

**Iowa Academy of Education**  
**Spring Meeting, April 11, 2014, UNI**  
**Minutes**

(Submitted by Thomas Andre, Secretary)

**Opening**

President David Bills opened the meeting at 9:30 AM. Members present: Thomas Andre, Susan G. Assouline, Donald R. Bear, David Bills, Christopher R. Edginton, Susan Etscheidt, Deborah Gallagher, Linda Serra Hagedorn, David Jepsen, Christopher C. Morphey, Carla Peterson, Gary Phye, Gregory P. Stefanich, Donald B. Yarbrough. Also present: Executive Director, Jo Vaske, Presenter, David Friswold. President Bills indicated that Brad Buck was unable to attend the meeting and would be rescheduled. The agenda was adjusted appropriately.

**Welcome**

Katherine Cota-Uyar, Director of Business and Community Services Division, provided a welcome to the Business and Community Services Building in which we were meeting and described the activities of the Division. Programs are described on the B&CS webpage, <http://www.bcs.uni.edu/>, and include services to promote Iowa entrepreneurs and incubate companies.

**Presentation of Papers.**

At approximately 10 AM, David Friswold presented his paper, *Nutrition and Cognitive Achievement: An Evaluation of the School Breakfast Program*, followed by questions and discussion with members of the Academy. The paper previously was distributed by email to Academy members.

At approximately 11:15 AM, Thomas Andre presented a PowerPoint entitled: *Astronomy and Birding Hobbyists' Development, Motivations, and Informal Science Education*, co-authored by Gail Jones, Gina Childers, and Elysa Corin of North Carolina State University, followed by discussion with members of the Academy. A copy of the PowerPoint is available from [tandre@iastate.edu](mailto:tandre@iastate.edu).

**Lunch**

Following the presentation, the Academy broke for lunch which was sponsored by the Office of the President and College of Education, UNI. During lunch, members of the academy summarized their ongoing research and publication activities.

**Business Meeting**

At approximately 1:15 PM, President David Bills summarized a paper entitled *Taking Stock of the Iowa Academy of Education* dealing with the future of the Academy (see attached). The paper

included a discussion of IAE, a reminder that its purpose is to positively influence education in Iowa, and expressing a need to consider whether the activities of the Academy have sufficiently met that goal. President Bills asked for input from the Academy. A lively discussion, expressing a variety of ideas and viewpoints, ensued. Greg S. suggested that to influence policymakers IAE needs short statements directed to particular policy issues that will be read by stakeholders. Deb G. wondered whether consensus about policy is possible in the IAE. Don Y suggested that IAE might select a policy issue about which there could be agreement, focus on it, and perhaps bring in others to create a shareable statement of policy. Gary P. suggested that IAE might use its collective expertise to influence “policy/practice” (and perhaps also provide an infusion of money, an issue discussed below.). In effect IAE would influence policy as implemented into practice. AEAAs have to implement state mandated policies but may not always have the expertise needed to do so. IAE could contract, given members are willing to do so, to work with AEAAs to help develop effective ways of implementing policy. Members would serve as paid consultants for AEAAs. Gary suggested that fees for two or three consultations would go to IAE; fees for additional consulting on that issue by a member would go to the member.

Chris E described a way to influence legislation in Iowa. For a leisure project, he talked to legislators and lobbyists to learn mechanisms. Gary P. suggested that Chris was talking about issue or phase 1, influencing policy, while Gary’s suggested focused on issue or phase 2, the budget issue. Carla P. suggested that to influence policy we need to influence the legislature and public opinion and wondered if IAE had the will to do so. Deb G. raised the issue of whether we should or how we should respond to policies we do not agree with. Don Y. asked if we could find areas of policy about which there would be consensus within the IAE. David B indicated that IAE could influence policy discussion by being an “honest broker” of the research and theory relevant to the policy. Deb G. argued that education is always political and necessarily value-laden. *Inclusive* education might be an issue with some general consensus. Greg S. suggested that IAE could serve as an honest broker by supporting white papers based on good scholarship and finding avenues to publicize them. It was suggested that other organizations need good information that the expertise of IAE could provide. Carla P. suggested that we develop a list of other organizations we might partner with to provide or share information, e.g., Iowa School Board Association or others. Further IAE should focus on its expertise or doing what we know how to do. Tom A. suggested that a mechanism, based upon National Academy practices, for influencing practice might be to partner with the Deans of Education of the three regents’ institutions to sponsor an annual or biennial conference focused on some issue in educational policy and practice. IAE members, other faculty at the regents’ institutions or other institutions, and relevant practitioners would be invited to present and/or comment on papers presented at the conference. The papers would be published in an online volume and distributed electronically to school districts, AEAAs, etc., as well as published on the IAE website. The papers would seek to capture the diversity of views on the issue. Don Y. suggested that issues about which there was diametrically opposed public disagreement might be selected for conferences or other IAE efforts.

