

THE BOARD OF REGENTS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Montana University System

CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
MINUTES

DATE & TIME OF CALL: MAY 7, 1993—2:30 P.M.

LOCATION: MONTANA HIGHER EDUCATION BUILDING
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
2500 BROADWAY
HELENA, MONTANA

REGENTS PARTICIPATING: BILL MATHERS (CHAIRMAN), TRAVIS BELCHER,
PAUL BOYLAN, CORDELL JOHNSON, JIM KAZE,
KERMIT SCHWANKE, AND TOM TOPEL

REGENTS NOT PARTICIPATING: NONE

PRESIDENTS PARTICIPATING: BRUCE CARPENTER (EMC), BILL DAEHLING
(NMC), GEORGE DENNISON (UM), MIKE
MALONE (MSU), AND LINDSAY NORMAN
(TECH); PROVOST MIKE EASTON (WMCUM)

PRESIDENTS NOT PARTICIPATING: NONE

**PRESENT IN
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE:** COMMISSIONER'S STAFF—ROSE BOND; MEDIA
REPRESENTATIVE—BOB ANEZ

Chairman Bill Mathers called the conference call meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Roll call showed that a quorum was present.

Regent Jim Kaze said the Board had interviewed Dr. Jeff Baker earlier in the week for the position of Interim Commissioner of Higher Education. He said Dr. Baker was currently working for Carroll College as its Dean of Academic Affairs. Regent Kaze said the purpose of the conference call meeting was to decide whether the Board wanted to formally offer the Interim Commissioner position to Dr. Baker and, if so, under what terms. He said Dr. Baker had indicated that he would be inclined to accept an offer.

Regent Cordell Johnson moved that the Board offer the position of Interim Commissioner of Higher Education to Dr. Jeff Baker.

Discussion followed between the Board members and the presidents concerning the beginning date of the appointment; the ending date of the appointment; the annual salary level; and using a "reporting for work" date rather than an "appointment" date.

Regent Kermit Schwanke said he wanted to make sure the Board's action on appointing an Interim Commissioner didn't mean they couldn't conduct a search at some point.

Regent Johnson said all they were doing was naming an interim commissioner—nothing else.

Regent Kaze said he also wanted to point out that Dr. Baker was not taking a leave of absence from Carroll College but was making a clean break from the job. He said Dr. Baker's acceptance of the Interim Commissioner position would show a strong commitment to the job for the time frame involved.

Chairman Mathers called for the question on the motion.

Regent Johnson amended his earlier motion to state that the Board offer the position of Interim Commissioner of Higher Education to Dr. Jeff Baker at an annual salary of \$87,500, with a beginning date of June 1, 1993, and an ending date no earlier than August 1, 1994, and no later than the date a permanent successor reports for work. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regent Kaze said he would call Dr. Baker at 3:00 p.m. and offer him the job. He said he would also work with Chief Legal Counsel LeRoy Schramm to make sure the contract language reflected the Board's action.

Chairman Mathers adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.