

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin
April 7, 2005

Regent Olivieri convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 2:04 p.m. Regents Olivieri, Axtell, Burmaster, and Richlen were present.

1. Approval of the minutes of the March 10, 2005, meeting of the Education Committee.

I.1.a.: It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Richlen, that the minutes of the March 10, 2005, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Approval of Vilas Request

Regent Olivieri reminded the Education Committee of the annual process for approval of the request made each April by UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee to the William F. Vilas Trust Estate. After the Committee approves the request, the President of the System sends it to the Vilas trustees, who determine the amount of income that will be available to fund the two institutions' requests. At the next month's meeting, the value of the proffer is reported to the Board and it acts to approve the proffer.

Regent Olivieri reviewed the areas funded by the Vilas Trust, including: undergraduate and graduate scholarships and fellowships, from which thousands of students on the Madison campus have benefited over the years; named professorships and additional research funding for faculty and students; a specific amount of its income for certain building projects, focused in recent years on the building of the Microbial Sciences Building which is part of the BioStar program. The Vilas Trust also funds several requests from UW-Milwaukee, including an annual music request and the funding of a Vilas Research Professor in the Department of English. Regent Olivier noted that this year's request totals almost \$6 million, and emphasized that the money would go toward critically deserving but oft-neglected and under-funded areas, especially in music and the arts.

The Committee expressed its profound appreciation for the Vilas support. In response to a question from Regent Axtell, UW-Madison Provost Peter Spear assured the Committee that when he and Chancellor Wiley met with the Vilas trustees, as they do annually in submitting their request, they would convey the Board's deep appreciation for the Trust's generosity. He also shared with the Committee some of the requirements governing the Vilas bequest, which stipulates in exact detail how much money can be used for scholarships to undergraduates. That amount remains at \$400 per student, which doesn't go as far as it used to when William F. Vilas wrote his will, and which explains why so many UW-Madison students receive them. He added that the endowment is probably worth about \$120 million by now.

Regent Olivieri asked whether it would be possible to have the Board act only once on the Vilas request, for example, only in May to approve the proffer. He expressed his trust in UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee to appropriately determine the amount and recipients of their requests and questioned whether the Board needed to approve them. Senior Vice President Marrett responded that

she would look into whether some of the Board's action could be taken care of by the President through delegated authority.

I.1.b.: It was moved by Regent Richlen, seconded by Regent Axtell, that, upon recommendation of the the Chancellors of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approve the request to the Trustees of the William F. Vilas Trust Estate for \$5,977,637 for fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, as provided by the terms of the William F. Vilas Trust.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

3. UW-Milwaukee Charter School: Inland Seas School of Expeditionary Learning

The Education Committee next considered approval of the UW-Milwaukee's Office of Charter School's ninth charter school, the Inland Seas School of Expeditionary Learning. The Committee observed with interest the creative curriculum of the school, which is organized around marine topics and themes, and includes sea and lake expeditions, as well a semester at sea. The innovativeness of the curriculum inspired questions from the Regents, which were answered by Professor Bob Kattman, Director of the Office of Charter Schools at UW-Milwaukee. The Committee was assured that there was, in fact, a strong, even traditional high school curriculum in place but one that would offer students a truly well-rounded education, and excellent preparation for college.

Interim Provost Rita Cheng noted that there were good opportunities for UW-Milwaukee's Great Lakes Institute to collaborate with this school on science education. The Committee was told that the school would be monitored closely because, while there was a good deal of funding committed to the school, it did not have a large organization backing it like most of the other charter schools UW-Milwaukee oversees.

I.1.c.: It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Richlen, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approve the charter school contract with the Inland Seas School of Expeditionary Learning.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

4. Delegation to UW System President Authority to Appoint UW Colleges Interim Campus Deans

The Committee next considered an expansion of the UW System President's delegated authority. Several years ago, the Board of Regents delegated to the President authority over certain personnel matters, a move designed to free Regent meeting time for more policy-oriented discussions. Regent Olivieri explained to the Committee that it had recently been determined that one additional delegation regarding the appointment and setting of the salary of Interim Campus Deans for the University of Wisconsin Colleges' campuses should have been included in the earlier request for delegated authority. He emphasized that the request was only for delegation to the President of the authority to appoint *Interim* Campus Deans. The Board of Regents would still retain the appointing authority for UW Colleges Campus Deans, as they have now. In response to Regent questions, the Committee was told that other personnel matters over which the President has delegated authority include interim Provost appointments, named professorships, and Board of Visitor appointments.

