

**Preliminary Minutes of the UW System Board of Regents  
Education Committee Meeting on  
August 18, 2016**

Regent Whitburn convened the meeting of the Education Committee on Thursday, August 18th, 2016, at 9:45 a.m. Regents Evers, Klein, Farrow, Higgins, Langnes, Manydeeds, Petersen, and Tyler were present.

**Committee Actions**

On August 18, 2016, the Education Committee unanimously adopted the June 9, 2016, Minutes and the following resolutions:

Resolution I.1.c., approving the Master of Science in Sport Management at UW-Parkside;  
Resolution I.1.d., approving the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing for second-degree candidates at UW-Madison;

Resolution I.1.e., approving the Master of Science in Athletic Training at UW-Stevens Point;

Resolution I.1.f., approving the reappointments of Dr. Dunwoody and Dr. Bradbury to the Natural Areas Preservation Council; and

Resolution I.1.g., approving the School of Engineering at UW-Stout.

**Report of the Vice President**

Vice President Henderson reported on the progress of two areas of importance for the academic programs of the UW System. First, Henderson told the Regents that the UW System will be adopting a common threshold on the systemwide Math Placement Test to ensure that students achieving that score, regardless of which campus they attend, will not be required to enroll in a developmental math course.

After considering the recommendation of the Task Force on Math Remediation and continued consultation with the Provosts over the past four months, the System will adopt the requirement that all first-time students entering directly into a bachelor's degree program will be required to take the math placement test prior to enrollment. A student achieving the threshold score will not be required to take developmental math.

If a student scores below that level, the admitting campus will take into consideration the student's mathematical ability as indicated by other measures, the student's anticipated degree requirements, and the ability of the student to complete the campus quantitative skills requirement for general education before determining the best initial course schedule for the student.

Institutions are encouraged to adopt best practices for increasing student success among those scoring below the threshold, including the creation of credit-bearing courses that include supplemental instruction or 'just in time' developmental math components, assigning students to an introductory statistics course rather than college algebra for certain majors, and designing engaging developmental math courses for those who truly need additional math coursework. The goals for this program are threefold:

- 1) Decrease the number of students assigned to remedial math courses;
- 2) Increase the number of entering students in credit-bearing classes that are appropriate for their major, career goals, and math skills; and
- 3) Improve the UW System's ability to collaborate with K-12 through a uniform set of expectations for success on the math placement exam.

In the ensuing brief discussion, Regent Whitburn remarked that the standardization of the cut score would help to address existing inconsistencies for incoming freshmen. Regent Evers expressed his full support of the Vice President's plan to set a common cut score for math, remarking that it was good for customer relations when the schools know what students have to do to get admitted to the UW System.

In response to Regent Farrow's question on whether students can take the Early Math Placement Test (EMPT) so they have a better idea what to expect in college, Henderson affirmed that high school students will have more incentive to take the EMPT to tell them exactly where they are in their math skills during their junior year. Regent Farrow offered the Board's assistance in sending out the letter to the 4000-plus school districts, so that students in the district can profit from taking the test in their junior year.

Regent Whitburn noted that in the past there had been some reluctance about interfacing with local districts. Responding to Regent Klein's question about how the consistency of standards will be maintained at specific campuses and whether the introduction of a common cut score would possibly result in lowering the standards, Henderson replied that there would be no lower standards. He acknowledged that some UW System institutions will see an increase in students not meeting the threshold. The policy change will also affect students who do well in math but place somewhat low on the Math Placement Test. Clearly, students who take AP Calculus in high school and score high but then fail to reach an acceptable score on the placement test need different types of attention and help. Henderson's goal is to have more students be successful by placing them properly and by enrolling them in proper courses that help them to succeed.

Regent Whitburn referred the Committee to data that the Education Committee had received in previous years showing that students with the same ACT scores would place into remedial courses at one comprehensive university in the System but not in another and that the removal of these types of inconsistencies was paramount

Further, Henderson reported that he has been working with the Provosts to ensure that institutions meet the Board requirement to submit their post-tenure review policies to the Board by the end of this calendar year. Several campuses have engaged faculty members during the summer in the development of policy within the Board framework. Some campuses have submitted preliminary drafts of their policies to System Administration for an early consultation. Those drafts contain very different processes that are tailored to the needs of each campus and designed to meet the requirements as stated in Board policy.

Based on conversations with the Provosts at the August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Provosts meeting, System Administration expects that all institutions will meet the deadline for submission and that each institution will have its policy in place for the fall of 2017.

