

No. 279, S.]

[Published October 15, 1955.

CHAPTER 619

AN ACT to create 39.024 of the statutes, relating to the establishment of a co-ordinating agency for institutions of higher education.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

39.024 of the statutes is created to read:

39.024 CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE. (1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to provide for the co-ordination of the activities of the university of Wisconsin and the state colleges and institutes by providing a permanent joint committee to make a continuing study of the state-supported institutions of higher education under their jurisdiction, the relation thereto of the needs of the people of Wisconsin, to recommend necessary changes in programs and facilities, to provide for a single, consolidated, biennial budget request for all of such institutions, and to report the results of its studies and recommendations to the governor and the legislature.

(2) COMMITTEE. (a) *Composition.* To carry out the purposes of this section, there is created a co-ordinating committee of 15 members, 4 from the regents of the university of Wisconsin, 4 from the board of regents of state colleges, 4 citizens, the president of the board of regents of the university of Wisconsin, the president of the board of regents of state colleges, and the state superintendent of public instruction. The appointive regent members of the committee shall be selected by a majority vote of the board of which they are members and shall be selected each year at the annual meeting of the board. The first selection shall be made by the respective boards within 90 days after the effective date of this section, and notice of such appointment to the committee shall be given forthwith to the state superintendent of public instruction, who shall call the first meeting of the committee within 30 days of certification of appointment of the appointive members. The citizen members shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The governor shall first appoint one each for 2, 4, 6 and 8 years, within 90 days of the effective date of this section and thereafter for 8 years.

(b) *Chairman.* The chairman of the committee for the first year of its existence shall be the president of the board of regents of the university of Wisconsin. The chairman for the second year of its existence shall be the president of the board of regents of state colleges. Thereafter the chairmanship of the committee shall be alternated annually in the same order.

(c) *Secretary; meetings of committee.* The committee shall select a secretary from its membership. The committee shall hold regular meetings at least once every 3 months at such time and place as may be determined by the chairman. Special meetings may be called at the request of a majority of the committee or on the chairman's own initiative upon 5 days' notice. Members of the committee shall be compensated for their

services on the committee in the manner provided for their services under chs. 36 and 37.

(3) **POWERS.** Without limitation because of enumeration the committee is authorized and directed to make studies and recommendations in the following fields:

(a) *Educational planning.* The committee shall determine what overall educational programs shall be offered in the several units of the university and the state colleges to avoid unnecessary duplication and to utilize to the best advantage the facilities and personnel available for instruction in fields of higher education. No educational program for which the legislature shall have made an appropriation existing at any institution of higher education shall be abandoned except with legislative approval.

(b) *Physical plant.* The committee shall adopt a co-ordinated plan for the integration and most efficient use of existing facilities and personnel, and an order of priority for the construction of new facilities at all institutions under its jurisdiction.

(c) *Budget requests.* The committee shall review the separate budget requests of the university and the state colleges and shall recommend a single, consolidated, biennial budget request to the governor for the support of all institutions under its jurisdiction, retaining the identity of the appropriation sections contained in ch. 20 relating to said institutions.

(d) *Grants to institutions.* The committee shall establish a plan which will encourage and promote grants by private individuals and agencies to all such institutions.

(e) *Legislative recommendations.* The committee shall continuously study the needs of the people of Wisconsin for state-supported higher education and recommend any legislative proposals needed to carry out its decisions resulting from such study.

(f) *Personnel.* The committee is authorized to use the services of the administrative and technical staffs of the institutions of higher learning to aid in the studies and activities of this committee as authorized by s. 14.65, and the compensation for such services shall be paid by the respective board or institution regularly employing such personnel.

(g) *Report.* Semiannually the committee shall issue reports of its findings and recommendations, which reports shall be delivered to the board of regents of the university of Wisconsin, the board of regents of the state colleges, the governor, to both houses of the legislature when in session, and to the secretary of the legislative council when the legislature is not in session. The first such report of findings and recommendations shall be made 6 months from the date of first convening of the committee.

(h) *Merger of Milwaukee institutions.* On or before January 1, 1957, the committee shall merge the state facilities and programs for higher education in Milwaukee into a single institution of higher learning, offering a 4-year program of undergraduate instruction. Such merged institution shall be operated as an integral part of the university and shall be under the government of its board of regents. This unit of the university shall be under the supervision of a provost reporting directly to the president, with the same degree of self-government by its own faculty as is vested in other units of the university. All degrees granted upon the completion of prescribed courses shall be issued by the board of regents in the same manner and with the same status as degrees based upon work done in other units of the university. Upon the taking effect of the merger herein provided, the state college at Milwaukee and the university extension division in Milwaukee shall cease to exist as separate institu-

tions, and the board of regents of the university shall succeed to all rights and duties, properties and obligations of these institutions. In validation of prior agreements and understanding, all teachers who are employed in the state college in Milwaukee immediately prior to the merger shall have the same status with regard to tenure which is provided for in s. 37.31. No employe of the state college or of the university extension division in Milwaukee shall be separated from the state service or suffer any loss of salary by reason of the consolidation of these institutions. All educational programs now carried on by either of the 2 institutions consolidated shall be continued, enriched, and strengthened on an integrated basis, subject to such changes as the board of regents of the university may deem advisable.

(i) *Duties and functions of existing boards.* The co-ordinating committee shall have final authority in determining the single, consolidated, biennial budget requests to be presented to the governor and shall have full responsibility for such presentation. The over-all educational programs offered in the state-supported institutions of higher learning shall be those determined by the co-ordinating committee and facilities and personnel shall be utilized in accordance with the co-ordinated plan adopted by the committee. The boards of regents in the discharge of their duties shall observe all decisions of the co-ordinating committee made pursuant to this section. Except as expressly provided in this section, nothing herein shall be construed to deprive the board of regents of the university and the board of regents of the state colleges of any of the duties and powers conferred upon them by law in the government of the institutions under their control.

Approved October 13, 1955.
