford asked that debate be limited to 25 minutes maximum, as well as a maximum of 10 minutes on each item (B and C above) in the interest of achieving resolution at this meeting. The Senate indicated agreement. Freeman noted that current policy provides for at least one external reviewer suggested by the candidate; the proposed policy affords the candidate up to five pre-emptive “strikes” to eliminate reviewers at the candidate’s discretion. Smiley-Oyen offered a friendly amendment to reduce the number of strikes to three, seconded by Rosenbusch. Windus spoke in favor of the friendly amendment. Selby asked, why five, considering that in highly specialized fields the pool of good reviewers may be limited? Freeman replied that five seemed logical, even for such fields. Zarecor spoke in favor of the friendly amendment. Ford then asked for a show of hands for three and then five strikes: the Senate indicated overwhelming support for the option of three (it appeared that only two voted for the option of five).

Windus made a motion to require that candidates offer a rationale for a “strike”; seconded by Smiley-Oyen. Butler countered that the rationale could possibly reflect poorly on the candidate, and she suggested that we err in favor of the candidate’s right to privacy. Ford asked for a show of hands on Windus’s amendment; apparently only 5 or 6 votes cast for the strike-rationale requirement. Motion failed. Zarecor suggested, as a friendly amendment, that the language read “will not be contacted” in lieu of the somewhat less imperative construction “not to be contacted”, as a way to clarify intent. Several senators commented on the possible interpretation of various wording options employing a number of modal auxiliaries, subjunctives and such. Eventually, and thankfully, Carlson weighed in with her observation that in practice, the existing language served quite well and that differing interpretations of the phrasing had not been an issue during hundreds of reviews in past years. Ford then asked for a show-of-hands vote on the policy (as amended to reduce “strikes” from five to three); the motion before the Senate overwhelmingly passed, with a single nay vote.

The hour of five drew nigh. Darkness would soon be upon us. Van der Valk then made a motion to postpone discussion on part C, in the interest of ending this meeting on time; P. Anderson seconded; motion passed with a single nay vote.

VI New Business

A Discontinuation of M.S. in VDPAM [S08-17] – Suzanne Hendrich

Hendrich introduced the resolution and provided the rationale for the discontinuation, offering that the discontinuation was non-controversial, that no current students would be affected, and that the discontinuation had met with approval at all levels of review.

B Protection of Children in the Workplace Policy [S08-18] – Clark Ford

Ford introduced the policy, noted that the FDAR Council and the EB had provided feedback, and noted that the policy was now ready for review by the full Senate.

VII Good of the Order

Naught.

VIII Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Wallace, seconded by Crase. Motion passed.

Minutes assiduously recorded and respectfully submitted by Michael David Martin, duly elected Recording Secretary of the Iowa State University Faculty Senate, upon this twenty-fifth day of February in the year two thousand and nine *Anno Domini*.

<p>NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009 -- 3:30-5:00 P.M. GREAT HALL, MU</p>
