

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS

1820 Van Hise Hall

Madison, Wisconsin

March 7, 2002

Regent Boyle convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 2:15 p.m. Regents Boyle, Brandes, Burmaster, Mohs, Olivieri, Randall, and Smith were present.

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

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

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Discussion: Resources - State Compact.

Regent Boyle noted that it would be important to determine the right time to initiate discussion with state government regarding individual components of a state budget compact. Regent Mohs stated that the best time would be when the state is in better financial condition.

3. Discussion: Quality: The Value of the Liberal Arts.

Regent Mohs stated that he perceived strong Regent agreement with the presentations' eloquent endorsement of liberal arts education. In response to a question from Regent Boyle, Dean James Veninga stated that the number of credits needed for a degree should depend on general education goals and the courses needed to achieve those goals. Regent Mohs suggested that one of those goals might be how we develop the concept of the self within a larger society. Chancellor Shepard observed the need to determine whether we are getting our money's worth on general education courses. Chancellor Wells noted that new pedagogies, such as service learning, will be important for developing student understanding and skills associated with a liberal arts education.

4. Discussion: DPI Presentation on PI-34.

In response to a question from Regent Olivieri, President Lyall indicated that the UW System and the PK 16 Council strongly endorse the PI 34 rules, as evidenced by her recent testimony before the Legislature. Regent Olivieri stated that the Board of Regents should add its endorsement and asked where campuses were with respect to implementation. President Lyall indicated that each campus is moving toward development of an electronic portfolio for education majors. Regent Olivieri responded that if funding is a concern, the regents should emphasize this in future allocations. President Lyall replied that a prospective DIN targets Teacher Preparation. Senior Vice President Marrett explained that the purpose of today's presentation was to provide information and answer questions, and that PK-16 efforts will be coming to the Board later for review.

Regent Mohs emphasized the use of quantitative measures, such as reductions in truancy, to determine the effectiveness of the new rules. Regent Burmaster suggested tracking the retention of teachers in their first five years, given the current 25% attrition rate. Senior Vice President Marrett indicated that a resolution could be brought to the Board that relates the reforms to specified outcomes.

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

Senior Vice President Cora Marrett observed that in lieu of a formal report, she would make some remarks setting the context for the Education Committee's agenda. Reprising a theme she had introduced at the February meeting, she noted that "It takes a System to foster quality outcomes," a revision of her earlier assertion that it takes a System to nurture teaching and learning. Acknowledging the importance that the Education Committee attaches to quality across all endeavors, she conveyed the efforts of the Office of Academic Affairs to focus on quality, not uniformity of activity, as a signature of the UW System. One such effort is to place new programs within a broader context of campus mission and existing offerings. Senior Vice President Marrett noted that the presentation to be made by UW-Milwaukee would capture some of the variations that are possible in the pursuit of quality and excellence. It would also reemphasize the interdependencies—of people, roles, and programs—that obtain in the search for quality in general, and the plan for doctoral programs at UW-Milwaukee in particular.

Senior Vice President Marrett remarked that other campuses would have the opportunity in the future to present their program array within a larger institutional context. In the presentation following UW-Milwaukee's, the point would be made further that responsibility for the quality of the undergraduate experience rests on multiple shoulders. The morning Liberal Arts presentation also underscored that idea, as would the initial reading of the two Theatre Arts programs on the agenda. Dr. Marrett concluded with reflections on how the Office of Academic Affairs, like the Board of Regents, must wrestle with its role and actions in understanding, refining, and measuring quality in sustainable ways. She thanked UW-Milwaukee for providing an opportunity to launch this more systemic approach to program array and development.

6. UW-Milwaukee Presentation.

Provost John Wanat began the presentation on UW-Milwaukee's plans for doctoral education by describing how an urban research university's mission differs from other universities by a heightened emphasis on the application of research to the surrounding urban environment. He stated that this requires additional measures of quality, such as contributions to diversity and community partnerships. Provost Wanat emphasized the value of an enriched doctoral array in Southeastern Wisconsin through its effects, such as increased economic vitality and opportunity for the development of a professional middle class, particularly amongst populations of color.

