

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS
1820 Van Hise Hall
Madison, Wisconsin

November 6, 1997

The November 6, 1997 meeting of the Education Committee was called to order by Regent Jay Smith at 1:00 p.m. Present were Regents Benson, Boyle, MacNeil, Randall, Staszak and Lubar. Regent Orr joined the meeting in progress.

1. Approval of the minutes of the October 9, 1997, meeting of the Education Committee.

97-77 It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent Staszak, that the minutes of the October 9, 1997, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Report of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Senior Vice President David J. Ward introduced Dr. James Anderson, Vice Provost and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Studies, North Carolina State University, who discussed *Achieving Excellence Through Diversity*. Noting the variety of definitions of diversity in the academy (e.g., cultural diversity, multiculturalism, pluralism, demographic diversity, balkanization, etc.), Dr. Anderson distinguished between "diversity," understood as a well-reasoned philosophy about how an organization should function, and "affirmative action," viewed as a single tool for promoting diversity. He emphasized that diversity must be tied to basic institutional processes which, in the case of the academy, relate directly to such issues as the quality of the undergraduate experience, academic quality, faculty instructional goals and strategies for the teaching/learning process.

Dr. Anderson asserted that business and industry are ahead of the academy in recognizing the necessity for promoting diversity. That is to say, business leaders recognize the need for employees capable of dealing with such issues as global literacy, social responsibility, expanding diverse consumer markets, globalization of markets and organizations, and multicultural communities and organizations. All of these areas entail an understanding of, and ability to work in, a diverse environment.

In response to a question from Regent Lubar, Dr. Anderson stated that, should affirmative action be determined unconstitutional, he would be able to achieve his goals. One problem, he noted, is that institutions tend to use static entrance requirements that fail to take into account the diversity among applicants. He asserted the need to reexamine the entry point in relation to the larger vision we have for our institutions.

In response to a question from Senior Vice President Ward, Dr. Anderson stated that North Carolina State undertook a systematic effort to promote success among all its students. He described the "First Year College," in which one thousand students self-selected to spend the first year of college

in Academic Living Centers that include both advising and faculty offices. The "College" reflects the idea that student performance is enhanced when in-class experiences are replicated in out-of-class situations.

Responding to Regent Smith's observation that "you can't manage what you can't measure," Dr. Anderson stated that North Carolina State's admissions criteria assure a good mix. He further observed that standard criteria for admission correlate only to success in the first year--and then only for excellent students.

Senior Vice President Ward presented two good news items: (1) the second annual WebFair is underway. WebFair '98 encourages Wisconsin students in kindergarten through college to submit their educational web pages in a competition with other students from around the state. The goal is to showcase best educational uses of the World Wide Web. (2) Luke Rollins, a senior student majoring in communications/political science at UW-Whitewater, was elected president of the Whitewater City Council this past April.

Senior Vice President Ward reported two items for information: (1) unless there is regent objection, the operating name for the Center for Learning Innovation will be the Learning Innovation Center; (2) UW-Parkside is reopening its search for a Dean of Arts and Sciences, at a salary below the Executive Salary Group Six maximum.

3. Report on Industrial and Economic Development Research Fund.

Senior Vice President Ward introduced the Report on Industrial and Economic Development Research Fund. Bruce Jones, Director of the Center for Dairy Profitability, discussed Management Education for Agricultural Producers and Agribusiness Managers. In response to a question from Regent Orr, Dr. Jones attributed low initial enrollments in the Executive Management Program to the fact that two programs were offered simultaneously. The resultant confusion, together with

inadequate advertising, discouraged potential students. The program has been restructured and will open in January with approximately thirty persons enrolled. Asked by Regent Smith whether dairy productivity is decreasing, Dr. Jones replied that product output has been stagnant over the last five years and emphasized that the Center is prepared to work with anyone who wishes to succeed in agriculture.

