

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened at 10:22 a.m. in the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Memorial Student Center, Great Hall.

The committee members unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes from July 6, 2017.

Vice President's Report: Jim Henderson, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, reported on three initiatives, as well as initial student enrollment numbers for the 2017-2018 academic year, as follows:

- (1) **UW System Student Transfer Policy.** The goal of the UW System Student Transfer Policy initiative is to ensure that transfer among UW institutions is more successful for students. Because the State of Colorado implemented a successful framework for student transfer, Vice President Henderson invited as a guest expert Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Chief Operating Officer of Colorado Mountain College, and former Chief Academic Officer of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. During his visit, Dr. Gianneschi met with UW System President Ray Cross, and completed a presentation to UW System staff from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

During these discussions, Dr. Gianneschi described how he led the ten year effort in Colorado, from 2005 to 2105, to implement a new student transfer framework. This framework provided students with guaranteed transfer of academic credits in general education and core courses, thereby ensuring they had guaranteed credits toward earning undergraduate degrees. While not claiming causality, Dr. Gianneschi identified that during the ten year implementation time period, overall student enrollment in Colorado increased by 15 percent, whereas the number of associates degrees earned by students increased by 60 percent. Vice President Henderson completed his report on this initiative, stating that he intends to return to the Education Committee in 2018 with policy recommendations, which will help to create a much smoother transfer experience for students in Wisconsin.

- (2) **Low Enrollment Degree Programs.** Vice President Henderson reported that Dr. Carleen VandeZande, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Educational Innovation, is leading a task force to upgrade the existing UW System policy on the review of academic programs with low student enrollment. The first meeting of the Task Force was on Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

The Task Force specifically aims to complete policy recommendations that provide for: 1) an annual review of academic programs, which analyzes student enrollment and graduation data; 2) a specific process for identifying low producing degree programs with a specified plan for going forward; and 3) a review of what campus actions are, including the possibility of the termination of a program, if an academic program is low-producing. The Task Force expects to submit policy recommendations for review to the Education Committee by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Regent Tyler asked how long the review process will last for academic programs that are identified as low-enrollment. Vice President Henderson responded that it usually takes a year, sometimes more, for campuses to review their academic programs, and to determine how they would like to respond. Moreover, the length of the review process will depend upon the type of action that a campus decides to make in response to low enrollment, as well as how long it takes students within the program to complete their degrees. This is because cutting off enrollment of new students, as well as processing existing students in the major, lasts as long as it takes students to complete their degrees in the program. In other words, because student success is critical, students will be allowed the opportunity to complete their degrees.

Regent Evers stated that low enrollment programs sometimes produce graduates that the State of Wisconsin really needs. For example, Physics teachers are needed in Wisconsin, but historically, the academic programs that produce graduates in this major have low enrollment. Thus, Regent Evers stated that he hopes critical academic programs are not terminated, because they are necessary for the teaching ranks, even if there is low student enrollment.

Vice President Henderson responded by stating that although the number of enrolled students and graduates within a program will be a trigger for careful consideration, it will not be a trigger for termination of a program. He also stated that the Task Force will recommend a process that not only allows for careful consideration of the purpose and role fulfilled by each academic program, but that also allows for sustaining low enrollment programs, which serve a critical role in the State of Wisconsin.

Regent Klein asked whether there will be periodic reports to the Board of Regents and the Education Committee regarding the status of this initiative. Vice President responded affirmatively, and also stated that this initiative is critical because it will help to ensure that UW System institutions have a robust array of academic programs across the State of Wisconsin.

Regent Tyler stated that it is important to ensure that the Task Force analysis includes student outcomes as part of the review process. Vice President Henderson responded, stating that student success is a guiding purpose for this initiative.

- (3) **Outcomes-Based Funding Model for the UW System.** Vice President Henderson reported that because the 2017-2019 biennial budget has been approved by both the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Walker, the UW System now has specific guidelines for developing an outcomes-based funding model, by which \$26.25 million in new state funding will be distributed in fiscal year 2018. He also stated that the UW System is required to submit its funding model to the Joint Finance Committee by February 15, 2018 for active review.

In order to meet this deadline, Vice President Henderson not only created a Task Force comprised of key stakeholders from UW System institutions, but also is working with consultants from HCM Strategists, LLC, who are assisting in the development of both performance metrics and a funding model for the UW System. The consultants from HCM Strategists, include Dr. Jimmy Clarke, Senior Director of State Policy; Martha Snyder, Director of State Policy; and Scott Boelscher, Senior Associate for Higher Education Policy. All three consultants have extensive expertise, which includes: working with the Wisconsin Technical College System to develop its outcomes-based funding formula, providing testimony before the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Education, and helping the State of Tennessee to

develop its outcomes-based funding formula. Finally, Vice President Henderson reported that he will submit an outcomes-based funding model and performance metrics to the Education Committee and the Board of Regents for approval in December 2017.

