

REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES January 27, 28, and 29, 2003 400 North State Office Building

Present:

Rondi Erickson, Chair
Joe Aitken
Ken Albrecht
Jane Belau
Anthony Bianco
Sylvia Chesson Kaplan
Humphrey Doermann
Paul Dovre
Corey Elmer
Frances Gardeski
Samuel Garst
Chris Georgacas (Jan. 28 & 29)
Richard Ista
Mary McLeod
Elizabeth Morrison
Dave Naumann
Colman O'Connell
Jo-Anne Stately
Paul Rexford Thatcher
Bob Vanasek
Nedra Wicks
Gary Willhite
Billie Young

Absent:

Carol Batsell Benner (all three days)
Chris Georgacas (Jan. 27)

Monday, January 27, 2003

The Regent Candidate Advisory (RCAC) was called to order by Rondi Erickson, RCAC Chair, at 8:40a.m. in Room 400 North of the State Office Building.

Minutes

Nedra Wicks moved approval of the minutes from the meeting on January 10, 2003. Seconded and **APPROVED.**

Announcements

Ms. Erickson reviewed the packets of information each member received in his/her folders.

Ms. Erickson instructed members that the interviews would be taped. If any members were absent or missed a candidate's interview, they must listen to the tape of the interview in order to fully participate in the voting process.

Ms. Erickson reviewed the “Criteria for University Regents” handout and discussed the desired qualities members should keep in mind throughout the interview process.

Ms. Erickson addressed the residency issue of candidate, David Metzen. Ms. Erickson informed members that she has had extensive talks with Metzen and legislative counsel on the issue. It is clear that when Metzen submitted his application, he used an address to an apartment building of which he is a co-owner. Since the time of his application, he and his wife have put their current home on the market and intend to purchase a new home clearly within the 4th district, which they intend on moving into in the near future. Ms. Erickson instructed members that she would be available between interviews if they had further residency questions or concerns.

Ms. Erickson made members aware that in the past the council has been criticized for discussing candidates and/or their interviews in public areas. Ms. Erickson advised members to use discretion in their conversations between interviews.

Ms. Erickson asked for volunteers to greet each of the candidates for the interviews. She reviewed the interview process that would consist of an opening statement by the candidate, followed by time for members to ask questions. All interviews would have 45-minute timelines, with a 15-minute break between interviews.

Colman O’Connell raised the issue of which questions the council thought most important to be asked during the interviews. The council reviewed the list of interview questions. After discussion, it was decided that consistency in questioning would try to be maintained throughout all interviews and the same issues would be covered. Individual council members took responsibility for seeing that specific questions were addressed.

Paul Thatcher asked if the council had received any direction from the Legislature regarding the regents who were appointed by the Governor. Ms. Erickson responded that no direction had been given or request made for the council’s assistance by the Legislature.

The interviews began at 9:00 a.m.

Darrel Untereker
Gene Peterson
John Frobenius

The council took a lunch break from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The council reconvened for the afternoon interviews.

Dwight Gourneau
Gregory Filice
Marcia Hanson
Warren Larson

Interviews adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Ms. Erickson called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. Council members volunteered to greet interviewees.

Ms. Erickson briefed the council on a letter she received questioning the residency of candidate Roger Moe. Richard Ista and Jane Belau verified that Roger Moe is living in the 7th district.

Ms. Wicks discussed the Nominations Committee and asked for member input and/or participation.

Interviews began at 9:00 a.m.

Clyde Allen, Jr.
Patricia Simmons
Roger Moe

The council took a lunch break from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The council reconvened for the afternoon interviews.

Franklyn Knox
Dan Ness
Maureen Reed
Art Brandli (phone interview)

Interviews adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Ms. Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:50 a.m. Members volunteered to greet interviewees for the day.

Ms. Erickson informed members that the questionnaire that is sent to all interviewees would be available to review. If anyone felt changes were necessary, it would be discussed in the business meeting at the end of the day.

Ms. Erickson briefly discussed the agenda for the day. She predicted that voting would be completed by mid-afternoon. Volunteers would be asked to call candidates immediately following adjournment to inform them of the voting results. Leadership offices as well as the Board of Regents office would also be notified immediately. A press release would be issued later in the day or right away Thursday morning announcing the finalists.

Ms. Erickson introduced Tom Swain, one of the founding members of the RCAC, as a guest in the audience.

Joe Aitken requested the council to consider revisiting the wording of Affirmative Action in light of the situation in Michigan. Discussion ensued and members would watch for the final ruling in Michigan.

Ms. Erickson urged members to remain diligent in the questioning of candidates as they entered the third day of interviews. She passed out a handout on statistics and facts regarding the University of Minnesota.

Ms. Wicks informed the council of the members serving on the Nominations Committee: Humphrey Doermann, Carol Batsell Benner, Elizabeth Morrison, and herself. She encouraged members to feel free to provide input to any of them. Voting for officers would be done at the spring/summer meeting.

Interviews began at 8:00 a.m.

David Metzen
Steve Hunter
Al DeBoer

The council discussed business while waiting for Mahlon Schneider's interview.

Mr. Thatcher informed the council that he had spoken with Senator Day and has made attempts to consult with Speaker Sviggum. The council is requesting direction from the Senate and House as to the sitting Regents who were appointed by the Governor. Senator Day said he would confer with Speaker Sviggum on the issue and advise the council of their decision. To date, neither Mr. Thatcher nor the council has received direction from the Legislature. Ms. Erickson also confirmed that she has also approached leadership for guidance and consensus but a request has not been made on behalf of the Legislature for the council to take any action.

Ms. Wicks moved to forward a letter to the Legislature notifying them that the council stands ready to serve at their discretion. Discussion ensued. Options were discussed and members voiced concerns regarding the timeframe the council would be given if the Legislature made a request at a future date. Since the council serves at the pleasure of the Legislature, it was decided that taking any action would be overstepping the council's boundaries and it would be appropriate to wait for specific direction and a request from the Legislature to act. **MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

Interview process resumed at 11:19 a.m.
Mahlon Schneider

Interviews were completed at 12:05 p.m.

The council took a lunch break from 12:05 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Erickson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Chris Georgacas moved to close the public meeting and meet in executive session for the purpose of reviewing candidate reference checks. Seconded and **APPROVED.** The council reviewed reference checks.

Ms. Wicks moved to close executive session and reopen the meeting. Seconded and **APPROVED.**

Ms. Erickson reviewed process of recommendations to the Legislature. The council must select two to four candidates to forward for each of the four open seats. The names would be forwarded to the Legislature in no ranking order, rather in alphabetical order.

Mary McLeod reviewed the voting procedures. Voting commenced with 23 members present and voting. By actions of the council, the following candidates were recommended to the Legislature for their consideration:

District 1

Al DeBoer
Dwight Gourneau
Patricia Simmons

District 4

Gregory Filice
Marcia Hanson
David Metzen

District 6

John Frobenius
Steven Hunter
Maureen Reed

District 7

Clyde Allen, Jr.
Art Brandli
Roger Moe

Voting being completed, Ms. Erickson reminded volunteers to call their assigned candidates with the results as soon as possible following adjournment.

The council discussed the upcoming Regent Candidate Advisory Council Orientation and Alumni Association Candidate Forum, which will be held February 6, 2003, in the Basement Hearing Room of the State Office Building starting at 1:30 p.m.

Chad Thuet informed the council that the spring/summer meeting is usually held during the first week in June. Definite date, time, and location would be announced at a later date.

University of Minnesota faculty and student representatives thanked the council and staff for their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Rondi Erickson, Chair