Because of the holiday activities at the end of the year and the sun-setting of the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee on December 31, 2007, it was not possible to convene a quorum of the committee to officially approve the November 19, 2007 minutes. However, each individual committee member reviewed the minutes and approved them. Therefore, we are posting these minutes to complete the historical documentation of the activities of this committee.

Rochester Higher Education Development Committee
Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2007

Time: 8 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Location: Edina Realty Rochester Meeting Room, 1301 Salem Road, SW, Rochester, MN

Members Present:
Marilyn Stewart
Drew Flaada
Al Berning
Dr. Wendy Shannon
Dwight Gourneau
Al DeBoer
David Paskach
Dr. Claire Bender
Dr. Bob Hoffman, former committee member

Member not present:
Dr. David Metzen
Jayne Rankin
Michael Vekich

Others Present
Gail Sauter, UMR
Dr. Claudia Neuhauser, UM-TC
Dick Westerlund, UMR
Faith Zimmerman, UMR
Jay Hesley, UMR
Senator Nancy Brataas, GRAUC
Jim Clausen, GRAUC, UMRAC
Representative Tina Liebling
Senator Sheila Kiscaden
Kathy Meyerle, Mayo Clinic
Allie Good
Nathan Tesch, UMR
Teresa Puetz, UMR
UM Regent Dr. Patricia Simmons
Bethany Krom, Mayo School of Health
Susan Heegaard, Office of Higher Education
Susan Ahlquist, Mayo Clinic
Kathleen O’Brien U of MN
Jenny Heglund, WSU – Rochester
David Carl, UMR
Kathy Meyerly, Mayo Clinic
Kari Takahashi, GRAUC
Sue Faro Poson, Mayo
Don Supalla, RCTC
Leigh J. Johnson, GRAUC
Representative Kim Norton
Kim David, KROC
Dr. Joseph Gibilisco
Valerie Pace, IBM, GRAUC
Dr. J. L. Stewart
Dr. Robert Jones, UMN TC
Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle, UMR
Representative Fran Bradley
Representative Randy Demmer

Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Chair Stewart gave an update of recent events and expressed the RHED Committee’s appreciation to the many groups and individuals who assisted with the development and execution of their plan... The Scholarship dinner for the University of Minnesota Rochester is scheduled for December 5. There are now 15 endowed Scholarships. Each endowment represents a minimum contribution of $25,000.
Chair Stewart stated that although the committee “sunsets” by law on December 31, their concern and commitment, their support and their “pushing for progress” will continue!

Governor Pawlenty will visit Rochester this afternoon to tour the new UMR facilities and to receive the RHEDC Final Report. The UM Marching Band Concert will be held on November 27 and the Grand Opening of the UMR Bookstore is scheduled for November 28.

Committee member comments:
Member Berning thanked Chair Stewart, said it was just a beginning. “The involvement must continue.”

Member Bender said Rochester was a great community. “The Challenge is to never stop.” She liked that the GRAUC would continue. She wanted to see logarithmic progression not just linear progression. She said this was the best endeavor for which she had ever worked.

Member Gourneau thanks the committee for its good work. He said it was a good start and that he was most interested in “driving entrepreneurship.”

Member DeBoer said the two and a half years ago he had not heard of bioinformatics but this didn’t stop the committee. “In 1965 when I came to Rochester Nancy Brataas was taking about creating a University of Minnesota Rochester. I’ve served on a lot of committees but this was the best. We all came at it from different places but we agree this is the best for Rochester and the state.”

Member Shannon said that everyone was prepared in the work groups. They selected great signature programs. This was the best committee she had ever been on.

Member Hoffman said it was a great committee. He was excited about all of the higher education opportunities in Rochester. Rochester Community and Technical College, Um Rochester and Winona State have all done a great job. He also complimented Matt for what was written in the Post Bulletin.

Member Flaada said the group didn’t work like a committee they worked like a team. “I met some real visionaries – Dr. David Carl and Claudia Neuhauser …” Opening the doors to a new business is good but putting the first product out is important. We must continue to make progress. Always try to get more.

Member Paskach said the speed of this model is an example for the rest of higher Education. The partnership is also a model.

The committee approved the September 21 minutes by unanimous proclamation.

Chair Stewart said the committee will meet briefly later to approve the minutes of the November 19 meeting so they can be put on the website page as the final meeting.

Susan Heegaard said there were three things that made this process work so well.
(1) The committee envisioning a unique university. It was going to be global and focus on science and math and engineering. There was a clear vision that made sense.
(2) You had the Governor on your side and there was bipartisan support.
(3) You had an astonishing amount of support from the community. The community always presented a united front even if you disagreed internally.
Regent Patricia Simmons thanked Chair Stewart for creating such a strong committee. She was excited by all the partnerships with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) and the businesses in Rochester and across the state including the Hormel Institute. She said the University of Minnesota Extension Office in Rochester was the best one in the state. “As a member of the University of Minnesota board of Regents I want to thank the committee.”

