

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BOARD OF REGENTS

**Educational Planning & Policy Committee**

May 9, 2002

A meeting of the Educational Planning and Policy Committee of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, May 9, 2002, at 9:45 a.m. in the East Committee Room of the McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: William Hogan, presiding; Dallas Bohnsack, Jean Keffeler, Richard McNamara, Michael O'Keefe, and Maureen Reed.

Staff present: Executive Vice President and Provost Robert Bruininks; Chancellors Donald Sargeant and Samuel Schuman; Senior Vice President Frank Cerra; Vice Presidents Robert Jones and Christine Maziar; Executive Director Ann Cieslak; and Provost David Carl.

Student Representatives present: Jacob Elo and Danielle Stuard.

**CONSENT REPORT**

A motion was made and seconded and the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the following:

**New Academic Programs:**

-University of Minnesota, Duluth, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, College of Science and Engineering; and

-University of Minnesota, Duluth, Interdisciplinary minor in Foreign Studies, College of Liberal Arts

**Academic Program Name Changes:**

-University of Minnesota, Duluth, Department of Art to the Department of Art and Design, School of Fine Arts.

**APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF THE**

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AS AN OSHA TRAINING INSTITUTE EDUCATION CENTER:  
RESOLUTION**

Executive Vice President and Provost Bruininks introduced Vice President Maziar who led the discussion. Maziar explained that the School of Public Health (School) has been a training center for the federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). The resolution now before the committee grants approval for the School to reapply for designation as part of a regional consortium with the University of Cincinnati, Eastern Michigan University, and the United Autoworkers.

A motion was made and seconded and the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the resolution approving submission of an application to OSHA on behalf of the University of Minnesota by the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety to become an OSHA Training Institute Education Center.

**UTION, SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID:**

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Executive Vice President and Provost Bruininks introduced Craig Swan, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, and Peter Zetterberg, Institutional Research and Reporting, who led the discussion.

Zetterberg reviewed changes in the funding of higher education; differences in tuition rates by campus and student level; University tuition rates and fees relative to other Big 10 public campuses; projected increases in financial aid for FY02-03; the educational and financial benefits of graduating in four years; the University's tuition rate development process; and the tuition principles as delineated in Board of Regents Policy:*Tuition* (materials in the docket and on file in the Board Office).

In response to a question from Keffeler, Zetterberg noted that financial aid decisions are based on year-to-year assessments. Before any recommendation is made about tuition, calculations are made about the level of institutional grant program support required to protect the very lowest income students. He added that statistics reported by the Higher Education Foundation are incomplete because they do not include any institutional aid to students. Unfortunately, this erroneous information may cause low-income students to conclude that the University is not affordable.

A lengthy discussion ensued, focusing on public perceptions of the University as affordable and possible misperceptions about the availability of financial aid for students of lesser means. Swan remarked that rising tuition does challenge the institution to help lower income students, who benefit less from tax credits, the primary federal subsidy in recent years.

In response to a question from Keffeler, Zetterberg emphasized that Board of Regents Policy:*Tuition* includes principles acknowledging that there is both a private and a public advantage to a college education. Keffeler observed that the Board has effectively managed to the principles specified in this policy, but she fears that eventually tuition will increase to a level that is not affordable.

O'Keefe agreed that the principles adopted by the Board in 1996 are sound, but these principles are not governing decisions about tuition levels. The essential balance is between the quality of the institution and the magnitude of the burden students and/or their families must bear. He proposed that what is needed is a framework that will allow the Board to manage this balance.

Student Representatives Elo and Stuard advised caution in making assumptions about the relationship between parental income and parental support. There are many students who are financially at risk because they neither qualify for financial aid nor receive financial support from their families.

Keffeler and Hogan suggested that it may be important for the Board to become more actively involved in future legislative discussion of financial aid proposals.

## REPORT: PATENTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Executive Vice President and Provost Bruininks introduced Vice President Maziar and Acting Assistant Vice President Anthony Strauss, who led the discussion. Strauss reviewed the mission statement, activities, and challenges of the Office of Patent & Technology Marketing (PTM) as described in the docket materials and on file in the Board Office. Strauss indicated that recent changes in leadership, policies, and procedures had yielded very positive results in terms of the number of patent disclosures, new patent applications, and other traditional measures of proprietary technology transfer.

Professors Gary Nelsestuen and David Pui described their experiences in developing technologies that have been successfully marketed, crediting much of their success to the institutional support and opportunities which the University provides for multidisciplinary collaboration.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Conflict of Interest

Executive Vice President and Provost Bruininks introduced Vice President Maziar, who updated the committee on implementation of Board of Regents Policy: *Conflict of Interest*. Maziar reported that this policy and related administrative procedures have created an environment that encourages external interactions while providing the oversight necessary to avoid conflicts of interest that would undermine the trust and confidence of the public and professional colleagues. The one aspect of the policy never fully implemented is the requirement for a Public Private Partnership Committee (PPPC) to address conflicts of interest of an exceptional nature.

Regent O'Keefe recalled that the PPPC had come to the attention of the Audit Committee because there does not appear to be any justification for a committee that has not met since 1995. Maziar acknowledged that this group has not met because few potential conflicts have been disclosed, and those disclosed did not require the involvement of the PPPC. She proposed, however, that the PPPC not be eliminated but that it be directed instead to serve in an advisory capacity in the area of institutional conflicts of interest. She suggested that the PPPC could provide insights in the development of procedures, guidelines, and later policy to address issues of institutional conflict, which is more difficult to identify and an area in which guidance from federal agencies is not yet available. The committee endorsed Maziar's proposal to maintain the PPPC as a vehicle through which pending federal regulations on institutional conflict can be vetted.

### **Metropolitan Higher Education**

Executive Vice President & Provost Bruininks remarked that much of the effort in metropolitan higher education has been accomplished through the leadership of the University, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, and working committees of both institutions. He then provided information on recent developments.

### **University of Minnesota Rochester Update**

Executive Vice President and Provost Bruininks observed that the Greater Rochester Area University Center (GRAUC) has been very interested in the University of Minnesota Rochester playing a leadership role in postsecondary education in their community. He updated the committee on negotiations currently underway to develop an agreement that by the fall of 2003 would give the University complete authority and responsibility for managing upper division and post-baccalaureate programs in Rochester.

In response to a question from Reed, Bruininks confirmed that GRAUC is very pleased with the current status of the negotiations. He also believes they would be very supportive of draft agreement provisions that call for the Provost, by December 1, 2002, to devise effective strategies for seamless integration across systems.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**ANN D. CIESLAK**

**Executive Director and  
Corporate Secretary**

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