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BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

I.4. Research, Economic Development,
and Innovation Committee

Thursday, April 4, 2013
Valhalla B, Cartwright Center
UW-La Crosse
La Crosse, Wisconsin

1:00 p.m. Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee—Valhalla B

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the February 7, 2013 Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. Update on UW System Economic Development Initiatives
- c. UW-La Crosse Overview of Undergraduate Research Programs
- d. Entrepreneurial/University Business Partnerships Panel Discussion

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ROAD MAP UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The Office of Economic Development will provide a brief update of its action plan of initiatives designed to strengthen relationships between the university and Wisconsin business. The plan provides a road map for the orderly implementation of economic development strategies designed to build strong communities and support job creation.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion only; no action is required at this time.

DISCUSSION

Associate Vice President for Economic Development David Brukardt will review the economic development action plan. He will highlight specific elements of the road map designed to strengthen the UW System's overall contribution to the economic development of the state, and which will support professional development, outreach, and research at all UW System institutions.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

No applicable Regent Policy Documents

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH UPDATE: SYSTEMWIDE AND AT UW-LA CROSSE

BACKGROUND

Undergraduate research is a high impact practice that is critical to advancing the Research, Economic Development and Innovation (REDI) Committee goals of talent, innovation and job creation. Additionally, this high impact practice is important for the academic and professional success of UW students and for the benefit of Wisconsin communities.

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse promotes and supports undergraduate student research and scholarship. Following an introduction by UW System Assistant Vice President Kristine Andrews and UW-La Crosse Provost Heidi Macpherson, UW-La Crosse Undergraduate Research Director Scott Cooper will highlight how undergraduate research helps to promote the goals of the Research, Economic Development and Innovation (REDI) Committee. Dr. Cooper will be joined by UW-La Crosse students, who will elaborate on their own experiences with research mentors and on the benefits they derive from these opportunities.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion only; no action is required at this time.

DISCUSSION

Undergraduate research is defined by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) as “an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.” Founded in 1978, the organization has grown to include 645 institutional members, including community colleges, public and private institutions, liberal arts colleges, research universities, and several universities outside the United States. The organization also has well over 7,000 individual members across all disciplines. The University of Wisconsin System is a systemwide member of CUR and actively engaged and involved in all levels of the organization.

The skills students develop through engagement in undergraduate research will serve them well in their future careers. Students who engage in undergraduate research develop higher levels of curiosity and critical thinking skills, both characteristics that can lead to a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities (following the work of George Kuh in *High-Impact Educational Practices*), undergraduate research has been identified for its significant influence on student success, including underserved student populations, namely underrepresented minorities, low-income students, and first-generation college students.

Advancing undergraduate research also has social benefits for Wisconsin. In the new economy, entrepreneurial startups and small- and medium-sized enterprises are key to new job growth. As a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship develops on any campus, and as faculty and administrators promote such activities, students are more likely to become immersed intellectually and are encouraged to take risks, increasing new knowledge and promoting career readiness.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

No applicable Regent Policy Documents

ENTREPRENEURIAL PANEL AND DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND

As the REDI Committee reviews the current status of business and industry interactions with faculty, staff and students at UW System comprehensive campuses, it is helpful to solicit input from current participants: business leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs. Panelists invited to speak at UW-La Crosse will highlight the benefits of their business and research interactions and provide recommendations to help future connections become even more productive, useful and efficient.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion only; no action is required at this time.

DISCUSSION

Regent Tim Higgins will introduce the panel and provide background for the discussion. The panel will be moderated by Regent Tracy Hribar and include the following business leaders and entrepreneurs:

- John Biondi, President and CEO of Xolve, Middleton
- David Kettner, CEO of Fused Innovation, Neenah
- Dr. Jay Ellingson, Director of Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Kwik Trip, La Crosse
- Julie Wagner, VP of Research and Development, Century Foods International, division of Hormel, Sparta

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

No applicable Regent Policy Documents