President Bills asked for members willing to serve on a committee to further discuss this issue and prepare a report to the Academy for the fall meeting. David B., Susan A., and Deb G. volunteered to serve on the committee. President Bills reserved the right to invite other IAE members to serve.

*[Secretary's note: Discussion of this issue was rapid and free flowing; I was unable to capture all of the remarks in as much detail as I would have liked. I would recommend that all members (those at the meeting and those who could not attend) consider David B's attached paper entitled Taking Stock of the Iowa Academy of Education and provide a more fully articulated response to the committee. Responses to the committee may be sent to David Bills, [david-bills@uiowa.edu](mailto:david-bills@uiowa.edu).]*

#### Business Meeting:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the fall meeting. Motion was approved.
2. A question was raised about a need for approval of checks as well as a need to audit the expenditures. The Executive Council will review the bylaws, address this issue, recommend policy/practice as appropriate, inform and/or ask members for approval of recommended changes.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the executive director's and treasurer's reports. Motions approved.
4. The Executive Council informed the membership that a contract had been concluded with Jo Vaske to serve as Executive Director at a salary of \$6000 per annum and with travel expenses paid for up to three meetings per year. A question was raised as to whether this action needed to approval of the membership. Article VII of the constitution states that the budgetary authority of the Academy rests with the Executive Council.
5. There was a discussion of the financial state of the Academy. The return on the endowment investment of the Academy is insufficient to generate the income needed for Academy operations (about \$7500-\$8000) per year without cutting into principal. The current financial advisor has recommended changes and has sought to change the terms of the contract. The Executive Council has initiated contacts with alternative financial advisors and is exploring alternatives to reduce the cost of managing investments. In addition, the Academy will seek annual contributions from UNI and ISU, similar to that provided by UI that will supplement the income from the endowment. Long term the solution is to grow the endowment of the academy. Were the endowment approximately double its current amount, it would like cover annual expenses. The Executive Council will continue to explore options for dealing with this issue.
6. Don Y. provided an overview of the membership nomination process. Nominations for membership are due June 1<sup>st</sup>. The nomination process requires a letter of nomination and the curriculum vita of the nominee. The criteria for membership are listed below (Section

2). The committee anticipates distributing nominations to Academy members by July 15 with August 15<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for voting.

The IAE Constitution describes the following membership criteria and process.

#### *MEMBERSHIP*

*Section 1:* The Academy shall consist of no more than thirty (30) Members whose scholarly and scientific writings bearing on the subject of education are judged outstanding by Members of the Academy and their peers.

*Section 2:* Membership is granted to individuals whose scholarship demonstrates rigor and creativity. It is not the quantity of effort but the significance of the scholarship that is critical for Membership in the Academy. The criteria for selection of Members to the Academy are:

1. Outstanding scholarship related to teaching and learning;
2. Respect and recognition among peers; and
3. A significant contribution to education.

Members of the Academy are encouraged to submit nominations and also to remember that a person does not need to be a faculty member at a Regents' Institution to be an academy member.

7. Carla P., Chair of the Urban Award Committee, provided an overview of the Urban research award process. The membership approved a change in the Urban Award form (Carla P. moved; Gary P. seconded). The deadline for application/nomination is June 1.
8. The membership approved the request by Greg Stefanich to move to Emeritus Status.
9. A tentative date for the Annual meeting was set for October. 31 with a backup date of October 3. President Bills requested that members provide suggestions for presenters for future meetings.

For the convenience of members, the IAE website link is provided below. The constitution, bylaws, membership, officer list, Urban award, and other information relevant to membership are provided on the website: <http://www2.education.uiowa.edu/html/iae/Pages/officials.html>