I.1.d.: It was moved by Regent Richlen, seconded by Regent Burmaster, that, upon recommendation of the President of the Board of Regents, the University of Wisconsin System President is delegated the authority to appoint and set the salary of University of Wisconsin Colleges Interim Campus Deans.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

5. Report of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Senior Vice President Marrett began and ended her report with quotes from poets, in recognition of April as National Poetry Month.

a. Allied Health Accreditation

In March, the Committee had asked that the Senior Vice President prepare for April a resolution for the Committee's action on the topic of allied health accreditation, which would represent the culmination of work and attention throughout the year to keeping to a minimum both credits-to-degree and costs for students in UW System allied health programs. The resolution presented by Senior Vice President Marrett to the Committee designates three courses of action for UW System officials: (1) consulting with higher education, professional and accrediting agencies of which they are members to ensure appropriate entry-level degree requirements in allied health professions; (2) consulting with Provosts and Deans of UW allied health programs to prevent, where possible, unnecessary increases in entry-level degree requirements; and (3) working with Provosts and Deans to keep credits-to-degree and costs for students to a minimum.

Senior Vice President Marrett explained to the Committee that there is both work to be done external to the UW System, and work to be done from within. Regent Richlen noted that she was pleased to see the specific reference in the resolution to the ability of minority and disadvantaged students to pursue allied health careers. She also encouraged Regents and senior UW administrators to draw more attention to federal aid programs which, through the maintenance of student loan forgiveness programs in high-demand fields, could help more students afford what are expensive allied health programs. Regent Olivieri expressed his satisfaction that, after spending a lot of time on allied health accreditation issues over the last few months, the Committee in collaboration with Senior Vice President Marrett and her staff, had reached a workable and realistic course of action, one that was both student-focused and clearly within the scope of Regent and administrative responsibility.

I.1.e.(1): It was moved by Regent Richlen, seconded by Regent Burmaster, that, upon recommendation of the Board of Regents, the University of Wisconsin System work to ensure that requirements for UW System allied health programs provide the necessary preparation for allied health professionals while minimizing credits-to-degree and costs for students in allied health programs.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

b. Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Annual Report

Senior Vice President Marrett reviewed for the Committee some of the key findings in the UW System's fifteenth annual Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Report, which summarizes institutional efforts to educate students about the prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Wisconsin Statutes direct the Board of Regents to annually submit this report to the Wisconsin

legislature. Wisconsin Statutes also require that each UW System institution annually report to the Wisconsin Department of Justice Assistance statistics on sexual assaults and sexual assaults by acquaintances that occurred on each campus during the previous year. Senior Vice President Marrett reminded those present that several years ago the Education Committee requested that the Board also receive the statistics that go to the Department of Justice Assistance, in addition to the statutorily required information on education and prevention efforts. She remarked that this information is now included annually in the report to the Regents and hence to the Legislature.

Senior Vice President Marrett continued that, in 2003-04, UW institutions received reports of 70 sexual assaults occurring on campus property and 125 occurring in off-campus areas where substantial numbers of students live or congregate. These numbers were similar to the numbers reported in 2002 and 2003. She cautioned that, contrary to what everyone hopes for, national data indicate that sexual assaults happen at much higher numbers than are ever reported to officials. As in previous years, the numbers in this year's report indicate that sexual assault continues to be a crime that is under-reported at UW campuses, indeed all college campuses. UW System institutions are well aware of the problem of under-reporting and they continue to work to raise awareness in order to encourage victims to seek assistance. The annual report summarizes some of the best practices and most notable efforts institutions have undertaken to inform students about sexual assault and to respond to victims. She noted that the campuses use a broad and innovative range of strategies to disseminate sexual assault prevention information and respond to incidents. Student groups are also involved in both planning and implementation of prevention efforts, and Senior Vice President Marrett praised the leadership students demonstrate on this issue.

