

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE, BOARD OF REGENTS
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Washington County Fair Park
West Bend, Wisconsin
September 8, 2005

Regent Burmaster convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 2:40 p.m. Regents Burmaster, Axtell, Davis, McPike, Semenas, and Spector were present. Regent Bradley joined the meeting in progress.

1. Approval of the minutes of the June 9, 2005, meeting of the Education Committee.

I.1.a.: It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Davis, that the minutes of the June 9, 2005, meeting of the Education Committee be approved.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

2. Education Committee Planning for 2005-06

The Committee began its first meeting of the academic year with a discussion of Committee planning and process. Noting that half of the Committee's membership was new, Regent Burmaster reviewed process and typical actions undertaken by the Committee in the regular conduct of its business. The Committee agreed that it would continue the practice of follow-up discussions on full-Board presentations from earlier in the day. As follow-up to the morning presentation on UW System personnel policy and practice, Regent Axtell expressed his frustration that the media was misrepresenting the number of UW System administrators with back-up positions. The real figure, he asserted, was only three percent of the 33,000 UW System employees, not 80 percent as reported in the newspaper. Noting that such perceptions and misrepresentations are taken as reality by many people outside the System, he urged Regents and others to work towards setting the record straight.

Regent Burmaster turned to Senior Vice President Marrett to review for the Committee its statutory responsibilities. She then distributed a draft document outlining Committee priorities for the year, as a point of departure for the discussion. The document established Access, Student Success and Quality as the overarching themes for the work of the Education Committee, themes which overlapped well, she noted, with the full-Board themes shared earlier in the day by Regent Bradley.

The Committee identified five priority areas: Teacher Education; Program Planning and Review; Diversity; Student Support Services; and what the Committee referred to as the Currency of the Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Education Committee discussed how best to develop agendas for the year that were in alignment with its priorities. Regent Burmaster described plans for a full-Board presentation later in the fall on PI-34, Wisconsin's Quality Educator Initiative. The presentation would cover topics such as the needs of teachers and the state in regard to teacher preparation, including alternative licensure programs to meet teacher demand. In response to a question from Regent Spector, Senior Vice President Marrett noted that some UW institutions are stronger in educational research and some in preparing teachers, but that the value of a system was that institutional strengths could work across the System to improve teacher education.

Regent Davis questioned how the Committee would know that “the needle has moved and that we have made progress.” Regent Axtell suggested that the Committee use the Accountability Report as a guiding document, keeping its benchmarks as a way of organizing and evaluating work, and measuring progress. In response to a question from Regent McPike, Senior Vice President Marrett responded that the System’s accountability reporting was accurate but that the data was aggregated and each institution submitted its own accountability report in addition to the System report.

The Committee stated its intention to have a more finalized version of the planning document in October, closely aligned with the full Board’s themes and including a framework for accountability.

3. Report of the Senior Vice President

The report of Senior Vice President Marrett comprised a presentation by UW-Extension on *Baccalaureate Access for Adults and Under-Served Students*. Senior Vice President Marrett introduced the presentation with a reminder of some of the findings from the Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion or COBE Report. She said that Wisconsin’s educational pipeline for traditional-aged students is performing well, but that the percentage of Wisconsin’s adults aged 25-49 enrolled in college-level education has declined over the past decade. That situation creates both challenges and opportunities for the UW System.

She then introduced Lee Zaborowski, Interim Dean and Director of Outreach and E-Learning at UW-Extension, who presented a plan for expanding access to the baccalaureate degree to adult and otherwise under-served students, a need contextualized in the COBE Report. Dean Zaborowski emphasized that UW-Extension felt itself ideally situated to meet this need. Extension has engaged in market research and analysis to define the populations and generations for which expanded access to the baccalaureate degree would be most useful. Extension already provides online advising resources to Wisconsin citizens and students regarding what courses are available online throughout the state. Future plans involve providing seed funding to innovative programs that develop, coordinate, and promote online learning and address critical state needs. Extension is also exploring ways to give credit for non-traditional and/or prior learning. In response to a question from Regent Bradley, Dean Zaborowski acknowledged that while there is real potential for a big influx of adult students into the System, actual results may not be seen for some time. Extension is taking a long and strategic view in its planning and the access project is meant to take ten to fifteen years.