Regents Staszak and Benson complimented Dr. Jones on the Center's efforts. Noting that the Center is but one of the three areas represented in the report, Regent Smith observed that the report provides evidence that the Fund is being put to good use.

97-78 It was moved by Regent MacNeil, seconded by Regent Randall, to receive the Report on Industrial and Economic Development Research Fund and approve it for transmittal to the Joint Committee on Finance, in accordance with s.36.25(25)(c), Wis. Stats.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

4. Authorizations to Recruit.

97-79 It was moved by Regent Staszak, seconded by Regent Randall, that the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee be authorized to recruit for a Professor of Finance, School of Business, at a salary that exceeds the Executive Salary Group Six maximum.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

97-80 It was moved by Regent MacNeil, seconded by Regent Benson, that the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee be authorized to recruit for a Professor of International Finance, School of Business, at a salary that exceeds the Executive Salary Group Six maximum.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

5. New Program Authorization.

97-81 It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent MacNeil, that the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee be authorized to implement the B.S. in Information Resources.

Responding to concerns raised by Regent Boyle, Dean Mohammad Aman, UW-Milwaukee School of Library and Information Science, explained how the program differs from such related programs as Computer Science and Management Systems. In response to a question from Regent Staszak, Dean Aman stated that arrangements

are being made for students to minor in Computer Science, if they so desire.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. General Education Report, UW Colleges.

Provost Marie Wunsch, Associate Vice Chancellor Margaret Cleek, Professor Kerry Trask, and Professor Martha Schuh, presented the UW Colleges' General Education Report. Professor Trask provided background and described the program. Associate Vice Chancellor Cleek explained the assessment process as it occurs at the course, program and institutional levels. Responding to a question from Regent Boyle about what is being done to encourage students to remain in the Colleges for the full two years, Professor Trask stated that an effort has been made to make the Associate Degree more coherent and attractive. Professor Schuh observed that the revised program places increased emphasis on teaching, in particular on the need to match varied teaching and learning styles. In response to Regent Boyle's question as to whether the curriculum had been revised to emphasize a two-year degree rather than two one-year blocks, Associate Vice Chancellor Cleek stated that the General Education program was conceived as a two-year program. She also noted that the new System transfer policy, requiring that all general education credits transfer, will help. Regent Smith emphasized the importance of students' seeing how their first step in the university is tied to their career path.

7. Revised Mission Statement: UW-Parkside.

Interim Chancellor Gordon Lamb reviewed changes made to the UW-Parkside revised mission statement as a result of a public hearing held September 11, 1997, on the UW-Parkside campus. In his report on the hearing, Regent Staszak observed that a variety of community members responded to the draft. He commended UW-Parkside for incorporating a number of their suggestions into the final draft. Interim Chancellor stated that the final revision has been approved by all campus governance bodies.

97-82 It was moved by Regent Staszak, seconded by
 Regent Randall, that the board approve the revised
 UW-Parkside mission statement.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Competency-Based Admission.

Larry Rubin, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the results of a pilot study of competency-based admission (CBA). He was joined by Ann Serpe, a science teacher at Delavan-Darien High School, and Thomas Reason, a UW-Madison Admissions Officer. Dr. Rubin acknowledged the work of Dr. Fran Garb, who served as chair of the Competency-Based Admission Task

Force that administered the study. Following Dr. Rubin's overview, Ms. Serpe explained how the process works at Delavan-Darien High School. Mr. Reason then discussed its operation at UW-Madison.

In response to a question from Regent Randall, Mr. Reason said that, in dealing with home-schooled students, UW-Madison is currently attempting to duplicate elements of a traditional review. Asked by Regent Randall why traditional approaches are used at all in such cases, Mr. Reason noted that Competency-Based Admission has not been heretofore available. Dr. Rubin observed that, if CBA proves valuable and a way can be found to assess home-schooling, then the process should be useful in assessing such applicants. Senior Vice President Ward commented that there are currently two ways of entering a UW institution: (1) by traditional transcript and (2) by exception (limited by the board to 5% of the admissions at a campus). The Competency-Based Admission process offers an alternative.

