

**REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2001
Dunwoody Institute, Minneapolis**

Present:

Nedra Wicks, Chair
Carol Batsell Benner
Jane Belau
Humphrey Doermann
Rondi Erickson
Frances Gardeski
Richard Ista
Dave Kanatz
Mary McLeod
Elizabeth Morrison
Dave Nauman
Colman O'Connell
Bernie Steffen
Paul Rexford Thatcher
Jane Tschida
Gary Willhite

Absent:

Joe Aitken
Ken Albrecht
Paul Dovre
Chris Georgacas
Jo-Anne Stately
Bob Vanasek
Billie Young

Nedra Wicks, council chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Jane Belau moved approval of the minutes from the meetings on January 25-31, 2001. Seconded and APPROVED.

Announcements

A spreadsheet with council members' terms and dates of appointment was distributed to members. Any corrections should be given to Jennifer Ridgeway.

The council approved a motion on January 31, 2001, to get a legal opinion from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the authority of Senate Counsel in RCAC matters. Ms. Wicks updated the council on the progress of that issue. The matter is to be addressed prior to the next recruitment cycle.

Ms. Ridgeway gave an update on legislative bills of interest to the council. Bills to abolish the RCAC (SF650 and HF658) were introduced and referred to committee. No further action was taken. Language to establish a commission on excellence for the University of Minnesota was

amended to delete a requirement that the commission review the process for regent selection (originally HF2377, currently part of the higher education omnibus bill).

Members were reminded that the fiscal year ends June 30, 2001, and they were asked to submit expense forms promptly.

Discussion of the 1999-2001 cycle of activities

Questionnaires were sent to the 25 individuals selected by the council for an interview. Nine questionnaires were returned, and members were given a summary of the responses. Humphrey Doermann suggested that finalists should receive follow-up contact after the forms are sent, in order to get a better response rate. Members noted the importance of the timeline in sending out questionnaires and also the need to limit the number of questions.

The council discussed the process during the last cycle of activities. It was suggested that the council review the decision to send candidates' names to the legislature in alphabetical order, rather than in the order of selection. It was also suggested that the council address diversity earlier in the process, with more aggressive recruitment of people to apply.

There was extensive discussion on the pro's and con's of ranking candidates when making recommendations to the legislature. Some members suggested that the council has used its practice of sending 2-3 candidates per opening, rather than 3-4 candidates, as a way of focusing the list for the legislature. Others spoke to the scope and responsibilities laid out for the council by the legislature. No action was taken, and members noted that if, in the future, the practice was to be changed, the decision should be made prior to the commencement of any voting.

It was suggested that the council consider ways to better inform candidates early in the application process of the political aspects of the selection process.

The council discussed the duration of appointments made by the governor relative to future legislative action.

Committee reports

Mary McLeod chaired the ad hoc committee on voting procedures. The committee offered some changes in the voting procedures, mostly with the effect of clarifying existing language. She noted that the addition of a procedure to govern motions to suspend the rules; this language reflects current practice, although it was not a part of the voting procedures.

Paul Thatcher moved adoption of the voting procedures as amended by the committee. Seconded and APPROVED.

Mr. Doermann chaired the nominations committee. He moved the following slate of officers:

Chair: Rondi Erickson

Vice Chairs: Carol Batsell Benner and Paul Dovre

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was elected unanimously.

Ms. Erickson commented on her perceived tasks for the upcoming cycle of activities, and the council discussed the challenges it faces.

Other business

The new chair and staff will assemble a list of possible dates for the fall meeting. The council discussed possible topics and guest speakers for the fall agenda. Topic ideas included the legislative perspective and input regarding the needs of the university. The council requested balanced perspectives from presenters.

Ms. Erickson asked for volunteers to attend upcoming Board of Regents meetings:

July 12-13, 2001: Humphrey Doermann

August: no meeting

September 13-14, 2001: Richard Ista and Gary Willhite

October 11-12, 2001: Bernie Steffen

November 8-9, 2001: Colman O'Connell and Carol Batsell Benner

The council will revisit further meetings on the board's calendar at its fall meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Nedra Wicks, Chair