

## REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 15, 2000

1:00 p.m., Room 665 Gateway Center

#### Present:

Nedra Wicks, Chair  
Joe Aitken  
Ken Albrecht  
Carol Batsell Benner  
Paul Dovre  
Rondi Erickson  
Richard Ista  
Mary McLeod  
Elizabeth Morrison  
Dave Nauman  
Colman O'Connell  
Jo-Anne Stately  
Paul Rexford Thatcher  
Jona Turner  
Jane Tschida  
Bob Vanasek  
Billie Young

#### Absent:

Jane Belau  
Humphrey Doermann  
Frances Gardeski  
Chris Georgacas  
Dave Kanatz  
Bernie Steffen  
Gary Willhite

The Regent Candidate Advisory (RCAC) was called to order by Nedra Wicks, RCAC Chair, at 1:05 p.m. in Room 665 of the Gateway Center on the campus of the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis.

#### Minutes

Ken Albrecht moved approval of the minutes from the meeting on April 14, 2000. Seconded and **APPROVED.**

#### Announcements

Ms. Wicks reviewed the agenda and made several announcements.

With the appointment of Chris Georgacas and Gary Willhite by the House on September 14, 2000 (to fill the seats of Gertrude Buckanaga and Rebecca Mathern who resigned), the council is at the full complement of 24 members. Other new appointments made by the House and Senate earlier in the summer are Elizabeth Morrison and Frances Gardeski. Morrison was present at the meeting and was introduced.

Ms. Wicks announced the death of former commission secretary Barb Patterson. Flowers were sent to the funeral, which was held the end of July.

Bernie Steffen was absent from the meeting due to personal illness. He sent his regrets to the council and hopes to be able to participate later this year.

Mr. Albrecht, chair of the orientation committee, distributed copies of a tentative agenda for the candidate orientation, and described for new members the purpose of holding orientation sessions. Council members agreed with the overall plan for the orientation.

Ms. Wicks presented the appointment of the nominating committee. Appointment included Humphrey Doermann as chair, and Rondi Erickson, David Naumann, Jo-Anne Stately, and Jona Turner as members. If members have ideas for nominations, they should speak with Mr. Doermann.

Jennifer Ridgeway, RCAC staff, gave an update of recruitment activities to date. "Friends of the University" letters were sent to 694 people, and 465 press releases were sent to media across the state on September 5-6, 2000. To date there had been 16 requests for applications. The letter asks people to consider applying or forwarding the information to people they know who might be interested. Ms. Wicks has been promised editorials by both the Star Tribune and the Pioneer Press.

Ms. Wicks announced that she has spoken to the sitting regents whose terms will be expiring, and all three non-student regents (Spence, Larson, and O'Keefe) have noted that they plan to reapply. Jessica Phillips will no longer be eligible for the student position. State law requires the student candidate to be currently enrolled in a university program at the time of application.

Ms. Wicks has been advised that the legislature will meet in joint convention on February 20, 2001, to elect regents. A calendar of upcoming council meetings was included in members' meeting folders.

#### Technology committee report

A report of the technology committee was sent to members prior to the meeting. The report detailed the way in which the council currently uses technology and made recommendations for improving communication with council members and the public. The application and attachments are available for applicants to download from the Web site. The report also suggested adding minutes to the Web site and sending meeting correspondence to members as email attachments.

Members were asked if they had any questions or concerns. Paul Thatcher suggested that the application form should be available for online completion from the Web site. The committee cited reasons for not making that suggestion, including limited time before the application deadline and a concern regarding electronic signatures; the hard-copy application requires a signature for consideration by the council.

Mr. Thatcher suggested that recent federal legislation may allow the use of electronic signatures. Members discussed the viability of the online application. Mr. Thatcher moved approval of the report from the technology committee with the recommendation that staff proceed as quickly as possible to make submittal of an online application possible, given compliance with statute and the availability of staff time. Seconded and **APPROVED**.

#### Contingency plan for application extension

Ms. Wicks suggested that the executive committee and Mr. Doermann be given the responsibility of determining whether or not a sufficient number of applications have been received by the application deadline, and determining a contingency plan which might include the extension of the deadline. Billie Young made that motion. Seconded and **APPROVED**.

#### Attendance at Board of Regent meetings

Folders included the dates of upcoming meetings. Ms. Wicks reminded members to check with the

Board of Regents office to confirm times and locations.

October 12 and 13: Ms. Wicks and Carol Batsell Benner will try to attend

November 9 and 10 at Duluth: (no volunteers)

December 7 and 8: Colman O'Connell and Paul Dovre

Ms. Wicks announced to the council that she will be moving to Minneapolis the first week of November. Office staff have her new address on file.

Staff pointed out that extra copies of the application packets and friends letters are available for members who would like to pass them on to their contacts. Members discussed their role in the recruitment of candidates.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 1:35 p.m.

#### Panel presentation

The meeting proceeded with a panel discussion regarding critical issues facing major research institutions and their potential implications for the recruitment and selection of regent candidates. Panel presenters included: Jane Brown, President, Minnesota High Technology Association; Kent Ecklund, Cincinnati; and Kathleen O'Brien, Minneapolis City Coordinator.

Ms. Brown addressed the role of the university as it relates to research, workforce preparation, leadership, and as a catalyst for change, particularly in relation to issues of technology transfer. Ms. O'Brien spoke to the change of governance issues over time, the role of public stewardship, and the need to craft a vision that matches mission and resources. Mr. Ecklund focused his remarks on board development and recruitment, and the related issues of building relationships and assessing strength and needs.

A question and answer period followed presentation of the panelists' prepared remarks. Discussion included: the responsibility and method of directing resources into new technology areas; building bridges with industry to promote technology transfer and economic development; attainment of both representation and expertise on the board; the role of regents in learning about what is happening in other universities across the country and in helping to develop relationships with business and industry; and the presence of politics in the selection of regents.

Council members requested that critical indicator data referenced during the panel presentation be forwarded to them.

After thanking the panel members, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.