

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS

Cartwright Center, Valhalla B

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

October 5, 2000

The October 5, 2000 meeting of the Education Committee was called to order by Regent JoAnne Brandes at 1:15 p.m. The first part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of access to the UW System. Regents Alexander, Axtell, Barry, Boyle, Brandes, Gracz, James, Krutsch, Marcovich, Mohs, Olivieri, Randall, Schneiders, and Smith were present. Regent Benson joined the meeting in progress.

1. Occasional Research Brief: *Access*

Frank Goldberg, Associate Vice President for Policy Analysis and Research, presented an Occasional Research Brief on *Access to the UW System for Wisconsin High School Graduates*. He reported that the Fall 1999 UW System access rate was 33 percent, an increase of eight percentage points since Fall 1976. In Fall 1999 the access rate for female resident immediate new freshmen was 36 percent; for men, 28 percent. While the access rate for students of color has remained relatively stable (app. 22 percent) since 1995, enrollments of immediate new freshmen of color increased by 35 percent. Finally, in fall 1999: (1) the application rate (proportion of high school graduates who apply) was 45 percent; (2) the admission rate (proportion of applicants who are admitted) was 94 percent; and (3) the yield rate (proportion of admits who enroll) was 79 percent.

Responding to Regent Krutsch, Associate V.P. Goldberg said that, when compared with states that have two-year colleges, Wisconsin's access rate drops from fourth highest in the nation (behind Louisiana, Indiana and West Virginia) to the eighth highest. Regent Krutsch suggested it may be useful to know if a relationship exists between access and graduation rates.

Regent Mohs noted the disparity in the number of males and females enrolled in UW institutions and suggested examining whether university actions have influenced this situation. Regent Krutsch agreed and asked if there is a national discussion of the effect attitudes on boys may have had on the fact of their decreasing representation in the university. Regent Mohs replied that the issue is surfacing nationally in books and the popular press. Noting that it has implications for the state's economic future, UW System President Katharine Lyall agreed that this topic is worthy of further research and consideration.

Regent Boyle encouraged examining why UW institutions do not attract a higher percentage of high school graduates with high ACT scores. Noting that no hard data exists on this subject, Associate V.P. Goldberg speculated that strong competition from private institutions plays a role here. Regent Olivieri agreed and raised the further question of whether the number of spaces reserved for out-of-state students causes UW institutions to miss out on qualified in-state students.

Commenting on the gender issues, Regent Olivieri agreed that it affects the state's economic future and suggested the state needs to develop strategies to encourage more boys to take the ACT

examination. However, he proposed that an issue of more direct concern to UW System is the issue of the measurable difference between the number of applications and yield for students of color. He suggested that the issue is one of how the system markets, recruits and “closes the deal” with students of color. Finally, he urged the UW system to strive to increase access rate to higher education generally and noted that the technical colleges can play an important role in this effort.

Regent Gracz commented that yield rates are affected by both the number of ACT text-takers and applicants. Tess Arenas, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, noted that the yield rate is based on those admitted and that the number of people of color who choose to enroll is lower than the number of white applicants.

Regent Barry questioned whether the access rate is an appropriate measure of performance. He proposed graduate/retention rates as a better measure of success.

Regent Schneiders asked whether the statistics regarding males in college have changed through the years. Regent Marcovich agreed and suggested that male enrollments may have remained relatively flat as women’s enrollments have risen. He noted the need for data as to why only 50 percent of ACT takers apply to UW institutions.

Regent Smith noted that access is one of the board’s top three priorities for 2000-01 and encouraged strategies for addressing the gender issue. He observed that, regardless of ACT statistics, it is important to address the question of why students of color choose not to enroll. Regent Alexander suggested one reason is a failure to adequately recruit. Assistant V.P. Arenas said the infusion of GPR funds for recruitment should help this situation. Regent Alexander suggested a campus-by-campus listing of enrollment data for people of color would be helpful.

UW-Green Bay Chancellor Mark Perkins argued for clarifying the meaning of access, in particular to reflect that 94 percent of Wisconsin students who wish to attend the UW are able to do so.

UW-Madison Provost Jon Wiley observed that some gender differences persist, e.g., women make higher grades at every level, and graduate more quickly and at a higher rate than do men.

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The Education Committee reconvened at 2:30 p.m. Regents Brandes, Axtell, Benson, Boyle, Mohs, Olivieri, Randall and Smith were present.

2. Approval of the minutes of the September 7, 2000 meeting of the Education Committee.

It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Regent Boyle, that the minutes of the September 7, 2000 meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

3. 2000-01 Goals and Priorities.

Interim Senior Vice President Thibodeau reviewed a three-part strategy for the committee’s 2000-01 agenda: (1) a structured discussion as follow-up to the economic summit; (2) an emphasis on

the “quality of the educational experience” that focuses on specific areas (e.g., international education, diversity, technology); and (3) PK-16 educational initiatives, in particular the role of the UW System in forging PK-12 partnerships. He announced that the U.S. Department of Education Title II Teacher Quality program has funded a grant through the Department of Public Instruction to promote PK-16 partnerships.

Regent Brandes emphasized the need to develop outcomes and benchmarks for each area. These will be discussed at the committee’s November meeting.

Regent Axtell stressed the need for committee members to participate in activities leading up to the economic summit, as well as the summit itself. Regent Brandes commented on the need to help businesses understand the capabilities of the UW in developing the state’s economy.

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

(a) UW-La Crosse Presentation: *Directions in Health*.

Interim Senior Vice President Gary Thibodeau introduced Ronald Rada, Interim Provost at UW-La Crosse. Provost Rada introduced a presentation titled, *Directions in Health*, which profiled six of the university's allied health programs: (1) Radiation Therapy, (2) Physician Assistant, (3) Physical Therapy, (4) Masters of Public Health, (5) Athletic Training, and (6) Therapeutic Recreation. The presentation emphasized the collaborative nature and all-university focus of these and other health related programs.

5. Authorization to Recruit.

- I.1.e.(1) It was moved by Regent Benson, seconded by Regent Boyle, that upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison be authorized to recruit for a Professor and Director, International Relations Research Institute, at a salary that may exceed the 2000-01 Regent Salary Range.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

6. New Program Authorization.

- I.1.f. It was moved by Regent Randall, seconded by Regent Mohs, that upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout be authorized to implement the B.S. in Applied Science.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

7. Additional items.

There were no additional items to come before the committee.

In closing discussion, Regent Boyle asked if the local technical college has programs complementary to those discussed in the UW-La Crosse presentation. Program representatives replied

that complementary programs exist in specific disciplines and that the institutions offer some shared laboratory experiences.

Regent Boyle recommended developing a schedule for addressing the committee's agenda items and developing a set of questions related to each area. He stressed the need to focus on and expect specific outcomes. Regent Brandes replied that this schedule will be prepared for the November meeting.

Regent Olivieri asked that the committee consider requiring a standardized approach to assessing the need for new programs. Interim Senior V.P. Thibodeau agreed to review options, but warned against a standardized approach that assumes a single market analysis model to fit all types of programs.

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

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

Resolutions I.1.e.(1) and I.1.f. were referred to the full session of the board at its Friday, October 6, 2000 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.