

## Minutes

Iowa Academy of Education

Friday, October 13, 2006

The Academy met at the Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, Johnston, IA

The Academy met for lunch at 11:30 am.

At 12:30, President Cornett called the meeting to order.

Members present included: Sandra Alper, Thomas Andre, David Bills, Jackie Blount, Robert Brennan, Jeffrey Cornett, Niki Davis, Rheta DeVries, David Jepsen, Michael Kolen, Gary Phye, John Schuh, Ann Thompson, Elizabeth Whitt.

Also Present: Joann Vaske, Dean Frerichs, FINE Foundation

The first order of business was introduction of the new members of the Academy: Dr. David Bills, University of Iowa, who was introduced by Bob Brennan and Dr. Gary Phye, Iowa State University, who was introduced by Tom Andre.

David Jepsen introduced the speakers, Dr. Mary Delagardelle, Lighthouse Project Director, and Dr. Ron Rice, Executive Director, the Iowa Association of School Boards.

Ron Rice described the Iowa Association of School Boards. It is an enterprise with multiple components, is 60 years old, and is a member of the National Association of School Boards, which is federation. IASB has multiple components; it owns a for profit subsidiary, and it sponsors the IASB Foundation. Dr. Rice discussed IASB's components, mission, and goals. He distributed a pamphlet and other materials that provided a more detailed overview of IASB. Much of this information can be found on the IASB web site at [www.ia-sb.org/](http://www.ia-sb.org/) under the About Us link. The IASB Foundation is described under the Services link. IASB's agenda is to help/change school boards so as to help all students achieve. He described IASB's strategies and objectives in its strategic plan. An example of a research-based project is provided by its current emphasis on State Standards. IASB asked the question, does it make a difference in achievement if you have standards. The IASB Foundation investigated the literature on this topic. The available evidence supported standards, and IASB, as a result, is supporting state standards. IASB is committed to the principle that school boards should make research-based decisions. It is the only state group with this as a stated policy.

Dr Delagardelle discussed the Lighthouse Study. She provided a handout based on her power point slides that summarize it. (See attached). Additional IASB projects discussed were: CLIK Communities for Literate Iowa Kids, and Great Expectations – what is the impact of expectations on achievement.

There was a discussion of research needs. The value of research was seen as it:

- Guides actions to improve student learning,
- Impacts teaching and learning at the classroom level,
- Informs policy level decision making, and

- Influences support for research-based actions to improve teaching and learning.

IASB and the IASB Foundation support implementation of rigorous standards for research and review. They seek distinctive knowledge that is unbiased and credible.

There followed a discussion of research related to IASB and in the Universities. The issue of openness and independence of IAE was raised. Dr. Rice led a discussion of openness of IASB Research Foundation.

Following the presentation and discussion, IAE members discussed research interests and current work.

Following this discussion, the presenters left.

The Academy then engaged in a discussion of actions to deal with future of Academy. David Jepsen read a letter from Cheryl Achterberg, Dean of the College of Human Sciences (CHS), at ISU. Contact with Dean Achterberg was initiated by Jerry Thomas. CHS at ISU would accept sponsorship of IAE. It requested \$100,000 for endowment and separate funding for the Urban award.

Bob Brennan shared a memo from Sandra Damico, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Iowa. Dean Damico was enthusiastic about sponsoring IAE. Iowa would provide some support but would expect that the meeting(s) would circulate among Regents institutions. Each institution would host the meeting at the institution's expense.

David Jepsen indicated that Mr. Urban will continue to give funding for the Urban award but would not support the costs of ceremonies.

Jeff Cornett indicated that UNI had not been asked because the institution has a new president. He indicated that UNI would participate in supporting IAE meetings in a circulating manner if the Iowa proposal were accepted.

A variety of issues and ideas were raised in the discussion that followed. Among the ideas that were discussed were: Would affiliation with a given Regent cause problems with other Regents? Affiliation with IASB would raise potential independence problems but may offer a pathway to influence policy. What should the Academy be? It has been an honorary society and also has sponsored some occasional papers. IAE has never strongly acted collectively, but does it really want to? IAE members have engaged primarily in individualistic work. There was a comment about the diversity of topics covered in meetings; it is good to hear other people in other fields. One member described another academy that has conference and pursues other collective actions. Issues about possible support from FINE's remaining endowment occurred and what FINE may or may not support were discussed.

As a result of the discussion, Andre moved, Thompson seconded the motion to request \$200,000 from FINE to endow IAE. Following some discussion, a friendly amendment

was accepted to change the amount to \$100,000-\$120,000. Following further discussion, there was a unanimous vote to approve (13 yes, 0 no).

Thompson moved, Sandy Alpert second the motion to affiliate with one of the three regent's institutions. The motion passed (12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention).

Concerns were raised about voting by members not at the meeting. The consensus emerged that the topic of the meeting had been distributed and that the urgency of the issue necessitated action.

Andre moved, Thompson seconded the motion to ask a team of three members to pursue negotiations with the University of Iowa. The negotiations would seek to arrange an agreement to affiliate with UI with the following conditions.

1. The agreement would be in writing and would include terms to preserve the independence of IAE.
2. The term of the agreement would be limited, but could be renegotiated for additional terms.
3. Were the agreement found not to be beneficial by either party, it could be terminated by either party.
4. If the agreement were terminated and any endowment funds were part of the agreement, those funds would be returned to IAE.

The individuals who constitute the negotiating committee are: Ann Thompson, Bob Brennan, David Bills.

Officers for 2007 are Ann Thompson, President; Peter Hlebowitsh, Vice President; Tom Andre, secretary; and Jeff Cornett, Past President.

A written report from the FINE Foundation was distributed.

It was agreed to move Item IV on the agenda (select spring meeting date) to be resolved by email. It was agreed to move the remaining agenda items to the spring meeting (Occasional Research Paper Series, Policy-related papers).

The meeting adjourned about 3:40 pm.

Reported by Tom Andre, Secretary