

## MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS  
Ballroom, Rothwell Student Center  
Superior, Wisconsin

October 9, 1997

The October 9, 1997 meeting of the Education Committee was called to order by Regent Jay Smith at 1:00 p.m. The first portion of the meeting was devoted to the UW System Information Technology Plan. All regents were invited. Present were Regents Barry, Benson, Boyle, Brandes, DeBraska, De Simone, Hempel, James, Lubar, MacNeil, Marcovich, Mohs, Orr, Randall, and Staszak.

### 1. UW System Information Technology Plan.

In introducing the UW System Information Technology Plan, Regent Smith noted that it builds on the Report of the Vice Chancellors' Working Group on Academic Program and Information Technology Planning, which stressed that academic program needs should drive Information Technology activity and not vice versa.

Senior Vice President David J. Ward described the plan's four "building blocks": (1) the 1996 Systemwide Information Technology Plan, (2) the Report of the Vice Chancellors' Working Group, (3) a systemwide conference on "Leveraging the System," and (4) the 1997 UW System institution IT plans. He noted that education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century requires a learning technology infrastructure composed of: (1) faculty technology, (2) student technology, (3) classroom technology, (4) library technology, (5) network technology, (6) instructional design and support staff, (7) HELP desk, networking and technical support staff, and (8) assessment of technology and its impact on learning.

Edward Meachen, Interim Associate Vice President for Information Technology, discussed assessment and infrastructure needs. He noted that assessment will occur through analysis of existing assessment studies and funding of new assessment projects at institutions.

Senior V.P. Ward cited the following areas of accomplishment in 1996-97: (1) establishment of IT Development Centers for faculty and staff at each institution; (2) classroom renovation/modernization; (3) distributed and shared educational media servers; (4) IT resource measures and goals; (5) joint re-engineering project on purchasing; (6) electronic library material and reserves; and (7) the Student Information System/HELP On-Line. He then described projected 1997-98 IT projects in these areas: (1) faculty and student technology improvements; (2) innovative curricular projects; (3) assessment of technology's impact on instruction; (4) new options for

technology training; (5) BadgerNet; (6) Internet2; (7) library automation; and (8) a comprehensive IT survey.

In response to a question from Regent Brandes, Interim Associate V.P. Meachen stated that, to his knowledge, HELP functions are not outsourced.

As required by the legislative Joint Finance Committee, the following resolution was introduced:

97-72                    It was moved by Regent Brandes, seconded by Regent Randall, that the Reports to the Joint Finance Committee for Release of Technology Funds be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

The all-regents portion of the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.. The Education Committee reconvened at 1:45 p.m. Present were Regents Benson, Boyle, Lubar, MacNeil, Randall, Smith and Staszak. Regent Orr joined the meeting in progress.

2. Approval of the minutes of the September 4, 1997, meeting of the Education Committee.

97-73                    It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent Staszak, that the minutes of the September 4, 1997, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

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

Senior Vice President David J. Ward introduced Charles W. Schelin, Provost, UW-Superior, and Joel Sipress, Chair of the UW-Superior General Education Committee, who presented the UW-Superior General Education Report. Professor Sipress observed that in 1989, UW-Superior had established a goal- and objective-oriented General Education Program, which was fine-tuned in a 1995-96 review, with the primary goal to establish a mechanism to establish continuous quality improvement. As a result of the 1995-96 review, UW-Superior established a Standing General Education Subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Council. As one of its duties, this subcommittee reviews all General Education courses on a three-year schedule.

In response to a question from Regent Staszak about marketing the transfer aspects of the program, Professor Sipress stated that every transfer student is assigned an advisor to review which of their courses transfer.

Senior Vice President Ward introduced a proposal to create the UW Center for Learning Innovation.

97-74                   It was moved by Regent Lubar, seconded by Regent MacNeil, that the report, *Center for Learning Innovation: A Proposal to the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System*, be approved and that creation of the UW Center for Learning Innovation be authorized.

In discussion, Regent Smith observed that approval of this resolution would mark a defining moment for the board, since it authorizes, for the first time, extending the UW beyond the state's borders.

Responding to Regent Lubar's question of whether there would be user charges, Senior Vice President Ward stated that most of the Center's activities will be fee-based. Michael Offerman, Dean of Continuing Education, UW-Extension, responded to Regent Lubar's question about program review by noting two existing program revenue sources that will be aligned with the Center in order to create start-up funds: (1) Independent Learning, and (2) the Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory. Regent Lubar then asked about the kinds of partnerships anticipated by the Center. Dean Offerman cited such examples as private sector technology vendors, textbook publishers and

distribution channels, e.g., the National Chamber of Commerce. The Center offers content, pedagogy and certification of learning to such possible partners.

Responding to a question from Regent MacNeil about staffing, Dean Offerman said the Center has approximately 100 employees, although this figure is deceptive, given the number of student employees. One seven-person team has been formed, with more to be added as needed. Regent MacNeil asked if a more detailed business plan would be provided. Senior V.P. Ward replied that an advisory board, which would approve a more detailed plan, must first be appointed. Periodic progress reports will be made to the Education Committee.

