

5/27/2015

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

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

Thursday, June 4, 2015

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

UW-Milwaukee

2200 East Kenwood Boulevard

UWM Union, Wisconsin Room

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the April 9, 2015, Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. UW-Milwaukee Research, Economic Development, and Business Outreach Discussion and Update – Led by Chancellor Mark Mone
- c. WEDC Trade Mission Update and Foreign Direct Investment Initiative
- d. Panel Discussion: Wisconsin Angel and Venture Capitalists – Perspectives on Funding for University Start-ups – Led by UW System Interim Executive Vice President David J. Ward

UW-MILWAUKEE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND BUSINESS OUTREACH DISCUSSION AND UPDATE

BACKGROUND

As Wisconsin's only public urban research university, UWM has established an international reputation for excellence in research, community engagement, teaching, and entrepreneurship. UW-Milwaukee educates more Wisconsin residents than any other university and recruits a growing population of international students and faculty. It is also the most diverse institution within the UW System, serving 28,000 students. Over the past several years, UWM has made significant strides in its efforts to increase engagement with local, regional and global business entities, and to provide opportunities for students to participate in internships and other hands-on work experiences.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

DISCUSSION

UWM's vision of Powerful Ideas and Proven Results is reflected in its growing portfolio of patents and research funding. The university has developed the only U.S. school dedicated exclusively to freshwater sciences and UWM's Innovation Center, located in close proximity to the Medical Center Research facilities in Wauwatosa, along with the co-location of several international businesses that support research partnerships, faculty innovation, and student work experiences. The UWM Research Foundation builds partnerships and develops patents in the areas of desalination, medical technology, self-healing metals, pain-relief drug compounds, and others. Research expenditures top \$60 million annually. UWM continues to develop and strengthen partnerships with Johnson Controls, Rockwell International, and other innovative, global companies.

The following individuals will join Chancellor Mark Mone to provide additional information on these initiatives and/or be available to answer questions:

- Brian Thompson, president of the UWM Research Foundation
- Ilya Avdeev, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

**WEDC TRADE MISSION UPDATE AND
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE**

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

Katy Sinnott, WEDC's Vice President of International Business Development, 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 exports for Wisconsin business and to increase awareness of foreign direct investment opportunities across the state.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

**PANEL DISCUSSION: WISCONSIN ANGEL AND VENTURE CAPITALISTS—
PERSPECTIVES ON FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY START-UPS**

BACKGROUND

The Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee adopts policies and develops strategies designed to strengthen UW System's overall contribution to the state's economic development. REDI supports research, professional development, and outreach at all UW System institutions. REDI Committee meetings in 2015 have focused on understanding the pitfalls and strengthening the pathways from discovery to innovation and product commercialization. Small businesses generate an outsized proportion of new jobs and market expansion. At the same time, these firms regularly experience challenges in attracting sufficient capital to fund growth and infrastructure development. The pool of capital in Wisconsin for angel and venture investment is small, but growing. Understanding the risk/reward profile that attracts capital from these investors can help ensure that innovative products and new ideas achieve market success more quickly and efficiently.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information only.

DISCUSSION

David J. Ward, principal of Angels on the Water and UW System Interim Senior Vice President, will moderate a panel discussion of Wisconsin angel and venture capitalists. The discussion will highlight investor observations and lessons learned related to the dynamics of capital attraction for university start-ups.

Panelists include:

- Charlie Goff, Principal, New Venture Capital Fund, Appleton, Wis.
- John Neis, Principal, Venture Investors, Madison, Wis.
- Leon Ostrowski, Founder, Central Wisconsin Business Angels, Plover, Wis.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.