Vice President Kathleen O’Brien said she is the “non-academic” person for the University of Minnesota and is in charge of the master plan for the University. She said that because of the developments in Rochester she expects to see the University’s colors – maroon and gold across the globe. Eventually the master plan for the University of Minnesota Rochester will be turned over to Chancellor Lehmkuhle but he had not been hired when the project first began to begin building a university. They had seven responses to the RFP for renovating the Rochester downtown space. The selected contractor started in August. As part of the process they interviewed 75 people in the community. They all had the same vision but a different way to get there.

Chair Stewart asked when the University of Minnesota Rochester would start building a separate building. Vice President O’Brien said the academic plan would drive the facilities plan. “In the 2012 master plan there is a place holder for additional investments.”

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said that he arrived in Rochester September 4, 2007. He was overwhelmed by the support of the community, as evidenced by 450 members of the community visiting the new campus during its public open house. “This is the first community I have been in where I don’t have to drum up support.” However, he also expressed some concern about how quickly the community expected UMR to achieve its vision. He thanked Member Bender from Mayo, President Don Supalla from Rochester Community and Technical College, and President Judith Ramaley from Winona State University for their support and willingness to partner. He promised that the University of Minnesota Rochester will be known for innovation and agility.

With regards to programming at UMR, he said that all current partnership programs would continue. He expected there to be an expansion of the partnership in the public health areas, including the offering a master's degree in biostatistics. At the graduate level, UMR will develop a proposal for a new Biomedical Informatics & Computational Biology (BICB) program. At the undergraduate level, UMR is developing a proposal for a bachelor of science in the health sciences. The program will be comprised of a foundation in the liberal arts, science and math, and a series of health related courses. The fourth year of the undergraduate program will involve a capstone experience. The capstone experience could be an academic track to prepare students for post graduate experiences, such as medical school or life sciences graduate work; a clinical track where the student can complete a clinical specialty in an accredited program, such a respiratory care or echo cardiology; and an accelerated master’s track that will enable students to begin graduate work in selected health and bioscience fields after they have completed the first three years. The accelerated master's track will enable UMR to more quickly react to changes in the degree requirements for students in the clinical specialties. This will be the main undergraduate degree that UMR will recruit against.

Our learning platform will be distinctive. This has generated the most excitement. The University of Minnesota Rochester will be learner centered, competency based, technology enhanced, and community integrated. The students will develop their skills and competencies in each area and then will be asked to use their new skills by working in groups to solve real problems defined by community members in the
Rochester area. This will help retain students in the Rochester community and better meet the workforce needs of business. We will create a center for learning technology, who will hire creative faculty focused on innovative learning approaches, to support a recurring basis our distinctive and innovative learning platform. We will also be able to link the center with K-16 efforts that support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) initiatives.

At the research level, UMR will target the nexus between technology and biomedical. We won’t exclude technology related efforts. We need to pursue partnerships in research because otherwise we could spend our entire budget just to hire one star faculty member in a technology intense area. There are two ongoing research programs currently underway built on partnerships. The BICB programs have five research projects right now with 30 collaborators. The projects include (1) personalized medicine and data mining, (2) drug design by rational design. The second project is a Hybrid Energy System Study (HESS) done in partnership with Rochester’s public utilities.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said he would like the committee members to be available to get together so he could give status reports on the progress of the University of Minnesota Rochester and get their feedback. “Thank you for your vision.”

Chair Stewart said it was amazing what you can do once you get some money.

Vice President Dr. Robert Jones spoke on behalf of President Bruininks. “I am happy to recognize the good work and tenacity of this committee.” We are celebrating this community and this committee for doing what most of us will never have the opportunity of doing again – starting a university. John Sargent Pillsbury funded the University of Minnesota seven years before the state was established. There was a diversity of points of view but all were focused on one vision. He thanked the MnSCU institutions for their contribution. You can’t under appreciate what you already have. The Rochester Community and Technical College provides a great service.

Vice President Jones said the committee was “passing the baton” back to the University of Minnesota and the Chancellor to continue. “We aren’t creating the University of Minnesota Rochester just for Rochester or for the region but for the whole state.”

Public Comments:

Nancy Brataas said it was a grand day for celebration. It was wonderful to hear that the University of Minnesota Rochester was in the capital plan and had a placeholder for future funds. Thanks to the committee.

Kathy Meyerly, Chair of the GRAUC Board, said the vision and mission of the University of Minnesota Rochester was incorporated into GRAUC.”We knew you would expire and sunset but GRAUC will continue the mission.

President Don Supalla thanked Chair Stewart for listening to MnSCU. He thanked Chancellor Lehmkuhle for talking about collaboration and looked forward to the partnerships.

Chair Stewart thanked the committee and the audience and adjourned the meeting.