

**FACULTY SENATE**  
**Tuesday, February 10, 2015**  
**3:30 – 5:15 pm**  
**Senate Chamber, Old Capitol**

**MINUTES**

Senators Present: P. Abbas, F. Abboud, M. Adamek, J. Bates, C. Benson, K. Brown, J. Buatti, G. Buettner, S. Campo, D. Caplan, J. Colgan, F. Durham, B. Eckstein, A. Ersig, N. Fethke, J. Foote, A. Gerke, E. Gillan, A. Hasan, J. Iverson, Z. Jin, K. Kieran, A. Lee, G. Lee, T. Mabry, U. Mallik, A. Merino, D. Murry, J. Murry, M. Nikolas, L. Plakans, L. Ponto, E. Prussing, P. Romitti, L. Segre, S. Seibert, P. Snyder, C. Sponsler, L. Storrs, C. Swan, B. Thompson, T. Treat, H. Udaykumar, M. Voigt, J. Wang, J. Wilcox, D. Wilder.

Officers Present: C. Bohannon, R. Fumerton, A. Thomas, T. Vaughn.

Senators Excused: P. Brophy, D. Dawson, A. Kwitek, N. Langguth, K. Light-McGroary, P. Muhly.

Senators Absent: S. Ali, A. Amendola, S. Baker, M. Blumberg, T. Burstain, S. Daack-Hirsch, K. Glenn, T. Havens, J. Klesney-Tait, J. Kolker, W. Maury, J. McNamara, R. Rocha, Y. Sato, W. Schmidt, D. Segaloff, S. Vos, R. Williams, P. Windschitl, T. Yahr.

Guests: G. Barta (Athletics), S. Buckley (Vice President for Human Resources), B. Butler (Provost), S. Fleagle (Information Technology Services), H. Hoerschelman (Staff Council), T. Johnson (Interim University Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer), R. Lehnertz (Interim Senior Vice President for Finance & Operations), K. Kregel (Office of the Provost), S. Mason (President), L. McLeran (Office of the President), J. Menninger (Emeritus Faculty Council), L. Snetselaar (Office of the Provost), K. Ward (Human Resources), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate Office), D. Zumbach (Purchasing).

I. Call to Order – President Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Approvals

- A. Meeting Agenda – Professor Campo moved and Professor Snyder seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes (December 2, 2014) – Professor Storrs moved and Professor Campo seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Committee Appointments (Christina Bohannon, Chair, Committee on Committees)

- Alicia Gerke (Internal Medicine) to fill the unexpired term of Ekhard Ziegler (Pediatrics) on Faculty Senate, Spring 2015
- Usha Mallik (Physics & Astronomy) to replace Claire Fox (English) on Faculty Council, Spring 2015
- Ali Hasan (Philosophy) to replace Claire Fox (English) on Faculty Senate, Spring 2015
- Peter Snyder (Internal Medicine) to fill the unexpired term of Ekhard Ziegler (Pediatrics) on the Faculty Policy & Compensation Committee, Spring 2015
- Carolyn Colvin (Teaching & Learning) to fill the unexpired term of Jane Pendergast (Biostatistics) on the Committee for the Selection and Review of Central Academic Officials, 2015-16
- Paul Hanley (Public Policy Center) to fill the unexpired term of John Beldon Scott (Art & Art History) on the Campus Planning Committee, Spring 2015
- Ned Bowden (Chemistry) to fill the unexpired term of Morten Schlutter (Religious Studies) on the University Libraries Committee, Spring 2015
- Scott Vogelgesang (Internal Medicine) to fill the unexpired term of Rachel Williams (Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies) on the Hancher Advisory Committee, 2015-17
- Christopher Benson (Internal Medicine) to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Dillon (Internal Medicine) on the Research Council, Spring 2015
- David Cuning (Philosophy) to fill the unexpired term of Neil Segal (Orthopaedics) on the Research Council, 2015-16
- Meara Habashi (Psychology) to the Lecturer's seat on the Council on Teaching, Spring 2015

Vice President Bohannon drew the group's attention to the last appointment on the list, that of Lecturer Meara Habashi to a seat on the Council on Teaching. She reminded the group that the addition of a lecturer seat to the Council on Teaching was approved at the October Senate meeting. That change to the Council on Teaching membership has also been approved by the other shared governance bodies, as well as by Provost Butler and President Mason, and it has been incorporated into the Operations Manual.

