

MINUTES

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

December 10, 1998

The December 10, 1998 meeting of the Education Committee was called to order by Regent JoAnne Brandes at 1:00 p.m. All regents were invited to the first portion of the meeting, which was devoted to the 1998 UW System Accountability Report. Present were Regents Barry, Benson, DeBraska, de Simone, Gottschalk, Hempel, James, MacNeil, Marcovich, Mohs, Olivieri, Orr, Randall, Smith and Staszak.

1. 1998 Accountability Report.

President Katharine C. Lyall presented the 1998 UW System accountability report. The report shows that, despite budget reductions, the UW System has met 13 of 18 accountability goals and is generally meeting the three underlying priorities of the 1993 accountability task force: (1) deliver a high quality undergraduate education; (2) meet the needs of Wisconsin in career preparation, technology transfer and research; and (3) respond to customer concerns. President Lyall suggested updating the accountability measures to reflect changing values and partnership with the state (e.g., in areas not currently included in the measures, such as the increased use of learning technology; the adequacy of faculty compensation; and reliance on private funding.)

Responding to Regent Brandes, President Lyall stated that the decline in the six-year graduation rate for minority students reflects the situation nationwide, with wide variance among subgroups from state to state. However, President Lyall made it clear that we are not satisfied to follow the national trend and that we must work very hard to improve graduation and retention rates. Regent Smith observed that three of the five areas in which UW institutions fell short (faculty share of instruction; faculty retention; facilities maintenance) are budget related. Responding to the fourth, the decline in minority six-year graduation rates, is part of Plan 2008. The fifth trend, declining in faculty share of undergraduate instruction, is on the Education Committee's agenda for 1998-99. In response to a question from Regent Smith, President Lyall stated it would require a "significant infusion" of one-time funds to fully resolve the facilities maintenance situation.

Regent Olivieri stressed the need for technology-related measures and asked how campuses report their unique needs. In response, President Lyall said this information is included in the report provided to UW System each January by each institution.

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Following a brief recess, the Education Committee reconvened at 1:35 p.m. Regents Smith and Orr joined the meeting in progress.

2. Approval of the minutes of the November 5, 1998 meeting of the Education Committee.

It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent Staszak, that the minutes of the November 5, 1998, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

3. Education Committee 1998-99 Agenda.

The committee briefly discussed its 1998-99 agenda. Responding to Regent Staszak, Senior Vice President David J. Ward noted that specialized accreditation will be on the committee's February agenda. Responding to Regent Randall, he said that the charter schools will be discussed in February, rather than June. UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Nancy Zimpher stated that it is important to proceed with the project as quickly as possible.

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

As stipulated in The University of Wisconsin System Unclassified Personnel Guideline #5, Senior Vice President Ward reported that UW-River Falls intends to recruit for a Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, at a salary below the Executive Salary Group Six maximum.

Senior Vice President Ward announced that 240 faculty members have been selected to receive sabbatical leaves during 1999-2000. Sabbaticals are funded internally, with approximately three percent of UW System faculty on sabbatical at any given time.

5. Authorizations to Recruit.

98-84 It was moved by Regent MacNeil, seconded by Regent Randall, that the Chancellor of UW-Madison be authorized to recruit for a Professor/Associate Professor, Medical School, Department of Medicine, at a salary that may exceed the Executive Salary Group Six maximum.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

98-85 It was moved by Regent MacNeil, seconded by Regent Randall, that the Chancellor of UW-Madison be authorized to recruit for a Director, University Research Park, at a salary that may exceed the Executive Salary Group Six maximum.

In discussion, Chancellor David Ward explained that the position will be funded by program revenue and the individual hired will also oversee other UW-Madison assets.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

6. Annual Information Report of Program Review Activity and Program Changes.

Senior Vice President Ward presented the 1997-98 report on Program Review and Planning in the UW System. He observed that the UW System has 1,113 degree programs, down from 1,145 at the time of merger. More specifically, he stated that over 300 majors have been deleted and approximately 27 majors added since the system's creation. He noted that campuses

are making increased use of submajors and using technology more extensively. He pointed out that campuses are beginning to develop internet-based courses, and singled out the UW-Madison M.S. in Engineering as a model for the increasing flexibility of the curriculum.

