

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF REGENTS
Educational Planning & Policy Committee
September 6, 2007

A meeting of the Educational Planning and Policy Committee of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in the West Committee Room, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: David Larson, presiding; Anthony Baraga, Maureen Cisneros, Linda Cohen, Steven Hunter, and Patricia Simmons.

Staff present: Chancellor Charles Casey; Senior Vice President & Provost Thomas Sullivan; Senior Vice Presidents Frank Cerra and Robert Jones; Vice President R. Timothy Mulcahy; and Executive Director Ann Cieslak.

Student Representatives present: Meghan Keil and Nathan Olson.

**RESOLUTION RELATED TO 2007 MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN
TUITION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT**

Senior Vice President & Provost Sullivan introduced Craig Swan, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, who led the discussion of the Resolution Related to the 2007 Minnesota-Wisconsin Tuition Reciprocity Agreement. Swan reminded the committee that the University's efforts began three years ago when President Bruininks requested amendments to the reciprocity agreement. After several months of negotiations, an agreement has been reached that meets the University's concerns.

As described in the resolution, the agreement states that Wisconsin reciprocity students will be assessed the higher of either the tuition at a comparable Wisconsin institution or the resident tuition rate of the institution in which they will be enrolled. The agreement also creates a supplementary reciprocity program through which the State of Wisconsin will buy down the increased tuition for Wisconsin students enrolled in Minnesota institutions; establishes a principle about the tuition rate the University will charge; and directs tuition reciprocity payments to the University rather than to the State of Minnesota's general fund. The agreement will be phased in, becoming effective with students entering Fall 2008.

A motion was made and seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the resolution related to the 2007 Minnesota-Wisconsin Tuition Reciprocity Agreement.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM CHANGES
ANNUAL REPORT**

Director John Ziegenhagen and Gail Dubrow, Dean, Graduate School, led the discussion of the annual report of academic program changes (materials in the docket

and on file in the Board Office). Ziegenhagen stated that this report provides a higher-level look at policy issues and broader trends in program changes than the transaction-by-transaction review during consideration of the committee's Consent Report each month.

The review process includes assessments in such areas as consistency with the mission of the University; anticipated need and demand; expected learning outcomes; program quality; and efficiency and effectiveness in the use of University resources. An overall assessment of academic program changes during the past year indicates that many of the changes were related to (1) strategic alignment, especially in the three new colleges created through the strategic positioning process; (2) re-tooling in Health Sciences involving the development of new professional practice degree programs and the institution of quality assurance in existing programs; and (3) the expansion of programs at the new campus in Rochester.

Dubrow provided an overview of Graduate School programs and the role of graduate education in helping the University attain its goal of becoming a top public research institution. Through its quality assessments of 130 individual programs, the Graduate School helps the University implement the academic goals of strategic positioning; maintain its national reputation; identify issues critical to competing for the best students and faculty; and develop the metrics and measures for monitoring progress in graduate education.

Dubrow identified the following as the major goals of the Graduate School:

- multi-year awards to attract top students;
- top students who will attract excellent faculty;
- reductions in the time required for graduate degree completion; and
- improved doctoral degree completion rates.

In response to questions from the committee, Dubrow confirmed that Ph.D. placements are a good indicator of graduate education quality and that the Graduate School has begun to collect data on the post-graduation endeavors of former students.

ACADEMIC ISSUES RELATED TO: UNIVERSITY PLAN, PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Director Ziegenhagen led the discussion of academic issues related to the *University Plan, Performance & Accountability Report*. He explained that this year's report links metrics to the strategic positioning goals, identifies the comparison group to which the University aspires, shows the gains and losses that have been realized since the start of strategic positioning, and outlines future actions required if the University is to keep its competitive edge or close gaps between its performance and the comparison group.

Ziegenhagen noted that the discussion focuses on the performance of the Twin Cities campus relative to the institutions included in the University's comparison group (materials in the docket and on file in the Board Office). There is still work to be done on the coordinate campuses relative to established goals, but similar efforts are underway on each campus.

Comparisons were made under the four strategic positioning categories of exceptional students, exceptional faculty and staff, exceptional innovation, and exceptional organization. With respect to exceptional students, the analysis reveals positive trends in a number of areas, but relative to institutions in the comparison group, the University has room for improvement. The University does lead the

comparison group in the award of doctoral degrees, and student satisfaction is very high on all campuses.

In the strategic positioning areas of exceptional faculty and staff and exceptional innovation, the University lags most institutions in its comparison group, but progress continues. On the library expenditures measure, substantial recovery has occurred as a result of strategic investments. The University also has exceeded comparison group trends in the areas of total endowment assets and annual giving, two metrics under strategic positioning's exceptional organization goal.

In response to a question from Regent Simmons, Ziegenhagen acknowledged that the gap between the class rank of incoming University students and the comparison group is substantial, partly the result of the University's tradition of ensuring access. Ziegenhagen suggested that a focused strategy and very disciplined investments will help close this gap while ensuring that the University recruits the very best, talented, and diverse student body possible. Sullivan added that since the commitment to strategic positioning, dramatic increases in the donor support has made it possible for the University to remove financial barriers for the many talented students who are now applying for admission.

A lengthy discussion ensued in which the committee agreed that setting percentage goals relative to the top three institutions could drive policy decisions that are potentially incompatible with the University's mission. The committee also proposed the identification of land-grant institutions in the comparison group, the calculation of endowment assets per student, and the inclusion of measures for graduate education.

COMMITTEE WORKPLAN, 2007-08

Regent Larson and Senior Vice President & Provost Sullivan led a discussion of the committee's workplan for 2007-08. Members of the committee expressed support for the workplan, requesting (a) that the workplan be aligned with the Board's workplan to ensure that established priorities are addressed and (b) that the workplan be flexible in order to accommodate topics that may arise throughout the year.

CONSENT REPORT

A motion was made and seconded, and the committee unanimously recommended approval of the following academic program changes, as described in the docket materials:

New Academic Programs:

- Graduate School – Create free-standing Minor in Risk Analysis for Introduced Species and Genotypes

Changed Academic Programs:

- College of Education and Human Development (Twin Cities Campus) – Discontinue Therapeutic Recreation area of emphasis in the M.A., Recreation, Park, and Leisure Studies degree
- College of Liberal Arts and College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (Twin Cities Campus) – Move academic home of writing-related programs from the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences to the College of Liberal Arts:
 - Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Scientific and Technical Communication
 - Minor in Internet, Science and Society

- Minor in Land, Nature and Environmental Values
- Minor in Technical Communication
- Minor in Designing Documents with New and Emerging Technologies
- Crookston Campus – Add Urban Forestry emphasis in the B.S., Horticulture degree
- School of Public Health (Twin Cities Campus) – Add interdisciplinary concentration in Health Disparities in the M.P.H. degree

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items this month.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



ANN D. CIESLAK
Executive Director and
Corporate Secretary