



Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration

**Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2022
10:00am - 11:15am
Zoom Meeting**

Members present: Beth Ades-Hanson, Autumn Den Boer, Katie Greving, Kathleen Konrardy, Ann Lebo, Erin Sale, Michael Scott, Jon Sheldahl, Deanna Stoube, Shane Williams

Additional attendees: Kerrie Baish, Courtney Bentley, and Rebecca Bruno, Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement students; Dan Clay, dean, University of Iowa College of Education; Deborah Reed, IRRC director; Eric St. Clair, Iowa Department of Education; Ben Walizer, IRRC project manager; Rachel Wallace, IRRC administrative services coordinator; Thomas Mayes, Iowa Department of Education

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by IRRC Advisory Council (Council) Chair Katie Greving at 10:03 a.m.

2. Approval of agenda

On a motion by Michael Scott, seconded by Deanna Stoube, the agenda for the meeting was approved with zero “no” votes.

3. Approval of December 2021 meeting minutes

On a motion by Shane Williams, seconded by Deanna Stoube, the December 2021 meeting minutes were approved with zero “no” votes.

4. Public comment

Chair Katie Greving allowed time for public comment. Rebecca Bruno, Courtney Bentley, and Kerrie Baish are members of the first cohort of the IRRC-coordinated Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement (DSE) program and spoke about their appreciation for the program. Rebecca also shared statements written by other members of the cohort who were not able to attend. Bruno expressed disappointment that the 18 credit hours needed for the endorsement could not be applied toward a master’s degree at the University of Iowa. Bentley stated that the IRRC’s eLearning modules pair nicely with the endorsement and create a common message for teachers about what good instruction looks like. Baish expressed that she has a lot of endorsements, but the DSE has



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been the hardest to earn and also the best. Everything the cohort is learning is great not only for students with dyslexia but also all students, Baish said.

5. Review of homework

Chair Katie Greving allowed time for council members to discuss their homework assignment from the December Council meeting. Council members were asked to share an item from the IRRCs annual report with their stakeholders. One of the Council's main goals is to help promote the center's work and to share information about the center with stakeholders and professional networks. Greving, Shane Williams, Kathleen Konrardy, Erin Sale, Autumn Den Boer, and Michael Scott provided descriptions of what they shared with their stakeholders.

6. Director's report (IRRC)

Deborah Reed updated the council on eLearning module completions and highlighted the increases in the numbers of in-service teachers completing the Dyslexia Overview module. She noted this was related to legislative requirements for pre- and in-service teachers. Reed also provided information on the school email domains with the greatest enrollment numbers and the high rate of satisfaction participants reported on the module evaluations.

Reed then updated the council on the progress of the DSE program. The first cohort at the University of Iowa will complete the program in December, at which point other Iowa colleges and universities with teacher preparation programs can apply to offer their own DSE programs. There is a typical approval process with the Iowa Department of Education for a teacher preparation program to add an endorsement program, but the IRRC also will be involved in approving the programs in partnership with the Department. There were 15 applicants to the second cohort at the University of Iowa that the IRRC is overseeing. Thirteen were admitted and nine chose to enroll with a fall 2022 start.

7. Iowa Department of Education updates

Director Ann Lebo mentioned Department Administrative Consultant Larry Bice accepted a new position at Iowa State University. Education Program Consultant Maryam Rod Szabo will be point of contact for the Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement until Bice's position is filled.

Department Interim Legislative Liaison Eric St. Claire reviewed the governor's Condition of the State address and gave a legislative update.

8. Recognition of outgoing members

Katie Greving – end of term

Corey Vorthmann – end of term





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Deborah Reed noted that both had served as chair of the council during their tenures. Certificates of appreciation for their service will be mailed to each.

9. Elect new Chair and Vice-chair for FY23

Current Chair Katie Greving nominated current Vice-chair Shane Williams for chair. The nomination was seconded by Autumn Den Boer. Katie Greving also nominated Council Member Kathleen Konrardy for vice-chair. The nomination was seconded by Shane Williams. Both nominees were elected to their respective positions, with zero “no” votes.

10. Transition of IRRC Directors

Deborah Reed announced her resignation from the Iowa Reading Research Center and the University of Iowa to join the faculty of another university and launch a new reading research center. She then asked University of Iowa College of Education Dean Dan Clay and Ann Lebo to address the transition plan.

Clay said that he and Lebo will be naming an interim director. In the fall, the IRRC will undergo an evaluation per Board of Regents requirements for approved centers. The center review will be an opportunity to reflect on what the center has accomplished and what it hopes to achieve moving forward.

As part of the review, an evaluation committee will be assembled. Clay asked the Council for recommendations from among their stakeholders for people to be on the committee. Details regarding the evaluation process and makeup of the committee have not been determined but will follow the Board of Regents’ framework. The review will guide the selection of a permanent IRRC director.

Ann Lebo commented on statutes and redefining the IRRC’s purpose.

An interim IRRC director will be announced in 4-6 weeks, a center review will happen August–September 2022, and a nationwide search for a new IRRC director will happen in late fall 2022 or early spring 2023.

Chair Katie Greving said she appreciated hearing about the timeline and was thankful the advisory council would have input regarding the next director. Shane Williams praised Dr. Reed for everything she has accomplished over the past 7 years. Williams stated that Dr. Reed has “fundamentally changed the way that so many people do literacy across the state.”



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11. Adjourn

On motion by Deanna Stoube, seconded by Kathleen Konrardy the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. with zero “no” votes.