Professor Treat moved and Professor Kieran seconded that the appointments be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

### III. New Business

- *Sally Mason, President*

President Thomas introduced President Sally Mason, who was making her last annual appearance before the Senate. President Mason has announced that she will retire this summer. President Thomas praised President Mason's efforts during and after the flood of 2008 and commented that the numerous new buildings now under construction are a testament to her vibrant leadership. She also praised President Mason's firm commitment to shared governance.

President Mason began her remarks by indicating her priorities for the final months of her presidency. Those priorities include fundraising, enrollment and other types of growth, and the Transparent Inclusive Efficiency Review (TIER). She made a brief digression to express her pride in the students who participated in Dance Marathon this past weekend. The annual event raised \$2 million for the first time this year. Returning to the topic of enrollment growth,

President Mason observed that, as the university moves closer to full recovery from the flood, it is well positioned for growth. A number of new buildings are scheduled to open in 2016, and several other flood-related projects are underway. Regarding enrollment, President Mason praised Provost Butler and his enrollment management team for their efforts to increase the number of applications and admissions for next fall. She expressed confidence that the goal of increasing the first-year class by 500 each year for the next several years would be attained. She stressed, however, that we must maintain quality. In order to continue delivering a high quality education to a greater number of students, we will need more tenure-track faculty. Funds to hire these faculty will come from, among other sources, savings realized through the efficiency review. Housing capacity must be increased, as well, to accommodate these additional students. This fall, the first of two new residence halls will open, while the second residence hall is in the early stages of development. Leasing capacity will also need to expand. Classroom space, while sufficient for the present, may be another area in which the university must grow.

The university is refining its strategies for enrollment management. President Mason reminded the group that in the fall semester following the flood, about 500 more students than anticipated enrolled in the university. It was a challenge to provide for all of the needs of these additional students, but the university was able to maintain its high standards. This past summer, a review of the university's student recruitment strategies was conducted. This review looked at recruiting tactics, enrollment goals, institutional messaging, financial aid leveraging, etc., and will provide the university with a good basis to move forward strategically, in terms of future incoming classes' academic preparation, diversity, and other desired characteristics. Recently, a new Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Brent Gage, has been hired and he is off to a dynamic start. President Mason noted that communication and recruitment are crucial to enrollment management. Prospective students must be shown why they should come to UI and they must feel wanted by UI. The university is encouraging prospective students to make campus visits and is also re-structuring its campus visit program, such as the addition of the You @UI Day in October. Over 2600 prospective students visited campus that day last fall and the application and acceptance numbers reflect that increased interest in UI. She congratulated the entire university community on this effort and commented that, as the flood experience has taught us, when we all pull together we can accomplish anything. She added that applications are up about 10%, from in-state, out-of-state and international students. The student body next fall will be larger, more diverse, and better prepared.

President Mason then turned to the recent acquisition of the American Institute of Business (AIB) by UI. The AIB has gifted itself to the university, providing UI with a campus in Des Moines, where UI can now serve a very diverse group of individuals. Regarding TIER, she thanked Mark Braun, now the Regents' TIER Transformation Project Manager, for his work in shaping the TIER projects. President Mason concluded her remarks by encouraging senators to participate in some way in the Food for Thought Theme Semester. This is UI's first theme semester and it focuses on all aspects of food, touching on the arts and humanities, environmental studies and health sciences, and business and law. Associate Provost for Outreach and Engagement Linda Snetselaar will deliver the annual Presidential Lecture on February 22 on the topic of Food, Culture and Community. In conclusion, President Mason

commented that it has been a great honor and privilege to have served as president of the University of Iowa for the past eight years and the faculty are at the heart of everything that is special about the university. She thanked the faculty for everything they do.