Responding to Regent Staszak, Senior Vice President Ward said that whenever possible campus reviews are combined with external accreditation reviews. Regent Randall commented that most programs approved over the past year are career-oriented and warned against using this standard as the sole measure for judging proposed new programs.

7. New Program Authorizations.

98-86 It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent Benson, that the Chancellor of UW-Madison be authorized to implement the B.S. in Computer Engineering.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

The committee held an initial review of a proposed M.S. in Molecular Biology, UW-Parkside. Provost John Ostheimer and Professor C. H. Chen presented the program. Regent MacNeil praised the presentation and encouraged approval of the program. Responding to Regent Staszak, Provost Ostheimer said the university's academic planning committee annually reviews the productivity of each major in order to determine how best to reallocate funds. Responding to Regent Randall, Professor Chen indicated there is demand for the program by students from northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin. This program will be placed on the Education Committee's February agenda for final consideration.

The committee held an initial review of a proposed M.S. in Physical Therapy, UW-Milwaukee. Provost Kenneth Watters, Dean Randall Lambrecht and Professor Theodore King, presented the program. Responding to Regent MacNeil, Provost Watters agreed to provide information clarifying the relationship between state funds provided for the program and reallocated campus funds. In response to Regent Randall, he said collaboration has been discussed with both UW-La Crosse and UW-Madison. The program will be placed on the Education Committee's February agenda for final consideration.

8. Presentation: *The Impact of Institutional and Specialized Accreditation.*

Senior Vice President Ward introduced a presentation on accreditation in the UW System. After clarifying the distinction between institutional and specialized accreditation, he introduced the four provosts (Kenneth Watters, UW-Milwaukee; Charles Schelin, UW-Superior, Howard Cohen, UW-Green Bay and John Wiley, UW-Madison), who discussed the impact of accreditation on their respective campuses.

Provost Cohen, discussing the impact of institutional accreditation on his campus, suggested that the same results could be achieved at less cost by developing a more limited and focused process. Provost Watters said that one of the greatest benefits of specialized accreditation is the fact that some accrediting bodies emphasize outcomes-based assessment. He cited as one of its greatest weaknesses the fact that specialized accreditation can impede progress. Provost Schelin observed that specialized accreditation is important to a small, developing public institution, because it helps the campus let students know that it has strong programs. Provost

Wiley cited the high degree of professional identification of some accrediting bodies as the major problem with specialized accreditation.

Responding to Regent Brandes, Provost Watters encouraged the board to become appropriately involved in the process when problems arise that the campus cannot handle alone. Responding to Regent MacNeil, Provosts Wiley and Watters agreed that in some cases specialized accreditation creates competition between institutions that encourages the seeking of specialized accreditation. Regent Benson suggested studying the relationship between time-to-degree and accreditation.

UW-Parkside Chancellor John Keating observed three problems with accreditation: (1) the arbitrariness of committee selection; (2) differential expectations of different campuses; and (3) the time and expense required entailed by follow-up visits.

Regent Smith stated that current regent policy on accreditation (87-1) is inadequate and should be revised. Beyond revising policy, he urged the board to gain control of the process by working with other educational institutions and organizations to put pressure on accrediting bodies. In response, Senior Vice President Ward agreed that the policy should be revised and a strategy devised that would enable it to have an impact on the process. Regent Orr asked that these steps be taken.

9. Additional items.

There were no additional items to come before the committee.

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

It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent Staszak, 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 Brandes, MacNeil, Randall, and Staszak voting “yes,” and no regents voting “no.”

In closed session:

98-87 It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent Benson, that the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay be authorized to make the following named professorships, effective January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2003:

Dr. Ismail Shariff Philip J. and Elizabeth B. Hendrickson
Professorship for Business;

Dr. Michael Morgan Herbert Fisk Johnson Professorship in
Environmental Sciences.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

98-88 It was moved by Regent Staszak, seconded by Regent Randall, that the following individuals be appointed UW System Representatives to the Natural Areas Preservation Council, effective January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2001:

Ronald G. Hennings, State Geologist and Assistant Director,
Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, UW-Extension
(reappointment); and

Timothy Ehlinger, Associate Professor, Department of Biological
Sciences, UW-Milwaukee.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

Resolutions I.1.d.(1), I.1.d.(2), I.1.f.(1), I.1.i.(1) and I.1.i.(2) were referred to the full session of the board at its Friday, December 11, 1998 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.