

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR THE UW SYSTEM

WORKING GROUP ON RE-DEFINING EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

Minutes of the Meeting

April 1, 2004
The Pyle Center
Madison, Wisconsin

10:10 a.m.

Present: Regent Fred Mohs, Chair; Regent Beth Richlen; Regent Emeritus Pat Boyle; UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Rick Wells; UW-Stevens Point Interim Chancellor Virginia Helm; UW-Superior Chancellor Julius Erlenbach; 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

Unable to attend: Regent Elizabeth Burmaster; Kory Kozloski, UW-Milwaukee student

The minutes of the March 4th meeting stood approved as distributed.

The working group began the meeting with a discussion of draft budget recommendations, which included the following:

- Increasing financial aid, in order to meet the compelling public interest goal of providing higher educational opportunities to qualified students, regardless of income.
- Attracting and retaining quality faculty by increasing the number of faculty positions and providing a pay plan that reverses the erosion of faculty salaries that has impeded efforts to attract new and retain existing faculty.
- Enhancing academic and career advising resources which have diminished in recent years as the number of students being served has increased.
- Expanding library and technology resources to address the most pressing needs in these areas.

The draft recommendations also identified establishing an educational quality investment fund as a priority for future biennia in order to support development of transformative teaching and learning practices.

There was general agreement among working group members that these were the budget themes that should be presented to the Board of Regents at the next day's meeting.

Regent Mohs indicated that the financial aid recommendation addresses the issue of access, which is separate from issues of quality addressed by the other recommendations. It was noted by Regent Richlen and Provost Spear that the diversity brought to campus by broad access can also serve to enhance educational quality.

With regard to the larger draft document on educational quality, Regent Emeritus Boyle commented that there should be more clarity and precision as to what is being recommended. For example, it should indicate goals in terms of such matters as the level of support per student, the student/faculty ratio, and the percentage of students who should have international and undergraduate research experiences. Budget recommendations should be tied to furthering these goals. Others expressed agreement with this approach.

With regard to budget themes, it was noted that the financial aid recommendation being brought forward by the Working Group on Our Partnership with the State would replace auxiliary reserve funding with GPR support, maintain the statutory link between tuition and financial aid increases, and match tuition increases with financial aid increases of the same amount for students in the lowest income quintile. It was suggested that a long-term goal in this area might be for state funding of financial aid to exceed the national average.

In the area of attracting and retaining quality faculty, it was suggested that, in addition to a competitive pay plan and student/faculty ratio goals, there should be a goal concerning the mix of tenure and ad hoc faculty.

With regard to advising, it was noted that the ratio of students to advisors at UW institutions far exceeds the national standard, and that a goal should be developed in this area.

In the area of library and technology resources, it was suggested that goals address inflation of journal and book costs, as well as IT infrastructure, personnel and computer needs, based on the Instructional Technology Plan.

Members suggested that short-term goals should not be minimal but should require a "stretch" in order to reach them. It also was suggested that single measures would be more easily understood by readers than multiple measures.

With regard to the structure of the quality document, it was suggested that challenges be set forth first, followed by a vision of where the university needs to go, and then by financial and other recommendations that are linked to the challenges. At the front of the document would be a one-page executive summary.

Regent Emeritus Boyle agreed to write a draft document, in consultation with Regent Mohs, which then would be circulated to the working group members.

The discussion concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Judith Temby