



# CONGRESS

**Monday, February 14, 2022**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**3:00 pm**

## Minutes

Present: Shawn Huisinga, Mary Howard-Hamilton, Bobbie Jo Monahan, Larry Tinnerman, Amanda White, Jon Iftikar

Ex-officio: Linda Sperry; Brad Balch

1. Call to Order – 3:03pm
2. Approval of minutes for January 24, 2022
  - a. Move: L. Tinnerman; Second: B.J. Monahan; No discussion; Vote: 5-0-0 [M. Howard-Hamilton was not present for vote.]
3. Old Business
  - a. Shawn: Survey for constitutional revisions ready to go and will be sent out sometime this week
  - b. Linda: we will have Karen send it out
4. New Business
  - a. Most Important Issues for Student Success (Linda Sperry)
    - i. L. Sperry: what are most important issues for students in terms of them feeling successful in courses and program?
    - ii. L. Tinnerman:
      - a. we tend to retreat to safe spaces as instructors; students are picking up on that;
      - b. we're missing big picture; in our doctoral program we're not preparing them to defend dissertations or proposals; so going to reexamine how we're integrating those preparations; need to prepare them for knowledge and practice; sometimes I hear from students that they want boilerplate so they cannot fail; I like to give more latitude;
      - c. I do sense a tremendous amount of frustration; students have asked for copies of Blackboard courses
    - iii. L. Sperry: years ago had faculty member come in who was practicing clinician; she did not want to provide any rubrics or description of assignments; wanted it to be

professor-run show; had to let her go b/c not a good learner on how to do things; heard this complaint about junior faculty – at ISU everything seems spelled out and have to do what professor says; hearing that students are expecting recipe and are frustrated when they don't get one

- iv. B.J. Monahan:
  - a. as program coordinator spending more time on Zoom than ever imagined; I've found in last 2 years students want clear and concise expectations, it's the advisement and relationship piece that will help students be successful; in last 2 years I'm becoming more of a counselor rather than advisor; that wears on me;
  - b. I have had no issues with students on Canvas or with assignments; I open it up that if they want to do something more relevant to their own work contact me; we get rich assignments as a result;
  - c. we do need to keep tabs on each other re: the counseling piece
- v. S. Huisinga: we do a trauma book study in my behavior course with undergrads; behavior being an expression of need; my last question is: "if you have a need and you would like to share feel free to share"; they shared that they don't feel like they belong; I hope I'm creating that in classroom; is there something that we can do here about that?
- vi. L. Sperry: they don't belong to class or university?
- vii. S. Huisinga: I did not take it as belonging to class but sense of belonging on campus; what went to my head is I didn't do a good job with my student org. in the fall; I need to do better; some students would say they don't feel a connection
- viii. L. Tinnerman: I had 2 dissertation students who I invited to a restaurant for meeting; they showed up but so did 15 other doctoral students b/c they didn't feel like they had any other faculty to converse with
- ix. L. Sperry: students aren't coming to campus like they used to
- x. L. Tinnerman: I already accepted 20 doctoral students; I have close to 35 more waiting for decisions
- xi. L. Sperry: how about rest of you? what are you hearing about them feeling successful in course, program, and profession?
- xii. A. White: in terms of choice of profession; I teach counseling students and they're really struggling right now; they question if program is right for them; they knew it would be challenging entering during pandemic but didn't fully grasp how difficult it would be; students have to have a certain number of face-to-face hours and have been finding it difficult to do that (b/c of pandemic, weather delays, etc.); we had long talk about what I can do to help them; going to talk to Tonya Balch to see what we can do to help b/c they're struggling
- xiii. L. Tinnerman: I interview every one of my applicants; I ask: "why apply now after years of teaching?" They say I'm getting out of teaching; can't deal with teaching anymore; this is huge; they think there's a better path for them
- xiv. M. Howard-Hamilton:
  - a. I think that for master's program in student affairs when students are ready to graduate they say they do not feel prepared; we try very hard to let them know that it's impossible to prepare them for everything they're going to encounter; best example I give them is right now – who could train them to prepare for the pandemic? we give them the tools;
  - b. students are stressed, tired, and exhausted; that's across the board; as dept. chair I see that in every program in the dept.; there are calls coming in; most of our students are parents in addition to being administrators; I can't tell you the number of grief cards I've sent in the past 3 years; it is overwhelming for everyone;

- c. we try really hard for example – dissertation writing retreat was extremely successful; wished every faculty member could help; we should have it again; I think this is something we can do across departments; I would love to see that happen again this fall and spring
- xv. L. Tinnerman: we need to have a conference where students share work; safe conference space; we used to have people writing articles and publishing but doesn't happen anymore; give them opportunity to build vita so they don't feel underprepared when they leave
- xvi. B. Balch:
  - a. I just finished interview with Sue Laughlin who wanted to know our students' perspectives on being prepared for practice; I tend to be hopeful about their future; House Bill 1134 kind of a downer; looks draconian; bill will probably not be realized before 2023 or 24; teachers are showing up to capital saying they're not being trusted; many have said I'm going to put hands up and retire;
  - b. we have the highest persistence on the campus; for me challenge is to get into pipeline earlier; I'm looking at partnerships with schools; we need more mid-career changers to come through ISU; we're leading campus on least amount of decreased enrollments b/c work you all do putting students at center; our young people still see bright and hopeful future; they recognize challenges though (pandemic, low pay, etc.); I love that this college has a focus on student success; every other college is declining while we are adding students; so much to be proud of as a college
- xvii. J. Iftikar: I echo Bobbie Jo and Mary's comments; students seem to be fatiguing earlier in the semester and school year; feel like need to lift students up emotionally which can be draining
- xviii. L. Sperry; have heard of nice suggestions; dissertation writing retreat for spring; when would be best time for that? spring break too soon; maybe aim for early May?
- xix. M. Howard-Hamilton: I can put it on our agenda; we have faculty meeting next week
- xx. L. Sperry:
  - a. T&L also has a lot of dissertations; between Larry and you, should have a good handle on people and can make it happen;
  - b. Larry you've said to provide opportunities for showcasing students' work; they have undergrad. presentations for student research; I used to go to support students but that was years ago; one of problems is that it becomes kind of competitive and that's not always positive;
  - c. we are ourselves under stress; pandemic is wearing us down; recently have talked to son who is in ER doing rotation; he tells horrific stories of parents who are out of control and mistreating children; horrible car accidents; he works in very economically depressed part of country; political tones that are running through society causes stress as well; how can we combat it?
  - d. we just got up and running BCOE student center in space of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor math lab; it's a nice space; what kinds of programming would you like us to put on? we could do small poster presentations there; people are more reluctant to pitch in and part of that is we've been at home for so long; if I were to give them feedback; they're thinking of a living room sort of approach
- xxi. B.J. Monahan: maybe have some professors hold class in there and serve food so students get acclimated
- xxii. L. Tinnerman: we have silos that we've built up in our minds; it's gotten to the point of closing us off from each other

xxiii. L. Sperry: we have new student center; do have a lot of dissertation writers on campus; will definitely reach out to dissertation writers and get something set up and see if we can hold hands and make student center successful; will be sending around this week constitutional amendments; they're relatively minor; we're after-the-fact catching up with best practice

5. Dean's Report

a. Nothing to report

6. Chair's Report

a. Nothing to report

7. Open Discussion

a. None

8. Adjournment – 3:45pm

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