Professor Seibert asked what UI's objectives were in the acquisition of AIB. President Mason responded that AIB will be called the Regional Regents Center operated by the University of Iowa, to allow for many types of partnerships in the future. The purpose of the center will be to serve the Des Moines community, particularly the business community, but other constituents, as well. There may be possibilities for online education based there, as well as for housing accommodations for UI students who wish to do internships in the Des Moines area. Accreditation issues have to be resolved before all the potential options become clear. Professor Wilder asked if AIB students will be counted among UI students. President Mason said yes, if they become our students. Professor Wilder then asked if online students could be counted as ours. President Mason responded that yes, they would be.

Professor Buettner asked if efforts would be made to expand graduate student enrollment. President Mason responded that this is an area where faculty efforts are especially needed. Increasing the number of faculty and finding resources for the support of graduate students are crucial. AIB may also provide opportunities to expand graduate programs. Professor Wilcox asked about available resources to hire more faculty members. President Mason responded that both the TIER study and the new early retirement program are expected to generate resources that could be used to hire additional faculty members. The Regents have indicated that savings realized through TIER will be re-invested in each institution. Professor Mallik expressed concern about the circumstances that lead to the hiring of more lecturers over tenure-track faculty, although it is the latter who are responsible for the university's strength in research. President Mason reiterated that the TIER study should lead to more resources for the hiring of tenure-track faculty, but also commented that the increased number of students should also generate more funds for hiring tenure-track faculty. Professor Segre asked if, given UI's planned increased presence in Des Moines, there would be transportation options available to faculty who travel there frequently. President Mason agreed that this is something to look into as we move forward with the AIB acquisition.

- *Athletic Director Gary Barta*

President Thomas introduced Athletic Director Gary Barta, who visits the Senate annually, a reflection of his deep and true commitment to the academic success of our student athletes. In the past year there have been major changes to the national landscape regarding collegiate athletics, for example, greater autonomy for some of the conferences, including the Big Ten. President Thomas added that the Faculty Council had recently heard a presentation about labor issues pertaining to collegiate athletics. She noted that Mr. Barta has been accessible to faculty and open to discussion of the intersection between athletics and academics.

Mr. Barta distributed a handout summarizing the athletic department's current strategic plan. He indicated that the department strives to "win, graduate, and do it right." If any one element of these goals is missing, then the department has failed in its mission. Faculty are involved in athletics in a variety of ways, aside from their role in the classroom. In addition to

Mr. Barta's yearly visits to the Senate, two faculty members, Ellen Herman from Education and Gene Parkin from Engineering, have been appointed as the Faculty Athletics Representatives. Faculty also serve on the Presidential Committee on Athletics. Mr. Barta indicated that as a member of President Mason's cabinet, he has the opportunity to hear about all of the major issues on campus and he strives to forge ties and partnerships with entities across the university. Mr. Barta explained that the department is now in its second strategic plan since his arrival on campus. The distributed document lays out the department's goals in finances, facilities, academics, diversity, etc.

Turning to the performances of the athletic teams, Mr. Barta noted that winter sports are well underway. Basketball and wrestling are in the heart of their seasons. The women's basketball team, coached by Lisa Bluder, is having an amazing year. The wrestling team is poised to compete for a national championship. The men's basketball team has had some impressive wins lately. Spring sports, such as tennis and swimming, are beginning their seasons now. The university will be hosting the NCAA swimming championships next month in the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center. Mr. Barta commented that UI has a long tradition of successfully graduating its athletes. This year, there was an all-time graduation success rate of 89% for student athletes. The federal graduation rate, which uses a slightly different set of criteria, was measured at 78%, a high number nationally, as well as compared to the general student body's number of 70%. Student athletes also engage in many volunteer activities throughout the community and serve as wonderful ambassadors for the university.

