

Doyle appoints 4 new UW regents

Madison attorney Bartell to join board

By David Callender
The Capital Times

Gov. Jim Doyle today named Madison attorney and veteran civic activist Jeffrey Bartell to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

Bartell, 63, is one of four new appointees to the board, which oversees the operations of the University of Wisconsin System.

Doyle also named La Crosse attorney Brent Smith to a full seven-year term, and named Mary Cuene of Green Bay to replace Smith as the representative of the Wisconsin Technical College System. Thomas Shields of Oshkosh will serve as the panel's first non-traditional student representative. He is an older student, age 26.

A Madison native, Bartell said this morning that he is excited to serve on the board.

Bartell received both his bachelor's degree in economics and his law degree from the UW-Madison. He also serves on the board of directors of the Memorial Union and has taught



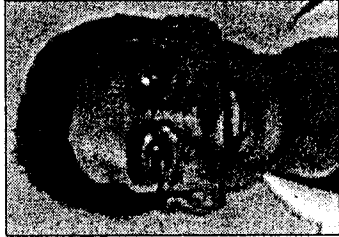
Bartell



Smith



Cuene



Shields

He has been active in numerous community groups and is a longtime member of the Downtown Madison Rotary Club. He is also a member of the Overture Development Corporation and the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center boards.

In announcing the appointment, Doyle said Bartell "is committed to giving back to the University of Wisconsin as well as his local community. I am confident he will be a thoughtful board member and a great advocate for the university system."

Smith and Cuene were part of the effort to replace Nino Amato, who criticized UW executive pay increases, in 2004. That year, Cuene circulated a memo saying she was "appalled" with Amato's leadership. Some criticized the move as retribution for Amato's outspokenness.

Cuene is a learning facilitator in the business technology department at Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay. She served as faculty president at the college for five years, and was appointed to the Technical College System Board in 2003. She is currently vice president of that board.

"These are very difficult fiscal times, and we recognize that," he said, but the UW remains "the crown jewel of our educational system in Wisconsin."

Bartell, a corporate lawyer and former assistant attorney general, founded the Madison office of the Milwaukee-based Quarles & Brady law firm. He is married to Dane County Judge Angela Bartell.

classes at the UW Law School. "The university is very close to my heart," he said. "I'm a double-degree holder from the university, my parents both worked at the university, and I've been going to the union since I was an infant," he said.

Bartell acknowledged that UW officials have faced tough budget times and, at times, strained relations with state lawmakers.

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Shields was appointed to the board as part of a new law that places a nontraditional student representative on the educational panel. The new student member must be at least 24 years old and represent the views of nontraditional students.

Shields is a political science major at UW-Oshkosh; he received an associate degree from UW-Fox Valley in 2004.

He currently serves as the UW System student representative on the Higher Education Aids Board and has served previously on the United Council of UW Students and the Fox Valley Student Association.

Smith is a shareholder with the law firm of Johns, Flaherty & Collins in La Crosse and is currently on the Wisconsin Technical System Board. He

first served on the Board of Regents in 2004. His work on the board has included efforts to increase the number of the state's bachelor's degree holders, and transfer credits between the technical colleges and the UW.

The changes mean that all but one of former Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson's appointees to the board are gone. Bartell replaces Roger Axtell, the retired vice president of Parker Pen in Janesville. Smith replaces Gregory Gracz, president of the Milwaukee Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 215.

The only Republican appointee left is Gerard Randall, president and chief executive officer of the Private Industry Council of Milwaukee County. Doyle tried to replace him, but Randall, reappointed to a term through 2008 shortly before Thompson resigned, refused to step down.

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Reporter Aaron Nathans contributed to this story.