

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

Regent Whitburn convened the meeting of the Education Committee at 10:49 a.m. Regents Evers, Farrow, Higgins, Langnes, Petersen, Manydeeds, and Tyler were present.

Committee Actions

The Education Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the June 4, 2015 meeting and adopted the following six resolutions:

- [Resolution I.1.c.(1)], approving the B.S. and the B.A. in Neurobiology at UW-Madison;
- [Resolution I.1.c.(2)], approving the B.S. in Agricultural Engineering at UW-River Falls;
- [Resolution I.1.c.(3)], approving the B.S. in Chemical Engineering at UW-Stevens Point;
- [Resolution I.1.c.(4)], approving the Flexible Option M.S. in Geodesign and GIS Technologies at UW Stevens Point (with support from UW-Extension);
- [Resolution I.1.c.(5)], approving the Master of Healthcare Administration (M.H.A.) at UW-Milwaukee; and
- [Resolution I.1.d.], approving the UW System Accountability Metrics Required by the 2015-17 Biennial Budget: Educational Performance Accountability Measures.

B.S. and B.A. in Neurobiology at UW-Madison

Provost Mangelsdorf explained that the difference between the B.S. and the B.A. lies in world language requirements for the B.A. and more in-depth science courses for the B.S. and confirmed that the current elective option in the existing UW-Madison biology degree program will be phased out.

B.S. in Agricultural Engineering at UW-River Falls

Provost Delgado reported that 130 credits for graduation are necessary, as additional prerequisites in physics and other science courses were added so that graduates will succeed in industry jobs. UW-River Falls is also currently revising its General Education program, which will require fewer credits for completion of the non-major portion of the engineering degree in the future. .

M.S. in Geodesign and GIS Technologies at UW-Stevens Point

Provost Summers conveyed that, upon timely approval by HLC, the program would start enrolling students in three months. UW-Stevens Point conducted market studies to confirm demand for the FLEX Option format for the degree.

B.S. in Chemical Engineering at UW-Stevens Point

- Provost Summers shared that in recruiting engineering students, UW-Stevens Point will build relations with feeder STEM-focus high schools in Wisconsin and outside the state.
- Regent Higgins expressed support for recruitment of underrepresented students who are well prepared and expressed concern that possible placement of admitted students in remedial education would not cause educational attainment issues.

Provost Summers responded that students admitted have the same ACT and test scores and academic standards have not been lowered.

- Regent Farrow called for an outreach to industry resulting in internships and scholarships for chemical and paper science engineering students, thereby keeping graduates in the state.

Master in Healthcare Administration, UW-Milwaukee

Regent Higgins noted that he was on the State Hospital Authority Board and inquired to what extent the proposed M.H.A. incorporates different approaches to the delivery of healthcare, as graduates will be among the primary actors in implementing health care delivery options. Provost Britz mentioned a UW-Milwaukee connection with Aurora Healthcare, Inc. and cooperation with pharmaceutical industries.

UW System Accountability Metrics

Interim Vice President Ward explained that the 2011-13 biennial budget legislated over 40 accountability measures in an annual report from the UW System Board of Regents regarding all UW System institutions other than UW-Madison, and a separate annual report from the Chancellor of UW-Madison. These required items are now provided through a combination of the UW System Accountability Dashboard and supplemental items available on the dashboard website. The 2015-17 biennial budget requires the Board of Regents to identify accountability measures in the following four areas: (a) financial management, (b) administrative management, (c) educational performance, and (d) research and economic development. These accountability measures identified by the Board will be submitted to the appropriate standing committee in each house by October 1, 2015, for approval by those committees. The three measures approved by the Education Committee are graduation rates, equity gap, and degrees conferred.

Resolution I.1.h., the requested reappointment of UW-Madison Professor James Bennett and the appointment of UW-Madison Professor David Mladenoff to the Natural Areas Preservation Council was removed from the agenda by Education Committee Chair Whitburn and postponed to a later date.

The Vice President's Report

The UW System Remedial/Developmental Education Strategy aims at:

- Reducing demand for remedial/developmental education;
- Increasing student success in remedial/developmental education instruction;
- Reducing time to degree;
- Reducing costs; and
- Creating multiple approaches for multiple audiences.

During 2014-15 the Board of Regents approved 15 new programs; during the same time period, 14 programs were eliminated by UW institutions, showing that the systemwide array is actively managed. Regent Whitburn observed that ten of the 14 programs were eliminated by UW-Madison and that eight institutions did not eliminate any programs during this period.

The search process for the recruitment of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs is underway. The search committee will meet September 22, 2015, to review applicants. It is expected that preliminary interviews of finalists will take place in December 2015, with a new vice president to take office as early as February, 2016.

On August 20, 2015, the UW System Office of General Counsel submitted Chapters UWS 4, 7, 11 and 17, Wis. Stats., to the Wisconsin Legislative Council for its review in accordance with the state rulemaking procedures. The UW System will conduct a public hearing on the proposed rules on October 26, 2015. If significant changes are made, the rules will come back for the Board's final review before they are published.

Proposed Change to the UW-Stevens Point Select Mission Statement

Provost Summers indicated that the UW-Stevens Point select mission was thoroughly revised and restructured in order to better reflect the university's new strategic plan, and in particular the university's desire to meet regional needs. The academic program array approved by the Board is presented in more detail, making more visible the breadth of professional undergraduate and graduate programs. The term "select engineering programs" was added to the programs listed.

This was the first reading, and no action was taken. Before the mission change proposal is brought back to the Regents for approval, the campus must hold a public hearing.

Proposed Change to the UW-Extension Select Mission Statement

UW-Extension requested Board of Regents consideration of a substantive mission change. This proposed change would provide UW-Extension with degree-granting authority for select degrees. Chancellor Sandeen and Provost Brower presented the rationale for the proposed mission change to the Committee. If approved, the mission change would permit UW-Extension to seek authorization to offer 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 has been talking with comprehensive institutions delivering business degrees since 2012 and found it was difficult for these universities to offer the business degree. Chancellor Sandeen added that there is no intention to build UW-Extension faculty but to provide resources and help hire faculty at collaborating institutions.

Regent Petersen recommended accelerating the timeline for UW-Extension's mission as much as possible so that the UW System could emerge stronger as a system under the new budget conditions. Regent Tyler noted that the proposed mission change would create an overlay of programs with the Wisconsin Technical Colleges (WTCS), and observed that there had been no coordination with the WTCS in bringing this mission change request forward. Chancellor Sandeen explained that the delivery format was the differentiator, resulting in non-duplication. Provost Brower indicated he would confer with President Foy and Provost and Vice President Cullen, at WTCS.

This was the first reading, and no action was taken. Before the mission change proposal is brought back to the Regents for approval, the campus must hold a public hearing.

UW-Whitewater Presentation

John Stone, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, informed the Regents about UW-Whitewater’s High-Impact Educational Practices (HIPs). Stone, accompanied by Colleen Dyer, a UW-Whitewater Senior and Elementary Education Major, recounted that UW-Whitewater fosters life-long learning by embracing the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). In 2013-14, UW-Whitewater completed a comprehensive review of its deployment of HIPs, including programs such as the First Year Experience, Learning Communities, Undergraduate Research, Global Learning, Internships. UW-Whitewater’s research affirms that student engagement in HIPs is strongly related to student success (i.e., increased student retention and graduation). Student engagement in campus employment results in one of the learning outcomes highly desired by employers: integrative and applied learning.

The Committee adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Dr. Carmen Faymonville
Secretary to the Education Committee