

\*Senate Committee\*

## COMMITTEE MINUTES for EDUCATION

Date: *February 20, 2017*

Location: *RM 22*

Convened: *3:05 PM*

Adjourned: *3:55 PM*

### Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Senators Sinclair-CH, Edler-VC, Quirmbach-RM, Behn, Bowman, Chelgren, Danielson, Dvorsky, Greene, Hart, Johnson, C., Kraayenbrink, Lofgren, Mathis, Rozenboom

Absent:

Excused:

Meeting was called to order at 3:06

The minutes were approved.

Senator Sinclair introduced Dr. Richards to the committee and reiterated that the committee was not voting on his confirmation today but he was visiting to give the committee the opportunity to ask questions.

Senator Sinclair turned the chair over to Senator Edler.

Dr. Richards introduced himself by going through some of his personal background and his experience with Iowa education. He also went on to express his strong support of freedom, tenure, and his willingness to work with the new legislation specifically in regards to chapter 20.

Senator Edler recognized Senator Mathis

Senator Mathis asked for Dr. Richards feelings on the upcoming legislation regarding allowing guns on campus.

Dr. Richards felt the decisions that needed to be made to kept students and faculty on campus safe were best left to the individual schools. He also expressed his thoughts that the Board of Regents are responsible for working with any legislation passed.

Senator Mathis asked Dr. Richards about his thoughts regarding legislation dealing with fetal tissue.

Dr. Richards confirmed he supported medical research.

Senator Edler recognized Senator Quirmbach

Senator Quirmbach followed up on Senator Mathis's question regarding fetal tissue.

Dr. Richards reiterated that he has been on the board for a year and does not oppose the current

research being done at the University of Iowa.

Senator Quirnbach went on to ask if it would be consistent with the candidate's beliefs for the Universities to keep track of potential employees political beliefs during the hiring process.

Dr. Richards felt it was virtually impossible to keep track of each candidate's political party and that he encourages university's to hire diverse people.

Senator Edler recognized Senator Kraayenbrink

Senator Kraayenbrink asked for clarification on different viewpoints regarding competitive pay and benefits.

Dr. Richards went on to describe his role in his first year on the Board of Regents regarding Chapter 20. He felt it was important to continue to find ways to attract new and qualified potential staff.

Senator Edler recognized Senator D. Johnson

Senator D. Johnson encouraged the candidate to support regional Board of Regents meetings and attend said meetings. He also expressed the concern that state commissions and Board of Regents had a lack of demographic representation. He wanted to know if the candidate had any thoughts regarding transparency and open meetings.

Dr. Richards reiterated that in the past year he hasn't had as large of a role in the Board of Regents but confirmed there were recent attempts to increase transparency and get information regarding the Board of Regents out to the public.

Senator Edler recognized Senator Bowman

Senator Bowman wondered if the President of the Board of Regents had additional powers and responsibilities.

Dr. Richards confirmed that the leadership set the agenda and often times spoke on behalf of the regents.

Senator bowman wondered who Dr. Richards planned to support for President

Dr. Richards explained that he didn't know how he would vote since he didn't know enough about the candidates yet.

Senator Bowman asked if the Board would have to increase tuition with the recent budget cuts.

Dr. Richards explained that he planned to try to be as sufficient as possible and remain transparent with the public on any increases necessary.

Senator Bowman asked if he had been advocating for more dollars so tuition wouldn't be raised.

Dr. Richards said he had not been advocating personally.

Senator Bowman expressed his disappointment that the candidate had not been advocating.

Dr. Richards elaborated that he had been working with the Regent staff to advocate.

Senator Edler recognized Senator Danielson.

Senator Danielson asked if the candidate had any growth ideas for the University of Northern Iowa.

Dr. Richards felt that the University was very strong and felt it was necessary to get a few more in state students.

Senator Danielson questioned if Dr. Richards had a specific number in mind of how many more in state students should be admitted.

Dr. Richards didn't have a specific number right off the top of his head but felt growth was important and even a few hundred students would make a difference.

Senator Danielson questioned if the candidate would support public hearings with the Board of Regents.

Dr. Richards said he wouldn't be opposed to having public hearings but was unsure of the process that doesn't allow for public hearings or how they would implement them.

Senator Danielson went on to express the importance of public hearings for citizens.

Senator Edler recognized Senator Chelgren

Senator Chelgren questioned the process in which the Regents are broken up into political parties.

Dr. Richards explained that currently that was not the case.

Senator Chelgren questioned if Dr. Richards thought they should be broken up into political parties.

Dr. Richards went on to discuss how he didn't feel that discussions held a lot of political arguments and often compromises were found.

Senator Edler recognized Senator Dvorsky

Senator Dvorsky asked about the Chapter 20 negotiations

Dr. Richards reiterated that he wasn't involved in the Chapter 20 committee and that the negotiations were stalled.

Senator Dvorsky wondered who was on the committee.

Dr. Richards didn't know the exact names of the negotiation committee

Senator Edler recognized Senator Quirnbach

Senator Quirnbach went on to express his feelings that education should not be a partisan issue. He wanted to know what the candidate thought about contributions and importance of international students and faculty.

Dr. Richards felt it was a benefit to university's to have students and faculty with diverse

background.

Senator Edler relinquished the chair to Senator Sinclair.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Hart.

Senator Hart thanked the candidate for coming in and wanted to know why Dr. Richards wanted to serve in this role.

Dr. Richards responded by expanding on his desire to work particularly on healthcare and his experience within healthcare would be beneficial to the Board of Regents.

Senator Sinclair thanked Dr. Richards for coming in today and encouraged the Senators on the committee to finish work on their subcommittees.

Senator Bowman moved to arise.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:56

---

Senator Amy Sinclair

---

Casey Nickel , Committee Secretary