

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF REGENTS
Educational Planning & Policy Committee
December 7, 2006

A meeting of the Educational Planning and Policy Committee of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, December 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the West Committee Room, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: Peter Bell presiding; Dallas Bohnsack, David Larson, David Metzen, Lakeesha Ransom, and Patricia Simmons.

Staff present: Chancellors Charles Casey, Jacqueline Johnson, and Kathryn Martin; Senior Vice President & Provost Thomas Sullivan; Senior Vice Presidents Frank Cerra and Robert Jones; Vice President R. Timothy Mulcahy; General Counsel Mark Rotenberg; Executive Director Ann Cieslak; Provost David Carl; and Associate Vice President Rusty Barceló.

Student Representatives present: Will Kellogg and Luke Neuville.

BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY:
ACQUIRING EQUITY INTERESTS IN TECHNOLOGY LICENSEES

Timothy Mulcahy, Vice President for Research, and General Counsel Mark Rotenberg presented for action the new draft Board of Regents Policy: *Acquiring Equity Interests in Technology Licensees*. Rotenberg indicated that the draft policy now includes a number of language changes (as shown in the docket materials) in response to guidance provided by the committee during its review in October.

In response to a question from Regent Simmons, Mulcahy agreed that a friend of the University might admirably represent the interests of the institution on the board of a privately held, for-profit company, but the proximity of in-house experts would facilitate daily interactions with appropriate University staff. He assured the committee that policy amendments would be sought in the event in-house expertise was not available.

A motion was made and seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of Board of Regents Policy: *Acquiring Equity Interests in Technology Licensees*.

BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY:
SUBMITTING AND ACCEPTING SPONSORED PROJECTS

Timothy Mulcahy, Vice President for Research, led the discussion of Board of Regents Policy: *Submitting and Accepting Sponsored Projects*. Mulcahy stated that policy revisions reflect primarily the merger of two existing Board policies, *Principal Investigator Eligibility on Sponsored Projects* and *Sponsored Grants and Contracts*, and

formatting changes for consistency with other Board policies. The only substantive revision is in response to changes in federal regulations, which now allow multiple principle investigators.

In response to questions from the committee, Mulcahy confirmed that in the event the University receives federal funding as part of a consortium of institutions, the University still designates a principal investigator. He also responded to questions regarding the availability of sufficient resources to conduct and complete sponsored projects, training requirements for involved University personnel, and the University's discretion regarding the transfer of sponsored projects if a principal investigator leaves the institution.

The policy will return to a future meeting of the committee for action.

INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES REPORT

Senior Vice President and Provost Sullivan, noting that interdisciplinary studies have been enhanced as a result of the University's strategic positioning effort, introduced Gail Dubrow, dean of the Graduate School, who led the discussion. Dubrow explained that the focus of graduate education is specialization, especially in subfields, but that the best graduate education emphasizes studies of related fields to solve problems better addressed by an interdisciplinary approach. By way of example, she invited Deborah Powell, Dean, Medical School; Claudia Neuhauser, Professor and Chair, Planning Committee, Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology; Deborah Swackhamer, Professor and Interim Director, Institute of the Environment; and Ann Waltner, Professor and Director, Institute for Advanced Study, to discuss the work of their respective interdisciplinary research institutes.

Powell described the work of the Institute for Translational Neuroscience (ITN), which will serve as an umbrella organization for translational neurosciences across the University. Neuhauser considers the Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology to be a showcase for strategic research areas that will help recruit the best faculty and students. Because of the University's depth and breadth in the environmental sciences, Swackhamer expects the Institute of the Environment (Institute) to become a highly competitive, world-class institute that will create community among environmental scholars, serve as an entry point for students, and nurture public-private collaborations. Waltner reported that the Institute for Advanced Study has established a reputation as a place not only for University scholars, scientists, and artists to interact, but also as a nexus for partnerships between the University and community groups.

Dubrow commented that small offices for interdisciplinary/collaborative research and graduate education are being established to create a culture that rewards outstanding interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach. She asserted that expansion of interdisciplinary capacity will enhance the University's reputation nationally, making the institution more attractive to top students, to top faculty, and to the federal government, which is interested in establishing best practices.

In response to a question from Regent Bell, Swackhamer emphasized that there is no breadth vs. depth question at the Institute, which encompasses all colleges and places no limits on who can be included in collaborative efforts. The Institute also values disciplinary silos because individual disciplines must be robust in order to succeed in interdisciplinary initiatives. Powell added that silos and focus are important, but that the ITN incorporates only the best silos, rejecting interdisciplinary efforts in areas where the University lacks sufficient depth.

In response to a question from Regent Simmons, Neuhauser confirmed that the University's new emphasis on interdisciplinary initiatives, under the aegis of the Graduate School, is very attractive to young faculty, who find collaboration easier here.

In response to questions from the committee, Dubrow mentioned that the University has organized a network of interdisciplinary faculty to consider best practices in this area and is planning an interdisciplinary conference that is a best-practices effort. She also acknowledged that interdisciplinary initiatives are out of the ordinary and do require somewhat different leadership, but these initiatives have "bubbled up" from the faculty, calling for a parallel organizational structure and rewards system.

In response to comments by Regent Metzen, Sullivan observed that very positive and robust discussions about promotion and tenure are currently under way with all departments and collegiate units. The faculty also has taken ownership of a proposal that emerged from strategic planning which would establish higher aspirations and expectations and create a new rewards system. If adopted, such a standard would make the University a model nationally because it would be one of the few institutions to include clear expectations regarding inter- and cross-disciplinary work.

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 and Changed Academic Programs:

- Center for Allied Health Programs (Twin Cities and Rochester campuses) – Create a Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) degree
- Institute of Technology (Twin Cities campus) – Create a Bachelor of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering (B.B.B.E.) degree from a merger of the Bachelor of Bio-based Products Engineering (B.B.P.E.) degree and the Bachelor of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering (B.B.A.E.) degree
- College of Biological Sciences (Twin Cities campus) – Add a track in Health Sciences within the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Biology

Academic Program Relocation:

- Twin Cities campus – Move the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Scientific and Technical Communication and minors in Technical Communication; Internet, Science, and Society; and Land, Nature, and Environmental Values from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences to the College of Liberal Arts

New Name:

- University of Minnesota Extension Service—Change name to University of Minnesota Extension

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items this month.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann D. Cieslak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "C".

ANN D. CIESLAK
Executive Director and
Corporate Secretary