Rochester Higher Education Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes for June 22, 2007

Time: 7 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Location:  Edina Realty Rochester, 1301 Salem Road SW, Rochester, MN

Members Present:
Marilyn Stewart
Jayne Rankin
Drew Flaada
Al Berning
Dr. Wendy Shannon
Dwight Gourneau
Al DeBoer

Member not present:
Michael Vekich
Dr. Claire Bender
Dr. David Metzen
David Paskach

Others Present
Gail Sauter, UMR
Donald Sudor, GRAUC
Dr. David Carl, UMR
Dr. Claudia Neuhauser, UM-TC
Dr. Charles Christenson, UMR/UM-TC
Dick Westerlund, UMR
Kent Spaulding, UMR
Dr. Christine Quinn, WSU
Faith Zimmerman, UMR
Jim Clausen, GRAUC, UMRAC
Don Supalla, RCTC
Dr. Joe Gibilisco, UMRAC
Ann Hagen, UMTC
Caitlin Minnlar, UMTC
Jeremy Todd, UMTC
Representative Tina Liebling
Kim Norton, GRAUC
Anthony Chike, IBM
Senator Sheila Kiscaden
Hal Henderson, HGAC
Kathy Meyerle, Mayo Clinic
Jose Marchesani, UMR
Senator Ann Lynch
Leigh J. Johnson, GRAUC

Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:06 a.m.

Chair Stewart updated the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee on the progress of the search for a Chancellor for the University Minnesota Rochester and the downtown construction. There were 37 applications that had been whittled down to 3. The construction is in progress and so the Committee can not take a tour today.

February 15, 2007 minutes were moved by Member Gourneau and seconded by Member DeBoer. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Dr. David Carl gave a powerpoint presentation on the progress for the design and construction of University Square. Mayo, the city, the county and the Downtown Development Alliance were involved in the design. The site is tailored to the use of academics. The UMR is analyzing the best options for relationships to share resources. UMR is looking at joint appointments between Mayo and UMR. UMR would also like to share Mayo’s simulation lab and curriculum.
The RFP for the site plan meeting had 50 people from 19 firms. The firms came from both coasts. Seven proposals were submitted. They showed campus and urban planning. After the evaluation team selected the firm, Dr. Jones presented the recommendation on July 8. The HGA firm was selected.

A representative from the firm, Hal Henderson reported on current progress and showed the artists drawings of the University Square plan.

Member Berning asked about plans for growth. Gail Sauter said that not all of the classrooms will be finished so there will be room for expansion. Dr. Carl said that there would also be expansion by using wise scheduling.

Dr. Carl introduced the next set of speakers who were from the University of Minnesota’s Presidential Emerging Leaders project. The UM expects to have many retirements in the near future and is trying to grown its leadership from within. One of these teams chose to look at the image of the University of Minnesota Rochester. This group started the project before the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee was formed. There report and Powerpoint presentation is on the Rochester web page. The team wanted to identify elements that showed the influence and importance of the University of Minnesota Rochester in Rochester and Southeast Minnesota.

The team did a phone survey of 850 adults on December 4 – 11, 2006. The also held focus groups with 47 people between February 28 and march 29, 2007. They conducted 21 separate interviews. There were big changes to University of Minnesota Rochester during their study. They determined that the University of Minnesota Rochester now has a “clean slate.” Their advice to the University of Minnesota was (1) use the existing elements as a basis for identity; (2) let imagination be the only constraint for considering University of Minnesota Rochester’s future; (3) foster University of Minnesota Rochester’s mission and vision as a guide for strategic planning and decision making; (4) create a campus-wide community; (5) identify appropriate venues for community engagement; (6) create and continually share consistent messages regarding the University of Minnesota Rochester; (7) frame the University of Minnesota Rochester’s identity so it resonates effectively with stakeholders and builds additional support; (8) use the existing University of Minnesota brand as a spring board for the University of Minnesota Rochester; (9) expand the dialog with partners [politics shouldn’t undermine partnerships]; (10) seek strategic new partners; (11) commit to the University of Minnesota and demonstrate support in action; (12) empower the University of Minnesota Rochester – don’t micromanage.

Member Flaada asked if there was anything in the plans that was not addressed in their recommendations. The teams answer was that the new GRAUC UMR Growth Committee and the University’s work balanced out.

Member Berning asked if the group continues. The answer was that their suggestions were handed over to the University of Minnesota Rochester and it is up to them now.

Member Berning commented that he hoped the new chancellor would appoint an advisor to the GRAUC UMR Growth Committee.

Member Flaada asked the team if they thought things were really going to happen in Rochester. The answer was that there is more support in Rochester than in anywhere in the country. They thought the community would not let it NOT happen. The community just wants instructions.
From the audience, Representation Liebling asked what the intended use of the study was. Dr. Carl said the study would be used to help inform the steering committee that develops the plan that goes to the Regents.

Dr. Claudia Neuhauser gave a Powerpoint overview of the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology programs. The symposium to match different academic disciplines held earlier in the year generated 9 proposals. Five proposals were funded with $100,000 each and each can apply for a one year renewal grant. This allows existing graduate programs to be the basis for the new graduate programs. The courses are open to University of Minnesota Rochester students, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities students and Mayo students. Traineeships are established and students must be co-advised. The plan is for MS PhD and partial MS (for adult students). The programs do not use wet labs. Teaching is done by computers. “You could sit on a beach and participate in this program.”

Member Flaada said the level of enthusiasm was high. The students see this as an opportunity. He feared the students would want to study in the Twin Cities but that does not seem to be true. The advisors for the projects are from around the nation.

Member Berning asked what the student demand has been. Member Flaada said the University of Minnesota Rochester needs to extend the word worldwide. Dr. Neuhauser said there will be high demand for these programs because of the unique collaboration with Mayo and IBM. IBM is not serving as an advisor for other students at other universities.

Member DeBoer said being able to attract the right students is key and downstream a critical mass of people will be built. The state needs to capture this creativity for the future.

Member Berning asked if this could be extended to a bachelor’s degree. Dr. Carl said within five years the University of Minnesota Rochester will confer its own degrees. The UMR must get accreditation status but they will be on the fast track to accreditation.

From the audience, Jim Clausen asked if the center will reside in Rochester. Member Flaada answered that putting together PhD programs takes time. MnSCU needs to think about the kinds of students it needs to produce to support the kinds of businesses that will spring up because of this.

Member Berning asked if there was anything the UMR needed from the Committee. The response was that the GRAUC Growth Committee needs to take on the duties of the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee when the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee sunsets in December 2007.

No public comments.

Adjourn 9:30 A.M.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Friday, September 21, 2007 at the new University of Minnesota Rochester, Fourth Floor University Square, 111 South Broadway, Rochester.

**FINAL MEETING:** Monday, November 19, 2007, 8:00 A.M. at Edina Realty Rochester, 1301 Salem Road SW, Rochester, MN