

**Minutes of the Research, Economic Development, & Innovation Committee**  
**University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents**  
**UW System**  
**February 4, 2016**

Chairman Higgins convened the meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee at 9:00 a.m. Regents Higgins, Hall, Harsy, Petersen and Tyler were present.

**a. Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2015, Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee**

Chairman Higgins asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015, REDI Committee meeting. Motion was made by Regent Petersen and seconded by Regent Tyler to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. 2016 Regent Scholar Grants: Honoring Award Recipients and Business Partners – Led by Regents Tim Higgins and Mark Tyler**

Regent Higgins recognized the evaluation committee for their dedicated service in selecting the grant recipients. Evaluators were asked to come forward to accept certificates of appreciation. Evaluators in attendance included Aaron Hagar, Vice President, Division of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation; Bob Jokisch, UW System Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Mark Pioli, Policy and Planning Analyst, UW System Office of Policy Analysis and Research; and the evaluation committee chair, Regent Mark Tyler. Evaluators Frank Cannella, Founder of Cannella Response Television, and John Russell, CEO/President of Columbus Community Hospital, were recognized in absentia.

Regent Mark Tyler then asked each grant recipient's Chancellor to introduce their respective institution's Regent Scholar:

- UW-Eau Claire, Associate Professor Joseph Hupy: *Lowering Overhead Inventory Costs Within the Industrial Aggregate and Sand Mining Industry Using Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Technology*
- UW-Oshkosh, Professor Toivo Kallas: *Bioengineering of a newly discovered, ultra fast-growing cyanobacterium for enhanced carbon capture and chemicals production*
- UW-Platteville, Assistant Professor Mohammad Rabbani: *Design and Synthesis of Nitrogen-Rich Porous Organic Polymers with Ultra-Small Pores and Their Uses in Construction of Porous Membranes for Gas Separation Application*

Each Regent Scholar gave a brief presentation of their work and thanked the Committee for recognizing them with these awards. Regent Higgins asked each professor to provide an overview of their workload at the end of their presentations and thanked them for being shining examples of faculty going above and beyond what is routinely expected of faculty.

### **c. UW System Talent Development Progress Report – Led by Ray Cross**

UW System President Ray Cross thanked Regent Higgins for the opportunity to speak to the REDI committee again. President Cross discussed the progress being made on the Talent Initiative since its introduction at the December REDI Committee Meeting. President Cross emphasized that every student should have some connection to a career or professional experience, be it a job shadow, internship, co-op experience etc. He outlined the list of partners that have joined the initiative so far which included the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA), and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC). He noted that additional partnerships are under discussion as well. He mentioned that Scott Jansen of DWD has agreed to work with System Administration to develop an "intern" pull-down tab as well as other supports on the DWD "Job Center of Wisconsin" website.

President Cross also outlined progress to address a three-year degree concept. With rising tuition costs, this proposal could help reduce tuition up to 25 percent.

### **a. UW-Madison Economic Development & Research Update – Led by Charles Hoslet, Interim Vice Chancellor for University Relations**

Interim Vice Chancellor for University Relations Charles Hoslet led a panel of presenters that included Susan LaBelle, Managing Director of the UW-Madison Office of Corporate Relations; Jamie Marsh-Finco, Director of Career Services at the Wisconsin School of Business; and Professor Jon Eckhardt, Executive Director of the Weinert Center for Entrepreneurship. The panel highlighted various efforts at UW-Madison designed to help students identify and connect with companies and organizations that have job openings, as well as efforts that help Wisconsin employers connect with UW-Madison students. With over 50 percent of graduates graduating with some form of debt, the ability to connect students to job placements is critical for the students' ability to pay off that debt.

Over two-thirds of UW-Madison students have had some form of internship or co-op experience by graduation with one of the 800 partner organizations. Highlighted career programs included:

- The Career Ready Internship Grant, which is offered to junior or senior students of color with financial need. The spring semester engaged 16 employers in the program for 54 positions;
- The Career Services Council, which was created in 2008 and helped consolidate the 26 career entities previously in existence on campus. The council represents a coordination of career services across campus;
- Career fairs which engage more than 7,000 students and more than 500 employers (52 percent of which offer opportunities in Wisconsin).
- Entrepreneurship events and resources which included but was not limited to the Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Showcase (WES), the Distinguished Entrepreneurship Lunch (DEL), and the Wisconsin Entrepreneurial Bootcamp (WEB).

At the conclusion of the presentations, Regent Hall expressed her congratulations to the panel of

presenters for their ability to make connections with business and their ability to address the growing desire of the younger generation to work for themselves.

Chairman Higgins adjourned the meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee at 10:15 a.m.