

Contact: Rachel Boon

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING

Academic Affairs Committee

Nancy Boettger (Chair)

Sherry Bates (Vice Chair)

Rachel Boon, Board staff

Kevin Kregel, University of Iowa

Jonathan Wickert, Iowa State University

Jose Herrera, University of Northern Iowa

Guests: Jim Lindenmayer, Greta Rouse, Abby Crow, David Barker, JC Risewick, Nancy Dunkel, Tanya Uden-Holman, Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Karen Cunningham

Chair Boettger called the meeting to order at 9:00AM

Approval of Academic Affairs Committee minutes from November meeting

Approved by general consent.

ISU Center Termination Request: Plant Genomics Center

ISU Center Termination Request: Plant Transformation Center

Provost Wickert described the two centers as part of the larger Plant Sciences Institute. The activities of the centers are being incorporated into other Institute work and there is no impact on students or faculty. This will streamline activities.

The committee recommended approval of the terminations of the Plant Genomics Center and the Plant Transformation Center.

ISU New Program Request: BS in Biomedical Engineering

Provost Wickert described the new program in Biomedical Engineering that will be in the existing Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering. This field is becoming one of the largest and most popular engineering nationally. This discipline is really important economically as well as for health of humans and animals. Strong employer demand exists for this program with more than 50 that regularly recruit from ISU and are interested in students with this training. ISU has had a minor since 2009 and has faculty already in place that are ready to expand the curriculum to offer this program. The dean met with the dean from SUI to collaborate and discuss how these programs can complement each other. The program will also collaborate with the College of Veterinary Medicine at ISU.

Regent Bates asked about the timing of the accreditation timeline for this new program. Provost Wickert noted that ABET International requires a student to have graduated from the program before accreditation is granted. Then all degrees essentially are retroactively considered to be from an accredited program.

The committee recommended approval of the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering at ISU.

As an aside, Regent Boettger asked what sort of efforts the universities undertake to address the ethics of research projects.

Provost Wickert described the work of the Institutional Review Board. Provost Kregel described how a similar group works to review animal research, called the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

SUI Program Suspension Request: Master of Studies in Law

Provost Kregel said the program was developed in 2015 as a pilot effort in the College of Law and when the program underwent a self-study program review in 2021 the College realized it was revenue negative and not drawing a large enough base of students to merit sustaining it.

The committee recommended approval to suspend admission to the Master of Studies in Law at SUI.

Honorary Degree Requests

SUI: Oliver Lee Jackson and Shirley Schermer

Provost Kregel said Mr. Jackson is a world renowned artist who graduated from SUI. His work is foundational for black artists in particular. Ms. Schermer graduated from SUI as well and has done archaeology work in Iowa on repatriation of Native American remains in ways that have made her a national expert.

ISU: Dr. Temple Grandin and Dr. Trudy Huskamp Peterson

Provost Wickert spoke about Dr. Grandin as a world leader in animal ethics issues and in her leadership for people with autism. Dr. Peterson was the first woman to serve as Archivist for the US and also has done work for the United Nations.

Regent Barker asked about the process for identifying and approving honorary degrees on campuses. Both ISU and SUI start with nominations from faculty in departments and then it rises through several layers of approval, including the presidents.

Regent Risewick asked if all honorees will attend commencement. Both ISU and SUI noted that all of these individuals will attend commencement and speak.

The committee recommended the approval of honorary degree requests at SUI and ISU.

Annual Distance Education Report

Chair Boettger recognized Board office Chief Academic Officer Rachel Boon to review the annual Distance Education Report.

CAO Boon provided updates on the DE Task Force recommendations approved by the Board in June 2022.

Dr. Susan Arendt spoke about the efforts to develop and launch Iowa State Online.

Dr. Tanya Uden-Holman spoke about an online course review project undertaken at SUI in the past year through the distance and online education unit.

Associate Dean Karen Cunningham spoke about UNI's efforts to expand undergraduate and graduate online offerings, in particular through the Iowa community college partnerships.

Regent Barker noted that online instruction isn't a substitute for in-person, though it is a great opportunity for many. He asked if the focus would continue to be on a quality residential education. The universities affirmed that the on-campus experience in the core, but the availability of quality online education is necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52am.