

## MINUTES

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS

1820 Van Hise Hall

Madison, Wisconsin

September 6, 2001

#### 1. Admissions Review (all regents invited).

The September 6, 2001 meeting of the Education Committee was called to order by Regent Patrick Boyle at 10:30 a.m. All regents were invited to the first portion of the meeting, which was devoted to UW admissions practices. Regents Axtell, Barry, Brandes, Burmaster, De Simone, Gottschalk, Jones, Krutsch, Marcovich, Mohs, Olivieri, Randall, Schneiders, and Smith were present. Regent Klauser joined the meeting in progress.

Regent President Jay Smith reviewed the Board's themes for the year: (1) the Economic Stimulus Package; (2) defining the quality of education; and (3) looking at the university's total resource base and examining options for enhancing it. He described a new meeting format that includes Thursday morning meetings of the full board, followed by individual committee meetings in the afternoon.

Regent Smith noted that today's discussion of admissions would not focus solely on race. In addition, it will be neither a reconsideration of admissions policy nor a debate of affirmative action.

President Katharine Lyall introduced Cora B. Marrett, who assumed the duties of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs on August 1, 2001.

Regent Boyle introduced a presentation on UW System admissions policies and practices. President Lyall reviewed UW System admissions policies. She stressed that campuses: (1) must look at multiple indicators in making admissions decisions; (2) may allow for exceptions; and (3) must apply the same requirements for both resident and non-resident applicants. In addition, campuses may not admit solely on the basis of test scores; nor can they use quotas, targets or formulas in making admission decisions.

UW System Deputy General Counsel Patricia Brady discussed legal issues related to admissions. Since there has been no litigation in the seventh circuit court, the UW system is bound by the Supreme Court's decision in the Bakke case, in which Justice Powell rendered the opinion that where race is used to achieve diversity in admissions, there must be a compelling interest for doing so and the program must be narrowly tailored to serve that interest.

UW-Madison Chancellor John Wiley presented data comparing the ACT and class rank of entering freshmen with their first semester and graduating grade point averages. He pointed out that these data do not predict success for individual students. Chancellor Wiley stressed that UW-Madison's review process is holistic, using no cut-offs or formulas; that no one is admitted or denied on the basis of race; and that all students are admitted on the expectation of success.

Responding to Regent Schneiders, Chancellor Wiley said it is not the case that a student must be in the top ten percent of their high school class to be admitted to UW-Madison.

Regent Mohs stressed the importance of confidence in the admissions office and expressed his frustration in attempting to learn how race is used in the UW-Madison process. He said that UW policies are vague in allowing for race to be considered but do not state how this may be done. He raised the question of consistency with the proviso in chapter 36 that race not be used in admissions considerations.

Regent Randall expressed support for UW admissions policies and practices as consistent with the university's mission to serve all the citizens of Wisconsin. He said the larger issue is to provide a high quality educational experience for all students, with special attention being paid to retention.

In response to Regent Smith, Attorney Brady replied that neither UW System nor its campuses uses quotas, targets or formulas.

Regent Smith stated his hope that the Education Committee would address questions regarding use of the ACT, the high school graduation test, and his perception that grade inflation has occurred in the high schools. He also stressed that the board's debate about admissions policies should not detract from the university's efforts to cultivate a welcoming climate for students of color.

Regent Boyle noted other issues for the committee to address regarding admissions, e.g., access and accurately communicating admissions standards to parents and prospective students.

Regent Barry asked if the debate over admissions will continue, expressing his desire to consider the apparent conflict between chapter 36 and the board's policy on admissions.

The committee recessed at 12:05 p.m., at which time the full board heard a presentation by Stanley Ikenberry, past president of ACE, on contemporary higher education.

2. Presentation on Reducing High Risk Drinking among College Students (all regents invited).

The Education Committee, with all regents invited, reconvened at 1:35 p.m. to hear a presentation by Dr. G. Alan Marlatt, Director of the University of Washington Addictive Behaviors Research Center. Dr. Marlatt reviewed the work of a committee of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism on reducing high risk drinking among college students and described the University of Washington's use of brief intervention programs in a harm-reduction approach. Following Dr. Marlatt's presentation, Chancellors John Wiley, UW-Madison, Donald Mash, UW-Eau Claire, and Jack Keating, UW-Parkside, discussed UW System activities in this area.

Responding to Regent Krutsch, Dr. Marlatt said that unintended consequences have resulted from raising drinking ages. He noted, in response to Regent Brandes, that Wisconsin has one of the country's highest per capita drinking rates. Responding to Regent De Simone, he said parental notification of student alcohol use is a subject of national discussion.

Regent Burmaster supported the importance of employing harm-reduction strategies with new freshmen, given the increased use of alcohol as students move from high school to college.

This portion of the meeting was recessed at 2:25 p.m.

3. Approval of the minutes of the June 7, 2001 meeting of the Education Committee.

Regent Boyle reconvened the Education Committee at 2:30 p.m. Regents Mohs, Brandes, Burmaster, Marcovich, Olivieri and Smith were present. Regent Randall joined the meeting in progress.

It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Regent Marcovich, that the minutes of the June 7, 2001 meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

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

Cora Marrett, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the report of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. She stressed that the intellectual power acquired by students depends on the quality of the campus learning environment. The Office Academic Affairs works in partnership with Regents, Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs, and other stakeholders to promote conditions for enhancing that environment.

5. 2001-02 Education Committee Agenda.

The committee discussed its proposed 2001-02 agenda. Regent Mohs stressed that presentations should be directed towards suggesting specific board actions. Regent Boyle stated he hopes to get background information from system staff and institutions that will enhance the board's understanding of policy issues and help it assess possible actions. Regent Olivieri stated his expectation that at the end of the year, the committee have a product reflecting its positions and actions on topics addressed. Regent Brandes urged that there be time for follow-up discussions on specific issues. Regent Olivieri, with Regent Brandes concurring, emphasized the importance of student input.