Regent Evers asked what active review by the Wisconsin Legislature will mean for this initiative. Vice President Henderson explained that active review means UW System leaders are now required to appear in person before the Joint Finance Committee, which could deny, modify, or approve the UW System outcomes-based funding model and performance metrics.

(4) **Initial Student Enrollment Numbers for the 2017-2018.** In closing his report, Vice President Henderson reported the preliminary student enrollment at UW System institutions, which were valid as of September 22, 2017. He stated that:

- Total Enrollment Headcount is down by 1.4% from the final headcount for the previous year, declining to 173,356 from 175,825.
- Undergraduate Headcount declined by 1.8% from 151,895 to 149,115.
- Graduate enrollments increased by 1.3%, from 23,930 to 24,241.
- New Freshmen enrollment increased by 0.5%.
- Transfer enrollments declined by 3.5%.
- Continuing or reentry headcount decreased by 2.3%.

Regent Millner stated that there are real opportunities for increased enrollment by focusing on the success of transfer students. She also expressed that the UW System faces a real challenge, due to demographic shifts, and therefore, transfer students offer a very real opportunity to expand student enrollment. Vice President Henderson agreed, stating that the UW System Transfer Policy initiative will focus on transfer student success across the State of Wisconsin, thereby leading to increased student enrollment.

Regent Klein stated that the Education Committee needs to have enrollment data that reports the yield curves for each campus, and that there needs to be a strategy for ensuring student success, once students have been admitted. Vice President Henderson agreed, stating that better enrollment and application data analytics will help to ensure student success in the future.

Regent Tyler expressed that Wisconsin faces demographic shifts, which indicated a lower number of high school students overall. Vice President Henderson stated that Wisconsin does, indeed, have lower high school student enrollment. Thus, the UW System must focus on new sources of student enrollment, such as a better student transfer process, and attracting more non-traditional students.

UW-Parkside: The Committee unanimously approved a Master of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, which will be managed by the Department of Psychology within the College of Natural and Health Sciences. Appearing on behalf of UW-Parkside were Provost Robert DuCoffee and Emmanuel Otu, Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.

Dean Otu reported that the proposed degree is a natural addition to the undergraduate Psychology Program at UW-Parkside, stating that this program will elevate the Psychology Department's existing

undergraduate Certificate in Mental Health Skills to degree status, based upon market demand. In addition, beginning in September 2018, anyone applying for a Licensed Professional Counselor license in the State of Wisconsin must not only graduate from a 60-credit master's degree counseling program, but also complete 3,000 hours of post-degree supervised professional counseling practice. Thus, this 60-credit graduate program will equip graduates with the competencies to successfully petition for licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) in Wisconsin.

Provost DuCoffee stated that workforce demand for this degree is growing faster than in other fields. He also stated that, at present, this degree is offered only by private universities in southeastern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, which is the region from which UW-Parkside will draw students for enrollment in the program. Thus, UW-Parkside expects to not only field a high quality master's degree program, but also to enroll a large number of students, because the tuition at UW-Parkside will be much lower than that required by private universities for the same degree.

Regent Evers stated that one in five of Wisconsin's public school students suffers from mental health challenges. Moreover, in many parts of Wisconsin there are not enough mental health service providers. Therefore, he expressed that if we seek to progress as a State, then we must provide mental health services for the children of our State.

UW-Stout: The Committee unanimously approved a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Provost Patrick Guilfoile appeared on behalf of UW-Stout.

Provost Guilfoile reported that this academic program will elevate the existing concentration in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) within the Applied Science Program, to a major that is better recognized by both prospective students and potential employers. Moreover, the development of this degree responds to program industry advisory board recommendations, faculty and student interest, and the continued need for graduates with training in the molecular biosciences in the State of Wisconsin.

Regent Millner asked Provost Guilfoile to describe the types of jobs that will evolve from this program. Provost Guilfoile responded by stating that there has been significant growth in the employment forecast for this degree program, with national growth projecting a 75% increase of professional jobs. Thus, program graduates will be well-prepared for work in genomic, diagnostic, medical, and forensic laboratories, as well as work in the industrial production of biological drugs, biofuels, and other commodities from bio-renewable sources. Regent Milner concluded that this degree program is, therefore, a prime example of a multi-disciplinary approach to educating undergraduate students.

Regent Higgins stated that he was very pleased to see that this is a 120 credit degree program, which will thereby facilitate the ability of students to graduate in a timely fashion. Provost Guilfoile stated that a clear focus of UW-Stout is to ensure that academic programs do not require more than 120 academic credits. Toward this achieving this goal, he recognized the diligent and excellent work of UW-Stout's faculty.

UW-Stout Host Campus Presentation. Provost Patrick Guilfoile completed a presentation entitled: "UW-Stout—Living the Polytechnic Mission."

