

## MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, Wisconsin  
November 4, 2004

Regent Olivieri convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 2:00 p.m. Regents Olivieri, Axtell, Burmaster, Davis, and Richlen were present.

1. Approval of the minutes of the October 7, 2004, meeting of the Education Committee.

I.1.a. It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Richlen, that the minutes of the October 7, 2004, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Report of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

a. Best Practices in Liberal Education

The Committee was joined by Dr. Carol Geary Schneider, who had addressed the full Board earlier in the day. As the lead-off for Senior Vice President Marrett's report on "Best Practices in Liberal Education," Dr. Schneider summarized the three recommendations she had made earlier to the full Board: 1) The Regents should make themselves the locus of dialogue with the public regarding school reform at the secondary and post-secondary levels, and the changing expectations of what students need and how they can benefit from a liberal education; 2) The Regents should bring departments and programs into the dialogue since they have direct responsibility for liberal education at the institutional level; and 3) The Regents should build from the UW System's remarkable accountability framework (as demonstrated in its annual report, "Achieving Excellence") to include more liberal education outcomes. Dr. Schneider emphasized her belief that, given the renewed focus on liberal arts education through its systemwide initiative "The Currency of the Liberal Arts: Rethinking Liberal Education in Wisconsin," the UW System is poised to set new benchmarks for accountability. The System, she noted, is and can be more of a national leader, and should work to ask more probing questions that speak to liberal education outcomes.

In response to a Regent question, Dr. Schneider noted that, nationally, 60% of students are doing culminating work (e.g., capstone courses or senior seminars) in their majors to demonstrate academic performance commensurate with their degree outcomes. Provost Bob Sedlak, from UW-Stout, and Chancellor Rick Wells, from UW-Oshkosh, reported that there are equally high levels of student capstone experiences in place at UW institutions. Chancellor Mash described the variety of experiences, such as study abroad, service learning and internships, which UW institutions provide to broaden student perspectives and support liberal education.

Senior Vice President Marrett spoke further on the topic of "Best Practices in Liberal Education," emphasizing that the greatest challenge for UW System institutions lies in integrating all the wonderful teaching and learning that goes on into a more coherent, intentional program that will be understood by students and the public as well. Dr. Marrett described two recent UW System conferences that, among other things, sought precisely such integration of activities: "Best Practices in Closing the Achievement Gap" (focused on the implementation and achievement of

Plan 2008 goals), and “Engaging the Global Community: Best Practices in International Education.”

Senior Vice President Marrett asked members of the Education Committee who attended these conferences to share their thoughts. Regents Davis and Olivieri requested that further discussion of the institutional action plans developed from the Plan 2008 conference take place at a future meeting. Regent Davis also noted how impressed she was with the experts brought in to speak, the involvement of students, and the passion of the campus teams. Regent Richlen stated how impressed she was with the sharing of campus best practices and implementation ideas at the conference. Regent Davis commented on the importance of support from Chancellors and Provosts, and that she had asked that the teams need to make sure that they meet with their Chancellors. A number of the Chancellors present assured the Regents that they meet regularly with their Plan 2008 teams because of the importance of diversity to institutional mission. Regent Axtell asked for a report from the Office of Academic Affairs on the results of the International Education conference.

### 3. Charter Schools Status Report

In May, 2004, the Education Committee had asked for a status report from the UW-Milwaukee Office of Charter Schools describing how the charter schools approved by the Board of Regents are evaluated. Professor Robert Kattman, Director of the UW-Milwaukee Office of Charter Schools, briefed the Committee on the ways in which his office evaluates charter school performance. The Regent-authorized charter schools are evaluated on a regular basis to determine whether they are meeting their primary objective to successfully educate disadvantaged, urban students, and to identify successful practices that can be replicated by other schools. A cumulative evaluation of each school occurs during the fourth year of operation, and this leads to a recommendation regarding charter renewal or non-renewal. The evaluation committee has a range of options from which to choose in this four-year evaluation, from a full five-year extension to termination of the charter. The Office of Charter Schools uses the evaluation framework developed by the National Baldrige Quality Program, which focuses on continuous improvement.

