

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS

1820 Van Hise Hall

Madison, Wisconsin

March 8, 2001

The March 8, 2001 meeting of the Education Committee was called to order by Regent JoAnne Brandes at 2:15 p.m. Regents Axtell, Benson, Boyle, Krutsch, Mohs, Olivieri, Randall and Smith were present.

Regent Brandes introduced Albert Beaver as the Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

1. Approval of the minutes of the February 8, 2001 meeting of the Education Committee.

It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Benson, that the minutes of the February 8, 2001 meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

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

(a) Presentation: *PK-16 Standards/Alignment*

Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Albert Beaver introduced a report on PK-16 Standards and Alignment. This presentation is part of the series of discussions related to the PK-16 Educational Initiative that the committee adopted as a priority at its November 2000 meeting. Presenters were Fran Garb, Senior Academic Planner, UW-System Administration, and four members of the CESA 2 Mathematics Curriculum Articulation Working Group: Professor Marty Schuh, UW-Manitowoc, Professor Fe Evangelista, UW-Whitewater, Mr. Rod Montanye, Janesville Craig High School, and Professor George Alexander, UW-Rock County.

Responding to Regent Brandes, Dr. Garb said that the working group examined efforts in other states, but emphasized that this work is at the beginning stages in all states. In response to Regent Axtell, Mr. Montanye indicated that high school guidance counselors are challenged by the need to direct students to appropriate educational paths following high school. Responding to Regent Boyle's question on curricular changes in teacher preparation programs, Professor Schuh indicated that it would take a few years before the full impact on university programs is known. Regent Boyle then asked why, having identified the problem, we cannot accelerate the implementation of remedies. Professor Evangelista replied that some changes have been made, but it will take time to validate existing theories regarding where the problems are.

Regent Krutsch proposed several policy considerations intended to help remedy the situation: (1) requiring four years of mathematics for admission to UW institutions; (2) having UW institutions give no credit for remedial math courses; and (3) recommending interactive mathematics software that students could use to improve their math skills before entering the university.

Regent Benson thanked the UW System for its work in this area and observed that the standards are driving change in high school curricula. While there is much work to be done, he expects the end product to serve as a basis for working with faculty in both public and private institutions. He urged the UW System to ensure that students in its teacher education programs are aware of the content standards. Professor Schuh agreed and stressed the importance of supporting professional development at all levels to disseminate information about the alignment issues.

Regent Axtell asked panelists to comment on use of the high school graduation test as a requirement for admission to UW institutions. Observing that the test is rigorous, Mr. Montanye said he would want to know where the cut-off point would be. Regent Benson predicted that requiring the test for admission would put an end to remediation courses.

Regent Olivieri proposed the following policy initiatives: (1) advocate continued work on alignment issues; (2) encourage exposure to math in each year of high school; (3) eliminate the negative connotation of the word "remediation" in light of the increasing number of older, returning students; and (4) further discuss what he sees as the implicit assumption that in order to complete high school a student must demonstrate readiness to enter a four year college, rather than another type of institution.

Regent Boyle said the board must ensure that teacher education programs are in line with DPI requirements and include the standards in their programs. Regent Randall said that the UW System's greatest impact is in teacher education. He urged including middle school educators in this process, especially with regard to the sequencing of math courses. Regent Krutsch stressed the importance of informing high school students of the consequences of poor preparation.

3. Authorization to Recruit.

- I.1.c.(1) It was moved by Regent Olivieri, seconded by Benson, 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 Coach, Men's Basketball, within a salary range that exceeds 75 percent of the President's current salary.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

4. New Program Authorizations.

There were no requests for new program authorizations.

5. Presentation: Academic Program Review and Development.

Interim Senior Vice President Al Beaver introduced a presentation on Academic Program Review and Development. He was joined by Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted, Assistant to the Provost, UW-La Crosse, and Gary Alexander, Senior Academic Planner, Office of Academic Affairs. Panelists reviewed the process by which campuses and the Office of Academic Affairs prepare new programs for presentation to the Board of Regents.

In discussion, Regent Olivieri asked how many institutions appeal to the President. Interim Senior Vice President Beaver said he could recall three or four. Responding to Regent Olivieri's question as to whether the system grants most entitlement request, Dr. Beaver said it is cyclical and that in the past fewer entitlements have been granted than has been the case in the past few years. Responding again to Regent Olivieri, Senior V.P. Beaver said that both campuses and UW System promote the development of new programs.

