

Contact: Rachel Boon

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI CENTER  
AMES, IOWA

**Academic Affairs Committee**

Jim Lindenmayer (Chair)

Guests: Nancy Dunkel, Robert Cramer, JC Risewick, David Barker, Sherry Bates, Greta Rouse, Mark Braun, Kevin Kregel, Jason Keith, Jose Herrera, Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Kirk Kluver, Katharine Suski Johnson, Terri Crumley, Scott Peters, Jennifer McNabb

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Chair Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed new ISU Provost Jason Keith.

**Approval of Academic Affairs Committee minutes from June meeting**

Approved by general consent.

**SUI New Center Request: Center for Social Science Innovation**

Provost Kregel described the proposal noting that this new center will serve as a replacement for the Public Policy Center. It will partner across academic units and other centers on campus to develop and promote social science research to serve Iowa's broad research and discovery goals. The center will provide complementary support for other centers doing social science research at UNI and ISU. No additional staff or resources will be necessary at this time.

The committee will recommend approval to the full Board.

**SUI Administrative Restructure: Division of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures  
SUI Program Termination: Bachelor of Arts in Portuguese**

Associate Provost Uden-Holman described how five separate departments will be reorganized into two departments. The faculty and degree programs from departments being closed will all be moved to the newly created Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Regent Barker asked to affirm that all students will still have opportunities to study language.

The existing bachelor's degree in Portuguese has zero enrollments, so no students will be impacted by that closure.

The committee will recommend approval of the restructure as well as the closure of the BA in Portuguese.

**SUI Administrative Restructure: School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability**

**SUI Program Terminations  
BA/BS in Geoscience**

**BA/BS in Geography**  
**BS in Sustainability Science**  
**BS in Environmental Policy and Planning**

**SUI New Program: BA/BS in Geographical and Sustainability Sciences**

This reorganization is designed to streamline these inter-related programs and provide new opportunities for students to have focus areas that cross the existing areas. The newly designed bachelor's degree in geographical and sustainability sciences will have the flexibility to have students choose concentration areas that align with their career goals and interests. The resources needed for the new program already exists through the program closures, so no new resources are needed.

The committee will recommend approval of the reorganization, program terminations and new program to the full board.

**ISU New Programs:**  
**BS in Game Design**  
**BS in Education Studies**

Associate Provost VanDerZanden described the new BS in Game Design that is part of the ISU "Degrees of the Future" initiative. There is strong student interest in this program, and strong labor market opportunities for students who attain the degree. Two Iowa community colleges offer associate degrees in game design, and one has an esports program. All of these may provide strong transfer options for those earning an associate degree. If approved, the program will launch in Fall 2025. Regent Risewick asked about the psychology aspects of game design. VanDerZanden described the ways it plays into how people interact with games, as well as game-based training opportunities in certain professions. Regent Barker asked if the workforce trends are on pace. VanDerZanden did not have updated figures on that, but other universities with similar programs are still seeing enrollment growth.

For the BS in Education Studies, the degree is for careers in education beyond classroom teaching, including community education, education technology and other areas. This is a growing degree area nationally and in Iowa. It complements the teacher licensure programs at the university. The infrastructure for this is already in place. Semester long internships are built into this program's final semester.

The committee will recommend approval of both the BS in Game Design and the BS in Education Studies.

**ISU College Name Change: College of Human Sciences**

Associate Provost VanDerZanden proposed the change to the College of Human Sciences to the College of Health and Human Sciences. She shared that health-related programs have long been embedded in the college's portfolio. Several of ISU's peer universities also have similarly named colleges or schools. There are nominal costs associated with the branding change. Pending approval, the change would be made immediately.

The committee will recommend approval of the name change to the full board.

**ISU Program Merger: Food Science and Culinary Food Science**

ISU requested to withdraw this proposal.

### **UNI New Center Request: Center for Civic Education**

Provost Herrera introduced Professor Scott Peters and Professor Jennifer McNabb who described the objectives of a new Center for Civic Education. The idea was under development for a few years and has included development of a certificate and an undergraduate minor with support from an external grant (42 students have already completed this certificate). The work of the center will hopefully make it a destination for the study of civic education given the archives it will maintain. Producing educational materials for teachers to use will be a key activity, as well as an annual conference on the topic. History students will help develop statewide resources to deploy through partnerships with community colleges. In addition, they hope to work civic education into other degree programs in healthcare or STEM.

Regent Barker noted his appreciation for the work and thoughtfulness that went into the center development. Regent Rouse asked about the level of K-12 engagement. Prof. McNabb said they initially started with elementary levels, but they anticipate working all the way through high school. Regent Lindenmayer asked about the UNI faculty and staff who were training and who they would serve. Prof. McNabb said they are meant to serve the entire on-campus population.

The committee will recommend approval of the new Center for Civic Education.

### **Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Annual Report**

Boon briefly described a couple of highlights from the annual report. The committee accepted the report.

### **University Presentation: Update on Admissions and FAFSA**

Terri Crumley (UNI), Kirk Kluver (SUI) and Katharine Suski Johnson (ISU) from admissions at the universities described how the FAFSA simplification changes in the past year impacted timelines for recruitment.

There was an impact on awarding of scholarships given the late arrival of FAFSA data. This also impacted things like orientation, budget planning and course planning since deadlines for tuition deposits and refunds were extended. Iowans had a smoother process than was experienced by many individuals nationally. The uncertainty led to a very tumultuous spring for the staff, and the financial aid staff and IT staff, in particular, put in long hours to get offers into students' hands.

The Iowa College Access Network was a great resource for families statewide as they worked through the process. While FAFSA completions were down a bit, there was an increase in the number of students receiving a Pell grant given changes to the formula that expanded access. For students from lower income families, this added challenges since the universities didn't have the data to know what sort of support they needed.

Regent Barker noted that Iowa universities offer better value in terms of tuition, thus supporting strong enrollments despite delayed financial aid information from FAFSA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.