

Contact: Rachel Boon

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING

**BOARD OF REGENTS OFFICE
URBANDALE, IOWA**

Academic Affairs Committee

Jim Lindenmayer (Chair)
David Barker (Vice Chair)
Abby Crow

Guests: Greta Rouse, JC Risewick, Nancy Dunkel, Sherry Bates, Kevin Kregel, Jonathan Wickert, Jose Herrera, Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Patrick Pease, Tanya Uden-Holman

Chair Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 10:37am.

Approval of Academic Affairs Committee minutes from November meeting

Approved by general consent.

SUI New Program Requests

**Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship
Executive Master of Health Administration (online)**

Associate Provost Uden-Holman described the new program in entrepreneurship in the Tippie College of Business and how it will leverage existing courses and services at the college. Funding for the new program is already available within the college budget.

Associate Provost Thein explained how the Executive Master of Health Administration has identified student demand for the flexibility of an online program. This will extend the reach of its current program. The employment opportunities in Iowa or graduates of this program are high. There will be an accreditation review in 2026.

These programs will be recommended for approval by the full Board.

SUI Program Location Closure Requests

Scott Community College location: MSW

Birchwood Learning Center (Davenport): MSBA and Professional MBA

Tippie College of Business Cedar Rapids Learning Center: MSBA and Professional MBA

Thein described the rationale for these closure requests. Enrollment targets for MSW at Scott Community College have not been hit in the past few years. With expansion of the online learning option, all applicants can be accommodated. This will create efficiencies for the program.

The MSBA and Professional MBA programs at Birchwood and in Cedar Rapids are popular programs for which students increasingly choose the online option. Offering both online and face-to-face in multiple locations is stretching resources.

These closures will be recommended for approval by the full Board.

UNI New Program Requests**Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and Teaching (online)****Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology****Master of Arts in History (online)**

Associate Provost Pease described the three program requests. For the BA in Early Childhood, this is an existing program but it is a new delivery mode for it. There is high demand for early childhood educators in Iowa, so this will give a pathway for non-traditional aged students in particular. The BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology is a completely new program that will take advantage of UNI's existing applied engineering technology programs and facilities. The existing MA in History program wants to transition to a fully online delivery mode. This is based on market demand, particularly UNI's largest pool of students who are practicing teachers and need the flexibility of online delivery.

These programs will be recommended for approval by the full Board.

UNI Program Termination Request**Bachelor of Arts in Athletic Training and Rehabilitation Studies**

Pease shared that the termination request is a closure of this BA program in response to the merger of athletic training into the kinesiology major and become a concentration area there. This will be more efficient, but also recognizes that the practice of athletic training now requires a graduate degree (which UNI also offers).

This termination will be recommended for approval by the full Board.

ISU New Program Request: Master of Applied Statistics

Provost Wickert described the request for a new program in applied statistics that will emphasize practical applications of statistics and extend the options of a very strong, highly regarded department at the university. There is strong workforce demand for these skills in Iowa and beyond. It will be delivered online with some on campus courses available.

This program will be recommended for approval by the full Board.

Annual Program Review Report

Chief Academic Officer Boon shared that this periodic review aligns well with the cycle for accreditation reviews in some departments. In others it is an opportunity to bring in external reviewers and do a full self-study evaluation. Additionally, all departments have annual review obligations for reporting and program improvement work, so chairs and deans of colleges are doing this work every single year.

Annual Distance Education Report

Boon shared findings from the report highlighting the growth over the past year, though fluctuations through the pandemic years continue to be interesting to track. Strong growth in non-credit enrollments are also noteworthy. Strong efforts pertaining to Distance Education Taskforce recommendations from 2022 are important to note. The universities have all added master's level programs online to meet market demand and have increased the shared resources and collaboration among instructional designers.

University presentation: Meeting Workforce Needs Through Micro-Credentials and Certificates

Associate Provosts VanDerZanden, Pease and Uden-Holman shared work of all the universities in adding these additional learning and training opportunities.

Regent Barker asked about the authority for approving the offering of new certificates. In most cases, it requires faculty to bring them forward through their department and college leadership. Regent Risewick commented that the students in courses he has spoken to have outstanding skills and these certificates are a great way to learn those. Regent Rouse asked if some of those examples at SUI were only for MBA students. They are standalone, but they can be stacked into an MBA, if desired. Regent Bates encouraged marketing these wonderful opportunities. Regent Crow shared her very good experience in a certificate programs at SUI. Regent Lindenmayer noted that he used to work in continuing education and he appreciates seeing the evolution and growth in this work.

Discussion: Approaches to Monitoring and Addressing Academic Integrity

Provosts Kregel, Wickert and Herrera shared updates on the policies and practices at the institution relating to academic integrity. Extensive policies exist on research integrity and all three universities have a research integrity officer. External checks are in place through federal granting agencies, peer review processes, search firms and other mechanisms.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm