



## REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

72 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

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[www.rcac.leg.mn](http://www.rcac.leg.mn)

January 13, 2017

Senator Michelle Fischbach  
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Committee

Representative Bud Nornes  
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Committee

Dear Senator Fischbach & Representative Nornes:

As you know, during calendar year 2017, there will be four six-year term positions on the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota ("Board of Regents") coming to term, one in each of the second, third and eighth congressional districts and one statewide at-large position.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §137.0245, et al., the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) is tasked with recruiting, screening and recommending at least two, and no more than four, qualified candidates to the Joint Legislative Committee for each opening on the Board of Regents. The following is the report of the RCAC concerning the recently completed candidate selection process ("Report").

### **Background**

The Minnesota Constitution requires that 12 Regents be elected by a Joint Convention of the Minnesota Legislature to sit on the Board of Regents. Eight of the 12 Regents are elected as a resident of a Minnesota congressional district, one Regent being elected out of each district. The four remaining Regents are elected from the state at-large, with one of these at-large positions being a University of Minnesota student at the time of election. Regents serve six-year terms with four seats coming up for election every two years.

The Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) was established by an act of the legislature of the State of Minnesota ("Legislature") in 1988 to advise the Legislature in the election of Regents to the Board of Regents. Its duties are to: 1) develop a statement of selection criteria guidelines for the position of Regent and to distribute these guidelines to potential candidates; 2) identify and recruit qualified candidates for open positions on the Board of Regents; and 3) submit Regent candidate recommendations by January 15 of every odd-numbered year to the Regent nomination joint legislative committee ("Joint Committee") for at least two, but not more than four, qualified candidates for each opening on the Board of Regents.

The Joint Committee consists of the members of the higher education budget and policy divisions of the Senate and the House. The Joint Committee is statutorily required to meet by February 28<sup>th</sup> of each odd-numbered year to consider Regent nominees and to recommend one nominee for each open Regent seat to a Joint Convention of the House and Senate. Elected Regents take office immediately upon election by the Joint Convention.

### **Membership**

The RCAC consists of 24 members who have been appointed according to the provisions of the Legislature. The members are appointed to six-year terms with one-third appointed each even-numbered year with the exception of the two student members who are appointed to two-year terms each even-numbered year.

## **2016-2017 Process**

In 2017, the RCAC was tasked with recommending candidates for four six-year term positions on the Board of Regents coming to term. The four open Regent seats to be filled include one each from Minnesota's second, third and eighth congressional districts as well as one statewide at-large seat.

With respect to the current recommendations, the RCAC began its activity in September of 2016 by electing Ardell Brede as its chair and Lois Josefson and Dan Wolter as its vice chairs. After updating and adopting the selection criteria for candidates for the Board of Regents, the RCAC began actively recruiting candidates in September 2016 for the four seats coming to term during this cycle.

Thirty-five candidates submitted applications to the RCAC by the December 5, 2016 deadline. The RCAC met on December 9, 2016 for the preliminary screening of candidates to interview. After extensive discussion and debate, 17 candidates were selected for interviews. This three-hour long meeting was open to the public and recorded. One candidate selected for an interview withdrew from consideration.

At the application deadline only one applicant had applied for the eighth district position. On Wednesday, January 4, 2017, the RCAC received notification of an additional applicant for the eighth district seat. Due to the fact that the RCAC is statutorily required to recommend at least two candidates for each open seat, the RCAC members unanimously agreed to interview the candidate.

On January 4, 5 and 6, 2017, the RCAC met in open session to interview 17 candidates, each for 45 minutes. RCAC members spent more than 24 hours conducting the interviews, reviewing the reference checks, discussing and debating the merits of each candidate, and respectfully voting in the final recommendation process in an open session.

## **Recommendations**

The RCAC is forwarding 12 candidates for consideration by the Joint Committee. The finalists recommended by the RCAC are listed below in alphabetical order.

**Second District:** Ian Benson, Rosemount; Jim Carter, Hastings; and Sandra Krebsbach, Mendota Heights

**Third District:** Walter Erickson, Wayzata; Tom Devine, Chanhassen; Darrin Rosha, Independence; and Tammy Lee Stanoch, Minnetonka

**Eighth District:** David McMillan, Duluth and Curtis Teberg, Saginaw

**At-Large:** Tom Devine, Chanhassen; Kent Molde, Eden Prairie; Kendall Powell, Golden Valley; and John Regal, Oak Park Heights

Note: Due to redistricting, current incumbent Regent for the second congressional district, Tom Devine, now resides in the third congressional district. Given this unique situation, the RCAC opted to recommend him as a candidate for both the third congressional district and the statewide at-large seat.

