

Iowa Academy of Education  
Annual Meeting

University of Iowa  
April 16, 2010

Minutes

I. Welcome and Remarks (John Schuh)

John Schuh called the meeting to order at 9:50. Thanks to University of Iowa for hosting this meeting.

II. Presentation (Mike Lovaglia)

Presented on differential responses of minority students related to underperformance. (Explaining Persistent Minority Student Underperformance with the Potential for Intervention). Notes:

-Topic has huge implications for our society overall.

-Questions of why?

-Story of "Motivated Small Class" - "The one minority student in class scored 31 percentage points below the next lowest student." Extreme example yet in all classes there is a discrepancy.

"The racial gap is wider for high achieving students . . ."

Hypotheses:

- a. Stereotype Threat (Worry about doing poorly)
- b. Differential Expected Consequences (Worry about doing too well)
  - a. "The consequences of success"

"Expectations affect test scores"

"Best Minority Students" – Distractions from performance are greatest

Performance Gap – big problem is that we have brilliant minority students who are struggling to improve academic performance.

Interventions (Graham Chaffey) – Advanced training in puzzle problem skills and relationship with teachers.

“Trust Component” – May be critical factor

“Teaching techniques effective with non-minority students may not be effective with minority students”.

Issue – Differential impact of feedback for majority and minority students (Re diagnostic and final exam)

Discussion followed.

Academy Member Reports (Following Lunch)

Carl Smith – discussion of work in public policy, juvenile justice and mental health with youth.

Gary Phye – Work with state on Microsoft settlement working with school districts. Also work on cognitive training and difference in student performance.

Tom Andre – Involved with research program (with students) on use of virtual reality machine at school site and working with students in a non-traditional manner, looking at pre-service teachers and decision making in optimizing learning environments with varying experimental conditions.

Barbara Dougherty – new to ISU. Director of CESMEE. Working on final year of NSF grant looking at students at risk in Algebra. 1200 students in study. This work is being done in Mississippi and looks at structures of classrooms, teaching techniques and outcomes. Also involved with research with scholars in Russia looking at student learning of rational numbers. Also involved with national work in mathematics.

Elizabeth Whitt – in Ed Leadership at U of I. Continues work on book on academic student affairs. Expected completion – soon.

Dave Lohman – U of I. In Iowa Testing program in Ed Psych. Involved in project rebuilding cognitive abilities testing. Described ongoing work in revising testing instruments. Most research publications recently dealing with gifted and talented and testing. Interest in fairness, impartiality in assessment. (Developed competencies rather than innate skills). Also looking at effects of practice in assessment. Upcoming proposal with IES. Also mentioned work with Seventh Day Adventist organization on testing.

David Bills – (U of I.) Has a paper to be presented on black-school achievement gap particularly at the post-secondary level where gaps have increased. Work on what

happens in work situations. Possible impact of additional year of training after school. Also issues of human capital and work. More optimism regarding employment comparisons of blacks/whites. Work also on educational credentialism.

Bob Brennan – U of I. Long term work on SAT through College Board and work on advanced placement. Discussed challenges in publishing and time-lags. Work in equating and generalizability theory. Preparing for upcoming conference dealing with current educational policy issues.

Dave Jepson – Executive Director. Will shortly be doing lecture on “The Older Old”. Shared that retirement holds great possibilities (Creative Writing, Religious Ideas and Spring Training)

Nick Colangelo. – Director of Belin Blank Center. Upcoming Wallace Symposium (May 16-17, 2010). Working with ACT looking at top 5% scorers every five years. Particular focus on minority students; their career interests and other demographics. (Few want to be teachers, particularly among minority students). Also work with twice exceptional children (gifted, disability). Soon to be published work dealing with school counselors. Do counselors have information on “what works”, for example “acceleration works”.

Mike Kolen – U of Iowa. Work with measurement and statistics. Three ongoing projects. Member of committee on standards in assessment and measurement. Areas of focus for revision (access, technology, education, work-place issues). Also working on three-year contract with psychometric issues on advanced placement tests. This will lead to recommendations of what should happen and mixed format tests. Also involved with state testing advisory boards. (what are going to be implications for states with changing federal policy). “What does it mean to measure growth?” Big issue of how to evaluate teachers through these models?

Deb Gallagher (UNI). In special education. Area of Disability Studies. This developing field is another perspective on disabilities. Social rather than medical model of disabilities. Emphasis on inclusive education. Also interested in nature of science work. Currently editing two issues of LD Quarterly focusing on pluralism in special education. Working on importance of disability across disciplines. Working on “Great Thinkers”.

John Schuh (ISU) – Had intended to retire. Has been postponed. Most of career in administration. Difficult this year. Crisis of state finances. Area of interest is studying college students. Working with Higher Education Commission. Some international work (seminar in Berlin re college student experience). Going to Malaysia soon on college experiences. Has book coming out soon on Foundation in Student Services.

## Business Meeting

1. Call to order – John Schuh
2. Minutes – Smith moved and seconded by Brennan. Passed unanimously.
3. Reports from committees

Membership – David Bills. Will be gathering nomination shortly and moving forward with process.

Urban Award – Gary Phye. Last year only one application. Members asked to encourage colleagues to apply. Research does not have to have Iowa connection. Applicant has to be Iowa person. Also persons eligible beyond IHEs.

4. Treasurer’s and Executive Director’s Report (Dave Jepsen)

Provided in writing by Jepsen. Balance currently is \$2,220.63. Investments increased significantly (\$93,389.95). Estimated Annual Income (\$5,362).

Executive Director’s Report was presented separately.

5. Request from Jackie Blount

Recommend to move to Emeriti status. Moved to Andre. Second by Nick Colangelo Passed.

6. Proposed By-Law Amendment.

Introduced at last Fall meeting. Will have to be voted on next Fall. Further discussion. Consensus was that this is a reasonable expectation and this will be moved for vote at Fall meeting.

7. Ad-Hoc Publications Committee

Discussed report as submitted. We will need to clarify “annual fall series”. These would be written pieces. We also need to clarify who the audience will be and impact. Would it be possible to invite policy level persons in Iowa to hear views of Academy. We did accept ideas regarding publications program. It was also suggested that we need to develop a way of reacting to individual papers.

This led to broader discussion. We also discussed “Pressing issues impacting education in Iowa: Policy Issues for Consideration” We discussed possibility of how our meetings could be structured around relevant topics (possible expansion of invitees, different formats, current pressing topics, and papers). Question of how to truly impact policy and policy makers.

We will adopt theme of “Common Core” for Fall. Possibly invite DE person to provide overview with opportunity for Academy members to pose clarification questions, comments. A small subgroup (Nick C., Gary P. Deb (UNI )) will be responsible for planning Fall meeting and beginning structure of longer term framework for Academy work. This example format would lead to longer term five year plan for work of Academy. Goal would be that Academy would adopt this strategy as a long-term strategy for impacting policy in an ongoing way. Policy makers in Iowa would begin to anticipate the academy in leadership role in leading forum on critical educational issues.

Next meeting will be hosted at ISU. Date will be determined via e-mail survey of membership. We will look at possible Fridays in October.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl R. Smith