Chair Boettger called the meeting to order at 1:12pm.

Approval of Academic Affairs Committee minutes from February meeting

Approved by general consent.

ISU New Program Request: Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communication
ISU New Program Request: Master of Accounting Analytics

Associate Provost VanDerZanden described the Agricultural Communication area as one of growth and important skills in today’s Iowa economy. This is currently a track within the Agricultural Education program so this will expand on that. It is a common degree for land-grant universities to offer. The program will begin this fall, if approved.

Regent Barker asked about typical jobs. VanDerZanden noted often graduates take positions in Extension, biotech companies and commodity organizations.

The online degree in Accounting Analytics will help provide training that the workforce is demanding of accountants now. There are faculty and curriculum in place to offer this already, and no other similar programs are offered in the state of Iowa.

The committee recommended approval of the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communication and the Master of Accounting Analytics.

ISU Center Closure Requests:
  Biobased Industry Center
  Center for Metabolic Biology
  Iowa Center for Advanced Neurotoxicology
  Center for Earthworks Engineering

Provost Wickert described the four closures as a housekeeping action associated with these centers and institutes. As funding and faculty transitions shift, centers like these sometimes need to be closed. Any existing funds will be moved to the college or department for usage.
The committee recommended approval of all four of the noted centers and institutes.

**UNI Program Suspension Request: Master of Arts in Psychology**

Associate Provost Pease described the suspension as an opportunity to assess this program due to changes in faculty and waning enrollment. This will be a one-year suspension while other delivery options are explored. The undergraduate program remains strong. Current MA Psychology students will continue to have all necessary courses available.

The committee recommended approval of UNI request to suspend admission to the Master of Arts in Psychology.

**SUI Program Termination Request: Bachelor of Science in Criminology, Law and Justice**

Associate Provost Uden-Holman emphasized this is specific to the Bachelor of Science in these two areas and that the Bachelor of Arts programs have robust enrollments. Students who wish to keep getting the quantitative training can still do so through other minors or certificate options.

The committee recommended approval of the requests to terminate the Bachelor of Science in Criminology, Law and Justice and the Bachelor of Science in Sociology.

**Annual Tenure Report**

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

**2023-24 Promotion and Tenure Requests**

274 requests for promotion and/or tenure.

**University Presentation: Regent University Educator Preparation Programs**

Larry Bice  
Mark McDermott  
Benjamin Forsyth

The presentation emphasized that the programs they offer produce more than half of the teachers in the state and two-thirds or more of various administrators and certain teacher endorsement areas. Half of the students in the UNI Paraeducator Pathway are receiving Registered Apprenticeship funding which is a tremendous help for them. UNI is working on building up a deaf/hard of hearing endorsement.

Community college partnerships are strong with all three universities to ensure students can transfer and complete the educator prep programs on time as well. Student teaching can be done in Iowa schools and also have international student teaching opportunities (for 8 week segments). Partnerships with high schools to encourage high school students to consider entering the profession are important. Other rural districts are supported through programming tied to ISU Extension.
Collaboration occurs through a cross-institutional management team of the Educator Preparation Program directors. They connect on their research agendas, policy and data issues, accreditation concerns and other issues as they arise. The RAPIL (Regents Alternative Pathway to Internship Licensure) is a collaborative program that is a primary alternative pathway to licensure and teaching for people who already have a bachelor’s degree.

Regent Lindenmayer asked about recent enrollment trends and teacher retention. Bice noted the need is significant and has grown significantly. Enrollment is down a bit in these programs at ISU. The number of graduates has been somewhat stable with between 450-500 graduates at UNI each year. Targeting non-traditional students to return and get certified is helping fill the gaps. SUI has been quite stable, but has also worked hard to make the programs more accessible.

Regent Rouse asked about other reasons people are leaving the field. A faculty member at ISU is exploring this and starting to find that the range of reasons why they leave, but the top thing to keep them is salary. Change in culture is something that is believed to impact teacher retention but that data is not yet available. Teacher burn-out is tied to feeling like you are part of the community both inside and outside the school building.

Regent Barker asked about the roles of diversity, equity and inclusion in educator preparation. They noted that teachers must be trained in a way to serve every single child in their classroom. The state code requires programs for diverse learners. Inclusion is often fully focused on special education students. A focus on understanding learners is part of why some of the diversity elements are embedded in various courses.

Regent Boettger asked about how the programs are working to teach teachers how to teach reading more effectively. Many of the literacy faculty are training students about many different ways of teaching reading in ways that might be embedded in the districts where they eventually get jobs. All elementary ed majors get at least 12-15 credit hours of literacy training. The reading endorsement is an additional 15-16 credits.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.