

## MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS  
Room 1820, Van Hise Hall, UW-Madison  
Madison, Wisconsin  
March 6, 2003

Regent Boyle convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 3:15 p.m. Regents Boyle, Axtell, Burmaster, Jones and Mohs were present.

a. Approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2003, meeting of the Education Committee.

It was moved by Regent Mohs, seconded by Regent Axtell, that the minutes of the February 6, 2003, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

b. Report of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. Budgetary Implications on the Educational Core:

- Quality
- Academic Programming

The Education Committee began its meeting with a discussion of academic programming during a period of budgetary reduction. Senior Vice President Marrett introduced Provosts Rebecca Martin of UW-Parkside and Peter Spear of UW-Madison. Provosts Martin and Spear outlined the processes and principles they employ for academic planning at their institutions.

Provost Spear indicated that the process of program review has a number of parts, including: periodic program review for each academic program at least once every 10 years; low-enrollment program monitoring in which all deans review all programs with enrollment problems; monitoring by deans of majors with large increases or decreases in the number of degrees; and program array comparisons with peer institutions. These activities have resulted in a reduction in the number of academic programs at UW-Madison. Provost Spear shared with the Committee the list of campus program eliminations, consolidations, and new implementations at UW-Madison between 1994 and 2002. UW-Madison has eliminated 37 programs, consolidated 25 programs to 9, and implemented 13 new programs during that period.

Additionally, Provost Spear reviewed the principles and criteria being used by the campus during the current budget crisis, which requires that programs be looked at through a fiscal lens. For this purpose, criteria for examining programs include centrality to the core mission of the University, uniqueness, quality, student demand, and fiscal considerations in terms of both what is saved and what is lost. He indicated that program savings from program elimination are limited, and take many years to realize. He also explained the need to both locate savings in the short term, and think strategically according to these principles in the long term.

Provost Martin explained that at a smaller institution like UW-Parkside, the program array is limited already. Some growth is necessary in order to remain viable and best serve the institution's mission and students, and the needs of the region. Since arriving at Parkside a year ago, she has worked with the faculty to develop principles and procedures by which to analyze the entire array of programs. This process focuses on the quality both of the teaching and learning program and the

faculty and instructional academic staff, the contribution of the program to the University's strategic initiatives and the university community, and program and course enrollment. This information is used to determine resource allocations for both immediate and long-term needs, and is used to evaluate the entire program array every year.

Both Provosts emphasized the role of faculty governance in the evaluation and consideration of programs for consolidation/elimination, and Provost Keith Miller from UW-Oshkosh added that students are also involved in the process.

Regent Axtell noted how helpful it was to hear the process the institution's use to assess programs and reallocate for new programs. Regent Mohs asked additional questions on the impact of budget cuts on academic programs, and how campuses were dealing with the cuts. Provost Spear responded that while UW-Madison is managing the cuts, there are consequences such as the loss of specific courses and programs, and increased class size. He acknowledged that UW-Madison has lost many of the gains made through the Madison Initiative in the 1990s. Provost Spear added that in order to deal with these budget cuts, it was important to first create a sense of trust, collaboration and credibility among faculty and staff. Provost Martin added that it was important to look at cuts strategically; institutions cannot keep cutting across the board.

The Education Committee asked that UW System Administration work with the institutions to develop a set of systemwide principles for use in considering academic program planning consolidation and elimination during times of declining resources. These principles will be presented to the Board at the April meeting.

c. Program Authorizations – First Reading:

1. Expedited Program Approval Process

Associate Vice President Ron Singer presented to the Committee for information purposes, the Expedited Program Approval Process developed by the Office of Academic and Student Services. This process is designed to facilitate rapid completion of new program approval for those programs that target emerging markets and/or respond to a unique, time-sensitive opportunity. Timelines are shortened and some steps in the approval process are completed in parallel rather than in sequence. Associate Vice President Singer emphasized to the Committee that the usual reviews by the appropriate institutional governance groups and by two external consultants are still required.

2. B.S. or B.A. in Web and Digital Media Development, UW-Stevens Point

Senior Vice President Cora Marrett introduced Provost Virginia Helm from UW-Stevens Point, to present the B.S. or B.A. in Web and Digital Media Development at UW-Stevens Point. Professors Roger Bullis and James Gifford of the Department of Mathematics and Computing explained that the proposed program had been developed as part of UW-Stevens Point's 2001-2003 Biennial Budget Initiative. The goal of the program is to develop knowledge managers and knowledge leaders for Wisconsin. These are positions that employers need to fill and will spur economic development.

In response to a question from Regent Axtell about whether ongoing funding for this program would be available, Provost Helm responded that new funding was received for this program from the State.

3. Ph.D. in Health Sciences, UW-Milwaukee

Provost John Wanat of UW-Milwaukee introduced Randall Lambracht, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, to describe the proposed Ph.D. in Health Sciences. This program addresses the critical shortage of healthcare workers, the urgent national shortage of qualified doctoral research faculty in the Health Sciences, and will benefit from increased federal funding opportunities in health sciences.

d. Amendments to Academic Staff Policies and Procedures, UW-Madison:

The proposed revisions to the UW-Madison Academic Staff Policies and Procedures have been approved by the appropriate faculty governance bodies and are recommended by Chancellor John Wiley. The changes go into effect as soon as they are forwarded to the Board of Regents. If, within 90 days, the Board calls for a review of the policies and procedures, the part that is of concern will be suspended pending further action by the institution. Regent Boyle asked that if any Board member has questions or concerns, to please send them to the Office of the General Counsel.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.