

Minutes

IOWA ACADEMY OF EDUCATION

May 5, 2005, 9:20 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Reiman Gardens, Iowa State University, Ames

- Present: Agran, Alper, Cornett, Colangelo, DeVries, Hlebowitsh, Jepsen, Lohman, Schuh, Thomas, Thompson, members; and Frerichs and Vaske, staff
- Absent: Andre, Brennan, Jackson, Kolen, Marshall, Pascarella, Smith, Stefanich, Yager
- Guests: Mary Cohen, Region VII Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Kansas City; Professor Juergen van Buer, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

A G E N D A

Nick Colangelo, President, introduced David Lohman who gave a presentation on his paper, “Beliefs about Differences between Ability and Accomplishment: From Folk Theories to Cognitive Science.” (Copies of the paper were distributed to IAE members prior to the meeting). Topics included: beliefs about the separability of “ability” and “achievement,” measurements of these constructs, and the importance of better understanding the similarities and differences between these constructs in order to improve the process of selecting gifted students and designing programs to serve them. David said that different norm groups are needed to estimate current performance and potential for future performance under altered conditions. Current performance is best indexed by comparing a child’s scores to others in the same local grade group. Inferences about potential to learn, however, require that the child’s performance be compared to that of other children who have had similar *opportunities* to learn the knowledge and skills measured by the test or assessment procedure. Changing the context in which children must perform often changes their ability to perform. Ability to learn is also affected by interest, motivation, and persistence. David stated that “potential” is given greater emphasis in the identification of academically advanced students than “performance” which he finds astonishing. Discussion followed.

Next, Nick Colangelo gave a presentation on “A Nation Deceived” (copies were distributed prior to the meeting). Nick stated that the two-volume report was written to stimulate discussion about acceleration, a topic about which people have strong opinions. He defined acceleration as moving a child through the system faster or with a more advanced curriculum. The methods of acceleration include: (a) subject-based acceleration by which the curriculum comes to the child while the child stays in place and

(b) grade-based acceleration such as grade skipping, early entry, and early exit. Nick stated there are three primary reactions from those who are antagonistic to acceleration: (a) they are unaware of the literature on acceleration; (b) it doesn't fit with their ideology of progressive education; e.g., it is unfair; other kids will feel bad; (c) it pulls kids out of childhood. However, the literature is consistent: when kids are ready, they do well academically and socially. Discussion followed.

Following lunch, Mary Cohen described the new U.S. Secretary of Education and stated that it is too soon to know what changes, if any, will be made to the No Child Left Behind legislation. She distributed packets of information on topics such as teacher quality, high school graduation requirements, and accountability. A question/answer period followed.

Business meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Nick Colangelo.

- I. Minutes of October 29 meeting, distributed electronically, were approved.
- II. Urban Award – Dave Lohman, Chair of Selection Committee, reported that three nominations were received, two were stronger than previous nominations. The committee will discuss them and make a recommendation within two weeks.
- III. Membership Committee – Ann Thompson, Chair, reported that four individuals were nominated. The membership committee reviewed the nominations and determined that all four were worthy of consideration by Academy members. Ann asked members to take copies of the nomination letters and curriculum vitae of all four nominees. She encouraged members to vote because only candidates approved by a 2/3 vote by ALL members (not just those who vote) are invited into the Academy.

Jo will send out ballots with a request that they be completed and returned within two weeks.

- IV. Occasional papers

Dave Lohman is considering developing his paper on ability and accomplishment into an occasional paper.

Ann Thompson volunteered to draft a paper on “Technology as a Tool for Simultaneous Renewal in Teacher Education” and present it at the fall IAE meeting. She will create a final occasional paper after the meeting.

Rheta asked if the occasional papers could be presented more professionally; e.g., putting them in binders. Nick suggested that they be bound in one volume every five to seven years.

V. Policy-related papers

Jeff Cornett stated that high school reform might be a good topic for a policy paper. He suggested inviting Troyce Fisher, Executive Director, School Administrators of Iowa, to present on this topic.

Jeff said that he and others from UNI can work on a policy paper on the topic of teacher quality.

Nick reported that the article on NCLB written by Bob Brennan was submitted to the Des Moines Register (as agreed upon at the fall IAE meeting) but was not published because the editor believed it was too technical.

VI. Report from the FINE Foundation

1. Acknowledgements

Jo thanked Jerry Thomas and Ann Thompson for hosting today's meeting at the Reiman Gardens on the ISU campus.

Jo thanked the Urban Award Selection Committee for reviewing nominations. If the committee recommends an awardee, Jo will contact Tom Urban to find out his availability for an award ceremony in the fall. The fall IAE meeting will be scheduled around the Urban ceremony.

Jo thanked the membership committee for their efforts in recruiting nominations and reviewing submitted nominations materials.

2. FINE Day Conference

Jo invited IAE members to attend the 2005 conference on October 27 at the Polk County Convention Complex. (See flyer for details.)

3. Newsletter

Jo thanked IAE members for submitting information about their recent honors/accomplishments for the FINE People column. Since the column appears in each issue of the newsletter, IAE members were invited to submit information on a regular basis.

4. ARRC Program

In Dean's absence, Jo reported that the 2004-2005 ARRC group would hold its final meeting on May 6. Doug Grouws, project consultant and emeritus member of the Academy, will carry out an evaluation of the program, and participants will present progress reports on their projects.

Ten teachers have been selected for the 2005-2006 group. Their first seminar will be held May 6 and 7. Activities will focus on developing research-based project plans.

5. IAE Website

All occasional research papers and policy-related papers have pop-up summaries and all are available using Adobe reader.

6. Academy Budget

Jo reported that the annual budget for the Academy is \$15,000. This year, to date, hard costs are \$3,216. Last fiscal year, total (hard) costs were \$5,216.

7. Major Research Study

Dave Jepsen reported that the research project on school size is on hold until after the upcoming (May 18) meeting of the FINE Board.

VII. Next Meeting

The fall meeting will be held in the Des Moines area on a date to be determined. Possible speakers and agenda items include:

- Ann Thompson (see above)
- Governor Vilsack. If he is unable to attend, Lt. Governor Sally Pederson will be invited.
- Michael Gartner, President, Board of Regents
- Election of officers and appointment of members of Urban Selection Committee and Membership Committee
- Urban Award Ceremony

Reported by Jo Vaske (in absence of Mike Kolen, Secretary)