

Contact: Rachel Boon

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING

**MAUCKER UNION
BALLROOMS A&B
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA**

Academic Affairs Committee

Jim Lindenmayer (Chair), Christine Hensley (Vice Chair)

Guests: Nancy Dunkel, Robert Cramer, David Barker, Sherry Bates, Greta Rouse, JC Risewick, Kevin Kregel, Jason Keith, Jose Herrera, Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Tanya Uden-Holman, Kristin Moser, Deidre Heistad

Chair Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He welcomed new Regent Christine Hensley to the committee.

Approval of Academic Affairs Committee minutes from September meeting

Approved by general consent.

UNI Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in Textiles and Apparel

Associate Provost Heistad described the program, the decline in enrollment, and faculty retirements. All current students will have completed the required courses by the end of the current semester. This will permit a resource allocation.

The committee recommends approval to the full Board.

UNI New Programs

**Master of Arts in Education in Transformative Education
Master of Arts in Teaching**

Associate Provost Heistad described the MAETE which will be composed of stackable graduate certificates designed for current teachers to advance their training and careers. This could include adding endorsements in early childhood, computer science or other areas. It will be an online program.

The Master of Arts in Teaching proposed has a focus on individuals with bachelor's degrees in other fields who now want to become teachers. This 35-credit hour program will be offered as an online degree. This will meet Iowa teacher licensure requirements.

The committee will recommend approval to the full Board.

UNI New Department Request: Construction Management

Associate Provost Heistad described the request for a separate Department of Construction Management which will pull the program from the existing Applied Engineering Department. UNI hopes this will elevate the profile for students and employers.

Regent Hensley asked about the advisory board structure.

Regent Cramer noted his respect for the program and the demand for graduates.

The committee will recommend approval to the full Board.

SUI Program Termination Request: Doctor of Philosophy in Second Language Acquisition

Provost Kregel described the program and how the student demand has waned in recent years with no current students or applicants. The last graduate was in 2023. The cost savings from vacant positions will go to other programs in the division that are experiencing growth.

The committee will recommend approval to the full board.

SUI Program Admissions Suspension: Master of Science in Finance

The MS in Finance is currently an on-campus program, but Tippie would like to suspend the on-campus program while they explore transitioning to an online program. Current applicants will have their fees refunded and they will be offered a chance to enter the MS in Business Analytics program. The suspension is expected to be for one year. ISU does have an MS in Finance program as well.

The committee will recommend approval to the full Board.

Professional Development Assignment Reports FY24

There were 104 professional development assignments taken in 2023-24. These summaries describe the excellent outcomes, including receipt of over \$16 million in grant funds thus far.

The committee accepted the report.

Professional Development Assignment Requests FY26

For FY26 there are 104 new requests for Professional Development Assignment from the three universities. This is below the 3% threshold as stipulated in Board of Regents policy.

The committee recommends approval of 104 requests for Professional Development Assignment to the Board.

Annual Accreditation Report

Associate Provost Uden-Holman, Associate Provost VanDerZanden and Director Moser described the institution-wide accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission as well as the role or programmatic accreditation at each institution.

Regent Barker asked about the cost and time required for HLC. VanDerZanden indicated that there are annual fees around \$20,000 and many people hours annually. Likely more than we know. Director Moser also shared that much of the work is the sort of things the universities should do anyway for continuous improvement.

Regent Barker asked about whether our institutions were eligible to align with different accreditors than HLC.

Regent Barker asked if the DEI report information on accreditation struck them as accurate regarding expectations for the various programmatic accreditors. They each affirmed that the list in the DEI report is comprehensive.

Regent Lindenmayer asked about the time frames for the programmatic accreditors. Uden-Holman noted that it varies, but many in health fields are 7-10 years. Educator preparation is on a 7-year cycle.

Regent Lindenmayer also asked if the visiting peer review teams were composed of only academics or if there are also practitioners. Some program accreditors use a mix of practitioners and active faculty. The Iowa Department of Education also includes staff on the educator preparation review.

The committee accepted the report.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01pm.