

Year 2002-03

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF REGENTS**

Educational Planning & Policy Committee

February 13, 2003

A meeting of the Educational Planning and Policy Committee of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, February 13, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. in the East Committee Room, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: William Hogan, presiding; Peter Bell, Dallas Bohnsack, Jean Keffeler, Richard McNamara, and Maureen Reed.

Staff present: Chancellor Donald Sargeant; Executive Vice President and Provost Christine Maziar; Senior Vice President Frank Cerra; Vice Presidents Kathryn Brown and Robert Jones; Interim Vice President David Hamilton; Executive Director Ann Cieslak; and Provost David Carl.

Student Representatives present: Jacob Elo and Danielle Stuard.

CONSENT REPORT

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the following, as detailed in the docket materials:

New academic programs:

- Carlson School of Management - Carlson School Fixed Income Fund LLC
- Graduate School - Master of Health Informatics (M.H.I.) and Combined M.D./M.H.I. Degree Program
- Graduate School - Free-Standing Graduate Minor in Human Rights
- School of Public Health - Post-Baccalaureate Regents Certificates in Public Health:
 - Public Health Certificate in Preparedness, Response and Recovery
 - Public Health Certificate in Food Safety and Bio-Security
 - Public Health Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety
- University of Minnesota Duluth, Graduate School - Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering (M.S.E.C.E.) in cooperation with the College of Science and Engineering
- University of Minnesota Duluth, College of Education and Human Service Professions - Undergraduate Minor in Special Education
- University of Minnesota Morris - Undergraduate Minor in African American Studies

Academic Program Changes:

- Carlson School of Management - Carlson School Growth Fund LLC
- University of Minnesota Duluth, College of Liberal Arts - American Indian Studies, Ojibwe Language Concentration
- University of Minnesota Duluth, College of Liberal Arts American Indian Studies, Ojibwe Language Minor
- University of Minnesota Duluth, College of Liberal Arts - Women's Studies Concentration: Global Feminism

Academic Degree Change:

- University of Minnesota Duluth, School of Fine Arts - Bachelor of Arts in Art History

Academic Program Correction:

- University of Minnesota Duluth, College of Education and Human Service Professions - Masters of Special Education

Maziar noted a number of other curriculum changes for information, as detailed in the docket materials.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Executive Vice President and Provost Maziar led the discussion of the Academic Priorities and Postsecondary Planning reports, noting that these reports were before the committee in December 2002 for review and must be submitted to the Legislature by February 15, 2003.

A. Academic Priorities

Maziar reviewed the topics included in this year's report on academic priorities, as summarized in the docket materials and on file in the Board Office. Highlights of this year's report include the following:

- continuing reallocations to strengthen academic priorities and improve services;
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- additional information on first-generation students;
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- improvements in graduation rates;
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- rising research revenues; and
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- goals vs. outcomes in the Academic Health Center.

B. Postsecondary Planning

Maziar explained that the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) System is required to submit the Postsecondary Planning report annually, while the University is only requested to submit such a report. The purpose of the report is to (1) describe progress in such areas as the coordination of program offerings, developmental and remedial education, and credit transfers between MnSCU and the University in the metropolitan area and (2) identify statewide efforts at integration and cooperation. This year's report stresses the challenges of an increasingly diverse population and the benefits of the complimentary relationship that has developed between the two higher education systems.

Regent Reed announced that in order to facilitate continued collaboration between the University and MnSCU, Regent Bell has agreed to join Chair Hogan in ongoing discussions with MnSCU.

In response to a suggestion, the committee unanimously approved a resolution accepting the two reports for submission to the legislature.

GRADUATION AND RETENTION STRATEGIES

Executive Vice President and Provost Maziar introduced Craig Swan, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, who led the discussion of Twin Cities campus graduation and retention strategies. Swan observed that since the committee last discussed graduation and retention strategies, the minimum 13-credit rule and the tuition banding policy have been implemented and the University has clearly communicated to students its expectations in these areas.

Swan reported that preliminary results indicate a trend toward increased retention rates. The goal has not yet been achieved, but data for fall semester 2002 reveal a dramatic decrease in students registered for less than 13 credits. This improvement is the result of strong financial incentives for students to achieve full-time status as well as changes in advising, registration, and course access that help students make timely progress toward graduation.

As a result of the changes implemented and the results obtained, Maziar and Swan suggested that the University needs a four-year graduation rate of 50% for all students by the end of the decade, an aggressive goal that raises a number of policy issues (as listed in the docket materials).

In response to questions from a number of Regents, Swan advised that successfully achieving such a goal would place the University among the top 10 public research universities and that the University is prepared to serve the additional students such success will require.

The Committee requested that Maziar bring to a future meeting a proposed graduation rate goal and a target date for achieving it.

COMMISSION ON EXCELLENCE: FOLLOW-UP

Executive Vice President and Provost Maziar indicated that the purpose of a follow-up discussion of the report of the Commission on Excellence (Commission) is to provide an opportunity for discussion of the Commission's findings and to identify any Commission recommendations that merit further consideration by this committee.

Maziar alluded to recurring themes in the Commission's recommendations, the legislative accountability reports on academic priorities and postsecondary planning, the University Plan, Performance, and Accountability Report, and issues that in the last few years have come before the Board as core institutional areas of interest. She then summarized briefly the chief findings and recommendations of the Commission as described in the docket materials.

Regents Keffeler and McNamara, members of the Commission, mentioned that the Commission defined excellence relative to peer institutions and identified the breadth and complexity of the University's programs as a competitive advantage. The Commission also emphasized the importance of extraordinary focus, efficiency, and internal reallocation by the University in conjunction with extraordinary financial support from the state and the private sector. The biggest challenge facing the University is to determine how to achieve excellence in spite of reduced budgets and aggressive competition from peer institutions.

In response to a question from Regent Bell, Maziar stressed that the focus of the Commission's work was the development of mechanisms to improve the national stature of specific centers of excellence rather than how the University might improve in all areas. Reed agreed, adding that reduced state funding will require that the Board make difficult choices regarding areas in which excellence will or will not be pursued. She also maintained that while it is important to compare the University to institutions in other states, it is of greater importance to assess what the University is doing for Minnesota and Minnesotans.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Vice President and Provost Maziar referred committee members to the docket materials.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

ANN D. CIESLAK
Executive Director and
Corporate Secretary

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