Responding to a suggestion from Chancellor Richard Wells, UW-Oshkosh, Senior Vice President Marrett said her staff would work with campuses to help focus the visits of regent campus liaisons to address the issues in which the committee is most interested. The goal is to build a common basis of knowledge for making policy decisions. Chancellor Erlenbach cautioned against developing a fixed template for regent visits, since each institution must present its own unique needs, barriers and strengths.

Regent Olivieri noted the importance of examining interconnection among topics, e.g., retention, time- and credits-to-degree. Senior Vice President Marrett agreed and further emphasized the need to focus on specific outcomes for improving quality.

Regent Mohs suggested focusing on the following areas: (1) under the *student experience*, admission, retention and graduation challenges; (2) under *partnerships*, accountability for economic stimulus package and the high school graduation test; and (3) under *achieving excellence*, Plan 2008. Regent Marcovich agreed on the importance of discussing the high school graduation test, with the hope of giving some advice to the legislature. Regent Burmaster stressed that if the board is to act on the graduation test, it do so quickly because the uncertainty about the test's status is extremely disruptive to the state's high schools.

6. Initial Discussion of Accountability for Stimulus Package.

The committee held an initial discussion of the Accountability for Economic Stimulus Package. Regent Boyle stated the importance of using the money in ways that actually will stimulate the economy and being accountable for the results. He emphasized the need to involve institutions in determining exactly how they will be accountable for using the funds. Regent Olivieri observed that each initiative has goals for increasing enrollment in specific majors. Senior Vice President Marrett said it is important that everyone have the same understanding of how accountability will be defined.

Regent Smith noted that the board would want to know exactly how the economic stimulus funds are used, in order to demonstrate that the university's actions do in fact stimulate the economy. While it is not possible to show immediate impact, it is possible to show that the university is "on the right path." He said the university must learn to market itself, articulating exactly what it does for the state. Regent Boyle warned against focusing solely on enrollments and noted the need to identify additional criteria for demonstrating accountability. Associate Vice President Frank Goldberg said that his office would develop accountability criteria for discussion at next month's meeting. Associate Vice President Kathi Sell agreed to provide a form for the committee to review, which will be used to gather data from campuses on the details of their activities.

7. Revised Mission Statement: UW-Superior.

Dr. Rosemary Keefe, Dean of Faculties, reported on the revision to the UW-Superior Select Mission. Responding to a question from Senior Vice President Marrett, Dean Keefe replied that campus discussions on the revised mission ran the gamut from academic affairs to student services. Responding to Regent Mohs, she noted that the university's liberal arts both reflects the western tradition and acknowledges cultural diversity and global awareness. Responding to Regent Boyle's observation that recent programs approved at UW-Superior have been in the more "professional" areas, Dean Keefe emphasized that all the university's programs are broadly grounded in the liberal arts.

Following a public hearing at UW-Superior, this proposed revision will come before the committee for action.

8. Report on 2000 Undergraduate Drop Rates.

- I.1.h. It was moved by Regent Marcovich, seconded by Mohs, that upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the Report 2000 Undergraduate Drop Rates for submission to the Joint Committee on Finance.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

9. Authorization to Recruit.

- I.1.i.(1) It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Randall, that upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior be authorized to recruit for a Provost and Vice Chancellor, at a salary within the 2001-02 Regent Salary Range.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

10. Additional items.

There were no additional items to come before the committee.

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

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

In closed session:

I.1.k.(1) It was moved by Regent Marcovich, seconded by Regent Brandes, that the following named professorships be approved at UW-Madison:

Franco Cerrina Electrical & Computer Engineering	McFarland-Bascom Professor (effective July 1, 2001);
Bruce M. Christensen Animal and Biomedical Sciences	H. Edwin Young Professor (effective July 1, 2001)
Nikolas Christensen Geology & Geophysics	Alberta and Alice Weeks Professor (retroactive to January 1, 1997);
Jorge C. Escalante-Semerena Bacteriology	Ira L. Baldwin Professor in Bacteriology (effective July 1, 2001);
Theresa Kelley English	Tiefenthaler Professor (retroactive to July 1, 2000);
David Loewenstein English	Tiefenthaler Professor (effective July 1, 2001);
Stephen Nakada Surgery	David Theodore Uehling Professor (effective July 1, 2001);
Walter R. Stevenson Plant Pathology	Friday Chair for Vegetable Research (effective July 1, 2001);
Mariamne Whatley Curriculum & Instruction/ Women's Studies	Evjue-Bascom Professor in Women's Studies (effective July 1, 2001);

Gary S. Wood  
Medicine

Geneva F. and Sture Johnson Professor  
in Dermatology (effective July 1, 2001).

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

- I.1.k.(2) It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Regent Burmaster, that Dr. John E. Houghton, UW-Stevens Point, be appointed Vallier Treehaven Chair of Ecology, effective May 2001 through May 2004.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

- I.1.k.(3) It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Regent Marcovich, that Dr. James Bronson, UW-Whitewater, be appointed the Irvin L. Young Professor of Entrepreneurship, for the period October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2003.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

- I.1.k.(4) It was moved by Regent Brandes, seconded by Regent Marcovich, that a temporary base salary adjustment be approved for a specified individual, UW-Madison, resulting in a salary that exceeds 75% of the President's salary.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Resolutions I.1.h., I.1.i.(1), and I.1.k.(1)-(3) were referred to the full session of the board at its Friday, September 7, 2001 meeting.

Resolution I.1.k.(4) was referred to closed session of the board following its Friday September 7, 2001 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.