Mr. Barta referred senators to the distributed handout about the athletics budget. The UI athletics budget will be \$88 million next year. This is significantly less than some of UI's Big Ten peers. The UI athletics budget has been self-sustaining since 2007, with no general fund dollars or student fees coming into the department. The athletics department also contributes to various projects on campus, through, for example, partnerships it has formed with the libraries and recreational services.

The national collegiate athletic scene poses a number of challenges, Mr. Barta observed. The country's strong interest in football and men's basketball has brought enormous sums of money into collegiate sports. This situation has led to a debate regarding whether student athletes are university employees who should be paid for their efforts. Mr. Barta spoke in favor of the collegiate model, in which students athletes are not paid but receive many benefits because of their status. He noted that athletic scholarships would need to be taxed if student athletes became university employees. There has been concern that athletics scholarships do not cover the full cost of attendance, but recent changes to the NCAA structure now allow some conferences to cover their student athletes' full cost of attendance. He added that the revenue from football and men's basketball often supports many of the other collegiate sports, and those teams may need to be eliminated if the collegiate model changes. In conclusion, Mr. Barta said that the vast majority of student athletes are wonderful young people who are succeeding in all aspects of their lives and will likely continue to do so once they leave the university.

Professor Wilder asked what steps were being taken to minimize and identify head injuries among student athletes, particularly in football. Mr. Barta acknowledged the extensive media

coverage of this topic lately. He explained that the Big Ten has been involved in research on concussions and their short- and long-term effects. He added that there have been several rule changes in football in order to lessen the degree of impact, as well as equipment modifications to enhance player safety. Every UI student athlete is put through a medical baseline test when they arrive on campus. The test also measures motor and verbal skills. If a concussion occurs, a student athlete must be cleared by a physician as having returned to that baseline before s/he can resume practice or competition. Following up on this discussion, Professor Voigt commented that it has been estimated that up to a third of football players suffer traumatic brain injury, the effects of which may not show up until those players are in their 50's or 60's. He asked how this phenomenon could be reconciled with the practice of not paying student athletes even though they generate revenue for the university. Mr. Barta responded that anyone who plays football must understand the inherent risks of the sport, as he himself did as a student athlete. However, every effort must be made to minimize the danger to players. Also, even though student athletes are not paid, the education they receive here is an invaluable investment in their futures.

Professor John Murry mentioned the recent scandal at the University of North Carolina involving academic fraud and student athletes. He asked how we would ensure that something like that never happens here. Mr. Barta responded that it is important to have the right procedures and personnel in place, a system of checks and balances, with continuous monitoring. Nevertheless, it is impossible to guarantee that no problems will ever occur. Professor Abboud asked what big challenges Mr. Barta anticipated facing in the near future. Mr. Barta answered that the growing national interest in football and men's basketball, along with the increased television exposure, have complicated the collegiate athletic environment, leading to greater pressure to win and greater temptation to cheat. He stressed that it is important not to sacrifice our academic mission and our social mission just in order to win.

- *Update on TIER Efficiency Review (Susan Buckley, Vice President for Human Resources; Barry Butler, Provost; Steve Fleagle, Chief Information Officer; Terry Johnson, Interim University Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Rodney Lehnertz, Interim Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations; Laura McLeran, Office of the President; Scott Seibert, Management and Organizations; Deborah Zumbach, Director of Purchasing)*

Laura McLeran, Assistant Vice President for External Relations in the Office of the President, who also serves as the UI TIER Representative, explained that the UI campus leadership group for both the business and academic sides of the Board of Regent's Transparent, Inclusive, Efficiency Review includes Mary Jane Beach, Assistant Vice President for Business Services; Joe Brennan, Vice President for Strategic Communication; Sue Buckley, Vice President for Human Resources; Barry Butler, Executive Vice President and Provost; Steve Fleagle, Chief Information Officer; Terry Johnson, Interim University Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Rod Lehnertz, Interim Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations; Kevin Ward, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Administration; Debby Zumbach, Director of Purchasing and Associate Director of Business Services; and herself. The Sounding Board, formed at the beginning of the project to provide campus feedback to the outside consultants, has consisted of members of the shared governance leadership teams and representatives from AFSCME. Members of the individual business case working groups have been added to the Sounding

Board now that we have entered the implementation phase. Past President Fumerton and Professor Rachel Williams, a Faculty Senator, are the faculty representatives on the Sounding Board.

