

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Menomonie, Wisconsin
May 6, 2005

Regent Burmaster convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 1:40 p.m. Regents Burmaster, Axtell, Gracz and Marcovich were present. Regent Richlen joined the meeting by phone.

1. Approval of the minutes of the April 7, 2005, meeting of the Education Committee.

I.1.a.: It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Gracz, that the minutes of the April 7, 2005, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Approval of Vilas Proffer

The Committee next took action to approve the proffer from the William F. Vilas Trust Estate. In April, the Education Committee formally approved the 2005-06 request to Vilas for support of fellowships, scholarships, named professorships, and music programs at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee. Per its usual practice, the Vilas Trust acted quickly on the UW request and agreed to fund it in its entirety, for a total of almost \$6 million (\$5,977,637). In accepting the proffer, the Committee expressed once again its tremendous gratitude for the exceptional generosity of the Vilas Estate. In response to a request from Regent Axtell—that the Regents more appropriately acknowledge and recognize the enormity of the Vilas generosity—Senior Vice President Marrett promised that next year the Committee would hear a presentation on the history and impact of the Vilas bequest.

I.1.b.: It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Marcovich, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellors of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents accepts the proffer made by the Trustees of the William F. Vilas Trust Estate for fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, as provided by the terms of the William F. Vilas Trust, for Support of Scholarships, Fellowships, Professorships, and Special Programs in Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences and Music.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

3. Revision to Board of Regents Health Policy

The Education Committee then considered revisions to Regent Policy Document 78-9, the Board of Regents Health Policy. The policy contains the Basic Health Module, which delineates the minimum of health care services that the four-year UW institutions provide to their students. Alice Reilly-Myklebust, Director of Health Services at UW-River Falls, explained to the Committee that, given the changing needs of student health care and changes in health care practice, the previous policy was found to be out-of-date and was subsequently updated through a careful process involving Health Services Directors from around the System. The Chief Student Affairs Officers were also consulted. The revised policy reflects both the current needs of students, and current practice at the

four-year institutions. The Committee was reminded that the Board of Regents, in approving the policy revisions, does not prescribe the manner in which the basic module of services will be provided or made available at the institutions. Health Services at UW System institutions have worked hard to stay current with changing medical and health care practice, needs, and requirements. The revised policy does not require additional services by institutions, nor does it change existing funding options. Rather, it updates Regent policy to reflect what institutions are already doing.

I.1.c.: It was moved by Regent Gracz, seconded by Regent Axtell, that, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the revisions to Regent Policy Document 78-9, the Basic Health Module.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

4. Deferred Action on the College of Education, Exercise Science, and Health & Recreation at UW-La Crosse

The Committee next considered the proposed elimination of the College of Education, Exercise Science, and Health & Recreation at UW-La Crosse. The elimination was recommended by Chancellor Hastad in response to administrative budget cuts required for the 2005-07 biennium. The action would have eliminated the Dean and Associate Dean positions, which are currently vacant. The four academic departments within the College would remain intact, and as Chancellor Hastad emphasized to the Committee, no academic programs would be cut.

Regent Burmaster, in her capacity as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, expressed concerns with how teacher education would be structured and overseen if the existing College were to be eliminated. She noted that before she would be comfortable taking action on the proposed elimination, she would like to be certain that whatever new administrative structure were put into place at La Crosse, teacher education and licensure at UW-La Crosse would align with PI 34, the state rules that govern how teachers are educated in Wisconsin. Regent Burmaster recognized David Glisch-Sanchez, Academic Affairs Director for United Council, who expressed United Council's concern that student governance at La Crosse was not consulted appropriately. It was further remarked that the Faculty Senate at La Crosse opposed the elimination.

Chancellor Hastad assured the Committee that Regent Burmaster's questions could be addressed quickly. He also responded to the concern that campus-wide governance was not consulted prior to making what he called a difficult, budget-driven decision. He pointed out that he had a very limited timeframe for making required budget cuts, but that he nonetheless consulted the campus community widely, including faculty and students, via public forums, meetings, and email exchanges. Regent Marcovich emphasized to the Committee that Chancellor Hastad was entirely within his authority as Chancellor to make such a decision and that it was his responsibility—as Chancellor—to make difficult budget decisions in a constrained fiscal environment. The Committee debated further what action it should take, noting that, unlike other budget decisions, the elimination of a college does require Board approval, and yet some members of the Committee felt they could not vote on the elimination without further information. Regent Gracz proposed that the resolution to eliminate the College be placed “on file at the call of the Education Committee Chair.” The Committee agreed, electing to defer the resolution to eliminate the College until the June meeting. Senior Vice President Marrett, Chancellor Hastad and Regent Burmaster expressed their commitment to work together in order to bring closure to the remaining questions.

