

IOWA ACADEMY OF EDUCATION

Spring Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 18, 2008

The Academy met at the Center for Multicultural Education at the Maucker Student Union, University of Northern Iowa.

President Peter Hlebowitsh called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Members present included David Bills, Robert Brennan, Peter Hlebowitsh, David Jepsen, Michael Kolen, Gary Phye, John Schuh, Patricia Sitlington, and Gregory Stefanich.

Peter Hlebowitsh presented his research on problems with the logic of the best practice movement in American education. A vigorous discussion of this topic followed.

At 12:25 PM, the Academy took up the business items on the agenda.

President Hlebowitsh asked David Bills to serve as acting secretary. Bills agreed.

The minutes of the previous meeting of October 26, 2007 were presented for approval. Members noted a few minor errors. Bills moved approval pending correction of errors. Brennan seconded. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

David Jepsen presented the Treasurer's Report. He described his negotiations with Hills Bank and Trust and the Academy's investments with BDF Investments. See attached report. Brennan asked Jepsen to inquire about the effect of the current crisis in the subprime markets on our Fixed Income Securities. Jepsen agreed to do so. Jepsen asked for approval of Treasurer's Report. Brennan moved approval, Kolen seconded, and the motion was approved.

Executive Director's Report

Jepsen discussed highlights of the attached Executive Director's Report. He noted that given our new independent status, we need to be more aware of what we say about matters of public policy (e.g., we may not endorse political candidates).

Jepsen asked for approval of Executive Director Position Description (attached). Brennan moved acceptance, Sitlington seconded, and description was approved.

Brennan moved that President Hlebowitsh provide Jepsen with a formal letter of appointment. Phye seconded and the motion was approved.

Jepsen encouraged the Academy to continue to think about our mission and activities.

Requests for Emeritus Status in Iowa Academy of Education from Jeff Cornett and Niki Davis

Sitlington proposed and Brennan seconded granting of Emeritus Status in Iowa Academy of Education from Jeff Cornett and Niki Davis. Motion carried.

Membership Committee

Bills reported that membership Committee (Thompson, Sitlington, Bills) had received three nominations for membership. Committee endorsed all three. IAE Assistant Jennifer Jones will distribute electronic ballots on Monday, April 21, 2008. Members will have two weeks to vote. Ballot will include relevant language from IAE Constitution.

Brennan initiated a discussion of the need for us to review those parts of our Constitution relevant to membership and the criteria for membership. We decided to put this on the agenda for our next meeting.

Urban Award

Committee Chair Phye asked for a discussion on developing a strategy for the Urban Award. He noted that we need to think about the criteria for the award. We decided to put this on the agenda for next meeting.

There were several suggestions made for revising the description of the award to reflect the fact that the FINE Foundation is no longer involved. Phye agreed to work on the relevant language.

Sitlington agreed to serve a two-year term as the UNI member of the Urban Award Committee.

The Committee would like to receive nominations for the award by Labor Day.

Election of New Secretary

Sitlington nominated Phye to serve two-year term as Secretary to replace Niki Davis. Brennan seconded. Nomination carried.

Occasional Papers and Occasional Policy Papers

After some discussion, Hlebowitsh agreed to seek further advice from IAE members about the future of the Paper series.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be at the University of Iowa, probably some time in October. This meeting should be coordinated with the Urban Award.

Attendance Policy

There was some discussion of what appears to be declining attendance at IAE meetings.

Stefanich proposed that the Academy thank UNI President Allen for supporting our meeting. All approved and Hlebowitsh will follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Bills