In response to a question from Regent Staszak about fees, Senior V.P. Ward stated that courses provided over the Internet render the resident/nonresident distinction meaningless for the purpose of setting fees. Market factors, rather than location, will play the primary role in establishing fees.

Regent Benson asked if any private businesses view the Center as unfair competition. Senior V.P. Ward replied that concern has been raised in this regard, but the current goal is to avoid conflict in this area.

The Resolution PASSED unanimously.

#### 4. Authorization to Recruit.

97-75 It was moved by Regent Boyle, seconded by Regent MacNeil, that the Chancellor of UW-Madison be authorized to recruit for a Professor, Medical School, at a salary that exceeds the Executive Salary Group Six maximum.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

5. New Program Authorization.

The committee held an initial review of the proposed B.S. in Information Resources, UW-Milwaukee. UW-Milwaukee Chancellor John Schroeder introduced Dean Mohammad Aman (School of Library and Information Science) and Professor Dietmar Wolfram, who spoke on behalf of the program. The program will be placed on the committee's November agenda to be considered for implementation.

Responding to a question from Regent Boyle, Professor Wolfram noted that the proposed program lacks the technical character of computing programs. In response to a question from Regent MacNeil, Dean Aman and Chancellor Schroeder stated that required funds will be provided through reallocation by UW-Milwaukee.

6. Revised Mission Statement: UW-Superior.

Regent Grant Staszak reported on the September 22, 1997, public hearing on the proposed revision to UW-Superior's mission statement. He noted that representatives of both the university and larger community expressed strong support for the revision.

97-76 It was moved by Regent Benson, seconded by Regent Boyle, that the revised UW-Superior mission statement be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

7. Update Reports.

(a) Presentations. The committee reviewed its proposed schedule of presentations for 1997-98. Regent Smith emphasized that the schedule is fluid and urged committee members to convey any ideas or suggestions to him.

(b) Diversity. Tess Arenas, Assistant to the President for Multicultural Affairs, updated the Diversity Strategic Plan. Among her office's activities in the last month were: (1) a System Administration briefing; 2) facilitator training for staff who will be meeting with constituent groups; (3) hosting a videoconference forum on diversity; and (4) working with a network of Wisconsin Alumni. Nine campus visits are scheduled. Regents will be notified of the schedule in case they wish to attend as observers.

Responding to a question from Regent Staszak, Dr. Arenas said the campus visits will be comprised of an open forum, followed by meetings with faculty, staff and student groups.

Responding to Regent Lubar, Dr. Arenas affirmed that her office will be working with K-12 schools and plans to include the School of Education deans in its activities.

(c) 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Sharon James provided an update on advanced placement. She noted an increased participation in options like AP courses and the UW-Oshkosh CAPP program. Such programs have resulted in a growth in the number of high school students entering the university with college credits. This, in turn, may reduce credits- and time-to-degree. Regent Staszak observed that it also helps reduce costs for these students.

Responding to a question from Regent MacNeil, Associate V.P. James stated that school districts are required to pay for a course if it is not offered by the school. Otherwise, the student pays.

Regent Orr asked whether participation varies across the UW System. Associate V.P. James responded that all UW institutions have students entering with credits earned from such programs. Regent Benson observed that providing faculty for advanced placement courses represents a significant cost to a school district, which is one factor in restricting the growth of such programs.

There were no additional or closed session items to come before the committee.

Resolutions I.1.b, I.1.d.(1), and I.1.e.(1) were referred to the full session of the board at its Friday, October 10, 1997 meeting. Resolution I.1.g. will be introduced separately at that meeting.

The meeting adjourned to the Douglas County Courthouse at 3:30 p.m.

8. Special session-Presentation: Douglas County UW-Extension: Programs, Partnerships, Results.

At 3:40 p.m., the committee came to order at the Douglas County Courthouse to hear a presentation on the role and importance of the UW-Extension mission to the citizens of Douglas County. Mr. Pat Cosgrove, Chair of the County Extension Committee and a member of the Douglas County Board, welcomed participants. Superior Mayor Margaret Ciccone expressed

strong support for Extension's presence in Douglas County. Fariba Pendleton, Department Head, Douglas County UW-Extension Office, introduced a series of speakers on Douglas County youth

services, who described various partnerships through which UW-Extension works with the county to serve the young people of Douglas County. Mr. Doug Finn, Douglas County Board Chair, stressed that the county cannot succeed without partnerships and that UW-Extension provides them. Representative Frank Boyle noted the importance of UW-Extension's activities to an economically distressed part of the state and urged Extension to continue its efforts to reach out to the region.

In response to a question from Regent Boyle, it was noted that the county contributes \$192,000 to the Extension Office.

Regent Randall congratulated Extension for its role in staging the Volunteer Summit.

Following a tour of the building, the committee adjourned at 4:45 p.m.