

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS
1820 Van Hise Hall, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin
September 9, 2004

Regent Olivieri convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 1:00 p.m. Regents Olivieri, Axtell, Burmaster, Davis, Gracz, and Richlen were present.

1. Approval of the minutes of the June 10, 2004, meeting of the Education Committee.

I.1.a. It was moved by Regent Burmaster, seconded by Regent Axtell, that the minutes of the June 10, 2004, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Report of the Senior Vice President

a. Overview of the Education Committee, 2004-05: The Continuum of Student Success

Senior Vice President Marrett provided a thematic overview of the Education Committee's work for the academic year 2004-05. She indicated the theme of "The Continuum of Student Success," as one that emphasizes the importance of preparing students for success before, during, and beyond their years of university education. The Committee liked this theme, in particular for its recognition of the partnerships the UW System must have with the PK-12 sector as well as those with other, post-secondary institutions, and its acknowledgement of the imperative for improving access and closing the achievement gap.

Regent Olivieri then shared his priorities for the year. In terms of procedure, he requested that the Committee receive in advance as much material as possible from UW System and the institutions that have items on the agenda. The Committee agreed that receiving materials in advance would lead to better discussions and productive exchanges. Regent Olivieri also proposed that the Education Committee find ways to make its work more policy-oriented: the agenda items and the ensuing discussions should work toward endpoints and resolution. He suggested that the Committee, with the help of UW System Administration, return more frequently to the Accountability Report as an organizing principle for the work that comes before it and the full Board. The set of goals, measures and benchmarks in the Accountability Report should guide the Committee's discussions, planning, and agendas. Finally, he proposed that the Committee keep in mind key issues from the previous year, including the "Charting the Course" Study recommendations, Plan 2008, and progress being made in the area of credit transfer. Regent Olivieri made clear his view that the Board should not be, or be seen, as punitive in setting goals and expectations for the institutions, particularly in the more challenging areas of Plan 2008, transfer, retention and graduation. Rather, the Board should demonstrate that it can be trusted and that its interest lies in providing leadership and helping the entire System strive to be better.

The Committee concurred with Regent Olivier's priorities. Regent Burmaster recommended that the Board of Regents pay close attention throughout the year to the new federal requirements in teacher education, which, she noted, are transforming higher education as well as public elementary and secondary education.

b. Research and Public Service Report

In introducing the Research and Public Service Report, Senior Vice President Marrett observed that it is one of several, legislatively mandated reports on which the Education Committee is required to take action each year. She reviewed the report for the Committee, highlighting some of the abundant research and public service activities undertaken by the institutions and noting the great opportunities these activities generate for students to engage in cutting-edge research with faculty members. She expressed her appreciation for the state dollars invested in these activities, noting that the state's investment is indispensable. She reported that the state's GPR investment yields a high return: The \$55.3 million in GPR to UW-Madison in 03-04 returned over \$700 million in external grants and contracts. She also remarked, however, that the budget cuts the System has endured these last few years are adversely impacting the amount of research that can be conducted, particularly in conjunction with an increase in unfunded federal mandates the institutions must strain to meet.

The report sparked debate on what the appropriate Board role is in approving certain kinds of reports, and in approving certain kinds of activities and changes proposed by the institutions. The Committee discussed at length the value in submitting this report to the Joint Finance Committee. UW System Administration has no evidence that Joint Finance is influenced in any way by the content of the report. The Committee recognized and supported the need for accountability of how GPR money is spent. It questioned, however, whether the submission of legislatively mandated reports is the right mechanism by which to document this accountability. The Committee also raised the question of whether the Board should support legislative requirements for which it does not see a clear purpose and which, in the end, cost the System money in terms of human and other resources expended. The Committee asked that further information be provided by UW System Administration on such legislative requirements and whether accountability might be documented through more efficient means.

I.1.b. It was moved by Regent Davis, seconded by Regent Axtell, that, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents accepts the 2004 Research and Public Service Report for submission to the Joint Committee on Finance.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

3. Report on 2003 Undergraduate Drop Rates

The Committee continued its discussion of how best to meet legislative requirements with its next agenda item, the Report on the Drop Rates of Undergraduate Courses. Like the Research and Public Service Report, the Drop Report is required annually for submission to the Joint Committee on Finance. The Committee heard from Associate Vice President Frank Goldberg that the Drop Report was originally imposed as a legislative requirement in response to the excessive drop rate prevalent at many UW System institutions back in the late 1980s. At that time, students were allowed to drop courses late into the semester without being penalized, and they did. The Legislature asked the Board of Regents to address the excessive drop rate and it did by instituting a requirement that the UW System report to the Board whenever the combined rate of dropped credits across the System exceeded five percent in any given academic year. UW institutions also changed the timetable by which students could drop courses without being penalized on transcripts and in their pocketbooks.