I.1.d.: It was moved by Regent Gracz, seconded by Regent Axtell, that, upon recommendation of the Board of Regents Education Committee, the resolution to eliminate the College of Education, Exercise Science, and Health & Recreation at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse be placed on file at the call of the Education Committee Chair.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

5. Report of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Senior Vice President Marrett's report included several distinct topics and presentations.

a. Presentation by UW-Stout on "The New Pedagogy: How Learning Occurs at UW-Stout"

The Committee first heard a presentation by UW-Stout on "The New Pedagogy: How Learning Occurs at UW-Stout." Before introducing Provost Bob Sedlak, Chancellor Sorensen informed the Committee that effective fall 2005, every Stout student would have a laptop. The heavy investment in technology was matched, he reported, by an equally heavy investment in assessment. Provost Sedlak illuminated for the Committee the "revolutionary change" occurring at UW-Stout in terms of how faculty teach and how students learn. Provost Sedlak emphasized that technology has been the catalyst for change, but that it is only a tool and what it has enabled is a real paradigm shift in how teaching is delivered and how learning takes place. He showed a video that featured several faculty members who spoke to the improved learning of their students, the opportunities for one-on-one interaction and immediate feedback, and the new sense of community in the classroom resulting from electronic interaction. He introduced the faculty members shown in the video, emphasizing that they are the ones to make all this learning happen: Dr. Holly Teuber, Assistant Professor of Speech; Dr. Marty Ondrus, Professor of Chemistry; and Dr. Laura McCullough, Associate Professor of Physics. The faculty members described the significant gains in student learning, and the new ways they could assess that learning through technology.

Senior Vice President Marrett further recognized one of the featured faculty, Professor Holly Teuber, as having just received one of the UW System "Outstanding Women of Color" Awards, presented in April. Professor Teuber shared with the Committee the unconventional path she took to become a faculty member and noted that, while the "Women of Color" awards honor individuals, each of them is supported by many other people and communities, at their institutions and beyond.

b. Presentation by Sue Harrison, Outgoing Faculty Representative from UW-Eau Claire

The Committee also heard reflections from Susan Harrison, Professor of Computer Science, who was completing her term after eight years as the Faculty Representative from UW-Eau Claire. She encouraged the Regents to use the Faculty Reps as resources. Dr. Harrison asked her fellow Faculty Reps attending the meeting to stand and introduce themselves. They included Professor Sudevan Padmanabhan from UW-Stevens Point, Professor Lee McCann from UW-Oshkosh, Professor Steve Schlough from UW-Stout, Professor Ed Erdmann from UW-Whitewater, and Professor Nick Sloboda from UW-Superior.

c. Follow-up on Submission Process for the Annual Minority and Disadvantaged Student Report and the Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Report

Senior Vice President Marrett provided follow-up to action the Regents had requested the previous month. In April, the Education Committee had approved two statutorily required reports: the Minority and Disadvantaged Student Annual Report, and the annual Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Report. In approving the two reports, the Committee requested that the transmittal letters accompanying the two reports include an expression of Regent concern that Wisconsin's current budget environment is having an adverse impact on the work and activities documented in the two statutorily required reports. The Committee asked that the expanded cover letters be shared at the May Board of Regents meeting. Two documents were included in the May Regent materials: a draft letter from Regent President Marcovich to the Chief Clerks of each house of the Legislature, which, Senior Vice President Marrett informed the Committee, has not yet been sent. The other document was a letter from President Reilly to the Chief Clerks and the Governor, and was submitted along with the Minority & Disadvantaged Student Report by the required April 15 deadline. The Committee expressed its hope that members of the Legislature would carefully read these cover letters. Regardless of their impact, the Committee reiterated that it would be remiss in its stewardship responsibilities to simply approve and submit the two required reports without commenting on the impact of the budget on, and emphasizing the critical need for, continued state funding of these programs. Regent Richlen, who took a lead role in asking that the Office of Senior Vice President prepare the transmittal letters, noted how pleased she was with the follow-up process. She emphasized her hope that in sending out these additional cover letters, the UW System could get the message to the Legislature and the Governor more effectively that diminished state support for UW institutions has a very real impact on students. Senior Vice President Marrett observed that she would like to see the two letters circulated more widely so that the UW System could continue to draw attention to these critical issues.

Senior Vice President Marrett concluded her report by providing some additional follow-up to the Committee on the topic of allied health accreditation. She praised the Education Committee's diligence over the past year to determine how to most effectively keep costs and credits-to-degree down for students in allied health programs. Led by outgoing Chair Regent Olivieri, the Committee resolved last month to have System officials find ways to influence allied health fields through dialogue and interaction with national organizations. Senior Vice President Marrett informed the Committee that one such opportunity had already presented itself through the Higher Learning Commission, which is the accrediting arm of the North Central Accreditation Agency. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is taking up the issue of the "Professional Doctorate" in allied health professions, in fields like pharmacy, audiology, and physical therapy, which are precisely the kinds of degrees the Committee has found most troubling. HLC shares Regent and System concerns about what is really driving these increased entry-level degree requirements, and is therefore putting together a task force on the professional doctorate. HLC is seeking members from a variety of institutions and Senior Vice President Marrett expressed her intention to work with them to designate someone from the UW System to serve. The Committee expressed its hope that this Commission would be able to have some impact on this complex issue.

Resolutions I.1.b., I.1.c., and I.1.d. were referred as consent agenda items to the full session of the Board of Regents at its Friday, May 6, 2005, meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.