

*Minutes of the UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee
December 10, 2015*

Regent Whitburn convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 1:45 p.m. Regents Evers, Farrow, Higgins, Langnes, Petersen, Manydeeds, and Tyler were present.

Committee Actions

The Education Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the October 9, 2015 meeting and adopted the following 12 resolutions:

- [Resolution I.1.c], approving the online Doctor of Occupational Therapy at UW-Madison;
- [Resolution I.1.d.(1)], approving the Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.S.E.) in Biomedical Engineering at UW-Milwaukee;
- [Resolution I.1.d.(2)], approving the Master of Science in Information Technology Management at UW-Milwaukee;
- [Resolution I.1.d.(3)], approving the Master of Science in Athletic Training at UW-Milwaukee;
- [Resolution I.1.d.(4)], approving the Master of Fine Arts in Dance at UW-Milwaukee;
- [Resolution I.1.e], approving the Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience at UW-River Falls;
- [Resolution I.1.f], approving the institutional reorganization of the UW-Green Bay by creating three Colleges and one stand-alone School:
 - The College of Health, Education and Social Welfare (formerly the College of Professional Studies);
 - The College of Science and Technology (created from the existing College of Liberal Arts and Sciences);
 - The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (created from the existing College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); and
 - The Austin E. Cofrin School of Business (formerly housed in the College of Professional Studies);
- [Resolution I.1.g], approving a University College at UW-Stevens Point;
- [Resolution I.1.h], approving the changes to the UW-Stevens Point select mission;
- [Resolution I.1.i], approving the changes to the UW-Extension select mission;
- [Resolution I.1.j], approving changes to the Faculty Personnel Rules at UW-Superior; and
- [Resolution I.1.k], approving the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents' 2015 Statement Reiterating the Board's Commitment to Academic Freedom and Affirming its Commitment to Freedom of Expression.

The Vice President's Report

David J. Ward, Interim Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, gave the Committee an update on four online webinars jointly presented during the fall by the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, which focused on college math readiness, English language skills, and the college admissions process – areas which have been identified as potential roadblocks to student success in college. Aiming to enhance students' college

readiness and reduce the need for developmental or remedial education, on the average 120 high school teachers, counselors, principals, and others from around the state participated in each webinar. Data collected by UW System Administration shows that students who participated in the Early Math Placement Test and/or who took senior math show significantly better placement into calculus and lower placement into remedial courses.

At the time of the meeting, three finalists for the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs had been identified. Interviews with six semifinalist candidates were held December 4 and 5, 2015, in Madison. The three finalists were interviewed by President Cross as well as Board and campus leadership, on December 17, 2015.

Reorganization of UW-Green Bay

Chancellor Miller reported that in September 2014, he initiated the institution-wide *Invent the Future* strategic process with the goal of examining the University's aspirations with respect to (1) a culture of innovation, (2) enrollment and growth, (3) academic portfolio, and (4) partnerships and external engagement. The major elements of the proposed reorganization emerged through that process. According to Chancellor Miller, the reorganization of the two existing colleges into four colleges aligns important UW-Green Bay academic programs and research with key economic sectors in Northeast Wisconsin (e.g., business, health, science, and the arts). The introduction of a more outwardly facing leadership level via the deans of the reorganized colleges will create direct accountability for enrollment targets, fundraising goals, faculty and student support goals, and innovation. The reorganization is accomplished through internal reallocation.

The elevation of the Cofrin School of Business to a free-standing school empowers it to grow and build partnerships with the business sector in Northeast Wisconsin.

Regents Petersen and Higgins commented on the Chancellor's success in mobilizing the business community and the accomplishment of the university's mission with fewer resources and more focus. Regent Whitburn agreed that the outreach efforts of UW-Green Bay are appreciated.

Creation of a UW-Stevens Point University College

The university was authorized to create a college that will be headed by a new Dean yet to be appointed, and make academic student services a one-stop-shop. There will be no academic degree programs or departments housed in the University College. Units reporting to the future Dean of the University College include Undergraduate Research, the Library, Tutoring Services, and other units dedicated to student success and support of learning.

Revision of the UW-Stevens Point Select Mission Statement

UW-Stevens Point held a public hearing on November 10, 2015, presided over by Regent Mueller. The adopted revision better reflects the university's new strategic plan and enhances the visibility of its academic program array. There were no major changes in the mission.

Revision of the UW-Extension Select Mission Statement

Regent Petersen reported on the public hearing on November 5, 2015, that he had presided over and briefly summarized the public testimony that was given at the hearing. Comments focused on the possible encroachment of the proposed new UW-Extension mission on the existing outreach

cooperative Extension mission. Regent Petersen also acknowledged that some chancellors within the UW System had contacted him, some supporting and some questioning the proposed mission.

Chancellor Sandeen reiterated the student demand for the UW FLEX Option, approved by the Board in 2013, and cited active student demand from about 75,000 adult students. Sandeen continued to describe how the UW FLEX Option is different from an online program, and asserted that it meets the needs of a specific student segment not fully served by other UW institutions.

Sandeen further explained that UW-Extension's revised select mission will allow the institution to have degree-granting authority for professionally-focused and cross-disciplinary, direct assessment, competency-based credit-bearing certificates; associate degrees; and baccalaureate degrees in the academic area of business and management. UW-Extension will begin the Higher Learning Commission's accreditation process by submitting its application materials that will initiate this process as quickly as possible.

Regent Whitburn asked Chancellor Sandeen whether a one-year timeline for completion of HLC requirements was feasible, and Sandeen responded that UW-Extension has been in close communication with HLC, with a timeline laid out. In response to Regent Farrow's question whether HLC was supportive of the mission change, Provost Brower responded that HLC had indicated that the accreditor was in support of the next steps in the process leading to accreditation.

Regent Tyler said he wanted to correct an apparent misunderstanding or misinterpretation that the WTCS had a problem with UW-Extension issuing liberal arts associate degrees. Only pre-professional or applied academic programs proposed by UW-Extension would have to be approved by the WTCS board.

Changes to the Faculty Personnel Rules at UW-Superior

Changes at UW-Superior to a section of the personnel rules now allow for the appointment of "faculty at large" to peer faculty promotion committees when departments have fewer than the required three members to appoint to such a committee. Chancellor Wachter explained that this was a minor addition to the revised faculty rules the Board had approved in February 2015.

University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents' 2015 Statement Reiterating the Board's Commitment to Academic Freedom and Affirming its Commitment to Freedom of Expression

Regent Whitburn narrated a personal experience he had as a student and emphasized the fundamental mission of the university to make students "feel safe, encouraged, and able to speak." He added that it was a good and appropriate time to display the UW System's strong commitment to principles and values of freedom of expression. The adopted statement expresses the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents' expectation that the principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression will be upheld within the UW System.

Regent Petersen noted the timeliness of the statement for the nation and the state, emphasizing that it was "never a bad time to affirm free speech." Regent Higgins mentioned that the proposed adoption of the statement was in the public interest and would reassure researchers, faculty, students and their families "how to think and learn" and not "what they may not think." Regent Evers noted that as a public official he favored freedom of expression but noted a process problem. As he had no

opportunity to participate in the proposed document, he requested a more timely inclusion of Committee members in preparing Board of Regents' statements.

The Committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Dr. Carmen Faymonville

Secretary to the Education Committee