The Board of Regents met October 2nd and 3rd and UW-Stevens Point. Among the highlights and points of interest were the following:

1. A presentation on system and institutional accountability reports, including a presentation on the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), a voluntary initiative for 4-year public colleges and universities, developed through a partnership between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), to help institutions:
   - Demonstrate accountability and stewardship to public
   - Measure educational outcomes to identify effective educational practices
   - Assemble information that is accessible, understandable, and comparable

   All UW System campuses are participating; profiles can be viewed at <collegeportraits.org>.

2. A report from the Wisconsin Taxpayer’s Alliance was discussed. From 2003 – 2008, Wisconsin lagged behind every state but Michigan in funding increases for higher education. Wisconsin currently ranks 34th nationally in per capita spending on higher education.

3. There was a long discussion of revamping procedures for Chancellor searches, in light of a report by Dr. Stephen Portch, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Georgia and an 18-year veteran of our own UW System, which focused on
   - the need for greater Regent involvement earlier in the process (e.g., by having blended search committees consisting of Regents plus campus);
   - the need for better reference-checking;
   - the need for more clarity about the selection, roles, and responsibilities of search consultants (e.g., joint selection of the search consultant by the Regents, UWS President, the institution).

4. In the “Good News” section, President Reilly led off with UWEC’s marching band’s playing at the Packers-Vikings game.

   President Reilly also announced that UW-Oshkosh is the first university in the U.S. to be designated a “fair trade university” for its institutional commitment to selling and serving Fair Trade Certified food products and handicrafts in university settings. This might be something for UWEC to look into, and I’ve mentioned it to Kate Hale, our campus sustainability fellow.

5. The Regents approved changes to UWS 17 and 18, which concern nonacademic student misconduct, and forwarded them to the Legislative Council for review, to be followed by subsequent review and public discussion, with final implementation anticipated for Fall 2009. The major changes include:
   - expanding UWS 17 to include off-campus misconduct that “adversely affects a substantial university interest” (even if the conduct does not directly involve another university employee, student, or guest);
   - amending current code [17.06(4)(a)] to allow students to be “accompanied by an advisor” rather than a “representative” at any hearings; the advisor may not speak for the student at the hearing;
   - allowing discretionary appeals to the Regents only in cases of campus (rather than program) suspension or expulsion.

   The Regents declined at this time to propose changes to UWS 18 empowering campuses to enact enforceable campus-wide smoking bans (as UW-Platteville had hoped to do).

The Faculty Representatives will meet on October 31st.

Respectfully submitted,

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