

**REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2002
200 State Office Building**

Present:

Rondi Erickson, Chair
Joe Aitken
Ken Albrecht
Carol Batsell Benner
Humphrey Doermann
Paul Dovre
Corey Elmer
Frances Gardeski
Sam Garst
Chris Georgacas
Richard Ista
Sylvia Kaplan
Mary McLeod
Elizabeth Morrison
J. David Naumann
Colman O'Connell
Paul Thatcher
Gary Willhite
Billie Young

Absent:

Jane Belau
Anthony Bianco*
Jo-Anne Stately
Bob Vanasek
Nedra Wicks

** Mr. Bianco was just appointed the previous day and was unable to attend.*

Rondi Erickson, council chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Humphrey Doermann moved approval of the minutes from the meeting on May 3, 2002. Seconded and APPROVED.

There were two new members present: Corey Elmer and Sylvia Kaplan. Ms. Kaplan was appointed to the council in June. Mr. Elmer and Mr. Bianco were appointed in September. Members and staff gave brief introductions.

Announcements

Jennifer Ridgeway, council staff, announced that she would be leaving her position this fall. She will be pursuing her Masters degree at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Ms. Erickson and Humphrey Doermann met with legislative leadership staff this summer. Leadership indicated that they were pleased with the work of the council, and that they appreciate as much information as possible on candidates.

Presentation by Kenneth Keller

Dr. Keller, former University president and current professor of Science, Technology and Public Policy, spoke with the council. Mr. Keller discussed the problems of the public research university and the difficulty of determining who the customer is.

He spoke to the three levels of interactive government at the University—the regents, the faculty and the administration—and how those levels work together in terms of authority, responsibility and accountability. The regents set the purpose and goals of the University; the president determines what activities should be in the mix to meet those goals; and the faculty is responsible for the content of those activities.

With regard to the comparison of public and private universities, Dr. Keller referred to the constituencies of the state. He also noted that regents are forced to learn in public, making it difficult to ask questions. Some also come with the agenda of “those who sent them.”

He spoke to the board-president dynamics of previous administrations, including his own, and addressed the need to find a balance in how often the two should communicate.

When asked about what qualifications the council should seek in candidates, Dr. Keller referred to the importance of being open to other values, the importance of private fundraising, and the difficulty of the political circumstances. He said it is the council’s job to seek and screen candidates, and to assist them in understanding the political process.

Committee Reports

Paul Dovre, Interview Process and Questions Committee, suggested that (in response to one candidate’s survey in 2001) the council make an effort to be even-handed and consistent with all applicants. The committee had no suggestions for revision of the interview questions. They recommend that interviewees receive four questions in advance: a general introductory question and three others.

Chris Georgacas reported on the progress of the Orientation Committee. He and Bob Vanasek will begin planning closer to the time of the orientation.

J. David Naumann and Elizabeth Morrison presented the References Committee report. They distributed recommendations for checking references. Based on discussion at the May council meeting, the committee suggests the following addition to the reference call form: “The information that you give me will not be discussed outside a closed session of RCAC members.”

Nedra Wicks will chair the Nominating Committee. The work of that committee will be done in 2003.

Procedural Rules

Mary McLeod reported that she will present changes to the procedural rules at the next meeting. The changes will include a correction to the section on council actions without a formal meeting.

Public Balloting

Jennifer Ridgeway reviewed the memo concerning legal counsel opinions on public balloting and

the council's duties under the Open Meeting Law. Carol Batsell Benner moved that the council resume its historic practice of not signing ballots. Seconded and APPROVED.

Recruitment Timeline

Ms. Erickson reviewed the timeline for recruiting and screening candidates. Based on the schedule for 2001, the January 10 meeting to review applications will be scheduled from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Each council member will receive copies of all the applications. Staff will email members when the packets are ready, so that members can pick them up if it is convenient (others will be mailed).

Ms. Erickson reviewed the seats open for appointment. The four regular vacancies are: Maureen Reed, 6th District; Robert Bergland, 7th District; David Metzen, 4th District; and H. Bryan Neel, 1st District. The council requested background information of the five regents appointed by Governor Ventura in 2001. These regents are: Frank Berman, at-large; Jean Keffeler, at-large; Richard McNamara, at-large; Michael O'Keefe, 5th District, and LaKeesha Ransom, at-large (student).

Board of Regents Meetings

Ms. Erickson requested volunteers to attend upcoming board meetings:

- October 10-11, 2002: Elmer
- February 13-14, 2003: Kaplan
- March 13-14, 2003: Doermann
- April 10-11, 2003: Dovre
- May 8-9, 2003: O'Connell
- June 12-13, 2004: Erickson

Other Business

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

Rondi Erickson, Chair