

CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR THE UW SYSTEM

WORKING GROUP ON RE-DEFINING EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

Minutes of the Meeting

March 4, 2004

10:00 a.m.

Friedrick Center, Room 215

Madison, Wisconsin

Present: Regent Fred Mohs, Chair; Regent Beth Richlen; Regent Emeritus Pat Boyle; UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Rick Wells; UW-Stevens Point Interim Chancellor Virginia Helm; Senior Vice President Cora Marrett; UW-Madison Provost Peter Spear; UW-Milwaukee Provost John Wanat; Kris McGrew, UW-Extension; Greg Wypiszynski, UW-Oshkosh; Cliff Abbott, UW-Green Bay; Kory Kozloski, UW-Milwaukee student; Associate Vice President Ron Singer

Unable to attend: Regent Elizabeth Burmaster, UW-Superior Chancellor Julius Erlenbach

Regent Mohs, Chair, began the meeting by reminding the group of the need to present recommendations and budget requests in a credible, persuasive manner that will elicit the support of decision makers and the public.

Outlining next steps, Associate Vice President Ron Singer indicated that staff to the working groups will meet next week to bring budget themes together into a coordinated document to inform the budget process. The Steering Committee will review the budget recommendations and report, after which the recommendations will proceed to the Board of Regents through the standing committees.

Referring to draft budget recommendations presented to the working group, Regent Mohs identified the importance of addressing faculty/student ratios, faculty and staff salaries, advising, and student aid.

Regent Emeritus Boyle noted the difficulty of developing a plan for the future and budget recommendations simultaneously, rather than basing budget recommendations on a completed plan. He suggested that separate documents be prepared in order to avoid confusion. Chancellor Wells indicated that the part of the study leading up to budget recommendations serves as a precursor to more extensive planning. He suggested that a marketing firm might be engaged to write the document once the working groups and board have determined the content.

Mr. Kozlowski suggested that planning documents should be forwarded to the campuses for input.

Referring to a process diagram on quality outcomes, Chancellor Wells indicated that budget funding enables reaching such outcomes for the benefit of students. He commented that student financial aid, recruiting and retaining quality faculty and staff, and investments in incentives for change would be suitable budget themes.

Provosts Wanat and Spear expressed concern about the specificity of the draft budget proposal for a quality investment fund. They suggested that the third budget theme be the area of programs and that innovative initiatives could be part of that theme.

Chancellor Wells suggested that budget requests for financial aid and faculty recruitment and retention be given top priority, but added that investment in innovation also is needed to promote positive change.

Several working group members commented that the focus should be on students and faculty/staff, and Regent Emeritus Boyle noted that high quality faculty are critical to generating economic growth..

Regent Mohs suggested reporting on the positive impacts of innovations.

Provost Spear cautioned that such measures as time-to-degree and student/faculty ratio are insufficiently complex indicators that differ by campus and by program.

It was agreed by members of the group that the focus should be on students and their needs and that budget themes should relate to such student needs as financial aid and advising; attracting and retaining quality faculty, as related to needs of students and the state's economy; and programs, including areas of student engagement and innovation.

It also was agreed that the quality diagram developed by Chancellor Wells and Mr. Wypiszynski would be used in the definition of quality.

Regent Mohs directed that documents be re-written in accordance with the discussion at this meeting and circulated to the working group members.

It was decided that the group would meet again in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Judith Temby