4. Annual Program Planning and Review Report

Associate Vice President Ron Singer gave a brief overview of the program planning and review process, as presented in the UW System Annual Program Planning and Review Report. Associate Vice President Singer explained that the program planning and review process is carefully designed to ensure quality and academic integrity, and that there are statutorily designated roles for the Regents, UW System Administration, and the institutions. He elaborated on the various steps in the approval process: entitlement to plan; authorization to implement; implementation; and joint review. Noting that not every program proposed to System makes it all the way to the Regents for their approval, he emphasized that regular institutional review and accreditation ensure continuous improvement. He further reported that new programs are generally supported through reallocation of resources and that the size of the UW System’s program array has been constant over time, although the content of that array has changed. In conclusion, he noted that recommendations will be coming to the Regents later

in the fall, generated by a working group composed of Provosts and Chief Business Officers charged to improve System's efficiency. The recommendations would seek to simplify the approval process for institutions but also allow the Board to meet its stewardship responsibilities. In response to a question from Regent Semenas, Associate Vice President Singer clarified that market research is conducted to determine student interest in and state need for new programs.

The Committee agreed that the process allows for beneficial shared governance and oversight over systemwide program quality and array, which is especially important in a constrained fiscal environment.

5. Program Authorizations – First Readings

a. Consortial Online M.B.A.

Regent Burmaster recognized the Provosts from the five institutions proposing the Online Master of Business. Steve Tallant, Interim Provost from UW-Eau Claire, then introduced the five business school Deans collaborating on the program, including Dean Al Hartman from UW-Oshkosh who described the proposed degree program to the Committee. He explained that the Online MBA would be offered by a Consortium consisting of UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, and UW-Extension. As a consortium, the program would be better able to leverage the academic resources of the UW System, provide greater capacity than any single institution could, and draw on faculty expertise and already accredited M.B.A. programs. The program is designed to utilize the technological expertise of UW System Learning Innovations. Dean Hartman further reported that the demand from working adults for online MBAs from accredited institutions is constantly growing, and that the UW System brand should be especially appealing and valuable to students.

Regent Axtell asked whether UW-Whitewater, which also has an online M.B.A. program, would be joining the Consortium and was told that for now, Whitewater's program would remain separate because of structural and curricular differences. Regent Axtell further encouraged the Consortium to market the program aggressively to businesses. The Committee expressed its strong approbation for the program, especially for its creative and efficient use of existing resources.

b. B.S. in Golf Enterprise Management, UW-Stout

Professor Tom Franklin of the College of Human Development at UW-Stout introduced the program in Golf Enterprise Management, a business management program for the golf industry. He described the program as consistent with the special mission of UW-Stout, and noted that it would contribute to Stout's reputation for providing professional programs in industry and tourism. The program will be offered in collaboration with UW-River Falls and will articulate with the Wisconsin Technical College System. Professor Franklin described the significant student interest in the program, its potential for a diverse population, and its online components. Citing great demand for the program, he explained that it has received private funding from several Wisconsin corporations. In response to a question from Regent Axtell, John Wesolek, Dean of the College of Human Development at UW-Stout, clarified that no golf handicap is required for the program, as is the case for similar programs elsewhere in the country. The program, he responded, is about the business, not the game, of golf.

Regent Burmaster reminded the Committee that the two programs would return to the Education Committee's agenda in October for a second reading.

6. Program Authorizations – Second Readings

The Committee then approved the two programs that had received first readings and strong support in June, 2005. In response to a question from Regent Spector about the B.A./B.S. in Women's Studies at UW-Eau Claire, Senior Vice President Marrett emphasized that there was indeed strong demand systemwide for women's studies programs and that the discipline was thriving in Wisconsin thanks to faculty and student interest and such entities as the UW System Women's Studies Consortium.

Prior to voting approval for the Consortial Doctor of Physical Therapy offered by UW-La Crosse and UW-Milwaukee, and for the benefit of new Education Committee members, Regent Axtell reviewed some of the programs and discussion the Committee had encountered in the past year regarding allied health fields, including changes in the scope of practice for many fields, elevated entry-level degree requirements driven by professional accreditation agencies, and the growing demand for an educated work force in virtually all areas of allied health care. While some of the changing degree programs have caused the Committee consternation, Regent Axtell emphasized, the Consortial D.P.T. was not one of them: the Committee had expressed strong support for the program after its first reading in June.

a. B.A./B.S. in Women's Studies, UW-Eau Claire

I.1.f.(1): It was moved by Regent Davis, seconded by Regent Axtell, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor be authorized to implement the B.A./B.S. in Women's Studies, UW-Eau Claire.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

b. Consortial D.P.T., UW-La Crosse and UW-Milwaukee

I.1.f.(2): It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Davis, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellors of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellors be authorized to implement the Consortial Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

7. UW-Milwaukee Charter School Contract Extension

In introducing the next item, Regent Burmaster explained to the Committee that since 1997, the Board of Regents and the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee have approved numerous charter schools that involve a variety of public and private partnerships working to improve educational opportunity and achievement for Milwaukee school children. As part of the assessment and evaluation process for each school approved, the UW-Milwaukee Office of Charter Schools regularly monitors each of the schools authorized by the Board. After several years of operation, each school undergoes a formal evaluation which determines whether its contract will be extended or suspended. The Committee was being asked to approve an extension of four years to the original contract of the School for Early Development and Achievement (SEDA). Regent Spector recused himself from voting on the item,

informing the Committee that, prior to becoming a Regent, he had served on the Office of Charter School's Committee on Assessment and Evaluation.

