

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS
Room 1820, Van Hise Hall, UW-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin
December 5, 2002

Regent Boyle convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 3:00 p.m. Regents Boyle, Axtell, Brandes, Burmaster, and Mohs were present. Regents Barry and Gottschalk joined the meeting in progress.

1. Approval of the minutes of the November 7, 2002, meeting of the Education Committee.

It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Regent Brandes, that the minutes of the November 7, 2002, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Report of the Senior Vice President

Wisconsin Advanced Placement Distance Learning Consortium

Senior Vice President Marrett announced the newly funded Wisconsin Advanced Placement Distance Learning Consortium. Developed by the UW-Madison Center on Education and Work, the Wisconsin Advanced Placement Distance Learning Consortium aims to provide advanced placement courses to students in districts where few such courses currently exist. Senior Vice President Marrett described the prevailing discrepancies that exist between school districts in their ability to offer AP courses, and, hence, the impediments to access for secondary students educated in more rural and poorer school districts. She noted that on the UW-Madison campus, nearly three-fourths of the freshman class entered with AP credit. Yet, almost one quarter of Wisconsin's public secondary schools do not offer a single advanced placement course. The Consortium seeks to rectify such discrepancies by creating, operating, and maintaining a distance-learning clearinghouse on advanced placement available to every Wisconsin high school. FIPSE, the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education, has provided a grant of almost \$600,000 to fund this initiative. The UW System serves as a funding partner.

2003-2004 Sabbaticals Report

Senior Vice President Marrett next reported on the 2003-2004 Sabbaticals Report. Current plans call for sabbatical awards to 227 faculty members, of which 31 percent are women and 14 percent are minorities. Of this number, 122 will spend one semester on sabbatical leave, and 105 were given one-year leaves. Senior Vice President Marrett enumerated several examples of the faculty sabbatical projects funded, highlighting those which focus on how to better prepare students for service to the state in critical need areas, and on how to expand global understanding both within and beyond the boundaries of Wisconsin. She also mentioned the extraordinary efforts being made to preserve the sabbaticals program in an era of budget reduction, noting that this is an institution-funded program. While there will undoubtedly be some scaling back in what the campuses can fund for next year, the program is crucial to maintaining the quality of faculty members, and renewing the vibrancy of their teaching and scholarship.

Annual Program Planning and Review Report

Associate Vice President Ron Singer and Senior Academic Planner Fran Garb presented the Annual Program Planning and Review Report. Associate Vice President Singer began by indicating that this year's report was expanded to explain in greater detail the whole spectrum of the program planning and approval process, noting that the Education Committee only learns of new programs at the culmination of that process. Dr. Garb reported that the existing program array at any given time is the result of vibrant activity and rigorous assessment at the System and the institutional level. Dr. Garb reviewed the entire process, from the request for entitlement to plan, to authorization to implement, to implementation, and, finally, to joint and then institutional review. Throughout each stage of the process, questions are raised that must be addressed, decisions are made about whether and how to continue, and significant revisions are undertaken. On occasion, programs are denied entitlement, or are withdrawn or discontinued by the campus. Assessment and improvement are continuous, and Dr. Singer and Dr. Garb reviewed some of the mechanisms in place for doing so.

The size of the program array has been remarkably constant at about 1,000 major degree programs over the past five years, indicating that the addition of new programs to the array has been offset by program discontinuations and mergers. The array itself, however, is dynamic: new programs enter the array every year. Associate Vice President Singer also informed the Committee that the Annual Report covers academic majors leading to a degree, but not sub-majors and certificate programs. The array, he concluded, is even broader and deeper than the Annual Report outlines, and responds to emerging needs and key employment and economic development of the state.

They ended their report by announcing the intention of the Office of Academic and Student Services to suspend all new academic program planning through February, 2003. The 3-month moratorium will allow time for System and the institutions to deliberate on how to move forward most responsibly in a period of likely downsizing. Associate Vice President Singer emphasized that in the long run, to fail in the UW System's efforts to maintain an array of academic programs that meets the needs of its students and the state will not address, but rather will exacerbate the state's financial woes.

The Committee engaged in discussion about various aspects of the report. Several Regents questioned the need for a full-fledged moratorium, and wondered how many specific programs might be impacted by such an action. Senior Vice President Marrett responded that the suspension is meant to allow time for reflection and re-assessment of program planning and array in a time of great budget uncertainty. In fact, very few programs will be impacted by the 3-month suspension. In response to a comment from Regent Barry, Associate Vice President Singer agreed that greater effort should and will be made to relate program planning to institutional strategic plans. Chancellor Shepard expressed his philosophical concern that a moratorium adds an extra bureaucratic layer that stifles innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurialism at a time when they are most needed given the state's budget troubles. Associate Vice President Singer said that the plan was to come forward in March, 2003, with a few programs that have met certain conditions, but that it is incumbent upon the Office of Academic and Student Services to establish criteria for new programs that respond to institutional need, systemwide program array, and to the state's budget situation.

The Committee revisited the problem of credential creep as dictated by national and regional accreditation bodies. UW-Madison Provost Peter Spear explained that Madison and some of its peers have taken this issue up with the accreditation agencies, but that the issue is enormously complex and that without accreditation of certain programs, UW graduates would not be licensed in the areas from which they graduate, thus making them unemployable. Senior Vice President Marrett concurred that accreditation pressures cannot be ignored. Expressing her appreciation to the Regents for their concern, she added that the UW System will not have public education options in programs like Audiology and Physical Therapy if the System does not address changing accreditation requirements.

3. Program Authorization: Second Reading of M.S. in Health Care Informatics, UW-Milwaukee

I.1.d.: It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Mohs, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor be authorized to implement the M.S. in Health Care Informatics.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

4. Authorization to Reorganize a School of Education, UW-Stout

UW-Stout Chancellor Sorensen characterized the proposed reorganization of a School of Education at UW-Stout as the necessary merging of two excellent education programs that were separated in ways that no longer made sense in terms of institutional needs and accreditation directives. He added that the reorganization would be self-funded through position reallocation.

I.1.e.: It was moved by Regent Burmaster, seconded by Regent Barry, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor be authorized to reorganize the School of Education..

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Some discussion followed as Regent Axtell questioned whether it was appropriate for the Education Committee to approve this reorganization without additional information, citing an instance several years ago in which UW-River Falls was asked to come back with more information prior to the Regents approving a similar reorganization that institution had proposed. Regent Burmaster suggested that the situation at Stout was different: Stout's proposed reorganization addressed changes in teacher licensure now required by all teacher education programs. Regent Axtell requested additional information on what reallocation really means. Senior Vice President Marrett agreed to provide this information, noting that reallocation will take a more visible role in coming months, and adding that reallocation is about establishing institutional priorities and making judgments, and not about hidden pockets of money being utilized. Regent Barry made an additional request for more information on North Central Accreditation, its guidelines and its policy-making.

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

It was moved by Regent Burmaster, seconded by Regent Brandes, 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, Barry, Boyle, Brandes, Burmaster, Mohs, and Gottschalk voting "yes," and no regents voting "no."

In closed session:

I.1.g.(1) It was moved by Regent Barry, seconded by Regent Mohs, that the extended

leave of absence for Professor Richard Monette be approved at UW-Madison.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Resolutions I.1.d. and I.1.e. were referred as consent agenda items to the full session of the Board of Regents at its Friday, December 6, 2002 meeting.

Resolution I.1.g.(1) was referred to closed session of the Board following its Friday, December 6, 2002 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.