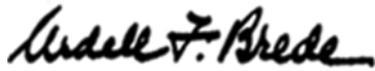
The RCAC is indebted to a vast network of people whose cooperation and assistance made possible the recruitment of highly qualified applicants. The members of the RCAC consider it a privilege to participate in the recruitment and screening of candidates. With every round of activity, the RCAC seeks to build upon past experience in order to continually improve the way it conducts its operations and deliberations. The number of excellent candidates who submitted applications speaks to the integrity of

the system and the commitment of the citizens of Minnesota to the University of Minnesota.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §137.0245, the RCAC's Selection Criteria Report is attached. The criteria listed in this Report were used by the RCAC for the selection of candidates. If you wish, we are available to meet with you to further discuss the regent selection process and/or candidates the RCAC has recommended. Additionally, the actual interviews were recorded and are available at: <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/rcac/17interviews.html>.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosures as stated above.

- cc. Senator Rich Draheim, Vice Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee  
Senator Greg Clausen, Ranking Minority Member, Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee  
Representative Drew Christensen, Vice Chair, Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance Committee  
Representative Gene Pelowski, DFL Lead, Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance Committee



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January 13, 2017

Report to the Joint Legislative Committee:

This Report is submitted pursuant to Minn. Stat. §137.0245, Subdivision 3, in connection with the work of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council ("RCAC"), established for the purpose of (i) recruiting and screening candidates for positions on the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota ("Board of Regents"), and (ii) making recommendations to the Minnesota State Legislature and the Joint Legislative Committee.

In August 2016, a Selection Criteria Committee was formed to review and update the selection criteria for candidates for the Board of Regents. In September 2016, the Selection Criteria Committee met to review the RCAC's previous criteria. Representatives of the Office of the Board of Regents were in attendance at the September 2016 committee meeting and provided feedback on the selection criteria. On September 16, 2016, the Selection Criteria Committee reported on its work to the full RCAC. The RCAC voted unanimously to adopt the Selection Criteria Committee Report.

The Selection Criteria Committee and the RCAC recommend the following criteria for the selection of candidates for members of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents ("Criteria"). These Criteria were used by the RCAC in its evaluation and recommendation of candidates for the Board of Regents to the Joint Legislative Committee and Minnesota State Legislature in 2017. The Criteria are divided into two categories: Personal and Professional/Experiential. All recommended candidates are believed to reflect, to a greater or lesser degree, the following attributes.

### **Personal**

1. A commitment to the University of Minnesota and an understanding of its role in education, economics and innovation in the state, nation and world.
2. Integrity along with a personal code of honor and high ethical standards which includes a willingness to comply with the Code of Ethics for Members of the Board of Regents and its conflict of interest policy.
3. An ability to maintain a professional relationship with administration, faculty and employees.

4. The ability to negotiate, compromise, and build consensus.
5. The ability to strategically analyze choices presented to the governing board both for their short-term impact as well as possible long-term implications.
6. An inquiring mind, a willingness to listen and the ability to speak articulately and succinctly.
7. The capacity to both challenge and support the administration when necessary.
8. The capacity to effectively analyze and evaluate the performance of the president.
9. The ability to function as a member of a diverse group in an atmosphere of public transparency, collegiality and selflessness.
10. An appreciation of the public nature of the position and the University.
11. An ability to address the issues of diversity in geography, gender, race, occupation, international awareness and operational needs of the Board of Regents.
12. A willingness to embrace and utilize current technologies needed to operate effectively as a Regent understanding that the Board relies on an online portal for all official meeting materials.

### **Professional/Experiential**

1. Knowledge and experience that relate to the needs of the Board and the challenges and opportunities facing the University.
2. Accomplishments and a history of success that reflect a breadth and diversity in life experience as well as any subject matter expertise that would be beneficial to the priorities of the University of Minnesota.
3. Experience in the governance and strategic oversight of large, complex organizations.
4. An understanding of higher education trends nationally and in Minnesota.
5. An understanding of the economic role of the University in the life of the state.
6. An ability and willingness to devote the time necessary to serve as an effective and contributing member of the Board of Regents.