Dr. Bob Kattman, Director of the UW-Milwaukee Office of Charter Schools, explained the recommendation for a four-year extension for SEDA. The School is unusual in that it educates children from three years of age through second grade. Its student population is disadvantaged and one third of its student body requires special education. Dr. Kattman explained that the school had endured some start-up problems, revolving around leadership issues and how best to assess such young children. The school has since resolved these concerns to the satisfaction of both UW-Milwaukee's Office of Charter Schools and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Regent Burmaster reported to the Committee that, as part of DPI's legal oversight of all charter schools, DPI was requesting that changes be made to all future contracts approved by the Board for charter schools at UW-Milwaukee and UW-Parkside. She noted that DPI supported the extension of the SEDA contract but that future contracts would address a set of additional recommendations by DPI that she distributed to Committee members. Dr. Kattman added that his office is working with DPI and the National Charter School Association to develop model contracts for future use.

I.1.g.: It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent McPike, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the extension of the charter school contract with the School for Early Development and Achievement.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

8. Revised Faculty Personnel Rules

The Committee next approved revisions to the Faculty Personnel Rules at UW-Oshkosh. Following both Wisconsin Administrative Code and standard practice, the rule changes at Oshkosh were vetted before appropriate faculty governance units, recommended by the Chancellor and Provost, and reviewed by UW System General Counsel. Provost Lane Earns described the changes as minor. The first involved a name change to a faculty service award in honor of an emeritus faculty member. The second concerned changes to the University's Student Opinion Survey policy. Senior Vice President Cora Marrett explained for the benefit of new Committee members that the Board's role in approving such personnel rule changes was part of the larger system of shared governance, following on action taken by university senates and campus leadership.

I.1.h.: It was moved by Regent Davis, seconded by Regent Semenas, that, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendments to the UW-Oshkosh Faculty Personnel Rules.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

9. Authorizations to Recruit

The Committee then approved authorizations to recruit for three positions of Provost/Vice Chancellor at three UW System institutions.

I.1.i.(1): It was moved by Regent Axtell, seconded by Regent Semenas, that the President of the University of Wisconsin System be authorized to recruit for a Provost and vice Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, at a salary within the Board of Regents salary range for university senior executive salary group six.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

I.1.i.(2): It was moved by Regent McPike, seconded by Regent Semenas, that the President of the University of Wisconsin System be authorized to recruit for a Provost and Vice Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout, at a salary within the Board of Regents salary range for university senior executive salary group one.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

I.1.i.(3): It was moved by Regent Semenas, seconded by Regent McPike, that the President of the University of Wisconsin System be authorized to recruit for a Provost and Vice Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior, at a salary within the Board of Regents salary range for university senior executive salary group one.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

10. Report on 2004 Undergraduate Drop Rates

The Committee's last item of business concerned the Undergraduate Drop Rate Report, which is annually required both by statute and by Board policy. As in past years, the goal that each institution not exceed a drop rate of five percent is met by every UW institution except the UW Colleges. Acting Associate Vice President Sharon Wilhelm recognized the improvement in the Colleges' drop rate from previous years but noted that, given the Colleges' mission of access and the profile of its students—most of whom are in the bottom quartile of their high school classes and first-generation college students—their drop rate will probably always remain above five percent. Regent Burmaster reminded Committee members that the UW System Administration has asked on two occasions to have the legislative requirement for this report dropped, since the goal and purpose of the original request have been met and the resources required to put the report together each year could be better directed elsewhere. The requests were denied on both occasions. The UW System will continue, therefore, to annually prepare and submit the report to the Joint Committee on Finance and report undergraduate drop rates to the Board.

I.1.j.: It was moved by Regent Spector, seconded by Regent McPike, that, upon Recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents accepts the Annual Report on 2004 Undergraduate Drop Rates for submission to the Joint Committee on Finance.

The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Resolutions I.1.f.(1), 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, September 9, 2005, meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.