

REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2004

500 South, State Office Building

Present:

Paul Dovre, Chair
Joe Aitken
Ken Albrecht
Jane Belau
Carol Batsell Benner
Anthony Bianco
Humphrey Doermann
Patrick Duncanson
Frances Gardeski
John Hyduke
Richard Ista
Elizabeth Morrison
Dave Naumann
Jo-Anne Stately
Paul Rexford Thatcher
Billie Young

Absent:

Ardell Brede
Sylvia Chesson Kaplan
Corey Elmer
Samuel Garst
Rohini Khanna
Sara Kloek
Bob Vanasek
Gary Willhite

The Regent Candidate Advisory (RCAC) was called to order by Paul Dovre, RCAC Chair, at 1:05 p.m. in Room 500 South of the State Office Building. Mr. Dovre welcomed new members.

Guest Speaker

Senator Sandra Pappas was present and Representative Doug Stang was unable to attend due to committee scheduling. Senator Pappas applauded the members and the work they do on behalf of the Legislature, higher education, and the University of Minnesota. She stated that over the years, the candidates who have been recommended to the Legislature for consideration have been good, solid, and well-qualified to serve on the Board of Regents. It has been apparent that the council has been thorough and focused on qualifications and providing diverse finalists.

Senator Pappas briefly discussed her thoughts about the University. She felt the future of the University is vital to the State. She expressed concern about the privatization of public institutions and felt that financial aid is increasingly important as tuition rises. She was also concerned about providing opportunities for immigrants, low income families, first generation graduates. She stressed the importance of diversity in terms of race, geography, etc., and suggested that regents should have a broad vision with no personal agenda.

Senator Pappas summarized the proposed legislation that would incorporate the Governor into the regent selection process and reduce the membership of the RCAC from 24 members to 18. The legislation would also change the date of the Joint Convention when the final appointments are made. Her concern is that the process is too long for busy and qualified candidates. Her proposal would move the Joint Convention to March 7th, instead of May 7th. Senator Pappas stood for questions.

Discussion ensued. Paul Thatcher and Ken Albrecht voiced their concerns about reducing the size of the council. For the amount of work that needs to be done, 24 people are needed. Also, it is difficult to find meeting dates that accommodate all members, so most meetings are conducted with several members absent. A smaller group of people making the decisions would not represent diversity or the state fairly. Mr. Thatcher favored involving the Governor in the process as it would add accountability.

Humphrey Doermann inquired about the number of recommendations per vacancy, which is currently two to four. Senator Pappas indicated that the legislation would not change that provision. Richard Ista asked if the Legislature would find it helpful to receive the recommendations in a ranking order with the number of votes received from the RCAC. Senator Pappas stated that wouldn't be necessary as she felt over the past years, all candidates have been well-qualified.

Mr. Dovre thanked Senator Pappas for her time and for allowing the RCAC to ask questions and provide input on the proposed legislation.

Council members introduced themselves. New members, Patrick Duncanson and John Hyduke, were present.

Minutes

Billie Young moved approval of the September 19, 2003, minutes. Seconded and **APPROVED**.

Announcements

Mr. Dovre announced that Mr. Thatcher would be the parliamentarian. Fran Gardeski volunteered to co-chair the Candidate Orientation committee with Mr. Albrecht.

Committee Reports

Chairs of the committees provided a brief description of their purpose and responsibilities. Mr. Dovre asked to have staff forward last year's survey/assessment responses from candidates to the Candidate Orientation and Interview Process and Questions committees.

Mr. Doermann reviewed the four seats that would be coming open on the Board of Regents:
Anthony Baraga, Vice Chair of the Board, from Congressional District 8, eligible to reapply;
Dallas Bohnsack, Congressional District 2, eligible to reapply;
William Hogan II, Congressional District 3, not eligible to reapply according to RCAC term-limit policy; and
Maureen Reed, At-Large, eligible to reapply since first term was a stub term.

Mr. Doermann reviewed the current makeup of the Board of Regents:

Four in health care administration
Two with business/accounting background
One in college financial management
Four other fields

As for diversity and gender on the Board:

Three women and eight men.
Nine white and two African American.

Qualities Mr. Doermann mentioned that are important when considering candidates are:
How well they listen.

Are they well grounded, both at the University and in the communities in which they live.

Do they understand the role and responsibilities as a regent?

Do they have time to commit to the job.

Do they understand what is involved in managing a large University or large organizations?

Do they have diversity awareness?

Would they be good representatives of major occupations in Minnesota?

Mr. Doermann stated that in the past, subcommittees have been organized to focus on recruitment in districts with openings on the Board. Mr. Doermann requested volunteers (which are still needed for the 2nd, 3rd, and At-Large):

2nd Congressional District Subcommittee Chair:

3rd Congressional District Subcommittee Chair:

8th Congressional District Subcommittee Chair: John Hyduke
At-Large Subcommittee Chair:
Minority Subcommittee Chair: Jo-Anne Stately

A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to volunteer to serve on one or more committees.

Interview Process and Questions: Co-Chairs - Jo-Anne Stately and Gary Willhite; Paul Dovre
Candidate Orientation: Co-Chairs - Ken Albrecht and Fran Gardeski; Billie Young, Richard Ista
Recruitment: Co-Chairs - Humphrey Doermann and Bob Vanasek; Sylvia Chessen Kaplan, Paul Tatcher, Liz Morrison (at-large recruitment), and Joe Aitken (7th congressional district recruitment)
Document Review: Co-Chairs - Billie Young and Carol Batsell Benner
References: Co-Chairs - Dave Naumann and Elizabeth Morrison
Nominations: Chair to be appointed fall 2004

Next Meeting

Mr. Dovre asked for suggestions for guest speakers on the next RCAC meeting, September 17, 2004. Discussion ensued. It was decided to seek leaders from the University's administration who might be willing to provide their perspective on governance and the role of the Board of Regents and what the University's needs are.

RCAC Schedule

Mr. Dovre reviewed the schedule of activities and timelines.

Volunteers for Upcoming Board of Regents Meetings

May 13 – 14, 2004 – Pat Duncanson
June 10 – 11, 2004 – Joe Aitken
July 8 – 9, 2004 – Billie Young
No August Meeting
September 9 – 10, 2004 – Tony Bianco

Other Announcements

Chad Thuet reviewed how to fill out the expense forms correctly. Sandy Keene requested Social Security Numbers from all new members. The accounting department needs this information in order to provide reimbursement checks. Ms. Keene asked council members to review the contact lists, private and public, and update any information that is incorrect or provide missing information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Paul Dovre, Chair