

# REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES Friday, August 11, 2006 Room 5, State Office Building

### Present:

Bob Vanasek, Chair  
Ken Albrecht  
Jane Belau  
Anthony Bianco, Jr.  
Ardell Brede  
Paul Dovre  
Patrick Duncanson  
Corey Elmer  
David Fisher  
Frances Gardeski  
Richard Ista  
Lois Josefson  
J. David Naumann  
Harriett Porter  
Bert Swanson  
Paul Thatcher  
Gary Willhite  
Billie Young

### Absent:

Joe Aitken  
Josi Cecchini  
John Hyduke  
Sylvia Kaplan  
Jo-Anne Stately

The Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) was called to order by Bob Vanasek, RCAC Chair, at 1:37p.m. in Room 5 of the State Office Building. A quorum was present.

### Welcome of New Members

Mr. Vanasek announced the new House and Senate appointments and welcomed them to the RCAC. All members and staff introduced themselves.

### Minutes

Ken Albrecht moved approval of the September 16, 2005, meeting minutes. Seconded and **APPROVED**.

### Announcements

Sandy Keene, RCAC staff, announced that Chad Thuet, former RCAC staff, was no longer employed with the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) as of July 27 and he would be greatly missed. Ms. Keene informed members that Mr. Thuet is now employed with the Department of Employee Relations as the Assistant State Negotiator. Ms. Keene introduced Christina Hughes, Student Worker for the LCC, who will assist with the staffing of the RCAC in Mr. Thuet's absence.

Ms. Keene reviewed documents in member's packets, including the biographies of members and public and private contact lists. She asked that new members email a short biography to her and all other members update their biographies, if necessary. Ms. Keene requested all members make any necessary changes to their public and private contact information and leave those changes with staff at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Keene informed new members of the expense sheets in their packets, which included a blue sheet explaining how to fill out the form. She indicated that expense sheet need to be turned in preferably at the end of the meeting for the Chair to approve and sign. Ms. Keene asked new members to stay after the meeting to provide Social Security Numbers, which will enable accounting staff to process their reimbursement requests.

### **Review New Legislation Passed During 2005 Session (H.F. 1385, 4<sup>th</sup> Engrossment)**

Mr. Vanasek reviewed the new process established by legislation passed during the 2005 legislative session. He informed members that from the pool of applicants, the Council will invite selected candidates for public interviews in early January, 2007, and then will submit to the Governor the names of two to four candidates for each open Regent position. The Governor will then submit a slate of four nominees to a 20-member joint House and Senate committee. Once the Joint Committee approves the slate, the recommendations will be presented to a Joint Convention of the Legislature. The Joint Convention will elect regents to fill vacancies. Discussion ensued.

### **Review Attorney General's Opinion**

Following the September 2005 RCAC meeting, Mr. Vanasek wrote a letter to the Attorney General requesting clarification of the new legislation. The letter inquired as to whether or not the governor must submit a slate of regent nominations to the joint committee selecting only from those candidates recommended by the advisory council. Mr. Vanasek summarized the Attorney General's response, which stated that it is implied that the Council's role is purely advisory in nature and that Minnesota Statute does not expressly limit the governor's nomination to those persons nominated by the Council. Mr. Vanasek also reviewed the history of appointments, which have almost always been selected from the Council's recommendations, except possibly in the event of an unexpected vacancy when the Governor appointed someone to fill a stub-term. He explained that the Council has a reputation for recruiting and recommending highly qualified candidates, which the legislature has always valued.

### **Adopt Proposed Changes to Procedural Rules Made at the September 16, 2005, Meeting**

Mr. Vanasek reviewed the proposed changes to the Procedural Rules and David Naumann suggested striking the word "shall" in paragraph 1 under "Officers." Mr. Thatcher moved approval of the Procedural Rules, as amended. Seconded and **APPROVED**.

### **Discussion of 2006-2007 RCAC Schedule and Timelines**

Mr. Vanasek reviewed the schedule and proposed that the Council convene at 10:00a.m. Wednesday, December 13, 2006. All members were in agreement to that time. Mr. Vanasek highlighted the week of January 8 -12, when the Council will be conducting interviews, which typically consists of three full days. He stressed the importance for members to be present for all interviews and reminded them that if they are unable to attend any of the interviews, they must listen to the recordings before participating in voting. Ms. Keene stated that digital recordings can be made available via computer/Internet.

### **Vacancies on the U of M Board of Regents**

Mr. Vanasek informed members that the four vacancies for which the Council would be recruiting this year would be one student at-large, two at-large, and one from the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He added that those seats are currently held by Lakesha Ransom, Frank Berman, Cynthia Leshner, who is fulfilling a stub-term for Richard McNamara, and Peter Bell. Mr. Vanasek stated that Mr. Bell and Mr. Berman have indicated that they plan to seek another term on the Board, but he has not been made aware of Ms. Ransom and Ms. Leshner intentions.

