

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BOARD OF REGENTS

Work Session

February 8, 2007

A work session of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota was held on Thursday, February 8, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Boardroom, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: Patricia Simmons, presiding; Anthony Baraga, Peter Bell, Dallas Bohnsack, John Frobenius, Steven Hunter, David Larson, Cynthia Leshner, David Metzen, and Lakeesha Ransom.

Staff present: President Robert Bruininks; Senior Vice President Robert Jones; and Executive Director Ann Cieslak.

Regent Simmons called to order a meeting of the Board of Regents, noting that this work session is an opportunity for the Board to become informed about the University's urban agenda and to discuss a conceptual framework to guide the efforts of the Board and the administration in this area.

President Bruininks introduced Senior Vice President Jones; Darlyne Bailey, dean, College of Education and Human Development; Scott McConnell, professor, Department of Educational Psychology and Director of Community Engagement for the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED); and Dante Cichetti, professor, Institute of Child Development, who led the discussion. Jones recalled the University's early implementation of its land grant mission through the creation of a system of research, education, and outreach offices strategically located across Minnesota to more effectively take research to the people and solve problems where they occur. The University's historic commitment continues, but the impression often has been that the institution has been neither sufficiently intentional nor strategic about leveraging its resources to solve the complex problems of urban communities.

Today, a land grant institution located in the heart of a major metropolitan area must strategically focus on serving urban and regional communities through a coherent, 21st century urban agenda. The goal of this agenda is to sharpen the region's competitive edge through immediate action to reduce disparities, assure a competitive workforce, and sustain the economic health and future of the Twin Cities metro area.

To begin that process, the University plans to adopt preliminary recommendations of the Commission on Urban Agendas of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges as detailed in docket materials. These recommendations support creation of urban research and outreach centers as the conceptual framework on which to model an urban agenda and achieve the best outcomes.

In response to the interest of Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Ryback and community residents, the University has agreed to work with partners on issues specific to Minneapolis' Northside neighborhood, a nine-square mile area northwest of the Twin Cities campus. As a result of listening sessions on how the University can become more engaged, the University Northside Partnership (UNP) has been created to leverage the University's resources with its Northside partners to address issues identified by the

community. The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), under the leadership of Dean Bailey, will drive the academic agenda of the UNP.

Bailey, emphasizing that the model for UNP must be sustainable, replicable, proximate, and result in influential change, identified three major touchstones for CEHD's mission in UNP:

- CEHD will coordinate University resources and serve as UNP's convener.
- UNP must be inclusive, working in partnerships to build on community strengths and align University talents and resources with community needs.
- UNP's partnerships must be a win for all parties, which will require constant and consistent focus on the reason for their existence.

McConnell highlighted the 30-year history of CEED and its efforts to improve development outcomes of young children through research, training, and outreach. He indicated that CEED'S role in UNP will be to expand access and improve the quality and accountability of early childhood programs available to presently unserved/underserved children and their families.

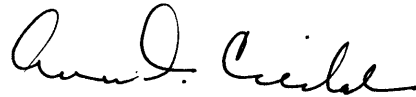
Cichetti described the long-term goals of the University of Minnesota Child and Family Center (CFC) and its proposed involvement with UNP. Through interdisciplinary work in basic/clinical/translational research and treatment, he expects CFC to increase knowledge and reduce the burdens associated with child maltreatment/mental disorders while advancing the University toward becoming a top three public research institution.

Simmons observed that the question before the Board is what principles are necessary to guide the involvement of the Board and the University in the development of an agenda that will benefit Minnesota's urban communities. A lengthy discussion ensued, which she summarized as follows:

- An undertaking like UNP is consistent with the University's mission and should be a part of the institution's vision.
- With a comparative advantage in this area, it is appropriate for the University to address urban issues and apply the University's capabilities in research and education to the local community.
- The University has a responsibility to define project scope and identify the resources it can appropriately contribute, the duration of the undertaking, and transferability of the model.
- The University must look to other higher education institutions to help Identify best practices in this area.
- Engagement with the community—listening to, learning from, and working with the community—will be of critical importance in this undertaking.
- Partnerships are a critical component of such an undertaking, but partnerships, projects, and accomplishments must be sustainable.
- A Pre-K project may be the first priority, but it alone will not be adequate. Later interventions, such as the middle school years, also will be needed.
- University students can be an important resource in UNP.
- Such an undertaking will add value to the broader community through enrichment of the state's workforce.

- There is a need for evaluation and measurable outcomes.
- The University must manage expectations within the institution and communities.

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



ANN D. CIESLAK
Executive Director and
Corporate Secretary