

\*House Committee\*

## COMMITTEE MINUTES for GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Date: *March 2, 2021*

Location: *Law Library*

Convened: *8:40 AM*

Adjourned: *9:30 AM*

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Representatives Brink-CH, Jacobsen-VC, Gaines-RM, Holt, Isenhardt, James, Kaufmann, Olson, Thompson

Absent:

Excused:

Chairwoman Brink called the meeting to order at 8:41 AM on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members introduced themselves to the committee. Roll was called during this time. The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed electronically to the members. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

No bills were available for assignment.

Chairwoman Brink introduced the meeting.

Chairwoman Brink recognized representatives from the University of Iowa for introductions and opening comments lasting no longer than five minutes. The guests of the committee are Kevin Kregel, Executive Vice President and Provost, Liz Tovar, Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, David Johnson, Dean of the College of Dentistry

Dean Johnson thanked the committee. Dean Johnson announced changes to the CAPP committee. The CAPP committee will be dismantled and rebuilt. The CAPP committee ensures compliance with the national standards. First, expulsion will be dropped from being stated in the letter, 2<sup>nd</sup> will clearly state the next steps, 3<sup>rd</sup> add non-affiliated member to the committee. Dean Johnson stated the importance of involvement of student groups towards the guidance to making new policies and procedures.

Rep. Kaufmann asked about professor involvement in the protest and asked if employees on the clock participated in the protest. Dean Johnson stated that that is not allowed any vacation time is used. Rep. Kaufmann asked what Dean Johnson knew. Dean Johnson stated that he should have taken clearer action at the time. Rep. Kaufmann asked if Cari Anderson followed the protest procedure. The Dean stated that he could look into that. Provost Kregel disagreed with Rep. Kaufmann's description of the protest as against specific students.

Rep. Thompson mentioned that he received information from alumni about patient abandonment. Rep. Thompson asked if Dean Johnson knew of any patients being abandoned. The Dean said 34 appointments were rescheduled. Rep. Thompson asked how those patients were notified. Dean Johnson said he didn't know and disagreed with the phrase "abandonment". Rep. Thompson asked the school to involve alumni. Provost Kregel stated that confidentiality rules would make that hard.

Chairwoman Brink mentioned that there were delays in procedures because the clinic was understaffed. The Chair also asked if 34 rescheduled appointments was more than normal? Dean Johnson said it could be, weather makes a big difference.

Rep. Holt shared that he believes that this is a systemic problem. He shared email stories that illustrated his point. Rep. Holt asked Dean Johnson why there is a discrepancy in his statements today compared to what he said last month. Dean

Johnson apologized. Rep. Holt asked about the perspectives seminar on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Dean Johnson mentioned that the seminar is now cancelled. Rep. Holt stated strong disagreement with the perspectives seminar materials.

Chairwoman Brink asked why the perspectives class cancellation information had not been relayed to the students yet. She stated her disappointment that this occurred after the last hearing. Chairwoman Brink expressed concern that this was being taught instead of information on how to run a business when tuition costs continue to increase. She asked the Dean about the ratings of the dental school. The Dean stated that they boycott the US News rankings but they are ranked very high in patient contact time which is important.

Vice Chair Jacobsen asked about how does diversity initiatives promote university and unity and provided explanation about why he cares about this issue, including that his father was a dentist. Vice President Tovar stated that DEI has involved greatly over the last 30 years. She mentioned that they try to educate in a unifying way. She stated that discrimination and harassment is different than being exposed to different ideas and Iowa does not try to protect students from other ideas. Rep.

Jacobsen asked Rep. James how Iowa as a state can do better

Rep. James provided her background as a minister on a college campus. Rep. James stated that the perspectives seminar is not unusual and is in fact a good thing and breaks down barriers.

Rep. Jacobsen asked Rep. James about free speech and thought and how without freedom of thought and worried about academic Stalinism that could be present in secular institutions

Rep. James answered by stating that universities still have religious resources and that some even have staff that advocate for students over the university's view. Rep. James urged the members of the committee to continue to learn.

Rep. Jacobsen asked Provost Kregel about their shared grade school experience and how Rep. Jacobsen was taught how to think not what to think. He asked specifically if cancel culture exists at Iowa. The Provost answered that the university is working with the Board of Regents on changes. There is a new reporting system, a free speech statement, a history of free speech page, clear policies posted, a single contact regarding free speech. The Provost promised to defend free speech.

Rep. Jacobson again directed his comments to Vice President Tovar and asked how do we prevent offensive speech from being punished? Vice President Tovar answered that it is important to educate on what free speech is. Some students feel unsafe because of speech and that needs to be worked through.

Rep. Holt directed his comments towards Vice President Tovar. He said that the fact people don't know what free speech is a statement on our schools and education system. Rep Holt referred to a triangle produced by the Carver College of Medicine that stated that "make America great again" was white supremacy. VP Tovar talked about being on the same page across campus. Holt asked if Iowa needs to take a holistic look at the trainings? The VP Tovar agreed. Provost Kregel stated that the university has already started doing that, but it is a big effort. Rep. Holt mentioned that his service as a Marine makes him heartbroken about the division in the country. Chairwoman Brink thanked everyone for coming and mentioned the importance of free speech.

Chairwoman Brink moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 AM.

