

03/26/2015

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

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

Thursday, April 9, 2015
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
UW-Waukesha
1500 N. University Drive
Commons
Waukesha, Wisconsin

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2015, Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. WiSys Technology Foundation – Update on Faculty and Undergraduate Research, Technology Transfer, and Statewide Commercialization Initiatives
- c. UW-Madison Progress Report On The Igniter – An Engine For Technology Commercialization
- d. WEDC Seed Fund Expansion and Outlook for Entrepreneurship in Wisconsin
- e. UW-Extension – Building a Balanced Economic Development Support Portfolio: From Commercialization to Second Stage

WISYS TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION – UPDATE ON FACULTY AND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AND STATEWIDE COMMERCIALIZATION INITIATIVES

BACKGROUND

WiSys is the technology transfer entity authorized by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to advance promising research and innovation from discovery through commercialization on UW System four-year comprehensive campuses and at UW Colleges and UW-Extension.

Since 2000, WiSys has provided significant support to advance research at UW System campuses and has played a critical role in transforming technology into jobs. WiSys has demonstrated leadership in advancing research and technology development across Wisconsin in a cost-effective manner by building strategic partnerships with innovative start-ups, high-tech companies, clinical organizations, and UW campuses.

To date, WiSys has pursued patent protection on 136 innovative technology discoveries. Additionally, 15 startups from seven comprehensive campuses have been formed.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information only.

DISCUSSION

Over the past year, Executive Director Arjun Sanga and WiSys Board Chair David J. Ward have crisscrossed the state to meet with campus faculty, students, and administrators in an effort to raise the awareness of WiSys as a supporting organization of the UW System and to lay the foundation for an on-campus network of WiSys Regional Associates and Ambassadors who will provide “in-market” support for faculty and students. This expanded network, along with new regional representation, is already paying dividends. Sanga will provide an update of WiSys programs and project support, highlight successful campus initiatives under way, and provide an outlook for further progress.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

UW-MADISON PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IGNITER – AN ENGINE FOR TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

BACKGROUND

The Igniter/Discovery to Product (D2P) initiative is focused on building on a legacy of collaboration to accelerate the progress of UW-Madison-inspired technology and innovation to market. This initiative provides UW-Madison faculty and students with an easy-to-access gateway to a comprehensive suite of resources to help transform ideas and discovery into companies and products that can bolster Wisconsin's economy.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information only.

DISCUSSION

John Biondi, Discovery to Product (D2P) Director will provide an update on D2P outcomes. The presentation will provide a 2015 progress report on achieving program objectives, which include:

- Transforming UW–Madison culture to embrace entrepreneurship;
- Producing new products that benefit the state and world;
- Creating new companies that boost the state's economic strength;
- Making more venture capital available in the state; and
- Attracting more companies to Wisconsin.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

April 9, 2015

Agenda Item I.4.d

WEDC SEED FUND EXPANSION AND OUTLOOK FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN WISCONSIN

BACKGROUND

The UW System and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) continue to expand partnership initiatives designed to identify and leverage collaborations and initiatives accelerating innovation in regional and international business development. WEDC provides regular updates to the REDI Committee on current and planned initiatives and provides progress reports on outcomes.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

DISCUSSION

Lisa Johnson, WEDC's Vice President of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, will provide an update on current initiatives and programs, with a focus on WEDC's efforts to collaborate with the university and state businesses to foster entrepreneurial activities and business innovation, and to speed the time from idea to product commercialization across the state.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

**UW-EXTENSION – BUILDING A BALANCED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT PORTFOLIO: FROM COMMERCIALIZATION TO SECOND-STAGE**

BACKGROUND

The UW-Extension Division for Business and Entrepreneurship provides education and information to support business creation, growth, and performance. It does this through partnerships with federal and state government entities, UW System institutions, and local business support organizations.

Organizations within the Division include the Small Business Development Center Network, the Center for Technology Commercialization, the Center For Business Intelligence, the Food Finance Institute, and the Manufacturing Diversity Institute. All of these groups coordinate their efforts to support and complement the work done by WEDC, UW System institutions, and local/regional business support groups.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

DISCUSSION

UW-Extension Provost and Vice Chancellor Aaron Brower will highlight his organization's commitment to community and business development and the Wisconsin Idea and will introduce Mark Lange, Executive Director, Business and Entrepreneurship. Lange will provide an update on UW-Extension efforts to deliver business and entrepreneurship education services through various programs across the state. He will be joined by Al Leidinger, President of Waukesha-based Mathison Manufacturing, who will showcase a new business intelligence program that supports Wisconsin's second-stage companies.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.