Provost Wanat then described UW-Milwaukee's current array of 17 doctoral programs and number of graduates. He indicated that quality is ensured through a process of Program Array Review, which evaluates and classifies programs as either meeting quality expectations or needing further attention. Provost Wanat noted that, based on this review process, three programs were identified as deserving strengthening, and increased funding was directed to those programs. Other programs were re-structured, and one suspended admissions in 1999.

UW-Milwaukee tracks the placement of its graduates as a measure of quality, with many accepting university positions within and without Wisconsin, at institutions such as Harvard, Ohio State University, UW-Oshkosh, and Marquette University. Provost Wanat added that industry and government placements are

frequent, including such organizations as S.C. Johnson, Harley Davidson, 3M, EPA, and the World Bank. Another measure of quality is contributions to diversity, and Provost Wanat recognized the fact that UW-Milwaukee serves more minority students than any other UW System institution. He indicated that UW-Milwaukee tracks other quality measures, including the number of community partnerships, the increasing amount of funded research, and the growing level of graduate student support.

Provost Wanat described UW-Milwaukee's plan for additional programs in three doctoral categories: 1) Education/Urban, with added programs in History, Africology, and Social Welfare; 2) Environment/Health, with added programs in Health Sciences, Audiology (UW Consortial), and Physical Therapy (UW Consortial); and 3) Economic Development, with added programs in Biomedical Imaging (Medical College of Wisconsin Consortial) and Information Sciences. He then explained the need for the additional programs, sources of the necessary funding, the number of new faculty, and the implementation timeline, which has been adjusted due to the current state financial situation. Provost Wanat concluded by requesting Regent support for the programs as they come forward and pledging that they will meet quality standards, have adequate resources, and receive ongoing evaluation.

Regent Boyle reminded the committee that the presentation today was to inform the Committee, and that any action would be considered at the next meeting after members had time to review the information provided. In response to a question by Regent Boyle, Provost Wanat reported that 13-14% of doctoral students were international students, 300 were nonresident, and 400 were resident. Regent Mohs commented that with further reallocation pending, the funds for doctoral programs could be seen as vulnerable to budget cuts. Provost Wanat was joined by Randall Lambrecht, Dean of Allied Health Programs, to explain cuts already made, such as delays in faculty hires, use of ad hoc instruction, phasing out less-important academic programs, and delays in buying equipment. These cuts allowed reallocations, for example, to increase graduate stipends, an area of great importance to ensuring the quality of doctoral programs.

Regent Olivieri acknowledged an excellent presentation and noted the improvement in several numerical measures, such as the level of outside funding. He indicated his support for the full array of doctoral programs proposed by UW-Milwaukee, as well as a desire for the Board to affirm its support for the History Ph.D. brought before the Board for an initial reading in December. Regent Brandes concurred, adding that graduate programs at UW-Milwaukee are oriented to people who are already in a profession, need an additional degree to move to the next level, and are not willing to relocate outside of Southeastern Wisconsin. In expressing her support for the UW-Milwaukee proposal, she identified its impact as an economic stimulus to the region. Regent Randall also expressed support and a desire for endorsement at the April meeting, noting how doctoral programs help build a professional class and create collaborations with community agencies. The state, he concluded, needs a UW-Milwaukee that is strong and can fulfill its mission as a public, urban research university.

7. The Quality of the Undergraduate Experience

Associate Vice President Frank Goldberg reported on the UW System Retention Conference held on February 4-5, 2002. Retention, he asserted, is the outcome of a quality education; a quality undergraduate experience maximizes the chances that a student will be retained and graduate. He reviewed the conference program, which included reports by campus teams on effective retention improvement programs.

