

**REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2001
300N State Office Building**

Present:

Rondi Erickson, Chair
Ken Albrecht
Carol Batsell Benner
Humphrey Doermann
Frances Gardeski
Sam Garst
Richard Ista
Elizabeth Morrison
J. David Naumann
Colman O'Connell
Jo-Anne Stately
Bernie Steffen
Paul Rexford Thatcher
Jane Tschida
Gary Willhite
Billie Young

Absent:

Joe Aitken
Jane Belau
Paul Dovre
Chris Georgacas
Dave Kanatz
Mary McLeod
Bob Vanasek
Nedra Wicks

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

Council members welcomed Sam Garst, who was appointed to the council in September.

Ms. Erickson reviewed the agenda and discussed the decision to invite legislative leaders to speak to the council.

J. David Naumann moved approval of the minutes from the meeting on June 8, 2001. Seconded and APPROVED.

Jennifer Ridgeway, RCAC staff, reviewed changes to the council expense policy. Legislation passed during the 2001 regular and special sessions revises reimbursement policies for employees of the state and its political subdivisions.

Ms. Erickson reviewed the list of member terms. Members whose terms expire in January 2002, and who wish to seek reappointment should complete the Secretary of State's Open Appointment Application Form. The positions will be posted in the November Secretary of State's bulletin, and appointing authorities will be able to begin appointments as soon as December 7, 2001.

Ms. Erickson also pointed out the new member contact lists included in each member's folder, and four handouts made available by the university: the State of the University Address by Mark Yudof; University Relations; Sponsored Projects Administration Patents and Technology Marketing, Office of Vice President for Research; and The Idea of a University, by Steven J. Rosenstone.

Workplan for 2001-2003

The council set dates for the next round of recruitment:

- Friday, May 3, 2002 (1:00 p.m.): Council meeting
- Friday, September 13, 2002 (1:00 p.m.): Council meeting
- Monday, December 2, 2002: Application deadline
- Friday, January 10, 2003 (1:00 p.m.): Council meeting to review candidate applications
- Week of January 27-31, 2003: Candidate interviews and final selection (number of days to be determined by number of interviewees)

Ms. Erickson reviewed the terms that will be up for appointment in 2003. These include:

- Maureen Reed: Elected 1997, Congressional District 6
- Robert Bergland: Elected 1997, Congressional District 7
- David Metzen: Elected 1997, Congressional District 4
- H. Bryan Neel: Elected 1991 and 1997, Congressional District 1

Discussion with Senator John Hottinger

Sen. Hottinger addressed the council. He discussed the history of the selection process and the charge of the RCAC to assist the legislature. It is the duty of the RCAC to recommend between two and four candidates for each open position; the legislature is not bound by these recommendations. Also, statute designates that the legislature is to receive the recommendations, not the governor.

He stated that the council's role of recruitment, screening and recommendation is very important. It is to the council's credit that the legislature has always followed their recommendations in the past.

He said that the amount of information that the legislature receives on candidates is very important. The council discussed the value of sending candidates to the legislature in a ranked order. Currently candidates are sent in alphabetical order, but ballots are considered public information and are available upon request. Members discussed the role of the council and some stated that statute does not ask the council to designate a ranking.

Sen. Hottinger again stated the value of the council and stressed that legislators need as much information as possible about candidates. The council should do its job, understanding that the legislature may make a political decision.

The council asked the Senator what he expects to happen with Governor Ventura's appointments during the 2002 session. Sen. Hottinger said that he is not aware of any bicameral discussions that have taken place, but he does feel that the legislature needs to act to fulfill their duty.

The council again revisited the issue of ranking candidates. Sen. Hottinger said that the council can narrow down the number of candidates that they send to the legislature. The council's duty is to send the most effective candidates; the legislature may make a decision with other considerations in mind such as balance and diversity on the board. They also discussed options such as delivering ranking information to leadership members.

The council asked the Senator how he felt about designating seats for particular groups such as labor or agriculture. Sen. Hottinger said the council should send forward the best candidates; the legislature is subject to political responsibility.

The council and Sen. Hottinger discussed the time commitment necessary for candidates to lobby the legislature, and the role that the press could play in increasing the visibility of the council.

Volunteers to attend Board of Regents meetings

December: Humphrey Doermann
February: Sam Garst
March: Bernie Steffen
April: Frances Gardeski
May: Rondi Erickson
June: Liz Morrison

Committee recruitment

Committee chairs spoke briefly about the scope of their committees and asked for volunteers to serve. Interested members should contact chairs:

Interview Process and Questions: Paul Dovre
Orientation: Bob Vanasek and Chris Georgacas
Recruitment/Public Relations: Humphrey Doermann
Document Review: Carol Batsell Benner
References: J. David Naumann and Elizabeth Morrison

Billie Young volunteered to help with the document review.

Discussion with Representative Peggy Leppik

Rep. Leppik addressed the council. She commended the council on an excellent slate of candidates in 2001, and she noted that the RCAC is the non-political component of the selection process that should be protected. She said that although it is best for the legislature to act, she believes that protecting the process is more important than letting the issue go to the governor; a joint convention should not be held if there is a sense that someone will be elected who did not go through the process.

The council asked Rep. Leppik what she thought the legislature would do with Governor Ventura's appointments during the 2002 session. She said that she did not have enough information at this time. The council discussed their 1995 recommendation of Jean Keffeler and whether the legislature would assume that she would be approved by the council again.

The council asked Rep. Leppik if she thought that candidates sent to the should be ranked. She thought the issue deserved more discussion, and she agreed that the legislature needs more information on candidates. However, she was not sure in what form that information should be. Simply listing the numbers of votes received may not provide much insight. She suggested possibly including a prologue with the recommendations—describing what the council was looking for in candidates, rather than just what the process was.

Rep. Leppik and the council discussed the council’s visibility to the public. Rep. Leppik thought that any increased publicity would demonstrate to the public how thoughtful and well-organized the RCAC process is.

Other business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Rondi Erickson, Chair