

Minutes\*

**Faculty Consultative Committee**  
**Thursday, November 5, 1998**  
**12:45–2:00**  
**Room 238 Morrill Hall**

Present: Sara Evans (chair), Kent Bales, Mary Dempsey, David Hamilton, M. Janice Hogan, Roberta Humphreys, Michael Korth, Leonard Kuhi, Marvin Marshak, Judith Martin, Fred Morrison, V. Rama Murthy

Absent: Linda Brady, Gary Davis, Stephen Gudeman, Marilyn Grave, Matt Tirrell

Guests: Regents William Hogan and Patricia Spence

Other: Ann Cieslak, Board of Regents

[In these minutes: discussion with Regents Hogan and Spence]

**1. Committee Business**

The two issues that were identified as topics for discussion with the Regents were: 1) building a relationship with the new Governor-elect Jesse Ventura; and 2) building the intellectual future of the University.

**2. Discussion with Regents Hogan and Spence**

Professor Evans welcomed Regents William Hogan and Patricia Spence to the meeting. Regent Hogan began by reporting that last year the Regents focussed on:

- faculty issues and developing the executive leadership;
- building the board itself and on ways to support the President;
- addressing intellectual property issues at the University;
- restructuring the subcommittees of the Board of Regents; and
- holding several "fireside chats" with business people across the state of Minnesota.

There was concern about the dynamics of the legislature, but it was agreed that the University should make it a priority to communicate the importance of the institution to Governor-elect Ventura. Several ideas for building bridges with the new governor were discussed, including harnessing the underlying optimism and enthusiasm of the University students in our communications with the governor, holding a ceremony to welcome him as the new governor under the auspices of the University Senate, communicating on a regular basis with Lieutenant Governor May Schunk, who will have a voice on educational issues with her background in teaching, and offering to send the U of M Marching Band to

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his inaugural. The members of the FCC agreed that these ideas be brought to President Mark Yudof for consideration.

Concern was raised about increasing the number of faculty in order to advance the intellectual future of the University -- but with limited resources from the state. It was agreed that the University can no longer depend solely on state funds for this area. The potential to work with MNSCU to avoid duplication of effort and to maximize collaboration was noted, as was the growing collaboration between the University and the business world.

Shared resources from new patents on products could be an additional source of financial support for the University. It will be important that faculty from different departments collaborate to develop patents, in turn providing benefits to the entire University (with the inventor(s) sharing in the rewards). Although concern was raised about potential for disproportionate resources for research in the health sciences, Regent Hogan assured the Committee that the University of Minnesota would have difficulty in becoming one of the top five research universities in the country without having top humanities departments.

Professor Morrison identified the need to simplify and humanize the tenure process, specifically the *Procedures for Reviewing the Performance of Probationary Faculty*. Bureaucratization of the tenure process has occurred in part due to abuses in the past. Mentoring was noted as very important throughout this process, as well as the need to increase discussions across the University on how to help minority faculty. Professor Evans reported that the University of Minnesota is currently initiating a collaboration with the AAUP on a faculty mentoring workshop. Regents Hogan and Spence encouraged faculty to continue to provide them with ideas about mentoring through the tenure process.

It was noted that the Board of Regents is not only reaching out to faculty for ideas, but to graduate students as well. Although the members of the Board currently hold monthly luncheons with different groups of students, they are interested in working with the students in other ways.

Professor Evans thanked Regents Hogan and Spence for attending the meeting, and adjourned it at 2:00.

-- Kate Stuckert

University of Minnesota