Associate Vice President Goldberg identified the general themes that occurred repeatedly in the conference discussions: 1) All segments of the campus community are responsible for and must participate to increase retention; 2) Classroom environment is a critical factor in determining whether students are retained;

3) Most students exhibit at least one risk factor for non-retention, necessitating early identification and intervention; 4) Students themselves provide the best data for identifying successful retention efforts; 5) More formal program assessment is needed to document effective retention practices; and 6) Programs that help students make good decisions about their education are a particularly effective method of improving retention.

Associate Vice President Goldberg turned the podium over to panelists from three UW System institutions. Provost Ron Satz from UW-Eau Claire introduced Jason Tetzloff, Interim Director of Orientation and the First Year Experience, Physics Professor Erik Hendrickson, and a student in her second semester at UW-Eau Claire. They described aspects of Eau Claire's First Year Experience Program, a program that designates introductory courses across disciplines as First Year Experience classes limited to 20 freshmen students. The courses seek to improve retention by creating connections between students and individual faculty members, mentoring relationships involving senior students, and meaningful academic and non-academic out-of-class activities.

Provost Bill Meyer then reported on UW-Stevens Point's efforts to improve student retention, satisfaction, and persistence by focusing on increased attention to advising. Improvements in retention rates at UW-Stevens Point are testimony that the efforts were working. He introduced Julie Schneider, an Academic Advisor, and Laurie Martin Keefe, a Career Counselor, to describe the Academic and Career Counseling to Ensure Student Success (ACCESS) program. They recounted their work with undeclared majors, especially those at-risk students who did not have the requisite GPAs to get into their desired majors. Through a mix of academic and career counseling, they help those students develop realistic goals and plans that will allow them to continue and succeed at UW-Stevens Point.

Associate Vice President Goldberg introduced Ray Hayes, Director of Undecided Student Advisement at UW-Stout, to present some of the work UW-Stout has undertaken to improve student retention. In response to the growing numbers of undecided students, UW-Stout instituted in 1998 a Seminar in Career Exploration to help those students find academic direction and majors. This initiative has already resulted in tangible outcomes: 80% of the students completing the course remain at UW-Stout and subsequently pursue academic majors. Mr. Hayes also described the campus's Student Retention Committee, formed in 1998, which meets monthly to initiate and review retention goals and activities. He noted that neither Chancellor Sorenson nor Provost Sedlak could attend the Board of Regents meeting because they were in Washington, DC, receiving the Baldrige National Quality Award from President George W. Bush. The institution's retention efforts were considered to be a contributing factor to receiving the award.

In the discussion that followed, Regent Olivieri noted that retention is an area for which we have specific indicators from each campus, as detailed in the Accountability Report presented at the February Board of Regents meeting. He recommended bringing back to the Board the measures and indicators contained in the report in order to provide a context for such presentations. Such a context serves to emphasize the point that when institutions and the Board focus attention on an issue like retention, an impact is made and behaviors are successfully changed. Senior Vice President Marrett noted that the Retention Conference was the context generating today's presentations, but agreed that returning to the Accountability Report in the future would be helpful. Regent Mohs cautioned that, with all the number-crunching in which we are engaged during this budget crisis, we must remember that the decisions made affect individual student lives. Regent Boyle thanked all the presenters for their reports and the important work they are doing.

8. New Program Authorizations in Theatre Arts - Overview.

Regent Boyle explained a change in format for introduction of new programs: similar programs will be introduced as a group or cluster, beginning today with B.A./B.S. in Theatre Arts programs at UW-Oshkosh and UW-River Falls. Associate Vice President Ron Singer began by indicating that only those programs that require no new resources would be brought before the Board until the state financial situation becomes clearer. The two programs request a change from an emphasis to a major, but require no new resources as they currently are similar to other programs designated as majors. He referred to a third program at UW-Eau Claire that will not come before the Board until resource uncertainties have been resolved, despite support for the program by the Office of Academic Affairs.