She then highlighted two systemwide activities mentioned in the report, the first being a very successful statewide conference on the impact of sexual violence on the college campus, held last year (with another conference planned for later this year). The second initiative she described relates to the UW systemwide survey on alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA), which was officially administered at every UW institution for the first time this year. The survey included two questions on sexual violence, asking whether students were either the recipient or the agent of unwanted sexual contact. Each of those questions was followed up with another, which asks if either party was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time. Senior Vice President Marrett underscored the potential of these questions to be of significant help in providing baseline data on the prevalence of sexual violence on UW campuses.

The Committee's discussion focused on the troubling under-reporting of sexual assaults and what could be done to both prevent the incidence of such assaults, and at the same time encourage better reporting. Regent Richlen asked that attention be paid to the impact of budget cuts on the existing but ever-vulnerable services currently offered to students. UW-Green Bay Provost Sue Hammersmith noted that on a sprawling campus like hers, it has been impossible to fund adequate campus police to ensure the security of students. The campus is now able to fund only one police officer for a large campus area and that leaves students vulnerable. The Committee felt that this was a powerful example of the impact of the budget cuts on students, not just on their learning but also on their personal safety.

The Committee resolved to include with the submission of the annual report a cover letter from either Regent President Marcovich or President Reilly that would spell out in specific ways the impact of budget cuts on providing these essential services for students. The Committee recognized that such a cover letter might have a very limited readership, but felt that there was value in making the statement and that it was unacceptable to sit silent on the impact of budget cuts.

I.1.e.(2): It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Burmaster, that, upon recommendation of the of the President of the University of Wisconsin System and pursuant to 1989 Wisconsin Act 177, s.36.11(22)(b), Wis. Stats., the Board hereby accepts the report on implementation of the Act (the report on orientation programs and information provided to students on sexual assault and sexual harassment) and directs that the report be submitted to the Chief Clerk of each house of the Legislature for distribution to the appropriate standing committees under s.13.172(3).

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

c. Minority and Disadvantaged Student Annual Report

The Committee reached a similar conclusion with the second statutorily required report under consideration, the Minority and Disadvantaged Student Annual Report. In presenting the report, Senior Vice President Marrett emphasized to the Committee the precariousness of the funding that is detailed in the report, both the state and the federal funding. Several UW System institutions have lost for the first time in over thirty years their federal TRIO funding. Regent Burmaster added that the Department of Public Instruction has had to reconfigure its pre-college scholarship program based on legal pressures. It is now open to students who qualify for free lunch and no longer designated only for minority students. DPI intends to track participation rates, to see if students of color are adversely impacted by this change.

Senior Vice President Marrett reminded the Committee that the report meets a statutory requirement; it is not a full report on the work done, nor the programs offered throughout System for minority and disadvantaged students. Rather, it reports summarily on pre-college initiatives and activities, expenditures for students of color and disadvantaged students, and student financial assistance data. Regent Olivieri asked how many of the over 19,000 students who participate in pre-college programs were students of color, and was told that, historically, 80% of pre-college students are students of color. In response to Regent requests, Senior Vice President Marrett assured the Committee that it would receive a full accounting of the UW System's pre-college programs in early fall. The Committee expressed its hope that the Regent-established focus on retention would be reflected in the report it received, so that it would know its priorities for Phase II of Plan 2008 were being followed.

As it did with the Annual Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Report, the Committee expressed its frustration with the context in which the Minority and Disadvantaged Student Report is given and submitted. Like the Sexual Assault Report, the Committee is compelled to submit the report to meet the statutory requirement but without being able to speak to the impaired budget environment in which the work at the institutions takes place. Institutions can ultimately preserve on their own a very small amount of the overall funding (the Fund 402 dollars) for M & D programs. They are otherwise dependent on federal funding and state funding of the Lawton program (which has thus far remained untouched). The Committee questioned both how Plan 2008 could be truly successful when the money behind it is so imperiled, and its own role in voicing its concern regarding the impact of the budget on students.

