

IOWA ACADEMY OF EDUCATION
Spring Meeting
April 7, 2017
Iowa State University
Memorial Union, Oak Room
Minutes

Members Present: David Bills, Bob Brennan, Chris Edginton, Susan Etscheidt, Anne Foegen, Deb Gallagher, Nick Pace, Mike Paulsen, Gary Phye, Bob Reason, Marlene Strathe, Ann Thompson, Don Yarbrough; also Jo Vaske.

Guest: Miklós Bánhidi, Ph.D., Professor, University of West Hungary.

Welcome and opening remarks by President Don Yarbrough.

David Bills introduced Mike Paulsen who was inducted into the Academy in the fall but was unable to attend.

Don Yarbrough introduced today's theme: Is there a crisis in today's research enterprise? Quantity is plentiful, but what do we know about quality? Recent issue of *TIME* magazine asked "Is truth dead?" There's a crisis of belief in evidence and factual bases for the truth. There is a crisis of trustworthiness from methodological perspectives – issues of replication and reproducibility. In addition, a crisis exists regarding the uncertain value from today's science as represented in the popular press (e.g., Richard Harris' recent publication, *Rigor mortis: How sloppy science creates worthless cures, crushes hope, and wastes billions*). Within IAE, we must evaluate our work with regard to impact.

Presentation by Dr. Deborah Reed, Director of the Iowa Reading Research Center, University of Iowa: *Fostering Collaboration among Educational Researchers, Policy Makers, and Practitioners*.

Presentation by Dr. Ariel Aloe, Assistant Professor of Educational Measurement and Statistics, University of Iowa: *Research Evidence or Evidence of Research?*

Business meeting.

1. Business meeting called to order at 1:15.
2. Approval of minutes from Annual meeting. Motion to approve (Bob R), second (Bob B). Motion passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's report. Jo noted that our previous financial advisor has left BDF; we have a new BDF financial advisor, Ryan Brooks, based in the West Des Moines office. He is willing to meet with the Executive Council or full Academy. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report (Bob B.), second (David). Account looks quite healthy. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Executive Director's Report. Motion to accept report (Marlene), second (Ann T.) Motion passed.
5. Committee Reports

- a. Membership Committee report by Anne F. At least six members have requested emeritus status in the past year. The Academy size is shrinking. The membership committee was encouraged to think about how to keep the Academy energized, enthusiastic, and resourceful. The membership committee will review existing criteria and report back to the full Academy in the fall. Members suggested creating “manufactured” cases to review. If we expanded membership to include practitioners (e.g., a district leader), the importance of confidentiality would be crucial. Nominations for 2017-2018 are due June 1.
 - b. Urban Award Committee report by Susan E. Over the past few years, we have had few nominations; we need to better promote the award among our colleagues to increase the number of nominations. Nominations for the 2017 award are June 1.
 - c. Dissertation Award Committee report by Susan E. Last year, the first year of the award, the committee received outstanding submissions. Impact on Iowa was an important criterion for deliberations. Susan E. will follow up with awardee from Fall 2016 to invite her to present at the fall meeting this year. Nominations for 2017 are due June 1.
6. Agreements between the three Regents’ Institutions and the IAE. The first of the agreements (with UI) expires in February 2018. Dan Clay, Dean of UI, has expressed his willingness to extend the current agreement for another three years. Don will ask Anne Wilson to create a clean copy and prepare it for signing at the fall meeting at UI. The second agreement (with ISU) expires in July 2018. Don suggested that Carla and Linda, the point people at ISU, begin a similar process of seeking approval of an extension of the ISU contract to be signed in the spring, 2018. The Academy does not have a copy of the final, signed UNI agreement (the original copy went missing during the process of obtaining the necessary signatures), but a copy of the draft is available. The UNI contract expires in August 2018. Chris Edginton is the point person for this contract and is asked to begin the renewal process at UNI.
7. Discussion of Occasional papers and policy-related papers. There is concern that we haven’t had submissions of occasional papers series and policy-related papers recently. Don has asked Deborah Reed to consider submitting a paper. Jo reminded members that current policy does not allow submission of papers that been submitted for publication elsewhere. Some members expressed concerns about how busy members are and whether we can sustain a project of this nature in light of other commitments. The group discussed other venues; including initiating an IAE blog, accepting research summaries, or connecting with the Center for Educational Transformation at UNI which has an existing infrastructure. It was noted that with the financial health of the IAE, resources could be devoted to this project. Marlene and Nick will talk with Cindy, the CET director. The question was raised: Do we need to form a subcommittee to make recommendations about how to proceed?
8. Discussion of Iowa-relevant education policies. Members shared their ideas on Iowa-relevant education policies:
 - a. Anne F: school choice/vouchers
 - b. David: Wisconsin-ization of collective bargaining

- c. Mike: potential impact of “Wisconsin-ization” of higher education policies; concerns about the escalating costs of college education and unpredictable funding; major tuition increases; Iowa is cutting back on financial assistance to students and institutions; forces pushing to privatize higher education; diminished understanding of the benefits of education across our society; we have lost our understanding of the need to tax ourselves in order to provide education to all children
- d. Deb: Expansion of online K-12 education; erosion of support for mental health needs; added pressures on faculty related to student recruitment and program delivery; do we need a post-mortem on NCLB, along with costs of not achieving the goals?
- e. Susan E: coordination of funding streams for mental health and clarification of schools’ responsibilities
- f. Bob B: state-testing policies; need for long term, multi-year funding commitments for Pre K-12 education; the costs related from failing to educate every child

After generating the range of ideas (above), members discussed reasonable next steps. Members also discussed the importance of developing a “bumper sticker” campaign (pithy, poignant, biting, sarcastic one-liners) for drawing attention to the impact of not supporting/investing in education.

Don encouraged members to pick an issue, talk with other Academy members, and begin work on this. In his remaining six months as president, Don volunteered to orchestrate web meetings (perhaps half-days). Members need to provide the issues and the materials; Don will handle the logistics.

- 9. Discussion of how to increase visibility of IAE:
 - a. Need to postpone this discussion until we have content to highlight.
- 10. Other items of business?
 - a. Jo stated that Michelle Devlin had planned to report on her efforts to set up a blog. She asked that someone from UNI follow-up with her. Don did talk with Anne Wilson about this topic, she wasn’t aware of any activity.
- 11. Schedule fall meeting. The Annual meeting will be held Friday, October 27, 2017, at the University of Iowa

Motion to adjourn by Bob B, second by Susan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Foegen, Acting Secretary