

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Regents
of the
University of Wisconsin System

Madison, Wisconsin

Held in Room 1820 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Thursday, May 9, 1996

1:10 p.m.

ITEM

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- President Grebe presiding -

PRESENT: Regents Barry, Benson, De Braska, De Simone, Brown, Dreyfus, Gelatt, Grebe, Hempel, James, Krutsch, Lubar, MacNeil, Orr, Randall, Smith and Steil.

ABSENT: No regents were absent.

INTRODUCTION

President Grebe began the meeting by stating that this meeting had been convened to allow the Board to review and discuss its recommendations drawn from its study of the UW System in the 21st Century. Regent Lubar moved the adoption of Resolution 7176(B) his motion was seconded by Regent Gelatt.

Resolution 7176(B) That the Board of Regents adopts the Final Report of the Study of the UW System in the 21st Century and directs that the UW System President work with the Chancellors to develop an implementation plan to be presented to the Board in Fall, 1996.

The Board commits to ongoing advocacy on behalf of the report's recommendations and to including appropriate recommendations in the 1997-1999 UW System Biennial Budget request.

DISCUSSION

Preserving and Enhancing Access to Quality, Recommendation #2:

"Tuition recommendations sent to the Governor and Legislature will reflect incentives and/or disincentives for reducing credits to graduation."

Regent Brown began the discussion by expressing her sense that, for the most part, students are content with the recommendations made as a result of the study; however, she had also noted that she has spent a good deal of time clarifying that its goal is to promote general ideas to address future

concerns rather than to suggest specific programs. She added that she had some concerns about the recommendation on incentives or disincentives for reducing credits to graduation because it could result in a surcharge levied on credits taken in excess of the number required for a student's degree. This proposal, she noted, seems to be popular because it would, in theory, increase access; however, she encouraged her fellow members of the Board to discover whether that would, indeed, happen, since many other issues affect students' need to take additional credits (such as poor advising, limited availability for some classes, or changing majors).

Regent Gelatt noted that the recommendation suggests both "incentives" and "disincentives". Regent Grebe commented that the proposal favored generally by the Board is a type of "disincentive" for taking excess credits; however, he stressed that the discussions regarding it made the Board aware that the quality of advising is an important issue to address. He noted also that public officials should be aware that decreases in the UW System's public funding affect administrative areas, under which academic advising falls. Regent Smith suggested that the issue is one regarding the fair distribution of those public funds, and that the proposal seeks to set limits on the state's subsidies to student education.

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Keeping College Affordable, Recommendation #1:

"The Board of Regents affirms current tuition policy: tuition increases should be moderate and predictable not to exceed 10% and state funded financial aid (GPR) should increase at a rate no less than tuition and also reflecting increases in the number of aid eligible students."

Regarding the 10% cap on tuition increases, referred to in Recommendation #1, Regent Smith expressed his belief that, after considering the many comments made on this figure, he believes it should be modified. Observing that it does not represent a real number, he preferred that it be linked to a more clearly defined indicator; he cited the education element of the Consumer Price Index as one which might represent a relevant economic factor. Regent Gelatt, speaking in favor of retaining the current wording, commented on the difficulty inherent in developing a meaningful formula which would take into account both future trends and past performance (such as "catching up" in the faculty pay-ranges to a figure more in line with comparable institutions). He stated that the goal is to meet the figure recommended by Regent Smith, while also retaining competitive salaries and quality.

Agreeing that the 10% figure is largely symbolic, Regent Hempel added that another factor to consider is uncertainty about the state's willingness to fund growth in the number of expected students in coming years. Without adequate state funding, higher tuition may be needed. Regent Krutsch recommended revising the recommendation to reflect a statement of principles rather than committing to a figure. After discussion, Regent Barry made a motion to amend the recommendation to delete the phrase "not to exceed 10%" and make appropriate revisions to the introduction; Regent De Simone seconded

the motion. Upon motion by Regent Hempel, seconded by Regent Krutsch, the motion was amended to add language reflecting concern for educational quality after the words "moderate and predictable." The motion then was unanimously approved.

Upon conclusion of discussion of the recommendations, the Board of Regents unanimously approved Resolution 7176(B)


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CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS

Upon motion by Regent Steil, seconded by Regent Dreyfus, the Executive Committee was authorized to make final modifications in the language of the report to reflect Regent discussion.

The meeting concluded at 1:40 p.m.

Submitted by



Judith A. Temby, Secretary

May 9, 1996