Ms. McLeran indicated that there are four academic cases and eight business cases currently underway. Three consulting firms have been hired to work with the campuses on various cases. Chazey Partners will be assisting with the delivery of service (shared services) model. Huron Consulting has been hired to work on the sourcing and procurement issues. Ad Astra will assist with academic space utilization. A consultant to work on the academic issues is still being sought.

Deborah Zumbach, Director of Purchasing, began her remarks by commenting that the cooperation of the entire university community would be needed in order to make any changes succeed. She indicated that Huron Consulting would conduct an assessment of purchasing procedures across the Regents institutions and will provide guidance on how to improve. Huron is also looking at the internal purchasing organizational structure and technology, as well as at seven separate spend categories (office supplies, laboratory supplies, etc.), to determine where money can be saved. Turning to shared services, Ms. Zumbach reassured the group that there was no intention of moving staff members to new locations, away from their home units. In the event that the provision of services is consolidated in some way, this centralization will be virtual. The model calls for individuals to become specialized in various types of transactions, such as those relating to travel or to procurement cards, for a larger entity, instead of being responsible for a wide variety tasks for one unit. One of the next steps in this process will be the development of a survey sent to the relevant employees to determine which tasks they do and how often they do them. There will be continued communication with all affected departments as we move through this process.

Steve Fleagle, Chief Information Officer, explained that there will be on-campus and off-campus components related to the four information technology recommendations made by the previous consultant, Deloitte. Collaborative efforts with ISU and UNI are still in the earliest stages of planning. The on-campus component, OneIT@Iowa, encompasses a range of efforts. He stressed that IT personnel will not be moved to centralized locations, nor will a “one-size-fits-all” mentality be applied to the university’s vastly differentiated IT needs. Also, only infrastructure and commodity types of services are affected by the review. Representatives from administrative and collegiate units and central IT will soon begin discussing ways to improve efficiency in their areas.

Sue Buckley, Vice President for Human Resources, indicated to the group that there was one human resources business case, involving the consolidation and realignment of human resources representatives. This effort will be called HR One. She explained that currently there is a senior HR leader for each college or division. Under these senior leaders are various HR representatives, embedded in the smaller units. These HR unit reps do a variety of non-HR-related tasks as well, and although this system works well, greater efficiency may be found by having the HR unit reps do only HR-related activity. Transition to this new system will take place carefully and thoughtfully, with full involvement of the affected units. Another aspect of

HR One is to bring SEIU and Merit employees into the electronic performance review and goal management system. The final aspect is to work with Equal Opportunity and Diversity to think about our roles and responsibilities to talent acquisition and recruitment, and try to re-balance local responsibilities with central HR so that there is less bureaucracy in the long run.

Provost Butler updated the group on the space utilization consulting contract with Ad Astra. The consulting firm will examine whether we are using classroom space efficiently. Consulting firms are still being sought to look into online education and time to graduation. One case has been finished; this is the revised Regents Admissions Index (RAI), which was approved by the Board of Regents at their meeting last week. A revised index was needed because many of Iowa's larger high schools are no longer assigning class rankings to their students. Class ranking had been one of the four parameters previously used in the RAI; the others were grade point average, ACT score, and the number of classes taken in certain core areas. The Board had requested that the three institutions come up with an alternative admissions index that does not include class ranking.

Rod Lehnertz, Interim Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations, pointed out that when TIER moved to the implementation phase and the work with Deloitte was completed, the Board had allowed the university to compete with outside consulting firms by submitting their own plans for the subsequent work. Mr. Lehnertz expressed gratitude to the Board for allowing the universities this opportunity, and he also thanked Mark Braun, the TIER Transformation Project Manager, for his guidance and leadership during this process.

