



Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

March 1, 2010

Dear Membership,

As you may recall from our Fall 2009 IACTE meeting in Des Moines at DMACC, I briefly presented to you the idea of revisiting the IACTE Constitution and Bylaws at the business meeting. In the spirit of quality and commitment, it is wise to revisit such guiding documents to ensure that the association is operating as intended. It is also a great time to revisit our practices as they relate to our policies and the needs of teacher preparation today.

Article 11 of the current constitution (<http://iowacte.org/about/>) states, "A copy of each proposed amendment shall be sent...to each member institution for approval by mail ballot. An amendment shall be considered ratified when approved by more than one half of the membership." As such, I am including hard copies of the proposed changes to both the IACTE Constitution and By-Laws. Please take a few minutes to review these proposed changes, complete the ballot, and return in the enclosed envelop. It is the goal of IACTE to have all ballots collected by April 1st so that we may announce the results of this proposal at the spring meeting at Central College on April 8th-9th.

The changes that you will notice on the following documents are primarily a matter of updating. There are two important changes that I would like you to consider, however.

1. **Proposal to change the term of the president, president elect, and past president from one year to two years.** We are at a time in history where teacher preparation is at the forefront of change. This dynamic time takes a great deal of networking and communicating with constituencies from all over the state, and even the nation. Though we have had many great presidents serve our association over the years, it is a challenge to have a real presence for teacher preparation in the state when our leadership changes every year. As many of you know, it is also a challenge to leave a position just when you feel as if you've figured it out. Because of the many important tasks that the president, president elect, and past president must address, a year is a very short time to establish any lasting impact for our association. With these intentions, the proposed changes to the terms for the elected officials were made for Article III-A, Sections 1-3 of the By-Laws.

2. **Proposal to adjust auditing schedule.** One indicator of the health of an association like ours, especially today, is the financial standing. Since 2004 the IACTE is to have an appointed comptroller on the executive committee. Considering the make-up of our members, it is not typical that an individual with such specialized skills is also a member (unless there is an account education member out there!), willing to serve as the comptroller. When looking at out-sourcing an audit of IACTE finances, current quotes show an added expense upwards of \$2000. Considering the modest yet healthy budget we keep, there are two aspects of this proposal worth addressing. Recognizing that audits of finances are important, are they needed annually, and is it necessary to have a comptroller on the executive board? Or is it possible to outsource this process as warranted? Such questions guided the revision of Article III-D, Section 4 of the By-Laws to allow for flexibility in the audit scheduling and by whom the audit is conducted. Safeguards to protect the association remain intact, however.

Also, please note that the adding of the Oct 1 due date for membership dues was added to bring practice in line with policy. We voted at the spring 09 IACTE meeting in Kirkwood to set a deadline of Oct 1 for dues. This revision just puts it in writing.

Thank-you for your time and consideration for these proposals. Your vote is essential to the passing of these revisions. I ask that you please complete the enclosed ballot and return by April 1st, so that we may present the results at the spring meeting. In the meantime, however, please do not hesitate to contact myself or another executive committee board member with questions regarding these changes.

Sincerely,

Tracy J. Schuster-Matlock, Ph.D.
2009-2010 IACTE President
563-333-6049
schustertracy@sau.edu

Please check out the IACTE website at <http://iowacte.org/> for details on the spring conference.