

**Iowa Academy of Education**  
Spring Meeting Minutes  
2009-4-3  
Gallery Room—Memorial Union  
Iowa State University

**Call to Order and Initial Activities**

President Greg Stefanich called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

Members present were Greg Stefanich, Tom Andre, Carl Smith, Bob Brennan, Michael Kolen, Elizabeth Whitt, Sandra Alper, Ann Thompson, John Schuh, David Bills, David Lohman, and Peter Hlebowitsh. Also present were: Tony Vanderzyl from the Iowa Association of School Boards and Kris Waltman, the research presentation speaker.

The members and guests introduced themselves. At the request of President Stefanich, the membership agreed on a working lunch.

**Research Presentation**

President Stefanich called on Bob Brennan to introduce Dr. Kris Waltman.

Dr. Waltman, of the Center for Evaluation & Assessment, University of Iowa, presented a talk on the Iowa Accountability Research Project. This research project is funded by the State of Iowa to monitor the impact of the statewide testing program involving the ITBS and ITED to meet NCLB requirements, to provide technical assistance and guidance to schools, and to help inform future policy decisions. See the attached PowerPoint slides for more detail.

The report concluded that:

- Grade-level ITBS improvement trends are only partially supported by other measures of achievement.
- Grade level trends are likely due, in part, to changes in the “attention” given to tests.

Thus, caution in interpreting achievement increases in Iowa is warranted. More explicit guidance to schools and teachers on test-preparation practices is warranted, test security should be increased, locally and statewide, and continued monitoring of the test influence is warranted.

11:30 AM. Following a short break, Members provided an overview of their current activities.

**David Lohman** is involved in research examining the use of nonverbal tests, research on looking at the effects of poverty on ability tests, independently of ethnicity or social group. A focus of this research is related to issues of equity in assessment.

**David Bills** has been named editor of "Sociology of Education." Depending on funding, he will be in Brazil this summer to teach research methodology. He is involved in research with Brazilian sociologists examining who has benefited from increased higher

education opportunities in the country. In addition, he is involved with research examining the impact on children displaced by last summer's flooding.

**John Schuh** continues to work on assessment projects. He and several students are engaged in several projects that are related to assessing assessment. He will be working on a funded project in Germany in the fall that has to do with student experiences. He had a book released on assessment since our last meeting and also received the research achievement award from the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

**Ann Thompson** also is going to Brazil this summer as part of collaboration with a distance education (DE) program in Brazil. She will be presenting research about the ISU DE cohort program in instructional technology. A success factor in ISU's program is that it is taught by regular faculty. Learning to teach online was renewing for Ann; her informal impression is that DE teaching makes her a better campus teacher. She is working on technology pedagogical content knowledge and has contributed to two books on this topic.

**Peter Hlebowitsh** is Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, which is limiting to his research. He will be presenting at Beijing Normal University on evidence-based teaching; and will argue that teaching can't be a product model. He is finishing up data analysis on a research project about stereotype anxiety among special education students. His field, Curriculum Theory and Development is going through a reconceptualization of itself. He is writing a paper on that for a journal; and will need to write a response to reaction papers solicited by the journal.

**Sandra Alper** has been working with a colleague, Dr. Diane Ryndak, from the University of Florida examining post-school outcomes of young adults with significant disabilities who received educational services in either inclusive or segregated environments. The status of these individuals in the areas of degree of independence in living arrangements, employment, social activities, and friendships is the focus. Qualitative data including school records, interviews with these individuals and their parents, employers, friends, and others are analyzed. Preliminary results have been accepted for publication in one professional journal and a second article has recently been submitted. In addition, results will be discussed at the annual TASH (The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps) conference in November, 2009.

**Liz Whitt** has been working in Provost's office. Part of her responsibilities is looking at undergraduate education issues. With the aid of a research assistant, she has been doing research on binge drinking issues and also longitudinal research on students.

**Tom Andre** was on sabbatical during Fall semester at North Carolina State University. He contributed to four grant proposals during that time, with Gail Jones of NCSU and Stephen Gilbert of ISU's Human Computer Interaction program. He is back teaching and re-establishing his research program. He received a distinguished alumni award from the College of Education at the University of Illinois.

**Carl Smith**, in his role as Chair of Curriculum and Instruction has been less involved in research. His research focuses on educational policy about students with disability and the discrepancies between public policy and practice. He is part of a research project examining what is really happening in the implementation of evidence based practices particularly in the area of positive behavioral support. Part of the research relates to issues facing the State Board of Education related to use of restrains and possible abolition of restraints and aversive simulation in school settings.

**Bob Brennan** was on sabbatical in New York last fall. Most of the time was spent thinking through issues related to measurement models, especially with respect to similarities and differences in model assumptions. That work has led to presentations to the College Board, Educational Testing Services, and several universities, as well as one in-press publication, and hopefully several future publications. Also, Bob has just recently released (via publication on the CASMA website: <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/casma>) *Equating Recipes*, which is a set of open-source functions written in ANSI C to perform virtually all types of equating. There are over 25,000 lines of code, including comments, in *Equating Recipes*. The code and a nearly 300 page associated monograph/manual are freely available on the CASMA website.