Scott Seibert, a member of the Faculty Council and one of the faculty members, along with John Murry, chosen to assist in the selection of the consultants for the academic business cases, distance education and time to graduation, indicated that the final decision for the selection of the consultant would be made later this week.

- *Working at Iowa Survey Results (Kevin Ward, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Administration)*

Kevin Ward, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Administration, referred the group to his handout for a definition of the term *engagement*, the level of which the *Working at Iowa* survey is designed to measure: “employing and expressing your physical, mental and emotional energy” in the workplace. He explained that engagement at work comes from understanding the meaning of one's work, receiving support at work, and achieving competence in one's work. Research has shown that engagement contributes to higher productivity and less absenteeism, among other positive effects. Employee engagement leads to organizational success in recruitment and retention of faculty, staff, and students; greater health and productivity of workers; and an enhanced university experience for students, patients, and Iowans.

The 2014 participation rate exceeded that of all other *Working at Iowa* surveys. Sixty-eight percent of the 16,400 eligible employees took the survey; with 69% of faculty participating. The survey revealed that UI employees have a particular strength in understanding the *meaning* of their work, with 95% of respondents knowing both their work expectations and their

contributions to the mission of the university. We must consider how best to utilize this positive information, perhaps in the recruitment of faculty and staff. *Respect* is another category with strong results, with 90% of respondents saying that their supervisor treats them with respect. Areas for improvement, for which the survey statements had the highest number of *slightly disagree* responses, included support for balance of work and personal responsibilities, opportunities for promotion, and recognition of the accomplishments of faculty and staff. For faculty, the three lowest areas of agreement were *my unit supports work and personal life*, 71%; *fair workload distribution*, 74%; and *UI recognizes accomplishments*, 76%. These three items present many opportunities for constructive conversation within departments and colleges.

Mr. Ward indicated that the survey results are being shared across campus with the goal of precipitating conversations about and reflection upon the meaning of the results, and then identifying strategic areas that central Human Resources can impact. He stressed that the survey provides a snapshot of the campus within a certain time frame, and is but one tool to address issues of productivity, turnover, recruitment, etc. More broadly, each unit should take this opportunity to consider whether strategic goals are being met and if not, how improvements could be made.

Professor Voigt asked about comparisons between faculty responses in the health sciences and in the other parts of campus. He noted that health science faculty work in a very competitive, tightly-regulated, business-oriented environment and answer not only to the university but also to external funding agencies, thereby fulfilling a variety of missions, some of which may differ from those of the university. Some health science faculty may end up focusing heavily on the academic mission and research and others primarily on patient care. Mr. Ward responded that there are multiple breakout reports that have been made available to each college. Professor Campo stressed the importance of determining whether clusters of dissatisfaction exist in particular departments or colleges, or among particular groups of faculty. If so, these situations need to be addressed, and not only by the colleges. Mr. Ward concurred and added that the survey results tend to hold steady from year to year, no matter what else may be going on in the university. In response to a comment, he noted that it is the colleges' responsibility to share breakout reports with units, which decide how to utilize the information.

Professor Caplan commented that the results of his department had been lumped together with the results of another department because both were relatively small and anonymity needed to be protected. As chair, he was then asked to propose improvements based upon the survey results. However, because of the combined survey results, it is unclear to him what the problems are in his department. And, if he does try to make improvements, it will be equally unclear if those improvements were successful, again because his department's future survey results will not stand alone. Mr. Ward suggested that Professor Caplan discuss the combined departmental or the collegiate results with his unit and ask which of the responses are applicable to their department. He could then move forward with possible improvements based on the feedback from this discussion.

