Contact: Rachel Boon

<u>**MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING**</u>

LEVITT CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Academic Affairs Committee
Jim Lindenmayer (Chair)
David Barker (Vice Chair)
Abby Crow

Guests: Greta Rouse, JC Risewick, Nancy Dunkel, Robert Cramer, Kevin Kregel, Jonathan Wickert, Jose Herrera, Patrick Pease, Abram Anders, Jim O'Laughlin, Barrett Thomas

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Chair Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

Approval of Academic Affairs Committee minutes from April meeting

Approved by general consent.

UNI New Program Request: Bachelor of Science in Materials Science Engineering
UNI New Program Request: Bachelor of Science in Materials Science Engineering Technology

Existing physics, chemistry and technology faculty expertise is combining to create each of these new programs. Both will be served by existing facilities as well as the new technology building currently under construction. This will leverage strengths in metal casting and manufacturing technology as well as materials science in the physics and chemistry departments at the university.

Faculty at ISU and SUI were also consulted and provided feedback.

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

UNI New School/Department:
        School of Health and Human Sciences
        Department of Nursing & Public Health

This proposal will reorganize existing programs into a School of Health and Human Sciences in order to improve coordination and clarify career options for prospective and current students. The only new program is in nursing (as approved by the Board in November 2022). This will improve efficiencies in administrative and advising structures at the university.

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

ISU Program Termination: BS in Biophysics

Provost Wickert noted that the discipline has evolved over the past decades into a much more chemistry-based approach. Enrollments are quite low already, and those currently enrolled will be permitted to complete their degree.

The program termination will be recommended for approval by the full Board.

American School for the Deaf Agreement

The committee will recommend ratification of the agreement for Iowa School for the Deaf with the American School for the Deaf.

University Presentation: Artificial Intelligence: Challenges and Opportunities

Barrett Thomas
Abram Anders
Jim O'Laughlin

The presenters focused on generative AI which is a wide range of models that can create text, video and many other forms of content. In particular, Large Language Models (such as Catgut) are a main focus today.

Academic integrity issues are not new, and existing university policies can address plagiarism. However, we may need more flexible policies as some uses of AI can be helpful in a classroom context. Issues of privacy, misinformation and bias are critical with AI. Ethics and risk management must be considered. The models are based on statistics, not facts. There can be bias in the algorithmic design and other elements of its use.

The disruption is here now. The last mile of innovation is really about having human domain experts who can help with thinking about effective prompts, ethical issues, and how we can be leaders in the appropriate use of this.

Existing innovations include developing courses that help students engage with AI in writing, epidemiology, individualized learning, the Commercializing New Technology Academy at SUI and other applications in the workforce.

Regent Barker asked about concerns with false information and potential solutions. The importance of keeping humans in the loop to help with discernment of what is true or false.

Regent Risewick asked about how faculty are being trained in how to use it appropriately. All three universities have individuals tracking and developing ways to training faculty in use of AI (both for themselves and by students). The data sets behind the models must be known to have a proper sense of what is good and not good.

Regent Bates asked about what employers are saying about the role of AI or any concerns. It seems likely that employers will want people who have familiarity with AI on their staff, and how it can make employees more productive or effective in some way. Training them on our own trusted data sets will be important.

In grading, Regent Barker asked about how they may or may not be able to grade papers. Experiments in evaluating the quality of essays produced by ChatGPT were mostly B and C papers. One can imagine training the AI to recognize an A paper, but they aren't there yet.

Research on AI is happening in many content domains for how generative AI can help in a given area. Computer science faculty are doing deeper work on the algorithmic technology side. In data analytics a great deal of applications are being explored.

Calls for government regulation are growing. Are there considerations the universities should be addressing soon? The European government is acting now, but it is best to hold on for a bit to see how these things play out before the universities act on policy frameworks.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.