

Iowa Academy of Education

Iowa State University

October 8, 2010

I. Welcome and Remarks

John Schuh convened the meeting and offered thanks for planning of meeting.

II. Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

III. Presentation (Kevin Fangman)

Gary Phye introduced our speaker Kevin Fangman. Kevin presented information on federal policy and steps Iowa is taking to move forward with education in Iowa. He referred to federal document (Blueprint for America) that will be used in reauthorization of ESEA.

Kevin noted monies that are available to low-achieving schools and newly funded programs in these schools. He also reviewed the various funded initiatives at the state level.

Common Core Initiative – Has been presented as critical in international competition. (English, Language Arts, Math). 37 states, including Iowa have adopted. Kevin sees this being rolled into Iowa core.

Race To The Top – An emphasis has been put on balancing assessment as part of the process. Goes beyond current measures to performance measures. Focus on both summative and formative assessments. Iowa is an advisory state in this process. Iowa tests are still the test used in Iowa.

State areas of emphasis - pulling expertise in a way in which this can be shared with others (achievement gaps, technology and on-line learning).

Design Teams – Competency based learning. What are barriers to implementation, what needs to be done? What are the steps for moving forward.

Another issue – Should the state help support a “Virtual School”?

Good discussion and questions

IV. Introduction of New Members of the Academy (Kouider Mokhtari, Carla Peterson, Susan Etschiedt).

V. Presentation/Urban Award (William Therrian)

“Effects of An Essay Test-Taking Strategy” – Introduced by Peter Hlebowitsh.

Study focused on improving essay-writing skills of students with learning disabilities at secondary level. Reviewed related research showing problems these students have with test taking skills. Steps include specific strategies to be used by students. Provided mixed results of impact of interventions for students with learning disabilities.

Discussion followed. A particular focus was on the implications of this study for areas such as Race To The Top.

VI. Members reported on new and ongoing work.

Business Meeting

I. Call to Order

John Schuh called meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Need to correct names. Move to approve by Greg and seconded by Mike. Approved.

III. Treasurer/Executive Director Report

David presented treasurer’s report. Balance is approximately \$1,000. Portfolio assets are approximately \$100,000. This surpasses original investment. We have access to approximately \$30,000 if needed. Overall we seem to be in good shape.

David presented background of Academy and how the FINE Foundation and Tom Urban created this Academy. About four years ago Academy became free-standing entity. \$100,000 was transferred to Academy with end of FINE Foundation. In addition, U. of Iowa contributes \$5,000 per year with understanding the Executive Director be Emeriti from U. of I.

Carl moved and Barbara seconded Treasurers report.

David presented Executive Directors Report. There has been some communication with attorney on IRS requirements.

Deb moved for acceptance and Ann seconded.

David also reminded members to send and/or revise biographical information. We also expressed on thanks to David and Jennifer for their ongoing support for our organization.

IV. Committee Reports

While we did not have formal report we were pleased with new members.

Deb reported from Awards Committee on behalf of Gary. A concern is that the call for nominations was not as successful as we would like. The number of nominations seem to fluctuate from year to year. We agreed that there is a need to more broadly disseminate information.

V. Emeriti Status –Moved by Linda and seconded by Carla that Emeriti status be granted to Dr. Laura Rendon. Passed.

VI. Amendments to By-Laws

Proposed By-Laws were brought forward. Moved by Greg and seconded by Ann. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Follow-up to Fangman Presentation

Could the academy serve an R & D function with the Dept. of Education. We discussed possibility of inviting new Director of Education from DE to our Spring meeting. Also we need to discuss how data can be shared with IHEs with possibilities for our students to be involved in critical research from state level.

We discussed possibility of a letter to new State Director with possible collaborations and opportunities. We also need to consider other Dept. and policy leaders as well.

We also discussed the importance of policy papers and how to make these as effective as possible. We were also reminded of importance of our website and what we say about ourselves there.

The possible impact on legislators was also discussed. How do we also make sure that communications go both ways with DE and others. How do we get ahead of issues? An example would be getting ahead of assessment issues in Race to The Top.

What are avenues to national issues although primary focus of Academy are issues in Iowa. How do we make ourselves more visible to persons in Iowa. We discussed options such as press releases, inviting press to meetings and possibility of connecting with Iowa Public Radio.

We agreed that President and Executive Director will draft invitation letter to new director for Spring meeting. Members will also be working on a focus for discussion for Spring.

VIII. Occasional Papers

Peter led discussion of Academy publication series. This would be open to members and would be tentatively published in the Fall. We could put this on our web-page and shared with various audiences. Peter has a small group of papers in final editing process. Peter (Best Practices for Teachers)Ernie (higher ed) Bob Yeager (Science Ed). Barbara may also be sending a paper.

In addition to Website we will be exploring other outlets for the work. We also talked about papers should be readable for general audience and not too long. We also discussed possibility that some papers may be in FORUM style in format.

IX. Nomination/Election

We conducted nominations for President-Elect. Nominated Deb Gallagher by Peter who seconded by Greg. Motion to Close by Gary and seconded Ann. Passed.

X. Other Items

No other items came up.

XI. Spring Date

Preferred dates will be sent by Mike and David. We will consider April 22nd and 29th as possibilities.

Barbara moved for adjournment and Ann seconded.