Regent Whitburn commended UW-La Crosse, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Milwaukee and UW-Oshkosh for their timely work on the post-tenure review policies and recommended that all institutions come to the Board requesting approval of their policies before the December Education Committee meeting. If the need arises, Regent Whitburn proposes a meeting of the Education Committee at the November one-day Board meeting.

### **UW-Parkside Master of Science in Sport Management**

In introducing the proposed M.S. in Sport Management, Provost Ducoffe emphasized that this degree program will be the first of its kind in the UW System. Intended for working students, the program includes courses on finance, communication skills, and fundraising. Four of the graduate courses are cross-listed for undergraduate students, and six credits earned from cross-listed courses would count towards the graduate education program. Responding to Regent Evers' question about whether undergraduate students would need to do anything additional beyond the normal course expectations, Ducoffe responded that additional research and other projects are required to get graduate credit.

### **UW-Madison Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing for second-degree candidates**

Provost Mangelsdorf introduced the new UW-Madison Dean of Nursing, Dr. Linda D. Scott, and gave an overview of the proposed degree which admits students who have already completed foundational science and general education courses. Mangelsdorf cited projections that 80 percent of the graduates will be staying in the state, helping to address the Wisconsin nursing shortage. There is no state funding used for this degree. Some of the revenue from the program will be set aside for financial aid and to sustain the traditional nursing program.

Although supporting the program overall, Regents Whitburn, Tyler and Langnes individually expressed concerns about the pricing of the program and asked Mangelsdorf to explain why the proposed tuition charge of \$45,000 was appropriate for the market. Provost Mangelsdorf commented that the program is serving new students who otherwise would be turned away and does not impact the state-set tuition freeze. Regent Langnes asked Mangelsdorf to consider keeping the price down and suggested that wages undergo cycles that sometimes result in lower compensation even in high-demand areas.

Regents Farrow and Tyler articulated their support of the innovative program citing experts that predict the shortage of nurses will get worse and that the program's accelerated format will address the shortage more quickly and get graduates into the workforce sooner. In response to Regent Tyler asking about the success of students seeking credentials as registered nurses and sitting for the state certification exam, Dean Scott responded that students with second-degree qualifications excel on state board exams, averaging in the low 90 percent the first time they are taking the exam.

### **UW-Stevens Point Master of Science in Athletic Training**

Provost Summers reported that the proposed M.S. in Athletic Training was developed because of the changing entrance-level requirements in the profession and contains online modules to serve students seeking distance education. Regent Whitburn commended UW-Stevens Point on the proposed M.S. in Athletic Training “3+2” structure allowing students to complete two degrees in five years, e.g., a student could complete a B.S. in Health Science in three years and obtain the M.S. in Athletic Training in two more years. Summers summarized that this format allows UW-Stevens Point to keep students at the institution.

### **Reappointments to the Natural Areas Preservation Council (NAPC)**

Vice President Henderson explained to the Committee that the NAPC advises the Department of Natural Resources State Natural Areas Program on issues relating to the establishment, protection and management of State Natural Areas. The council is composed of 11 members with backgrounds in conservation biology, botany, zoology, ecology and geology. "Natural area" means an area of land or water which has educational or scientific value or is important as a reservoir of the state's genetic or biologic diversity and includes any buffer area necessary to protect the area's natural values (i.e., a habitat for endangered, threatened or critical species or for species of special concern to scientists or an area with highly significant geological or archaeological features).

The natural areas preservation council makes recommendations to the DNR concerning the suitability of natural areas offered by donations for inclusion in the state system, the purchase of natural areas, and the suitability of areas offered as dedications by individuals or organizations. Regent Farrow requested follow-up information on whether members of the council attend all Department of Natural Resources meetings, being concerned that the experts on the council were perhaps working in a silo. Regent Whitburn stated that the council's advisory function seemed technical in nature.

### **UW-Stout School of Engineering**

Introducing the rationale for the proposed School of Engineering, Provost Guilfoile explained that UW-Stout has reduced its number of colleges from four to three. The School of Engineering, to be housed in one of the remaining colleges, will leverage resources across units and support accreditation efforts. At a future meeting, UW-Stout will ask the Education Committee to approve the naming of the School, which is being established with a significant pledge of funding by a private donor. Regent Whitburn ascertained that the establishment of the school will not create a new deanship, and Chancellor Meyer confirmed that the proposal was a no-cost request.

The Education Committee adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Carmen Faymonville, Ph.D.  
Staff to the Education Committee