

Contact: Rachel Boon

**MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2017, COMMITTEE MEETING**

**SLIFE BALLROOM, COMMONS  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA**

**Committee Members**

Nancy Boettger (Chair)	Sue Curry, University of Iowa
Rachael Johnson (Vice Chair)	Jonathan Wickert, Iowa State University
Rachel Boon, Board Office	Jim Wohlpart, University of Northern Iowa

**Others**

Larry McKibben (Regent)  
Donna Hoffman, University of Northern Iowa  
Christopher Larimer, University of Northern Iowa  
Tim Bakula, University of Northern Iowa  
Roberta Johnson, Iowa State University  
Beth Cole, University of Iowa  
Jason Pontius, Board Office

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Chair Boettger called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Minutes of April 10, 2017, University of Northern Iowa Committee Meeting, April 10, 2017, University of Iowa Committee Meeting, and April 19, 2017 meeting**

- Edits accepted from Provost Wohlpart for April 10 meeting at UNI
- MOVED by Johnson, SECONDED by Wohlpart, to approve the minutes from the April 10 and April 17, 2017, Committee meetings and the April. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Presentation at University of Northern Iowa: “Iowa: Still Swinging After All These Years”**

Provost Wohlpart introduced Dr. Donna Hoffman and Dr. Christopher Larimer of the Department of Political Science at the University of Northern Iowa. Iowa is consistently a battleground state in presidential election. Dr. Hoffman attributed this to the first-in-the-nation precinct caucuses, unique redistricting methods, and a high number of “no-party” voters.

Dr. Larimer described the political geography of Iowa and how 7 of 9 of the most populous counties are in the central and eastern parts of the state. The state as a whole is “purple” but individual counties are often very imbalanced. This has a strong effect on the campaign process.

Regent Johnson asked about the first-in-the-nation status being in jeopardy. Dr. Hoffman expects it to stay the same in the next cycle. It is an advantage for Iowa, so Republicans and Democrats are likely to always agree on this.

Regent Boettger praised the Iowa redistricting process in Iowa. Regent Johnson also asked about the relationship between the 10 most populous counties and their ability to predict presidential winners. Dr. Larimer guessed the Scott County may be the best.

- The Committee received the presentation by GENERAL CONSENT.

**Iowa State University Request for New Program and Request to eliminate Centers**

Provost Jonathan Wickert requested approval to establish an *RN-to-BSN program* at Iowa State University. Letters of support from central Iowa healthcare providers and the Des Moines Area Community College are in the packet. The University of Iowa also provided good insights into the process. Provost Wickert introduced Laura Jolly (dean of the College of Health Sciences) and Ginny Wangerin (Director of the RN-to-BSN program).

Dean Jolly highlighted the strong partnership with DMACC and stakeholder support. She noted the program is consistent with the mission of the program. She noted its connection to interdisciplinary programs at ISU. There are opportunities for future collaborations with the University of Iowa. Right now Iowa has an online program. ISU's program will be face-to-face only.

Dr. Wangerin described the core population as practicing nurses with associate degrees already. Bachelor's trained nurses are shown to be associated with better patient outcomes. Currently, central Iowa nurses have limited opportunities to obtain a BSN. In addition, other on-campus experiences are available in a face-to-face program (e.g. child care support, working on other research or internship programs). Fall 2018 is the proposed start date. Board of Nursing approval will be sought this summer. Upon final Board approval, CCNE accreditation will be sought.

Provost Wohlpart noted the value of the community college relationship. Regent Boettger noted the critical nursing shortage, so values this opportunity for Iowans.

Provost Curry expressed support for the program design but emphasized this has limited impact on the nursing shortage. She appreciates the value of the opportunity. The University of Iowa will continue its online program so this new program is not seen as redundant at all and she believes it will provide good value for Iowa.

Regent Johnson appreciated the experiential learning and interdisciplinary learning approaches.

Provost Wickert presented two requests for research center closures. He highlighted the importance of opening and closing research centers based on the needs in the state.

ISU is requesting to close the *Center for Integrated Animal Genomics* due to lack of continued external funding support. Internal funding sources are no longer available to sustain it. Faculty and researchers are supportive of closing the center.

ISU is requesting to close the *Midwest Agribusiness Trade Research Center* (30 year old center). In 2011 congress banned the funding the provided support for programs like this. Other funding means are unavailable. Closing the center has no other costs associated with it.

Regent Boettger noted appreciation for taking this step.

- The Committee agreed to move the requests forward by GENERAL CONSENT.

**University of Iowa Request for New Program**

Interim Provost Sue Curry invited Associate Provost Lon Moeller to present on the Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience administered by the Departments of Biology and Psychological and Brain Sciences. It will be aligned with the Iowa Neuroscience Institute. This provides more research opportunities for undergraduate students. This does not duplicate majors at any other Regent institutions.

Provost Wickert and Provost Wohlpart noted their support for the program.

- The Committee agreed to move the requests forward by GENERAL CONSENT.

**2015-2016 Student Financial Aid Report**

Dr. Jason Pontius from the Board Office presented the report with Tim Bakula of University of Northern Iowa, Roberta Johnson of Iowa State University and Beth Cole of University of Iowa. Dr. Pontius noted that 70% of financial aid at Regent institutions goes to undergraduates. Average awards to undergraduates are Regents is \$13,321. This includes scholarships, loans and other aid. Federal loans are 40% of the aid distributed. Only 6% of aid provided by the state of Iowa goes to Regent students. This is the lowest in the nation. Student debt is trending downwards and default rates are low (3.1%).

Director Johnson noted the national issue of sun-setting the federal Perkins loans after 2017-2018. ISU students annually receive about \$3m through this program. Other programs such as Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants and Federal Work Study are at risk of cuts based on the budget presented by President Trump, over \$1.7m potential loss there. Potential loss of subsidies to federal Stafford loans is also of concern for debt loads to students. This could have a detrimental effect on debt trends in Iowa.

Regent Boettger asked how much institutional money went into work study. UNI puts in 25%. ISU will pay 40% of wages, plus they add \$800k additional. SUI matches 50% of wages, but some are reimbursed at 100%.

Regent Johnson asked about the proportion of aid in other states. She also asked about the debt load of students who did not borrow as part of the average. Director Johnson said this was the national standard in how to report.

➤ The Committee received the report by GENERAL CONSENT.

**2017 Academic and Student Affairs Work Plan**

Share updates with Rachel Boon.

Chair Boettger adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

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The corresponding docket memorandum for each agenda item, an integral component of the minutes, is available on the Board of Regents website: <http://www.iowaregents.edu>. Copies of these memoranda can also be obtained from the Board Office by calling 515-281-3934. Audio of the meeting is also available on the website.

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