Contact: Rachel Boon

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MAUCKER UNION
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Committee Members

Christine Hensley, Chair	Present
Greta Rouse, Vice Chair	Present
Lucy Gipple	Present

Also Attending
Regents: Dunkel, Cramer, Cownie, Lacy, Tjaden
Presenters: Heistad (UNI), Uden-Holman (SUI), VanDerZanden (ISU), Ali (SUI), Keith (ISU), Kregel (SUI), Herrera (UNI), Rank (UNI)

Call to Order
Chair Hensley called the meeting to order at 1:15pm.

Minutes of June 15, 2026 Committee Meeting

No changes or additions.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

Update on syllabi implementation

Associate Provosts Heistad, Uden-Holman and VanDerZanden shared the status of the implementation of Board policy 3.20 on syllabi posting. UNI and ISU have 100% compliance. SUI has 99% compliance with a few sections that were added late still being entered.

✓ *The committee received the report.*

Annual Accreditation Report

CAO Boon shared the report as presented in the docket.

Provost Keith provided an update on the recent Higher Learning Commission reaffirmation process. ISU received a 10-year accreditation extension and was pleased with the feedback from the review team.

✓ *The committee received the report.*

ISU New Program Request: MS in Machine Learning and Data Engineering

Provost Keith described the new program request in engineering that is hoped to provide a new form of training in the state of Iowa. No personnel or facility investments are needed to launch.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

ISU Program Termination Request: MA and MS in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies

Provost Keith described the closure which is the first as part of the program vitality review of the institution based on the Regents Workforce Alignment Review in 2025. The program has had very low enrollment for the past several years.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

ISU Center Termination Requests:

1. **Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE)**
2. **Midwest Transportation Center**

The closure of RISE will move some of its remaining services into the functions of the School of Education. The Midwest Transportation Center no longer has the federal funding that originally led to its founding.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

ISU New Partnership Request: American Farm School in Greece

Associate Provost VanDerZanden described the background for this proposed partnership, which is made possible by a change in Greek law permitting such partnerships with foreign universities. ISU has had a relationship with the American Farm School for over 30 years, so this will be an expansion of that relationship to permit degree conferral in Greece. Launch date for the program offerings will be fall 2027.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

SUI New Program Requests:

1. **MS in Engineering Management**
2. **Bachelor of Science in Health Administration**
3. **Doctor of Medical Science**

Uden-Holman described the new BS in Health Administration through the College of Public Health. Dean Ali shared the background of the MS in Engineering Management as a collaboration of the College of Engineering and Tippie College of Business. She also described the proposal for a Doctor of Medical Science in the Carver College of Medicine. Both graduate programs will be offered online. All three of these new programs are expected to become financially net positive by no later than the second year of operation.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

SUI New Institute Request: Institute for Cancer Drug Discovery and Development

Provost Kregel provided a summary of the plans for the new research institute they will refer to as CANDID. The objective is to more quickly advance promising cancer treatments to clinical trials and production. It will be a partnership between Holden Cancer Center and the College of Pharmacy. Making drugs in UI Pharmaceuticals is an advantage for SUI with this institute.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

UNI New Center Request: Grassley Center

CAO Boon shared that a full presentation from UNI would be provided tomorrow with opportunity for questions and discussion. At this time, it is requested that the committee advance this item to the full board meeting tomorrow.

✓ *The committee recommended approval by GENERAL CONSENT.*

UNI Presentation: Center for Civic Education

Dr. Allison Rank, Director of the Center for Civic Education, provided an update on the center's activities. They recently received a 3-year $1.2 million federal grant from the Department of Education to participate in a national network of civic centers and expand on the Center's work.

✓ *The committee received the report.*

Chair Hensley adjourned the meeting at 2:34pm.