### **Committee Reports, Updates and/or Recommendations for Action**

- **Selection Criteria Report:** Billie Young presented the draft Report to the Governor. She also reviewed the Summary Report of the Self-Evaluation of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and identified two areas in which the sitting regents gave themselves the lowest scores: 1) being sufficiently engaged in communicating the University's vision and goals; and 2) maintaining sufficient cross-committee communication to sustain an alignment of concerns. Paul Dovre commended the committee for their work on the report and added that more detailed information may need to be added to guide the Governor in the selection process in regards to needs on the board based on characteristics such as race, gender, geographic location, occupation, etc. Suggestions were made by Margaret Carlson, CEO of the U of M Alumni Association, as to people and groups the Council could contact to acquire information

on the characteristics and skills needed. She also suggested that the Council rely on its own knowledge of projects being undertaken by the U of M that may require special skills (i.e., real estate development/sales, fundraising, etc.) that would benefit the Board's collective knowledge. Ms. Belau suggested language be added regarding both the time commitment involved with being a regent and a commitment to the University. Mr. Thatcher moved to amend the report by including the language suggested by Ms. Belau. Seconded and **APPROVED**. Mr. Albrecht moved to adopt the report, as amended, and include the criteria listed in the report in the application packet. Seconded and **APPROVED**.

- Interview Process and Questions: A report will be given at the December meeting.
- Candidate Orientation: Mr. Albrecht recommended abolishing this committee based on the new process by which candidates are forwarded for recommendation. Discussion ensued. Mr. Vanasek stated that disbanding the committee at this stage may be premature. He suggested that while the process has changed, the committee may still be needed in another capacity. The Council was in agreement to evaluate the needs of committees after going through the new process this cycle.
- Recruitment: In the absence of Sylvia Kaplan, Ms. Keene updated the Council on recruitment efforts. At the recommendation of Karen Gray and Laura Hall at the September 2005 RCAC meeting, Ms. Keene acquired an email/fax distribution list for the Directory of Non-Profit Organizations of Color in Minnesota, which includes approximately 550 names. In addition to that, Ms. Keene stated that approximately 300 press releases will be sent out to media contacts throughout the state as well as 750 letters to individuals and organizations. Ms. Keene reviewed the minutes from the last meeting when Richard Ista urged all council members to try to pursue editorials in papers throughout the state. She encouraged all Council members to pursue contacts to try to promote and bring attention to the RCAC recruitment process. Ms. Keene stated that two years ago, UMAA was an enormous help in promoting the recruitment process by utilizing their web site and media distribution lists. Ms. Keene referred to a letter sent in July from Mr. Vanasek to Ms Carlson and President Robert Stein requesting their assistance again by utilizing their web site, databases, media lists, and magazine. Ms. Carlson stated that she and her staff stand ready to assist the Council just as they have always done in the past and as they plan to do in the future. She suggested that the top skills/characteristics a candidate should possess should be strategic planning, financial savvy, intellect, courage, willpower and culture. Ms. Carlson recommended that the Council talk to the Alumni Association, Advocacy Committee, Faculty Consultative Committee, Student Candidates and the University Foundation in an effort to promote recruitment and for feedback on Board needs.
- Document Review Committee: Mr. Vanasek stated that the Friends letter, press release, and application packet were updated and included in member's packets. Ms. Keene stated that the Friends letter and Press Release would be sent out August 14-22, 2006, once the amendments from the Selection Criteria Report Committee have been incorporated into the criteria list. Members were asked to leave the application packets in their folders so staff could replace the criteria list. Ms. Keene informed members that all applications materials will be accessible through the web site and members should urge applicants to use the user-friendly version online.
- References: A report will be given at the December meeting.
- Nominations: A report will be given at the end of this cycle.

**Discussion of Recruitment Materials and Assignments**

Mr. Vanasek asked that the Selection Criteria Report committee submit its changes to the criteria list to Ms. Keene. Once the application attachments are updated, the press release and Friends letter will be distributed and the application materials will be posted on the web site. Once again, members were reminded to recruit for the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat and three at-large seats, one being a student.

**Discussion of December 13, 2006, Meeting**

Mr. Vanasek reminded members that the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at 10:00a.m to review applications and select candidates to interview. Discussion ensued about the importance of being available the week of January 8-12, 2007, for the actual interviews as Council members must be in attendance or listen to recordings of any missed interviews before participating in the voting. Mr. Vanasek encouraged members to attend as a quorum is necessary.

**Request for Volunteers for Attendance at Upcoming Board Meetings**

Mr. Vanasek asked for volunteers to attend the Board meetings for the remainder of the 2006 calendar year. September 7 & 8 - Bob Vanasek; October 12 & 13 - Bert Swanson, Gary Willhite and Richard Ista; November 9 & 10 - Lois Josefson; and December 7 & 8 - Dave Naumann.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58p.m.

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Bob Vanasek, Chair