Regent Randall cautioned that implementing CBA will require educating the public as to its nature, both to minimize and respond to possible complaints from unsuccessful candidates. He agreed with Regent Smith that the risk of such complaints is acceptable and the process should be approved. Regent Benson observed that CBA has a significant potential for contributing to institutional diversity.

Assistant Vice President Rubin noted that the study had a strong research component, which indicates that the Competency-Based Admission process performs at least as well the traditional one.

UW-Madison Provost John Wiley urged dropping the required submission of ACT scores. At the request of Regent Smith, Provost Wiley agreed to discuss the matter with the other provosts and determine how best to proceed with the matter.

Regent Orr stated his desire to see the precise language for revising Regent Policy 72-11 on Freshman Admissions. Senior Vice President Ward asked the committee to pass the enabling resolution with the understanding that specific language amending the policy will be brought to the committee at its December meeting.

97-83 It was moved by Regent Benson, seconded by Regent Boyle, approving implementation of the Competency-Based Admission process on a statewide basis, to be used as a supplement to the traditional admission process.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. UW-Stevens Point Board of Visitors.

97-84 It was moved by Regent Staszak, seconded by Regent Randall, that the Chancellor of UW-Stevens Point be authorized to increase the size of the UWSP Board of Visitors from 18-25 members.

The motion passed unanimously.

Regent Smith asked the committee's views on whether the board needs to be involved in approving the number of members on an institution's Board of Visitors. Regent Randall observed that at one time it was believed a reason existed for the board to approve such decisions. Regent Smith stated his desire that the committee address this question at a future meeting.

10. Update Reports.

Tess Arenas, Assistant to the President for Multicultural Affairs, updated her activities with regard to the Diversity Strategic Plan. In response to a question from Regent Smith, she noted that the schedule of campus visits was mailed to all regents. Regent Smith encouraged regents to participate in these visits as often as possible. Regent Randall commended Chancellors Tom George, UW-Stevens Point, and David Ward, UW-Madison, for their efforts in promoting diversity. He also noted that a UW-Milwaukee conference on diversity drew well over 800 people.

At the request of the Civil Rights Defense Coalition, Regent Smith read the following letter into the record:

Members of the Board of Regents:

We, as students of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, want to address the issue of the Design for Diversity renewal plan for the next ten years. We expect that student input will be used by the Board, as this plan directly affects all of us. This plan must focus on the issue of increased access and create a safer climate for students of color. In addition, we expect that programs which address the needs of other underrepresented groups will also be designed and implemented at this time.

Thank You,
Members of the Civil Rights Defense Coalition

Kathleen Sell, Associate Vice President for Budget Analysis, provided a 21st Century update, discussing budget flexibilities. Dr. Sell stated that planning for the next biennial budget is underway. Responding to a request from Regent Smith, Dr. Sell

agreed to bring to the committee's December meeting a list of 21st Century items completed to date.

11. Closed session to consider personnel matters, as permitted by s.19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.

It was moved by Regent Benson, seconded by Regent Randall, that the committee adjourn to closed session to consider personnel matters, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.

The resolution PASSED by a roll call vote, with Regents Benson, Boyle, Randall and Staszak voting "yes," and no regents voting "no."

In closed session:

Regent Benson moved and Regent Boyle seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

97-85

Authorizing the following named professorship appointments, UW-Madison, effective July 1, 1997:

John M. Norman
Professor in

Rothermel Bascom
Soil Science);

Bonnie L. Svarstad
in

William S. Apple Professor
Pharmacy

George Zograft

Edward Kremers Professor
in Pharmacy

The motion PASSED unanimously.

Resolutions I.1.c., I.1.d.(1) and I.1.d.(2), I.1.e.(1)., I.1.h, I.1.i., and I.1.l were referred to the full session of the Board at its Friday, November 7, 1997 meeting.

Resolution I.1.g. will be introduced as an independent item.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

