

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
of the
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM
West Bend, Wisconsin

UW-Extension
Held at the Washington County Fair Park
Thursday, September 8, 2005
12:15 p.m.

- President Walsh presiding -

PRESENT: Regents Axtell, Bradley, Burmaster, Connolly-Keesler, Crain, Davis, Gracz, Loftus, McPike, Pruitt, Randall, Rosenzweig, Salas, Semenas, Smith, Spector, and Walsh

ABSENT: None

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Help for Victims of Hurricane Katrina

President Reilly commended UW campus communities for stepping up to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. He announced that nearly 100 students displaced by the storm have already enrolled in UW institutions which were helping them to make arrangements for housing, financial aid, and other necessities. Fundraisers were being conducted, with \$60,000 already raised at UW-Madison's Badger football game the preceding weekend. He also noted Chancellor Betz's announcement that UW-River Falls will help to rebuild one of the campuses damaged by the hurricane.

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COMMITTEE ON RETREAT FOLLOW-UP: BOARD OF REGENTS GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

In introductory remarks, Regent President Walsh noted that, following the retreat in July, he had appointed a committee, chaired by Regent Vice President Bradley, with Regents Davis, Pruitt, Spector and Executive Vice President Mash as members, to bring back to the board a summary of issues and strategies that the board might wish to pursue in the coming year. The committee met in August and agreed on some issues to which the regents might wish to give priority consideration. He then called on Regent Vice President Bradley to present the committee's report.

Beginning his report, Regent Bradley referred to the following statement by President Reilly as a helpful starting point: "Our job as a public university is to be Wisconsin's premier developer of advanced human potential, of the jobs that employ that potential, and of the flourishing communities that sustain it." With that role in mind, the committee recommended that the board focus its attention in the coming year on four primary themes. Noting that the themes are broad, he indicated that Presidents Walsh and Reilly and the board committees could determine priorities and specifics going forward.

"1) Improve Access to the UW System

- Talent, creativity and drive are not the exclusive purview of wealthy families. We need to keep higher education affordable for all qualified Wisconsin people to help them develop their potential.
- As a public institution of higher education, we should examine the current level of cost sharing for higher education between Wisconsin students and their families, on the one hand, and state taxpayers on the other.
- We should establish clear and convincing goals for an appropriate division between taxpayer support and tuition, and those goals should keep in mind our commitment to Plan 2008.

2) Do Our Share to Increase Baccalaureate Degrees in Wisconsin

- An educated citizenry is a benefit for society at large and for the individuals who obtain the education. Moreover, the evidence establishes a link between a region's economic development and the number of its baccalaureate degree holders.
- We should seek ways to creatively manage our resources, and make the case for additional resources if needed, to produce more baccalaureate degree holders in Wisconsin while maintaining the quality of the degrees awarded by our campuses. This should include creative ways to attract and retain non-traditional students.

- We should coordinate our efforts to achieve this goal with Wisconsin's other system of public higher education, the Wisconsin Technical College System.

3) Improve the Quality of the Student Experience on Our Campuses

- We should develop strong theory – and evidence – based policies for appropriate student-faculty ratios and student support services on our campuses.
- We should then develop a clear and convincing plan for how we can efficiently allocate existing resources, and make the case for additional resources if needed, to implement these policies.

4) Strengthen and Build Relationships with Our Stakeholders

- We should clearly define the roles that Regents, the System President, and our Chancellors should play in communicating with our stakeholders.
- This process must be a two-way communication: We should be good listeners first and then strong advocates for the goals that we have established.”

Remarking that the committee's report is very helpful, President Reilly indicated that it would be used by the chancellors and the board committees in formulating specific steps that focus on these themes

Regent Connolly-Keesler asked if presentations also would be focused on them, and Regent President Walsh replied in the affirmative.

Upon motion by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Gracz, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Judith A. Temby, Secretary