

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee**

**March 9, 2006**

A meeting of the Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 1:45 p.m. in the East Committee Room, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: Dallas Bohnsack, presiding; Clyde Allen, Peter Bell, David Larson, and Patricia Simmons.

Staff present: Chancellors Charles Casey and Samuel Schuman; Senior Vice President and Provost Thomas Sullivan; Senior Vice President Robert Jones; Vice Presidents Kathryn Brown, Carol Carrier, and Timothy Mulcahy; Executive Director Ann Cieslak; and Provost David Carl.

Student Representatives: Tiffany Varilek and Steve Wang.

**BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY: *EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING***

Vice President Carrier presented for action the proposed new Board of Regents Policy: *Employee Development, Education, and Training*, which the committee had reviewed in depth at its February meeting. She reported that, if adopted, the new policy will supersede the following Board of Regents policies, as detailed in the docket materials:

- Board of Regents Policy: *Administrative Transitional Leaves*;
- Board of Regents Policy: *Faculty Development Leaves*;
- Board of Regents Policy: *Professional and Administrative Staff Development Leaves*; and
- Board of Regents Policy: *Regents' Scholarship Program*.

In response to a previous request from the committee, Carrier provided information on the number of faculty development leaves and tuition waivers utilized by employees during FY 2003 – 2005.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of Board of Regents Policy: *Employee Development, Education, and Training*.

**RESULTS FROM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE & SENIOR EXIT SURVEYS**

Vice President Carrier introduced Vice Provosts Gerald Rinehart and Craig Swan who presented results from the student experience and senior exit surveys, as detailed in the docket materials. Swan noted that the student experience data was a compilation of statistics from all four campuses from 1997 to 2005, while the senior exit survey data included only the Twin Cities campus. Significant findings include:

- student satisfaction on all campuses has increased since 1997;

- students on all campuses are generally more satisfied with the quality of instruction; and
- students who participate in intensive academic activities have significantly higher satisfaction rates.

Rinehart commented that the administration is utilizing senior exit survey data to determine the primary factors extending graduation beyond four years. Swan reported that survey data from all campuses have resulted in changes to language requirements, increased academic advising opportunities, and new methods of dealing with transfer students.

In response to a question from Regent Larson, Swan reported that higher level of instruction by teaching assistants is not a statistically significant factor in student satisfaction rates.

In response to a question from Regent Allen, Swan cautioned against pushing more surveys on students out of fear of survey fatigue. Student Representative Varilek added that many students do not complete surveys because of frequent requests.

### **NEW INITIATIVES IN GREEK LIFE**

Vice President Carrier introduced Vice Provost Gerald Rinehart and Chad Ellsworth, Greek Adviser in the Student Activities Office, to present information on University initiatives with the fraternity and sorority community on the Twin Cities campus, as detailed in the docket materials. Rinehart focused the presentation on the policy issue of developing an appropriate relationship between the Greek community and University.

Ellsworth provided information on the history of Greek chapters on the Twin Cities campus and the current status of active chapters. Rinehart noted the positive correlation of Greek membership to such areas as graduation and retention, student satisfaction, campus spirit, and leadership participation.

Rinehart explained that the greatest challenge faced by the Greek community is membership, as the University has the smallest number of Greek members among peers in the Big 10. He added that the size of houses and the inability to expand them due to historical preservation standards have challenged the growth potential of Greek chapters.

Rinehart presented a preliminary proposal for the University to lease land to several Greek chapters to develop a new residential facility on 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE. He stated that the proposal, which will impose no financial burden on the University, will likely return to the Facilities Committee for review and action at a future date.

In response to a question from Regent Simmons, Rinehart observed that the only University resource allocated to the Greek community is the position held by Ellsworth in the Student Activities Office. In response to a question from Regent Bohnsack, Rinehart stated that the most complicated part of the proposed residential facility will be determining which chapters will be involved.

### **CONSENT REPORT**

Vice President Carrier noted that there were no items on the Consent Report for this month.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Vice President Carrier referred the committee to the Information Items contained in the docket.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

**ANN D. CIESLAK**  
**Executive Director and**  
**Corporate Secretary**