

Minutes*

Faculty Consultative Committee
Thursday, March 31, 2005
1:15 – 3:00
238A Morrill Hall

Present: Marvin Marshak (chair), Gary Balas, Susan Brorson, Jean Bauer, Charles Campbell, Tom Clayton, Dan Feeney, Emily Hoover, Mary Jo Kane, Morris Kleiner, Kathleen Krichbaum, Judith Martin, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Martin Sampson, John Sullivan

Absent: Carol Chomsky, Gary Davis, Scott Lanyon, Fred Morrison

Guests: Regents Emeriti William Hogan and Maureen Reed; President Robert Bruininks

Other: Kathryn Stuckert (Office of the Chief of Staff)

[In these minutes: (1) discussion with Regents emeriti William Hogan and Maureen Reed; (2) discussion with President Bruininks]

1. Discussion with Regents Emeriti William Hogan and Maureen Reed

Professor Marshak convened the meeting at 1:15 and welcomed Regents Emeriti William Hogan and Maureen Reed to the meeting. He recalled that Regent Hogan came on the Board in the middle of President Hasselmo's term of office, served throughout President Yudof's tenure, and served for the first part of President Bruininks' term. Regent Reed came on the Board at the end of the tenure debate. Both were "with us through a long, interesting period" during which both stood up for academic freedom, the faculty, and the intellectual future of the University. The fact that the University has come as far as it has, Professor Marshak said, is because of the efforts the two of them made while on the Board.

Professor Martin recalled that she chaired the Committee on Educational Policy and this Committee while Regent Reed was on the Board of Regents. The Committee was amazed that the Chair of the Board of Regents came to the Committee's fall retreat; that was the first time in some while that there had been a demonstration that the Board took faculty views seriously. That and the other meetings with the Board during her tenure were respectful and productive and helped the University get through some challenging times.

Professor Feeney noted that he was deeply involved in the tenure debate and thanked Regents Hogan and Reed for helping the University "get into the light from the dark days." The institution got through them because people buried the hatchet and allowed the Board and the faculty to repair their relationship. The two of them, he said, were responsible for building bridges and the University will miss them.

* These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

Professor Kleiner commented that he knew Regent Hogan as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Kansas before he came on the Board of Regents. The University was fortunate to have someone on the Board with a unique understanding of what the University is about from personal experience. He thanked Regent Hogan for what he had done while a Board member.

What changed in the behavior of the Board while the two of them were chairs, Professor Martin observed, is that Board stayed at the policy level and refrained from becoming involved in the management of the University. The Board paid attention to issues at the appropriate level and kept the best interests of the University in mind.

Professor Marshak presented to Regent Hogan a framed certificate and read it to him: "The Faculty Consultative Committee Expresses its Appreciation to Regent William Hogan for his extraordinary support of academic freedom, academic values, and excellence at the University of Minnesota." Committee members gave Regent Hogan a prolonged round of applause.

Professor Marshak then presented Regent Reed a framed certificate and read it to her: "The Faculty Consultative Committee Expresses its Appreciation to Regent Maureen Reed for her extraordinary support of academic freedom, academic values, and excellence at the University of Minnesota." Committee members gave Regent Reed a prolonged round of applause.

The Committee then had a discussion with Regents Emeriti Hogan and Reed about strategic planning, the importance of the University, and the role of the faculty. Among the points taken up were the possibility of former Regents advising the legislature on the appointment process for Board members, examination of best practices at other top research universities as the University moves forward with its strategic planning efforts, and the need for the University to provide a model for civic discourse.

Professor Marshak thanked Regents Emeriti Hogan and Reed for joining the Committee; Committee members again gave the two of them a lengthy round of applause.

2. Discussion with President Bruininks

Professor Marshak welcomed the President to the meeting. The Committee and the President discussed strategic planning: the public response, the process, and elements of the recommendations. The President told the Committee that the administration will continue to look for ideas as the process moves forward and each of the proposed working groups will generate its own set of issues. Other points raised in the discussion were these:

- It is important that faculty whose department or college might change be treated as peers in the new structure and not marginalized.
- It would be helpful if there were some kind of cost-benefit analysis of the changes that will be made.
- The task forces or working groups, in the case of structural changes, must deal with mission as well as other matters so that all units can contribute to a new entity.

- The University should think about reinventing the land-grant mission for the 21st Century to address the problems of immigrants and students of color in K-12 education. The University should weigh in on K-12 education the same way it did in agriculture in the 19th Century.
- The provisions in the strategic plan for the coordinate campuses.

Professor Marshak thanked the President for joining the meeting and, after completing a couple of procedural matters, adjourned it at 3:00.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota