

07/01/2013

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

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

Thursday, July 11, 2013  
Room 1820 Van Hise Hall  
1220 Linden Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin

1:00 pm Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee – Room 1820 Van Hise Hall

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the June 6, 2013, Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. Discussion of Potential Faculty Incentives and Rewards Related to Undergraduate Research Excellence, Economic Development, and Innovation – Panel Discussion
- c. Economic Development – Focus on the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), its Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Focus, and its unique collaboration with UW System to support the WiSys Technology Foundation.  
[Resolution I.4.c.]

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL FACULTY INCENTIVES  
AND REWARDS RELATED TO RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
INNOVATION – PANEL DISCUSSION**

**BACKGROUND**

Undergraduate research is a high impact practice that has been widely adopted by the UW System two-year and four-year comprehensive campuses in addition to the research activities at UW-Milwaukee and UW-Madison. Such research requires institutional support, including direct and indirect encouragement, plus resources that include space and staff support for oversight and release time, and funding to cover salaries, overhead, and related costs. During the June 6, 2013, meeting of the REDI Committee, and at the direction of Regent Mark Tyler, Senior Vice President Mark Nook provided an overview of best practices in this area. Specifically, he addressed direct incentives that make such efforts more rewarding, and he outlined infrastructure support incentives that facilitate undergraduate research activities.

Today's panel will enlarge the June discussion by providing additional detail from both a national perspective and from the faculty perspective regarding how best to implement policies and practices that foster and encourage UW System educational and economic development initiatives that are well-integrated, business friendly, and sustainable.

Panel members include:

- Dr. Mitchell Malachowski -- University of San Diego Professor of Chemistry and Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) Mentor and Past President
- Dr. Dean Van Galen -- Chancellor, UW-River Falls
- Dr. Karen Havholm -- Director, UW-Eau Claire Center of Excellence for Faculty and Undergraduate Student Research Collaboration

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Information only.

**RELATED REGENT POLICIES**

No applicable Regent Policy Documents

UW System Board of Regents  
Economic Development Incentive Grant Funds

RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Resolution I.4.c.:

That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, and subject to approval by the state Department of Administration and the legislative Joint Committee on Finance, the Board of Regents supports the assignment of a portion of UW System economic development incentive funds as match funding for WEDC grants, to foster commercialization and business start-up activity across the state and to take advantage of the fund commitment from WEDC. This will allow the funds to be directed to businesses and start-ups with oversight from WiSys.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – FOCUS ON WEDC INDUSTRY CLUSTER STRATEGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION FOCUS, AND WISYS PARTNERSHIP**

### **BACKGROUND**

In December 2012, the REDI Committee adopted the UW System Economic Development Road Map, a multi-year strategic plan with three critical components:

- **Communication** – Raising awareness of commitment to economic and business development by the UW System;
- **Connection** – Identifying and building stronger connections that link UW System talent and research with business and industry, as a contemporary reaffirmation of The Wisconsin Idea;
- **Capital** – Accelerating investment in UW-generated innovation so that concepts can be more rapidly developed and commercialized.

Twenty action items support these three strategic priorities. These action elements have been designed to align with the economic development priorities of the State and of its Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). The WEDC provides regular reports to the REDI Committee.

Today's report will focus on the WEDC economic development and on its efforts to support entrepreneurship and innovation. This update provides helpful background as the UW System contemplates allocation over the next biennium of funds that will support economic and workforce development programs and services. Certain of these programs will be supported through the WiSys Technology Foundation.

At the June REDI meeting, Regents approved a resolution to reaffirm WiSys as the sole technology transfer mechanism for research, innovation, and technology transfer on UW System two-year and four-year comprehensive campuses, and to further develop policies and practices that support and encourage faculty and undergraduate research, technology transfer, entrepreneurship and innovation. This action reflected a UW System commitment of up to \$1 million annually along with a WEDC match of up to \$500,000 annually in order to provide support for WiSys.

### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Approval of Resolution I.4.c.

## **DISCUSSION**

Since 2000, WiSys has provided significant support to advance research at UW System campuses and played a critical role in transforming technology into jobs. As such, WiSys provides a key link between the campuses of the UW System and the statewide business community. WiSys has developed a proven track record in identifying and invigorating partnerships that help address Wisconsin's critical educational and economic development challenges.

The WEDC/UW System match funding commitment will allow WiSys to accelerate innovation and commercialization efforts across the state. Directing match funds to commercial start-ups from UW System requires legislative approval. The UW System Board of Regents recommends approval for match funds to be used for such purposes.

## **RELATED REGENT POLICIES**

No applicable Regent Policy Documents