**Michael Kolen** is member of the APA, AERA, and NCME joint committee to revise the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. The committee is focusing on changes associated with accountability, fairness, technology, and how to make standards more useful. The process is long term; a three year process of writing, followed by an approval process by the participating professional organizations. In another effort he is working with The College Board on revision of the Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. His contributions focus on scaling and other technical issues. This work will lead to a monograph on psychometric issues for mixed-format tests. In addition, he received a Career Award from NCME in March 2008, and he is making an award address in April 2009.

**Greg Stefanich** is presently involved with three grant projects: 1) Midwest is a regional alliance grant from the National Science Foundation that is a collaborative between the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and the University of Northern Iowa with the purpose of increasing the numbers of students with disabilities who pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. More information can be obtained from the website at, [www.stemmidwest.org](http://www.stemmidwest.org). 2) a materials assistance project grant from the Carver Foundation that is providing assistance to 32 secondary school science and mathematics teachers in Iowa Schools who have a visually impaired student in one of their courses, 8 blind and 8 low-vision students are participating. 3) a project under the Iowa Mathematics and Science Partnership, that involved a 2-day working conference held on April 1-2, 2009 in Cedar Falls, IA which addressed four areas: improving the quality of secondary school science and mathematics instruction for students with disabilities, improving articulation of mathematics and science content from high school to community college, improving articulation of mathematics and science content and from community colleges to four year institutions, and improving transitions from post-secondary education to employment.

## **Business Meeting**

After a break to pick up lunch, President Stefanich called the business meeting to order.

### ***Opening Remarks***

President Stefanich contribution short opening remarks. His remarks focused on effective and differentiated teaching and factors related to effective learning. He raised the issue of how the Iowa Academy of Education can contribute to educational reform in Iowa. He suggested that we could provide input on how the Iowa Core Curriculum is implemented and the assessment of the Iowa Core Curriculum. He also raised the issue of the appropriate role of the Iowa Regents Institutions in contributing to K-12 education.

### ***Actions***

#### ***Minutes***

Following his presentation, he submitted the minutes of the Fall meeting for review and requested approval. A correction in the spelling of a name was noted. Ann Thompson moved, Tom Andre seconded, to approve the minutes as corrected. The minutes were approved (see attached).

#### ***Executive Director's report***

The Executive Director's report was presented. Mike Kolen moved, Bob Brennan seconded, approval of the report. The report was approved (see attached).

#### ***Treasurer's Report***

The Treasurer's report was presented. Mike Kolen moved, Bob Brennan seconded, approval of the report. The report was approved (see attached).

#### ***Membership committee***

Ann Thompson presented a report from the membership committee. The committee has reviewed member participation. It proposed sending a letter to members who had not been active to explore their future plans. A draft of the letter was distributed. A discussion of expectations of membership ensued. The purpose of the organization is meeting and discussion, membership is limited, and the bylaws have some language communicating an expectation of active membership. As a result of the discussion, it was moved (Ann Thompson) and seconded (John Schuh), to send a letter to inactive members. The motion was approved.

Ann noted that it was membership nomination season. A discussion of the membership process and timeline ensued. Membership nominations will be due in May and election held early in the Fall to be ready for the Fall meeting.

#### ***Urban Award***

Peter Hlebowitsh, speaking for the Urban award committee) provided a brief overview of the Urban award process. The academy will publicize the award among members and

request nominations. (*Acting Secretary's note: The award nominations are due June 1. A description of the application process is available at [http://www.education.uiowa.edu/iae/Pages/IAE\\_Urban.html](http://www.education.uiowa.edu/iae/Pages/IAE_Urban.html)* )

#### *IAE Website*

Peter also discussed reconstruction of the IAE website, He is working with Jennifer on it. More information will be coming in the fall. Member comments supported the need changes.

#### *Occasional Research Papers*

There was a discussion of occasional research or policy papers that focused on the expectations of members with respect to such papers and how to generate papers. It was concluded that it should be an expectation of active membership that the individual will contribute occasional papers and / or contribute to policy papers.

#### *Other Business*

Under other items of business, there was a discussion of expectation of membership and the bylaws. It was moved (Tom Andre), and seconded (Ann Thompson) to create a committee to review the bylaws with a specific focus on clarifying expectations and duties of membership. The motion was approved. Andre agreed to serve on the committee and it was recommended that David Jepsen be a member. Michael Kolen also agreed to serve.

At approximately 2:00 PM, a motion to adjourn as made and approved.

#### **Attachments include:**

1. The Fall 08minutes
2. The Spring 09 agenda
3. The Executive Director's Report
4. The Treasurer's Report
5. The Spring 09 research presentation

Submitted by Thomas Andre acting for Gary Phye.