Associate Vice President Goldberg informed the Committee that both the internal and the external reporting requirements resulted in the desired changes. It has now been years since the

drop rate has exceeded five percent for any UW institution, with one exception. The UW Colleges is the one institution which still has a drop rate above 5 percent. Associate Vice President Goldberg explained that the Colleges' rate has been consistently decreasing and that, given their mission as an open access institution, there is not an expectation that the drop rate will or should come down further. The legislative requirement and the subsequent Board policy worked to change student behaviors and the problem of an excessive course drop rate has disappeared.

After further discussion, the Committee decided that accompanying the submission of the Drop Report to the Joint Finance Committee, there should also be a request to suspend the reporting requirement. Such a request was made several years ago but the UW System did not receive permission. The Committee resolved that, this time, Regents and appropriate staff from UW System Administration would speak personally with members of the Joint Finance Committee. Associate Vice President Frank Goldberg offered to the Education Committee members for their consideration an alternative resolution, which was then voted upon.

I.1.c. Revised: It was moved by Regent Davis, seconded by Regent Burmaster, that, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents accepts the Annual Report on 2003 undergraduate Drop Rates for submission to the Joint Committee on Finance; and, whereas the University of Wisconsin System has consistently maintained a course credit drop rate of under five percent for more than ten years, the Board of Regents requests that the Joint Finance Committee discontinue the course credit drop reporting requirement; and, further, pending approval by the Joint Finance Committee, that the Board of Regents discontinue its course credit drop reporting requirement.

The revised resolution PASSED unanimously.

The Committee expressed its strong support that this was an appropriate change to request. The request to Joint Finance will include a detailed rationale for making the change.

4. Program Authorizations – First Reading

Two new programs were presented to the Education Committee for first readings: the B.A./B.S. in Multimedia Digital Arts at UW-Whitewater; and the M.S. in Occupational Therapy at UW-La Crosse. Associate Vice President Ron Singer informed the Committee that it could expect anywhere from six to twelve additional programs to come before it in the academic year 2004-05, three of which are consortial. The Committee signaled its strong interest in having certain topics adequately addressed in the program approval process. Those topics include diversity, collaboration, clear market demand, and the clear lack of a need for additional resources. The Committee was assured by both UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse that the proposed programs meet clear market demand and are to be funded primarily through reallocation. They are both working on integrating diversity into their curricula, faculty, and student populations, and they are both working on developing collaborations with other UW System and Technical College System institutions. UW-Whitewater Provost Dick Telfer, Associate Dean Richard Haven, and Professor Dennis Dale described the Multimedia Digital Arts program as meeting the needs of a new generation of technologically proficient students who are highly sought after upon graduation.

The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion of the Occupational Therapy program at La Crosse, a program undergoing an upgrade from a Bachelor of Science to a Master of Science because of changes in accreditation requirements. Recalling that the Committee has encountered other

programs under similar accreditation pressures, Regent Olivieri expressed once again his concern that professional accreditation agencies drive curricular changes that may not be in the best interests of students or of institutions, and mentioned also the public policy challenges at stake. UW-La Crosse Associate Dean Karen Palmer McLean and Professor Peggy Denton made a compelling case for why the upgrade to the master's level is beneficial and necessary to producing graduates who are truly qualified for the kinds of occupational therapy positions and needs they will encounter upon graduation. The Committee was informed, however, that there are other fields and degrees where the case is tenuous and the Committee was urged to take leadership on this issue by communicating as a Board with other higher education boards, accreditation agencies, and the federal government, where appropriate, to express its position on mandated changes that are unnecessary, expensive, and ultimately harmful to students. The Committee asked Senior Vice President Marrett to prepare a resolution and some documentation arguing against questionable accreditation demands, in general, and the potential requirement of a Ph.D. in Occupational Therapy, in particular. The Committee also asked that UW-La Crosse provide additional information before the second reading in October, in response to several concerns, including their efforts to recruit a more diverse student body,

5. Program Authorization – Second Reading

I.1.e.: It was moved by Regent Gracz, seconded by Regent Burmaster, 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 Ph.D. in Medical Informatics, UW-Milwaukee.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

6. Mission Revisions

The Committee next heard the first reading of a mission revision at UW-Whitewater and the second reading of the revised UW-Extension mission. UW-Whitewater Provost Dick Telfer noted that Whitewater's mission revision involves an attempt to align the core values of the institution with its stated mission, goals and objectives. Prior to coming back to the Education Committee for a second reading, UW-Whitewater will hold a public hearing on its mission, including Regent and community participation.

