

9/16/2013

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

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

Thursday, October 10, 2013
Student Center University Ballroom
UW-Parkside
Kenosha, Wisconsin

1:00 pm Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee – Student Center
University Ballroom

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the July 11, 2013 and August 26, 2013 Meetings of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. Chancellor's Update on Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Activities at UW-Parkside
- c. Update and Overview of Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) Initiatives and Programs
- d. Discussion and Review of the UW System Economic Development Incentive Grant Program

**CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE ON RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
INNOVATION ACTIVITIES AT UW-PARKSIDE**

BACKGROUND

UW System campus locations statewide are adopting an increased focus on undergraduate research, economic development, and innovation initiatives across a wide spectrum of high-impact-practice areas. These efforts are focused on building greater connectivity of faculty and students with local community organizations and business partners.

Chancellor Debbie Ford will provide an update on activities in these important focus areas at UW-Parkside. Her presentation will highlight research collaborations with technology companies in collaboration with WiSys, and she will discuss campus initiatives related to career preparation and job readiness. These efforts include the functions of the Ralph Jaeschke Solutions for Economic Growth (SEG) Center, a premier vehicle for project-based learning that brings together local community businesses with students and faculty to create joint initiatives to benefit all parties involved.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

UPDATE AND OVERVIEW OF WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY (WIST) INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) at UW-Stevens Point has built a reputation for providing industry with an accessible source of expertise in sustainability solutions, reflecting the mission of the organization, founded in 2010.

WIST focuses the strength of the university's scholarly talent and applied research capabilities in order to assist entrepreneurs, established businesses, and other organizations to reach their sustainability goals and to help ensure a greener and cleaner Wisconsin. Paul Fowler is executive director of the organization.

Fowler will provide an update on WIST activities in the areas of biofuels, renewable materials, and related disciplines, and highlight its innovative interdisciplinary approach. One example is the multi-departmental collaboration between WIST, Paper Science & Engineering, and Fine Arts entities at UW-Stevens Point to produce high quality fine art paper. This specialized niche product is developing a strong following in a highly competitive global market.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

None applicable.

UPDATE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT PROCESS

BACKGROUND

Section 9148 (1i) (a) of 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 requires the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents to submit to the Department of Administration Secretary and to the Joint Committee on Finance, for 14-day passive review, a plan to establish an Incentive Grant Program under Section 36.25 (52) of the statutes. This plan was submitted on Sept. 10.

The UW System Board of Regents had approved the Incentive Grant Plan, which includes program requirements and evaluation criteria, at its regular meeting on September 6, 2013.

The Plan outlined the evaluation and distribution of \$22.5 million of UW System funds to support projects that will be implemented during the current biennium. These funds are not base-building, and will cover one-time or start-up costs for programs that develop or enhance projects or proposals in the areas of economic development, and workforce development, or improve the affordability of postsecondary education.

Judges include experts from outside UW System and various UW institutions, with the majority of judges external to UW System. Eligible grant recipients include UW System campuses and UW Extension.

REQUESTED ACTION

Emeritus Regent Jeff Bartell will discuss the program parameters, highlight the judging and selection committee, and provide an update on feedback received from the Joint Committee on Finance. The grant application time frame is expected to conclude on October 15, with judging to begin shortly thereafter. The REDI Committee will endorse the selection committee grant awards in early November.

DISCUSSION

Information only.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

None applicable.