Professor Harv Thompson, UW-Madison and UW-Extension, presented an overview of the prominence of theatre arts throughout the state of Wisconsin. He invoked the creation of the UW-Centers (now UW-Colleges), which included a theatre arts program at each campus, to illustrate how important theater is to the life of a community and to fostering continuing education opportunities. High schools have also realized this importance and have built theater programs, helping to maintain student interest in school and generate demand for theater programs at the university level. Professor Thompson noted that last year, UW-Oshkosh hosted the Wisconsin High School Theater Festival with 2200 students participating. Professor Thompson stated that theater students recognize the value of their liberal arts education. He concluded that at a recent meeting of theater educators and department chairs, the UW-Oshkosh and UW-River Falls proposals received strong endorsement.

9. New Program Authorization: B.A./B.S. in Theatre Arts, UW-Oshkosh - First Reading.

Provost Keith Miller introduced the UW-Oshkosh program by indicating that it fits squarely within the UW-Oshkosh strategic plan due to its holistic approach. Professor Roy Hogle introduced an alumna of the program, Kelly Duhatschek, who advocated the change from an emphasis to a major by stating that labeling the program an emphasis is misleading because the program quality is equal to a major. Quality theater students in high school are advised to go to campuses other than UW-Oshkosh because of their need for a theater major rather than a communications major. Professor Hogle added that the change will help relieve a problem of excessive demand at UW-Stevens Point and UW-Green Bay, and would strengthen community relations by increasing the number of productions that would engage community members.

10. New Program Authorization: B.A./B.S. in Theatre Arts, UW-River Falls - First Reading.

Dean Gordon Hedahl emphasized the relationship of the theater program to the institutional mission and its contributions to a liberal arts education since its inception in 1962 as an emphasis within the communications degree. He noted the historical shift in the communications major as it became more of a social science. Theater is considered a performing art, thereby justifying a degree change. Dean Hedahl identified other reasons to support the change, including the fact that students are getting training equivalent to theater majors at other institutions, and the campus's proximity to Minneapolis and its large theater population. Professor Meg Swanson emphasized the community-building aspects of theater, the high levels of student engagement, the close faculty-student interaction, and the potential for exploring current issues. In response to a question from Regent Boyle, Professor Swanson stated that no new resources would be needed. The projected increase in student enrollment over time could be accommodated with existing course offerings and faculty.

11. UW-Parkside Charter School Proposal

Gerald Greenfield, Senior Assistant to the Provost, briefly described the development of the Charter School proposal from Racine Charter One, Inc., and its contract with UW-Parkside. He noted that the contract follows the model used by UW-Milwaukee, and previously approved by the Board of Regents.

I.1.g.(1): It was moved by Regent Brandes, seconded by Regent Mohs, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the board approves the Charter School contract with Racine Charter One, Inc.

Regent Burmaster stated that the proposal was one of the best prepared her office had seen, but noted several technical issues that should be resolved with the help of the Department of Public Instruction. Regent Brandes indicated that the committee's approval of the resolution assumed that some technical changes could be made.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

It was moved by Regent Burmaster, seconded by Regent Mohs, 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, Mohs, and Olivieri voting "yes," and no regents voting "no."

I.1.h.(1) It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Regent Brandes, that the Chancellor of the UW Colleges be authorized to appoint a Campus Dean, UW-Baraboo/Sauk County.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

I.1.h.(2) It was moved by Regent Burmaster, seconded by Regent Mohs, that the Chancellor of the UW Colleges be authorized to appoint a Campus Dean, UW-Fond du Lac.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

I.1.h.(3) It was moved by Regent Burmaster, seconded by Regent Mohs, that the Chancellor of the UW Colleges be authorized to appoint a Campus Dean, UW-Marshfield/Wood County.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Resolution I.1.g.(1) was referred to the full session of the board at its Friday, March 8, 2002 meeting.

Resolutions I.1.h.(1), I.1.h.(2), and I.1.h.(3) were referred to closed session of the board following its Friday, March 8, 2002 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.