Interim Chancellor Marv Van Kekerix reminded the Committee that UW-Extension's revised mission was first introduced to the Board of Regents in October 2003, and involves an entirely revised articulation of its mission. In August 2004, UW-Extension held a public hearing via compressed video with participation from constituents across the state. Regent Axtell recounted his participation in the public hearing along with Regent Rosenzweig, and described the unanimous approbation for the revised mission statement as well as the impressive amount of positive testimony offered by Extension's appreciative statewide constituency.

I.1.f.(2): It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Richlen, that, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the University of Wisconsin-Extension's revised mission statement.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

7. Rename the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Professional Studies Outreach Division

Board approval is required when institutions rename, eliminate and/or create colleges, schools, and divisions. UW-Green Bay requested approval to change the name of one of its divisions, which, according to Provost Sue Hammersmith, would make it more responsive to the region and community served by the division.

I.1.g.: It was moved by Regent Davis, seconded by Regent Richlen, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the name of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Division of Professional Studies and Outreach be changed to the Division of Professional and Graduate Studies.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

8. Reorganization of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire College of Education and College of Nursing

Interim Provost Steven Tallant described to the Committee the extensive reorganization undertaken by UW-Eau Claire, involving the eliminations of a school and a college, and, in their place, the renaming of two colleges which will absorb the programs and departments displaced from the eliminated units. Spearheaded by Chancellor Don Mash, the process included input from all the affected units, and was endorsed by appropriate campus governance groups.

I.1.h.: It was moved by Regent Gracz, 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 following organizational changes at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire: 1) the elimination of the College of Professional Studies; 2) the elimination of the School of Human Sciences and Services; 3) the renaming of the School of Education to the College of Education and Human Sciences; and 4) the renaming of the School of Nursing to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Following the approval of Resolutions I.1.g. and I.1.h., the Committee once again raised the issue of whether such institutional decisions and changes should require Board action. The Committee was careful to express that such questioning was not intended to undermine the importance of what the institutions were undertaking through such reorganizations, which are clearly motivated by the desire to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and reporting lines. Senior Vice President Marrett raised the possibility that these kinds of actions might be better delegated to the President's authority, as other actions have been also in recent years.

Susan Harrison, Chair of the University Senate at UW-Eau Claire, added that the institutions would benefit greatly if Board action was not required since the Board's normal process, by its very nature, slows down the implementation of changes at the campus level. Authority delegated to the President to make such changes would not keep institutions on hold. The Committee agreed that any changes to the President's delegated authority would need to be undertaken very carefully and cautiously, with input from the Office of the General Counsel and many others.

9. Revised Personnel Rules

The Education Committee approved minor revisions to the Faculty Personnel Rules at three institutions: UW-Green Bay, UW-Madison, and UW-Stevens Point. Following standard practice, the revisions were reviewed by the UW System Office of General Counsel before coming to the Board for its action.

I.1.i.(1): It was moved by Regent Gracz, seconded by Regent Davis, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendments to the UW-Green Bay Faculty Personnel Policies and Procedures.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

I.1.i.(2): It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Davis, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendments to the UW-Madison Faculty Personnel Policies and Procedures.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

I.1.i.(3): It was moved by Regent Davis, seconded by Regent Richlen, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendments to the UW-Stevens Point Faculty Personnel Policies and Procedures.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

10. Authorization to Recruit: Chancellor, UW-Extension

Prior to the Committee's action on the authorization to recruit a new Chancellor at UW-Extension, President Reilly noted that the searches for Chancellors at both Extension and the Colleges were not yet underway, but were on hold pending the joint study he has asked the Interim Chancellors to undertake, which will look at synergies between the two institutions.

I.1.j. It was moved by Regent Davis, seconded by Regent Axtell, that the President of the University of Wisconsin System be authorized to recruit for a Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, at a salary range within the Board of Regents salary range for university senior executive salary group three.

Resolutions I.1.a, I.1.b., I.1.e., I.1.f.(2), I.1.g., I.1.h, I.1.i.(1), I.1.i.(2), I.1.i.(3), and I.1.j. were referred as consent agenda items to the full session of the Board of Regents at its Friday, June 11, 2004, meeting. Resolution I.1.c. Revised was also referred to the full Board of Regents for action at the Friday, June 11, 2004, meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.