REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, January 10, 2003
1:00 p.m., Room 318 State Capitol

Present: **Absent:**
Rondi Erickson, Chair   Bob Vanasek
Joe Aitken
Ken Albrecht
Carol Batsell Benner
Jane Belau
Anthony Bianco
Sylvia Chessen Kaplan
Humphrey Doermann
Paul Dovre
Corey Elmer
Frances Gardeski
Samuel Garst
Chris Georgacas
Richard Ista
Mary McLeod
Elizabeth Morrison
Dave Naumann
Colman O'Connell
Jo-Anne Stately
Paul Rexford Thatcher
Nedra Wicks
Gary Willhite
Billie Young

The Regent Candidate Advisory (RCAC) was called to order by Rondi Erickson, RCAC Chair, at 1:05 p.m. in Room 318 of the State Capitol.

Minutes
Dave Naumann moved approval of the minutes from the meeting on September 13, 2002. Seconded and **APPROVED.**

Announcements
Ms. Erickson introduced Sandy Keene, the new Administrative Assistant with the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

Ms. Erickson informed the Council that two Board of Regents applications were received after the deadline and that those applications would not be considered because they were submitted after the deadline.

Procedural Rules
Mary McLeod discussed changes to the procedural rules. It was brought to the Chair's attention that on page three of the Procedural Rules handout, under the Committees section, in number 4, "Section VI" should be changed to "Section V." Paul Thatcher moved to accept the noted change. Seconded and **APPROVED.** Nedra Wicks moved approval of the proposed modifications to the procedural rules as amended. The motion was seconded and **APPROVED**. Conformed copies will be sent to members.

Sylvia Chessen Kaplan advised Ms. Erickson that an introduction of the new member would be in order. Ms. Erickson introduced Anthony Bianco, from Rochester, new member of the Council.

The deadline for submitting Board of Regent applications had been extended to December 27, 2002, by the chair in consultation with the council. Humphrey Doermann moved to formally extend the deadline of applicant submission. Seconded and **APPROVED.**

Selection Procedures of Interviewees

Ms. Erickson discussed and emphasized the importance of the Data Privacy Act. She advised members to use identification numbers only when discussing the applicants in order to protect their confidentiality. She informed members that candidates are not selected until they have consented to an interview. Chad Thuet intends to release the names of the finalists early next week.

Ms. Erickson reviewed the selection procedures. She provided an overview of the published criteria and suggested members keep it in mind when voting for candidates. Ms. Erickson advised the members that interviews would be 45 minutes each, and depending on the number of candidates selected, interviews could last three or more days.

Ms. Erickson noted that two applications have residency questions and it is unclear at this time of how to resolve those issues. Members were instructed to set aside the residency issues until the voting was completed. If the applicants in question were still in the running, the council will discuss the matter with legislative counsel before interviews are conducted. Paul Thatcher questioned the law regarding residency requirements. Ms. Erickson explained that the issue is not straightforward. She pointed to the information in member's folders regarding the statutory requirements concerning residency and the Supreme Court cases whereby the residency of legislative candidates was challenged. Ms. McLeod recalled that in past years candidates with residency questions were interviewed but in the final analysis, they were not among those who were recommended to the Legislature. Ms. Erickson reiterated that for today's purposes, the residency issue would be set aside. After voting, the council would seek further legal advice if the two candidates in question were still being considered.

Selection of Interviewees

Voting commenced with 23 members present and voting, and with first round proxy votes from Bob Vanasek.

District #1
First Ballot: Three candidates received a majority vote and were automatically selected for interviews.

Mr. Thatcher requested to hear the number of votes each candidate received. Ms. Erickson provided vote totals to the members. Discussion ensued regarding two candidates having a high number of votes outside of the three candidates with a majority vote.

Mr. Thatcher moved to suspend the rules to add two candidates to the interview list and close District 1 voting with five candidates to interview. Motion to suspend the rules was seconded and **APPROVED.** Mr. Thatcher moved to interview the two additional candidates and close the first district voting. Motion was seconded and **APPROVED**.

Ms. Erickson introduced Representative Carla Nelson, who stepped into the meeting to say hello and thank the council for their hard work.

District #4
First Ballot: Three candidates received a majority vote and were automatically selected for interviews. Candidates who received no votes were eliminated. (There was one spoiled ballot as a member voted for five candidates; the limit is four.)

Second Ballot: One candidate received a majority vote and was automatically selected for an interview.

Mr. Thatcher moved to close the voting for District #4 with four candidates selected for interviews. Seconded and **APPROVED.**

District #6
First Ballot: Three candidates received a majority vote and were automatically selected for interviews. One candidate receiving no votes was eliminated.

Mr. Thatcher moved to suspend the rules to drop all candidates receiving less than five votes. Motion **NOT APPROVED**.

Second Ballot: No candidate received a majority vote and none were selected for an interview.

Third Ballot: One candidate received a majority vote and was automatically selected for an interview.

Ms. Kaplan moved to suspend the rules to include one additional candidate for an interview and close the voting for the 6th District. Motion **NOT APPROVED**

District #7
First Ballot: Three candidates received a majority vote and were automatically selected for interviews. Candidates receiving no votes were eliminated.

Jane Belau moved to suspend the rules to add two candidates to the interview list. Motion to suspend the rules was seconded and **APPROVED.** Carol Batsell Benner moved to add two candidates to the interview list. Motion to add the candidates was seconded and **APPROVED.**

Reference Checks: Procedures and Assignments
Dave Naumann reviewed the process for doing reference checks. A reference sheet was distributed with

the information to be conveyed. It was suggested that another question be added – can you think of an outstanding contribution this person has made to the Board they serve on? Members volunteered for reference check tasks.

Ms. Erickson instructed members that interviews would take place January 27, 28, and 29. Members were told to keep the whole week open in case Thursday and Friday needed to be used. She also reminded members that they would not be allowed to vote if they are absent from the interviews, unless they listened to the tape of the interview in its entirety.

Ms. Wicks asked that Regent orientation information be provided to the candidates as soon as it is available.

Ms. McLeod emphasized that if members were calling references for candidates they knew personally, they should remain fair and unbiased.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

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Rondi Erickson, Chair