

Minutes - Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee  
February 28, 2007

Attendees: D. Marchand, N. Shonoiki, L. Schneider-Rebozzo, D. Trechter, A. Tuchtenhagen, M. Brennan

1. Review/Approve Minutes from December 8, 2006 – approved
2. Consider letter from legislators re UW Admissions Policies

Legislative letter regarding UW admissions policy: A. Tuchtenhagen notes that colleges have long considered things other than academics, including race, ethnicity, background, and special abilities. In *Graatz v Michigan* case, Supreme Court said that cannot assign points based on race but said more holistic approach used by U of MI Law School was using. Under old/current system, roughly 20% of freshmen class admits are “exceptions”, especially in middle group of students (those not highly or unqualified for admission). Feeling was that if we did a significantly higher percentage of admits for students of color than others, we would be out of compliance with *Graatz*.

UWRF adopted a holistic admissions policy consistent with UW policy last year. This says that, essentially, we will individually evaluate all files. When Board of Regents passed new policy, this has angered some legislators and have indicated that they think it is in violation of the State constitution. They have asked the Attorney General for an opinion. This issue is unlikely to go away and may require a WI Supreme Court decision before it is resolved.

Tuchtenhagen suggests that the RAR Cmte monitor this issue but, at this time, no action is needed.

3. Other
  - Noel Levitz – Retention Consultant coming to campus March 5 & 6 to assess our retention efforts/success. Frosh to Soph retention had been averaging about 73% and dropped to 70% last year. Our arbitrary institutional goal is 80%. Don’t know if this is a one-year blip or if it’s a trend. Noel Levitz has a standard package for this type of assessment. Tim Culver will be here all day March 5<sup>th</sup> and half day on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Hoping he will give us suggestions for addressing retention issues. A. Tuchtenhagen urges as many RAR Cmte members to get to the sessions. Will get info re how UWRF stacks up viz peers around the country. D. Marchand notes that major push on retention is our first-year experience program and that as that rolls out we hope that retention numbers will rebound. A. Tuchtenhagen expects that we may hear about best practices also. D. Trechter notes that in phone conference Noel Levitz said that 80% retention would be a

major stretch for an institution such as UWRF, so this visit might provide a more realistic retention target.

- Reciprocity – issue is really between U of MN and Madison. Reciprocity isn't an issue for UWRF but might be for Madison and U of MN. Students going to institution in other state pays their in-state tuition for comparable institution. Wisconsin kids pay \$2000 less than a Minnesota kid. Wisconsin pays the difference to Minnesota but it goes to general fund, not U of MN. Minnesota has already said this issue wouldn't affect the MNSCU rates. MN legislature has introduced bill saying that WI kids have to pay MN tuition rates. This could elicit reaction from WI legislature. D. Marchand notes need for leadership from UWRF to push the value/importance of reciprocity and hasn't seen it. Public Relations Cmte is considering a trip to St. Paul to lobby. Brunicks doesn't see this as solely an issue of having the WI reciprocity \$s going to U of MN. Kinders is trying to arrange meeting with Pogemiller to discuss this. D. Marchand reported that Don has drafted letter but is waiting for word from President Reilly. About 14,000 MN students come to WI and about 12,000 WI students go to MN.

Adjourned 3:30 p.m.