Responding to Regent Axtell, Dr. Beaver indicated the cost of developing an entitlement to plan is moderate. Responding to Regent Brandes, Dr. Zeisler-Vralsted said that decisions on program discontinuation are made a different committee than the one involved in program approval, with the faculty senate making the final decision.

Regent Axtell stressed the importance of market research and asked whether campuses do a return-on-investment study for programs. Interim Chancellor Doug Hastad, UW-La Crosse, said that while deans are aware of program costs, they do not prepare formal cost analyses. Responding to Regent Axtell, Dr. Zeisler-Vralsted said that various factors serve as criteria for dropping a program, e.g., number of students, duplication across the UW System, resources, and market research. A dean from UW-Stout said that, as part of his institution's regular five-year review, programs use follow-up studies to gauge such things as student and employer satisfaction, placement of graduates, enrollment history, and the program's alignment with the market. Regent Axtell stressed the importance institutions' monitoring program health, since Regents do not have a role in program discontinuation.

Regent Boyle urged development of standard criteria for reporting resources to the board and expressed the desire that campuses be required to specify what resources are available and to what extent it will commit those resources to a proposed new program. Interim Senior V.P. Beaver suggested the possibility of expanding the Executive Summary to include this information.

Regent Krutsch asked about the process for eliminating lower priority majors and whether campuses have processes regarding diverting resources from lower to higher-priority programs.

Oshkosh Chancellor Rick Wells noted that it is increasingly difficult to specify future funding sources. He noted that budgeting for new programs is a constant balancing act and represents a calculated risk involving multiple funding strategies. Regent Boyle stated that campuses should describe their funding strategy in the executive summary.

Regent Olivieri made a number of suggestions for improving Executive Summaries: (1) greater consistency in presenting market information; (2) clarification of the meaning of reported numbers of program approvals and discontinuations, so that the board may better understand the impact of proposed new programs on overall program array; and (3) providing a campus history regarding programs eliminated when a new program is brought forward. He suggested considering requiring dropping a program when adding a program. He emphasized the need to discuss collaboration and the use of technology in program delivery very early in the process, urging that collaboration be a requirement for all proposed new programs. He expressed concern about programs that potentially exacerbate the credit-to-degree problem and asked if UW System should address potential credit-to-degree problems where they occur in new program proposals.

Regent Boyle suggested getting a better sense of how a proposed program fits into campus program array and conforms to campus mission.

6. Additional items.

There were no additional items to come before the committee.

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

It was moved by Regent Olivieri, seconded by Regent Axtell, 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 Axtell, Benson, Boyle, Brandes, Mohs, Olivieri and Randall voting “yes,” and no regents voting “no.”

In closed session:

I.1.g.(1) It was moved by Regent Benson, seconded by Regent Boyle, that the following named professorships be approved at UW-Madison, effective July 1, 2001:

David Bordwell Dept. of Communication Arts	Hilldale Professor;
Richard R. Burgess Dept. of Oncology McArdle Lab for Cancer Research	James D. Watson Professor of Oncology;
William W. Busse Dept. of Medicine	Charles E. Reed Professor of Medicine;
Claudia Card Dept. of Philosophy	Emma Goldman Professor of Philosophy;
Christopher L. Coe Dept. of Psychology	W.B. Cannon Professor of BioPsychology;
F. Fleming Crim Dept. of Chemistry	Hilldale Professor;
Judith Kimble Depts. of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics Molecular Biology Lab	Vilas Professor;
Stephen E. Lucas Dept. of Communication Arts	Evjue-Bascom Professor in the Humanities;
Alexander Nagel Dept. of Mathematics	Lipman Bers Professor of Mathematics;

Bassam Z. Shakhashiri
Dept. of Chemistry

John D. Wright
Dept. of Chemistry

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William T. Evjue Distinguished Chair for
the Wisconsin Idea;

Andreas Christopher Albrecht Professor of
Chemistry.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Resolutions I.1.c.(1) and I.1.g.(1) were referred to the full session of the board at its Friday, March 9, 2001 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.