As it did with the previous report, the Committee decided it would like to see a draft cover letter from the President to submit with the report. The letter would take a position emphasizing the critical need for continued state funding of M & D programs, especially in the face of increasingly precarious federal funding. It would be specific about what programs, service, and positions the System's institutions are being forced to consider cutting, and what trade-offs they are being asked to

make. The Committee was informed that, in contrast to the Sexual Assault Report which has no due date for submission, the M & D report has a due date of April 15. With the Sexual Assault Report, the Committee proposed bringing back next month a draft cover letter for discussion. In order to meet the deadline for submission of the M & D report, the Committee asked Senior Vice President Marrett to draft a letter for the President, and share it with Regent Olivieri before sending it out. The Committee expressed its belief that, even if the cover letters were not widely read, the Committee, with the help of System Administration, could seek to change the context in the future for how statutory requirements are met while keeping the core concerns for both these sensitive topics at the forefront of the discussion: that diminished state support for UW institutions has a very real impact on students, the institutions, and the citizens of Wisconsin.

I.1.e.(3): It was moved by Regent Richlen, seconded by Regent Axtell, that, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents accepts the 2003-04 Minority and Disadvantaged Student Annual Report for submission to the Governor and to the Chief Clerk of each house of the Legislature, pursuant to s.36.25 (14m) (c), Wis. Stats., for distribution to the appropriate standing committee under s.13.172 (3) Wis. Stats.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

d. Facilitating Undergraduate Research and Scholarship: Successes and Challenges

As a follow-up to the “Posters in the Rotunda” celebration, the Committee engaged in discussion about the benefits of, and the challenges to facilitating undergraduate research. Executive Vice President Don Mash conveyed to the Committee that the posters viewed in the Rotunda represent the culmination of an incredible amount of hard work, determination, and tireless dedication on the part of faculty, staff, and students.

Senior Vice President Marrett repeated for the Committee Goal V of the “Achieving Excellence” report, which is to “*enhance* the learning environment by providing opportunities for guided research, mentorship, and access to student services and resources that foster learning and citizenship.” Included in the Accountability Report presented to the Board in March was the fact that the UW System meets the national benchmark for UW seniors working with faculty members on research or other activities outside of course requirements at about the same rate as seniors nationally.

Chris Lind, the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of the Center of Excellence for Faculty-Student Research Collaboration at UW-Eau Claire, described for the Committee the elaborate infrastructure that the campus has put in place over the years to support undergraduate research. UW-Eau Claire’s Center was created in 1987 by a Regent initiative to establish centers of excellence at each institution. Eau Claire, and several other UW institutions, have been recognized in *U.S. News & World Report* precisely for their strength in providing research opportunities to undergraduate students, an impressive feat given that they are included in a group of otherwise predominantly private and doctoral institutions. Eau Claire has used some of the differential tuition approved by its students to contribute funding to these research opportunities. The program has also grown because faculty are able to attract greater federal dollars through the research they conduct with students. As Executive Vice President Mash concluded, everyone benefits: students, faculty, and the institution. He added, however, that the resources required, particularly in terms of faculty time, are significant. Faculty may get some kind of course release or small stipend to undertake these beyond-the-classroom experiences, but mostly they do it because they love to

conduct research, and to ignite that intellectual spark in the developing minds of those they teach. The budget environment, he concluded, impacts these kinds of programs as well.

The Committee asked what the Regents could do to foster undergraduate research opportunities for students, and queried whether a formal budget request might be appropriate sometime in the future. Regent Olivieri observed that System might want to broaden such a request to include support for those activities that foster faculty-student interaction of any kind. Drawing from his experience as the parent of a college freshman, he reported being told at various orientation programs that the single most important factor in engaging students in their educations is direct interaction with a faculty member; and that just one such experience is all it takes.

e. Plan 2008 Update

The Committee concluded its meeting with a brief update on Plan 2008 from Senior Vice President Marrett. She noted that the conversations with all fifteen of the Chancellors have almost been completed, and that Phase II plans are being re-posted on the web as the revised versions come in. The revised documents reflect the sharpening focus on closing the achievement gap, on assessment, and on engaging the entire institution. They are also proving invaluable as a means for the sharing of best practices. The Committee reiterated its request that it hear regular updates on Plan 2008. Regent Olivieri expressed his belief that the conversations with Chancellors should have been completed by now, and was told that they would be by the following week.

Resolutions I.1.b., I.1.c., I.1.d., I.1.e.(1), I.1.e.(2), and I.1.e.(3) were referred as consent agenda items to the full session of the Board of Regents at its Friday, April 8, 2005, meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.