Rochester Higher Education Development Committee
Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2007

Time:  8 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Location: University Square Fourth Floor University Square, 111 South Broadway, Rochester, MN

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

Dwight Gourneau
Al DeBoer
Michael Vekich
Dr. David Metzen
David Paskach
Dr. Claire Bender

Member not present:
Dr. David Metzen

Others Present
Gail Sauter, UMR
Dr. Claudia Neuhauser, UM-TC
Dr. Charles Christenson, UMR/UM-TC
Dick Westerlund, UMR
Dr. Christine Quinn, WSU
Faith Zimmerman, UMR
Jay Hasley, UMR
Nancy Brataas, GRAUC
Jim Clausen, GRAUC, UMRAC
Representative Tina Liebling
Senator Sheila Kiscaden
Kathy Meyerle, Mayo Clinic
Jose Marchesani, UMR
Representative Andy Welti
Pauline Krieger, AAUW

Glenn Laedtke, Neighbor
Allie Good
Marie Maher, UMR
Craig Johnson, WSU-R
Agatha Ealli
Jay Lee, RCTC
Nathan Tesch, UMR
Representative Dave Bishop
Teresa Puetz, UMR
Bob Crabb, U Bookstore
Orlyn Miller, UMN
Mike Denny, UMN
Lincoln Kallsen, UMN
Dr. Joe Gibilisco, UMRAC

Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Chair Stewart updated the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee on the Grand Opening of the UM Rochester campus on October 16 and made additional comments about recent newspaper articles about the new campus.

Staff Maplethorpe reviewed the current financial status of the Committee and the contracts currently serving the committee.

Member Vekich moved and Member Shannon seconded the approval of the June 22 minutes.

Chair Stewart introduced the new Chancellor of the University of Minnesota Rochester, Dr. Steven Lehmkuhle.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said the new students will be diverse so the delivery of instruction must be varied. The “half-life” of knowledge is getting shorter. The University of Minnesota Rochester will invent new models of student learning. There will be a culture of innovation and improvement. No other institution will be able to “leap frog” into the future the way the University of Minnesota Rochester will be able to.
Member Flaada commented the Arizona is starting a similar bioinformatics project by creating a new university with similar goals and a similar timeline. They have 13 graduate students. University of Minnesota Rochester has 10 graduate students. Arizona has built two new buildings and given the university $50 million. Minnesota is taking baby steps. Arizona says they know they need to collaborate and they have said they will collaborate.

Member Berning if there were any additional needs or ways the Committee could help.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said that everyone should be patient. The University wants to move forward with QUALITY. In the future bioinformatics may not be the key. The University needs to be agile.

A member of the audience (white hair) commented that adjunct faculty could be hired. There are many in Rochester who don’t have PhDs but are experienced in important fields. The graduate student in Rochester could learn a lot for these people.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said the University needed a structure curriculum to be successful. Engineers who become teachers need to be supported so it is a successful experience.

Member Shannon asked what progress would be made in one year with hiring faculty.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said the first step was to get more students. He wanted to focus on admitting freshmen with a strong science and math background. Then he would hire more faculty. Students make decisions about careers based on how much math they have to take. The University needs an innovative curriculum for science and math.

Member De Boer commented the admitting more freshmen seemed to be more long range. The collaboration model and getting innovative ideas to the market place doesn’t use incoming freshmen. It uses graduate students.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said that research and support of graduate students would also be supported but the University had the responsibility to create pathways for students to come to these new fields. Graduate education will always be the forte of the University of Minnesota Rochester.

Member Berning commented that the University of Texas did well with electrical engineers. Their goal was to hire five new professors each year. They wanted to grow both the graduate and the undergraduates at the same time. He liked their goal of five professors each year.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said the University must evaluate the programs with real outcome measures. Fifty professors would be unrealistic. They would need too much lab space. He said the University would be transparent about its goals.

Member DeBoer asked what Chancellor Lehmkuhle saw as the impediments to success.

Chancellor Lehmkuhle said he didn’t see impediments. Building a new University will take time but he wants the community to stay committed. Great universities have great cities and great cities have great universities.

Member Vekich asked when the Committee could see a strategic plan.
Chancellor Lehmkuhle said the strategic plan would be ready by the end of the year, around June 1.

Next Dr. Christiansen presented the activity of the Allied Health Center. It is unique and has many partnerships. It will increase the capacity and provide new health care workers. There will be multiple performance sites around the state and will place workers where they are needed. The University of Minnesota – Twin cities and the University of Minnesota Rochester have identical programs but other sites may not. The lease was signed only 8 months ago and now there are wonderful classrooms and labs. There is a shortfall of 10,000 graduates each year. The University needs to increase the number of graduates. The faculty at the Twin Cities campus are impressed with the facilities at the Rochester campus and say they want to transfer down to Rochester.

Next Dr. Neuhauser presented information on the new Biomedical Informatics and Computational Biology (BICB) projects. This is a collaboration of the University of Minnesota- Twin cities, University of Minnesota Rochester, Hormel Institute, IBM, and Mayo. There are 9 PhD students and one masters student. Each student is advised by people from two different institutions or companies. People without PhDs can still be advisors. Work and research in the future will be more collaborative. It will be a new delivery of education, flexible, long-distance, and modular. The Board of Regents must approve the programs but that will not happen until June 2008. There is more information at www.r.umn.edu/bicb

Mr. Mike Denny, Director of Development Services for the University of Minnesota, presented information of the progress and process of developing University Square. The lease is for 6 years and there are three five year options. The whole mall area is wireless. The UM Rochester is the highest concentration of high tech classrooms in the UMN system. There is room to expand. The book store should be completed by November 2007. There will be murals on the third and fourth floors.

Mr. Orlyn Miller, UMN Capital Planning and Project Management, reviewed the master plan of the space. Future steps include establishing an instructional vision and goal and a campus direction and develop a campus master plan by March 2008 . This will be taken to the Board of Regents for approval in May 2008.

Member Berning ask how many students the 56,000 square foot campus space could handle.

Mr. Lincoln Kallsen, UMN Director of Financial Research, suggested the space could handle 1400 students that the Committee report projected would be on campus in seven years. They have 400 now. One thousand students would feel crowded. The UM Rochester will have to handle the 1400 with scheduling. The UMR has 200 parking spaces from the city of Rochester.

Senator Nancy Braatas said this was the most exciting meeting she has ever attended. Forty-two years ago when she was 32 years old she was at meeting talking about this day. She is thrilled.

Allie Good thanked the Committee.

Chair Stewart said the Committee appreciated the fact that President Bruininks and VP Jones had assigned the leaders of various departments to work with the RHEDC. It is hard to believe we have come so far in two short years....the University has worked at “lightning speed” for a University! We have to “pinch ourselves” to realize that this beautiful place is truly UMR in action!

Member DeBoer said this was not the end. It was only the beginning.
No public comments.

Adjourn 10:30 A.M.

FUTURE/FINAL MEETING:
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Monday, November 19, 2007, 8:00 A.M. at Edina Realty Rochester, 1301 Salem Road SW, Rochester, MN