Regent discussion touched on measures used to evaluate parental satisfaction and student academic improvement. Professor Kattman noted that goals for the schools focused on continuing improvement, particularly in the area of student academic achievement. The highly disadvantaged student populations the Milwaukee charter schools serve makes this a challenge. In response to a question from Regent Burmaster, Professor Kattman indicated that UW-Milwaukee was not planning to increase the number of charter schools it currently oversees. Regents Davis and Olivieri asked that the Committee receive follow-up information on how other parts of the UW-Milwaukee campus are engaging with the charter schools, expressing their strong conviction that the charter schools provide numerous opportunities for service learning and research to students and faculty.

### 4. Program Authorizations – First Readings

The Committee next heard first readings of three programs:

#### 1) The B.A. in Actuarial Science at UW-Milwaukee:

Professors Jay Beder and Eric Key from the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UW-Milwaukee reported that Actuarial Sciences has been a sub-major of Math since 1984. The

rationale for developing a separate major is to increase the visibility of Actuarial Science, and to help students make more informed decisions about their major. A separate major will allow students to better plan for program requirements early rather than finding out about the program in their junior year. The upgrade to a major will also improve the tracking and advising of students, and allow for timely responses to changes in professional requirements. No additional resources are needed to implement the program. Committee members observed that they appreciated that the degree can be completed in four years and the attention to diversity paid by the program.

2) The B.S. in Special Education at UW-Stout:

UW-Stout Professor Mary Hopkins-Best explained that there is a substantial need for special education teachers in Wisconsin and the nation, and that, at present, a substantial number of special education positions continue to be filled by emergency licenses. The B.S. in Special Education seeks to address this dire situation. Regent Burmaster added that there are 800 emergency licenses in Wisconsin special education and expressed gratitude for the program's role in meeting a huge need statewide.

3) The Master of Public Health at UW-Madison:

Dean Phillip Farrell and Associate Dean Susan Skochelak, from the University of Wisconsin Medical School, explained to the Committee that the Masters of Public Health addresses an unmet need for trained professional public health workers in Wisconsin. Prior to developing the program, the Medical School held listening sessions in 1999 and heard from 500 people. The collaborative program is administered by the Medical School, in partnership with the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, the College of Letters and Science and others. The degree supports the mission and vision of the Wisconsin Partnership Fund to advance public health in Wisconsin, and the Partnership Fund is providing the financial support for the program. Students are required to have two years of professional or employment experience prior to admission. The program provides maximum flexibility for non-traditional students and degree completion takes 12 months. Diversity is addressed through the school and campus recruitment plans and through the content of the degree program, which requires that students understand health disparities of diverse populations.

In response to a question from Regent Olivieri, Associate Dean Skochelak explained the rationale for requiring two years of work experience for entering students. Regent Axtell informed the Committee that Regent Emeritus Patrick Boyle, the Chair of the Hospital Authority Board, wholeheartedly supports this degree, for which over half the funding comes from gifts and grants. Associate Dean Skochelak, in response to other Regent questions, explained the role of the Cultural Diversity Center in teaching about the attitudes of different populations toward health, and explained that there was no overlap with the UW-Eau Claire and UW-Milwaukee programs.

The three programs will return to the Education Committee for second readings at its December meeting.

5. Revised Faculty Personnel Rules, UW-Eau Claire

Chancellor Mash explained to the Education Committee that the revised faculty personnel rules clarified and added more substance to the post-tenure review process at UW-Eau Claire.

I.1.f. It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Davis, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendments to the UW-Eau Claire Faculty Personnel Policies and Procedures.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Resolutions I.1.a and I.1.f. were referred as consent agenda items to the full session of the Board of Regents at its Friday, November 5, 2004, meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.