Drawing the group's attention to the data provided in the handout that attributed higher productivity, lower turnover, etc. to increased levels of engagement, a senator asked if efforts

were being made to determine such measurements specifically for UI, to then drive programming for health and well-being. Mr. Ward responded that there appears to be a connection between the health and wellness programs offered to UI employees and some of these impacts, but there has not yet been a focused effort on collecting this specific type of data for UI. Vice President Bohannon asked if deans were required to share the survey results with their faculty. Mr. Ward responded that deans were strongly encouraged to do so. He added that faculty results at the university level could be shared with the Senate leadership. Professor Abboud suggested that efforts be made to remedy problems in individual units without publicly identifying those units. A senator followed up on Vice President Bohannon's question by urging that Human Resources share the collegiate and departmental survey information directly with faculty and staff. The high survey participation rate by faculty seems to indicate that faculty want change in their units.

- *Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (Linda Snetselaar, Associate Provost for Outreach and Engagement)*

Associate Provost Snetselaar explained that the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Carnegie Engagement Classification is obtained through an entirely voluntary application procedure. Associate Provost Snetselaar worked with Professor Colin Gordon and collegiate representatives to submit the lengthy application. About 30% of institutions which apply do not receive the designation, so UI's approval is a testament to the extensive engagement activity of our faculty and staff, as well as the commitment of our administration. The designation is awarded for ten years. Professor Wilder suggested that the Regents be informed of this honor. Associate Provost Snetselaar indicated that university communications staff will be getting the word out. She added that Iowa State University has also received the designation.

- *Update on Presidential Search (Alexandra Thomas)*

President Thomas commented that since President Mason had announced her retirement last month, the Senate officers have advocated for a meaningful faculty voice as we select the twenty-first president of the University of Iowa. As context, she stated that it was important that the officers have established a respectful and trustful relationship with the Board of Regents. This relationship will be conducive to broad faculty input in the upcoming search.

Opportunities for faculty input will take several forms. The screen and search committee itself will have seven faculty members, including the president and vice president of the Senate, with the other five faculty members to be selected by the Regents from a list generated by the Senate's Committee on the Selection of Central Academic Officials, chaired by Professor Katherine Tachau. Vice President Robillard and Dean Sarah Gardial, who hold faculty appointments, are also members of the search committee.

The finalists will visit campus and meet with various stakeholders, including faculty. The faculty group will most likely be the Faculty Council. Feedback on the candidates will be solicited from all faculty. Forums will be held throughout the search process, allowing faculty to hear and respond to the latest information about the process. Finalists will also hold town hall

meetings during their visits; faculty will be encouraged to attend these events. The Senate officers invite comments and questions at any time.

President Thomas stated that the faculty and the Regents have a common goal of finding an outstanding president for UI. She indicated that the timeline is not yet clear, but may become so in the next few weeks. There is no pre-set list of candidates that the Regents have in mind. President Thomas encouraged faculty members to submit names of qualified candidates for consideration by the search committee.

In response to a question, President Thomas indicated that a search firm would likely be engaged. Professor Mallik asked if she was consulted when the chair of the search committee (Vice President Robillard) was selected. President Thomas responded that she was informed ahead of time who the chair would be. She commented that the officers had worked hard to increase the number of faculty members on the search committee. Professor Mallik congratulated the officers for their efforts in working with the Regents, with the result of ensuring strong faculty representation in the search process. In response to a question, President Thomas indicated that the search committee would be comprised of 21 individuals, including faculty, staff, students, Regents, representatives from the UI Foundation and Alumni Association, and community members. In conclusion, President Thomas said that she was extremely excited by this opportunity for the entire campus.

IV. From the Floor – There were no items from the floor.

V. Announcements

- The call has gone out for nominations for the Michael J. Brody Award for Faculty Excellence in Service to the University and the State of Iowa. Please encourage your colleagues to nominate someone. The deadline to submit nominations is Thursday, March 12.
- The online committee recruitment drive has begun and will conclude on Friday, March 6. Please encourage your colleagues to participate.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 3:30-5:15 pm, University Capitol Centre 2390.
- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, March 24, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Campo moved and Professor Gillan seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Thomas adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.