Chair Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 1:14pm.

Approval of Academic Affairs Committee minutes from June meeting

Approved by general consent.

ISU Program Termination Request: Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication

Provost Wickert indicated that there are currently fewer than 10 students in the most recent cohort. All students will be able to complete their degrees in a timely manner. The field has evolved so this will better serve future students. This will save the department money through ending 10 courses and moving students to another program that is strong.

Regent Barker asked how the savings are generated. Sections will be larger for existing faculty.

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

SUI Program Termination Requests:
  Executive MBA
  Master of Arts in Asian Civilizations
  Master of Arts in German

Dean Amanda Thein indicated that the Executive MBA has declined in enrollment as student choose alternative programs such as the Iowa MBA as it is more flexible. Current students can complete by December 2023 and faculty effort can be reallocated to the growing Iowa MBA. One staff position will be eliminated.

Dean Thein shared that the Master of Arts in Asian Civilization is requesting termination due to low enrollment. There is one current student who will graduate this year. Faculty retirements mean no additional reductions are necessary.

The Master of Arts in German requests termination due to low enrollment as there are no current students or applicants. No impact on cost given there is no current enrollment.

These programs will be recommended for termination by the full Board.
SUI Institute Name and Reorganization Request: Iowa Institute for Public Health Research and Policy

Associate Provost Lois Geist described how this reorganization will better distribute work that is currently happening in siloes. This will improve efficiency and will improve funding opportunities.

The name change and reorganization will be recommended for approval by the full Board.

Annual Accreditation Report

Chief Academic Officer Boon introduced the Annual Accreditation Report that lists the programs or other academic units at each university that received a report from an accreditor in the past year.

Annual Report from Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

Dr. Mary Skopec shared an update on the work of Lakeside Lab. The immersive learning experience is unique. They often work with the State Archeologist and other students and faculty from around the state and researchers from around the world. Both scientific and artistic courses with writers and visual artists. There are 20-30 interns each summer and other ways students get career-ready skills and research experience. Extensive community engagement with family events, public lectures, and other ways of getting Regent university presence in northwest Iowa.

Regent Lindenmayer asked how many visitors annually. There are 100 students over the summer and then over 1,000 the rest of the year. There is year-round activity, but it is limited by the housing problems on the campus.

Regent Dunkel asked about the Writers Retreat. Three hundred participants, but only 20 could stay on-site.

Other Business

Regent Barker asked the Board office to work with the universities to explore the Classical Learning Test regarding its potential utility in Regent university admissions. Dr. Boon said she will work with the cross-institutional Admissions Study Team to examine the exam and report back.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.