

Regent Candidate Advisory Council  
December 13, 2024  
Room 123, State Capitol

Meeting Minutes

**Present**

Sen. Greg Clausen, Chair  
Barb Farrell, Vice Chair  
Ed Reynoso, Vice Chair  
Rahma Ali  
Richard Andolshek  
Connie Bernardy  
Kenny Devine  
Brenda Hilbrich  
Matt Hill  
Mark Jessen  
Cal Mergendahl  
Sen. Zaynab Mohamed  
Quentin Moore  
Wendy Ojala  
Bill Otto  
Shivangi Pandey  
Sen. Jason Rarick  
Lucas Sjostrom  
Megan Thielfoldt  
Steve Tyacke  
Ryan Winkler

**Excused**

Rep. Brian Daniels  
Debjyoti Dwivedy  
Amanda Matchett

Sen. Greg Clausen, Chair, called the meeting of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) to order at 10:06 AM in Room 123 of the State Capitol. A quorum was present.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Members introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the October 29, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.

### **Review of Selection Procedures/Selection of Interviewees**

Chair Clausen reviewed the process for selecting candidates to be interviewed.

Chair Clausen invited members to provide comments on the applicants. Discussion of applicants ensued and occurred throughout the selection process.

Voting commenced with 21 voting members present and voting.

### **Student At-Large**

Steve Tyacke moved to suspend the rules to interview all five student applicants. Seconded.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to suspend the rules, the results were as follows

Ayes: Clausen, Ali, Andolshek, Bernardy, Devine, Farell, Hilbrich, Hill, Jessen, Mergendahl, Ojala, Otto, Moore, Pandey, Rarick, Reynoso, Sjostrom, Thielfoldt, Tyacke, Winkler.

There being 20 ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent, The Motion Prevailed.

Connie Bernardy moved that the RCAC interview all five students that applied for the Board of Regents. Seconded. The Motion Prevailed.

### **Fifth District**

First Ballot: Three candidates received a majority of the votes on the first ballot and automatically qualified for an interview. They were Robert Albright, Ellen Luger and Jenna Mitchler.

Second Ballot: No candidate received a majority of the votes on the second ballot.

Bill Otto moved that a third ballot be conducted in the Fifth District. The Motion Prevailed.

Third Ballot: Two candidates received a majority of the votes on the third ballot and automatically qualified for an interview. They were Devin Driscoll and Benjamin Kaplan.

### **At Large (2 positions)**

First Ballot: Two candidates received a majority of the votes on the first ballot and automatically qualified for an interview. They were Jeff Ettinger and Ann Sheldon.

Sen. Rarick moved to suspend the rules and interview all applicants for the At-Large positions that received 8 or more votes. Seconded.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to suspend the rules, the results were as follows.

Ayes: Clausen, Ali, Bernardy, Devine, Farrell, Hilbrich, Hill, Jessen, Mergendahl, Ojala, Otto, Mohamed, Moore, Pandey, Rarick, Reynoso, Sjostrom, Thielfoldt, Tyacke, Winkler.

There being 20 ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent, The Motion Prevailed.

Sen. Rarick moved to interview all applicants for the At-Large positions that received 8 or more votes. Seconded.

Ed Reynoso moved to amend the Rarick motion to interview all applicants that received 6 or more votes. Seconded. The Motion Prevailed.

The vote was taken on the Rarick motion as amended. The Motion Prevailed.

### **Notification of Interviewees**

Members volunteered to make the initial calls congratulating candidates who were selected for interviews. Members also volunteered to call those candidates that were not selected for an interview.

### **Next Steps**

Chair Clausen provided an overview of the interview process noting that interviews will be held the week of January 6 – January 10, 2025.

Sally Olson, LCC, presented an overview of the RCAC reference check process highlighting that two of each of the candidates' references would be contacted to complete the RCAC reference form.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM.