MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
of the
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Held in Ojibwe Ballroom (330)
UW-Eau Claire, Davies Center
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Friday, October 7, 2016
9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2016 MEETING

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

REMOVAL OF THE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AID BOARD AND WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD

TASK FORCE UPDATES

BIENIAL BUDGET UPDATE

UW-SUPERIOR RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL LEADER IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYSTEM

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE UW SYSTEM

UW System among Top 100 Most Innovative Universities in the World

UW-Eau Claire Community Partnerships Transform Student Learning

UW-Parkside Hosts Multicultural Community Conversation

UW-River Falls Exhibits Greenwall Research at Minnesota State Fair

UW-Whitewater Faculty and Students are “Testing the Waters”

UW-La Crosse Ranks among the Best Regional Universities in the Midwest

UW-Stout Celebrates Grand Reopening of Harvey Hall

UW-Green Bay Continues Innovative Freshmen Program

UW-Superior Announces New Agreement in Early Childhood Education

UW-Oshkosh Offers Accelerated Path to Economics Master’s Degree

UW-Madison Celebrates 2016 Wisconsin Science Festival

UW-Stevens Point Student Wrangles Turtles

UW-Platteville Hosts Second Annual 21st Century Policing Conference

UW-Marshfield/Wood County Breaks Ground on New STEM Center

UW-Extension’s Collaborative Online Degree Programs See Rapid Enrollment Growth

UW-Milwaukee Theater Professor Named 2016 MacArthur Fellow

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Approval of School of Medicine and Public Health Appointments to the Oversight and Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future

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Friday, October 7, 2016
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-Presiding-

PRESENT: Regents John Behling, Lisa Erickson, Margaret Farrow, Michael Grebe, Eve Hall, Tim Higgins, Tracey Klein, James Langnes, Edmund Manydeeds, Regina Millner, Janice Mueller, Drew Petersen, Bryan Steil, Mark Tyler, and Gerald Whitburn

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Mark Bradley, José Delgado, and Tony Evers

President Millner convened the meeting after a musical performance by the 80-member UW-Eau Claire Women’s Concert Chorale, led by Dr. Frank Watkins, Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education and Director of Choral Studies.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2016 MEETING

The minutes of the August 2016 Board of Regents meeting had been provided. Upon the motion of Regent Petersen, with a second by Regent Hall, the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Beginning her report, President Millner noted that it was National Manufacturing Day. In 2012, Wisconsin’s total output was $50 billion, and 95 percent of the state’s exports were from manufactured products. Stating that the day was worth noting, particularly since the Board
was meeting in one of Wisconsin’s manufacturing centers, she thanked Regent Tyler for bringing this to her attention.

**Reports of the Higher Educational Aids Board and Wisconsin Technical College System Board**

The reports of the Higher Educational Aids Board and the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided. There were no questions or comments.

**Task Force Updates**

President Millner thanked Chancellor Schmidt and the UW-Eau Claire campus community for their outstanding hospitality and for letting the Regents share in their centennial celebrations, from the Blugold band performance to the impressive presentations at the groundbreaking of the Confluence Arts Center. Saying that the campus had many reasons to be proud, she wished UW-Eau Claire well in its next hundred years.

President Millner then provided two task force updates. First, the Tuition-setting Policy Task Force, led by Regent Higgins, had been on hiatus since August while the staff focused on the UW System’s biennial budget request. The task force would resume its charge in November, and its work would inform how the Board sets tuition for the 2019-2021 biennium and beyond.

Nominations for membership on the Task Force on Campus Climate had been received from all chancellors, and President Millner said that work was being done to develop a focused charge for the group. Regents Hall and Manydeeds would be serving as co-chairs, and the first meeting of the task force would be scheduled soon after the members are appointed.

**Biennial Budget Update**

President Millner reported that the UW System was picking up the momentum of its outreach and advocacy related to the 2020 FWD strategic framework and the budget proposal approved and advanced by the Board in August.

President Millner said she was pleased to be part of a UW-Madison budget forum led by Chancellor Blank in mid-September. She also had an opportunity to address the UW-Madison Board of Visitors for the History Department. At both events, she said it was clear that people are very proud of the university and are deeply committed to its success. All around the state there had been a variety of venues and opportunities for the UW System to engage its stakeholders, and that work would continue in the coming months.

President Millner thanked Vice President Behling for joining her in a joint op-ed, published in late August, which stressed the value of the UW System and the need for shared investment. She noted that Regent Petersen also had an opportunity to address his colleagues on the UW System’s 2020 FWD plan. Other Regents were reaching out to help keep the facts and the message about the UW System’s value in front of industry peers, community leaders, legislators, and others throughout the state.
Recognizing that there were more good works from her colleagues in these efforts, President Millner expressed appreciation for the time and energy that the Regents were investing, and urged them to continue attending campus events, speaking about the UW System at local organizations, and engaging in other positive ways with legislators and the public. She also noted that the University Relations team and staff at each of the UW institutions were more than willing to help provide materials, background, or any other necessary support.

**UW-Superior Recognized as National Leader in Community Engagement**

The general theme for the Board’s October meeting would be business and community mobilization, one of the cornerstones of the 2020FWD strategic framework. With that in mind, President Millner said she was pleased to share the news that UW-Superior had been recognized the previous week as a national leader in community engagement by being named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

UW-Superior is the only school within the region to receive this honor, which is the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to community, service-learning, and civic engagement. President Millner offered her congratulations to Chancellor Wachter and the UW-Superior campus community.

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**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYSTEM**

**Legislative Updates**

President Millner next turned to President Cross, who noted that with the fall elections approaching, the UW System’s strategy was to help candidates understand the System’s new strategic framework. At the same time, UW institutions also are engaging with their local candidates. The UW System Administration team has also been actively engaging the Governor’s office and key legislative leaders on different aspects of the System’s budget request. In addition to the budget, the System is using a legislative review and tracking process to identify key legislative initiatives that may be proposed in the upcoming session.

On the federal front, President Cross indicated that he had recently co-signed with Kurt Bauer, President and CEO of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, a letter to the Wisconsin members of the Congressional delegation, expressing strong support for the Manufacturing Universities Act. This act, which has been introduced in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, would establish a program to designate 25 institutions of higher education as U.S. manufacturing universities.

The goal of the legislation is to step up advanced manufacturing and engineering programs at universities across the country by providing incentives for universities to partner with manufacturing firms in their regions to increase training opportunities and foster manufacturing entrepreneurship.
President Cross noted that this act is important for Wisconsin, which has approximately 9,400 manufacturers that employ about 450,000 workers – nearly 17 percent of the state’s workforce. Manufacturing also contributes $50 billion to the state’s economy. In asking the Wisconsin delegation to co-sponsor the legislation, he and Mr. Bauer had emphasized that Wisconsin manufacturers and universities have the collaborative relationships and partnerships in place to successfully compete for designation as a U.S. manufacturing university. To date, Wisconsin co-sponsors included Senator Baldwin and Congressmen Pocan, Kind and Ribble.

News from Around the UW System

President Cross next shared some news from around the UW System.

UW System among Top 100 Most Innovative Universities in the World

The previous week, international news agency Reuters released its top 100 rankings of the most innovative universities in the world for 2016. President Cross said he was proud to report that the UW System ranks 13th worldwide. The Reuters list relies exclusively on empirical data – such as patent filings and research paper citations – and ranks the educational institutions doing the most to advance science, invent new technologies, and help drive the global economy. The UW System has a $15 billion impact on Wisconsin’s economy each year, and President Cross suggested that this report signals why it is critical to invest in the System’s success.

UW-Eau Claire Community Partnerships Transform Student Learning

Thanks to community partnerships with companies like Xcel Energy, UW-Eau Claire is able to offer programs, financial support, and high impact practices for students and community members that would not otherwise be possible. The Xcel Energy Foundation has been a steadfast partner since 1961, and its annual gift of $15,000 to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation goes to the continued support of student scholarships, key outreach programs – such as Blugold Beginnings – and high impact practices that transform student learning.

UW-Parkside Hosts Multicultural Community Conversation

A multi-cultural community conversation was held at UW-Parkside in September, bringing together representatives of businesses, community organizations, K-12 education, and workforce development. This was the second time the group had met with the important goal of identifying opportunities to help students of color participate and succeed in higher education. President Cross congratulated Chancellor Ford and asked her to report back on the results of future conversations.

UW-River Falls Exhibits Greenwall Research at Minnesota State Fair

UW-River Falls exhibited its greenwall research at the Minnesota State Fair over the summer. The exhibit included activities and a full-sized version of the foliage wall, or vertical vegetation system, which was installed on campus in 2015 to study the effects of greenery and plants on student behavior, mood, and classroom performance.
UW-Whitewater Faculty and Students are “Testing the Waters”

UW-Whitewater Associate Professor Eric Compas and his students worked with the Rock River Coalition on a 10-day project called “Testing the Waters,” a sampling of the Rock River between Horicon and Beloit. Kayaks fixed with scientific equipment provided data on dissolved oxygen levels, PH levels, electrical conductivity, and temperature.

UW-La Crosse Ranks among the Best Regional Universities in the Midwest

U.S. News & World Report’s 2017 America’s Best Colleges list ranks UW-La Crosse as the state’s best and the fourth-ranked public university among the best regional universities in the Midwest. President Cross noted that UW-La Crosse has remained the state’s top-ranked UW System comprehensive university and among the top four in the Midwest for 16 years.

UW-Stout Celebrates Grand Reopening of Harvey Hall

UW-Stout’s Harvey Hall, which first opened in 1916, celebrated a grand re-opening in September after a $28-million renovation. The renovation process preserved the historic architecture and character of the academic building while adding much-needed modern amenities. President Cross said he was pleased to have attended the grand re-opening ceremony, and congratulated Chancellor Meyer on having done a beautiful job with that facility.

UW-Green Bay Continues Innovative Freshmen Program

UW-Green Bay kicked off the fourth year of its innovative Gateways to Phoenix Success (GPS) program. The program is designed to help 160 new freshmen – most from under-served populations – navigate through their first year of college. More than 70 percent of the 2016 cohort comes from historically under-represented groups: first generation, low income, and/or students of color. GPS is a free, high-impact, year-long experience for first-year students that provides a fast path to college success. With the goal of eliminating gaps in academic achievement for these groups, President Cross said this program is the 2020FWD framework in action.

UW-Superior Announces New Agreement in Early Childhood Education

UW-Superior and the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College announced a new articulation agreement in Early Childhood Education. Any student enrolled in the Wisconsin Technical College System with an Early Childhood Education Associate of Applied Science degree can seamlessly transfer the credits earned in that program to UW-Superior for a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood minor. UW-Superior’s Elementary Education program is available both on campus and online.

UW-Oshkosh Offers Accelerated Path to Economics Master’s Degree

UW-Oshkosh and Marquette University have partnered to offer an accelerated path to an economics master’s degree. Through the partnership, Marquette University will accept certain upper-level UW-Oshkosh economics electives for graduate credit for students accepted into the
program, which will ultimately reduce the time requirement in the graduate program at Marquette to one year. UW-Oshkosh is the only public university in the country that currently has this partnership with Marquette.

President Cross also noted that Chancellor Leavitt had recently received the Fit Oshkosh Inc. inaugural Racial Literacy Hero Award for his “visible leadership and commitment to increasing the racial literacy of the residents of Winnebago County; within the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh; and in all places of influence.”

**UW-Madison Celebrates 2016 Wisconsin Science Festival**

UW-Madison and its many partners were set to celebrate the 2016 Wisconsin Science Festival in late October. Now in its sixth year, the festival would feature 200-plus events spanning 34 cities and towns in Wisconsin. Activities including arcade games, storytelling, and stargazing are designed to interest people who may not think they are interested in science. President Cross congratulated Laura Heisler, director of the festival and director of programming for the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and the Morgridge Institute for Research.

**UW-Stevens Point Student Wrangles Turtles**

UW-Stevens Point sophomore Mara Hathaway is majoring in biology, minoring in chemistry, and dreams of working in veterinarian science. She also serves as one of the five student turtle wranglers who have worked with biology lecturer Nancy Shefferly since April to keep turtles safe along a stretch of Highway 66 near Jordan Park in Stevens Point. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has identified the turtle wranglers’ worksite as one of the state’s most dangerous wildlife crossings, so the extra support and expertise is highly valued.

**UW-Platteville Hosts Second Annual 21st Century Policing Conference**

UW-Platteville hosted the second annual 21st Century Policing Conference in September to address national policing issues. About 400 people attended, and the issues discussed during presentations, panels, and breakout sessions included appropriate police force, building community trust, de-escalation training, the intersection of policing and mental illness, restorative justice, and more.

**UW-Marshfield/Wood County Breaks Ground on New STEM Center**

UW-Marshfield/Wood County broke ground on the long-awaited Everett Roehl Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Center on September 13. The 17,000-square foot addition to the campus will house new chemistry, microbiology, and simulation laboratories. The center, which is expected to open in fall of 2017, is funded in partnership between the City of Marshfield, Wood County, trucking magnate Everett Roehl, and numerous other private donors.
UW-Extension’s Collaborative Online Degree Programs See Rapid Enrollment Growth

Collaborative online degree programs led by UW-Extension and including 12 UW System campuses have seen rapid enrollment growth. At the start of the fall 2016 semester, course enrollments increased 12.4 percent over fall 2015. This growth exceeds national online enrollment growth of 3.9 percent. The collaborative program experiencing the fastest enrollment growth is the online Master of Science in Data Science. In its first year, course enrollments doubled targets. President Cross congratulated all involved, including UW-Extension’s Division of Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning.

UW-Milwaukee Theater Professor Named 2016 MacArthur Fellow

UW-Milwaukee theater professor Anne Basting was named a 2016 MacArthur Fellow. This fellowship and award is also commonly known as the “Genius Grant.” Professor Basting is one of 23 new fellows nationally – and the first UWM faculty member – to earn the esteemed MacArthur Foundation’s highest honor. She earned the award for her work and creative focus through UWM’s Peck School of the Arts as an expert in integrating arts into aging services and long-term care.

As UWM has highlighted, Dr. Basting is the founder of the Creative Trust, an alliance that fosters lifelong learning through the arts and supports a Student Artist in Residence program connecting students with aging services organizations. This includes her TimeSlips Creative Storytelling Initiative, which works with people living with dementia and memory loss.

President Cross reported that the Board would have an opportunity to hear from Professor Basting directly at its November meeting as the focus of his next “Faculty Spotlight.” He indicated that Professor Basting is truly helping to improve the human condition in Wisconsin.

President Cross noted that more examples of the UW System’s impact throughout Wisconsin were available on the System’s website.

Student Spotlight

President Cross introduced Derek Dahlk, a UW-Eau Claire senior majoring in liberal studies, with a focus on critical theory and public policy.

Mr. Dahlk, who is from Verona, has been working on a project dealing with solar policy, public art, water conservation, and nutrition planning. He also works with the City of Eau Claire’s Advisory Commission on Sustainability, creating policy briefs and promotional materials about solar policy and water conservation. President Cross shared a quote from Dr. James Boulter, director of the Watershed Institute at UW-Eau Claire, on the larger impact of this partnership and the university’s close relationship with the city: “It’s very easy for a university to be off in our own corner of the community, but through these relationships over years and years where these interns keep coming back, this means that the university is really serving the community and the state…”
Mr. Dahlk then spoke, thanking the Board for the opportunity to showcase his personal experience and the future that he envisioned for UW campuses. He said that over the past two years, he had become absorbed with the necessity of collaboration in “building futures” for UW students, communities, and institutions. His desire for collaboration-specific engagement began in a course on sustainable cities taught by Dr. David Soll, where students worked in conjunction with city officials on a civic engagement project of their choosing. Mr. Dahlk worked with fellow students to create a public art policy manual outlining the high potential of Eau Claire’s economy and a collaborative public-private funding mechanism for art in the city.

During his time working on public art policy, he also became involved with the Health Impact Assessment for the redevelopment of a former industrial district. While working with the redevelopment project, he focused his research on strategies for fighting gentrification and improving food access for lower-income communities. Mr. Dahlk described meetings with community members and local leaders that helped expand his Eau Claire connections and his perception of the city. By working with individuals from public and private spheres with myriad personal interests, he said he realized the importance of multi-faceted, collaborative solutions to modern community issues.

Through his early work with the city Mr. Dahlk made a connection with Ned Noel, an associate city planner with the City of Eau Claire, who offered him an internship position in the Community Planning Department. Over the summer, Mr. Dahlk worked on a variety of projects emphasizing sustainability: creating brochures for Eau Claire’s new solar ordinance; drafting a policy brief on a water conservation resolution; and working on the City of Eau Claire’s first “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design” (CPTED) manual.

Dr. Jim Boulter, a UW-Eau Claire chemistry professor, provided Mr. Dahlk with valuable guidance throughout the internship process, helping him to receive three credits through the Watershed Institute and providing him with resources to set up the foundations for Eau Claire’s comprehensive municipal greenhouse gas inventory.

In spring 2015 Mr. Dahlk had the opportunity to attend Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, through a partnership between UW-Eau Claire and the University of Evansville. During his time abroad, he observed faculty and staff living and socializing with students, leading him to consider the importance of student-faculty connections and collaborations in the educational experience.

He suggested that having a connection with a professor gives students an incentive to perform better academically, increase classroom conversations, and produce novel research. He also suggested that those same factors are part of UW-Eau Claire’s recent ranking as the #1 undergraduate research program at a master’s-level university.

In addition to external campus-community collaborations, Mr. Dahlk indicated that UW institutions should also focus on internal collaboration between students, faculty, and administrative staff, who often see very different problems on campus and offer different solutions to those problems. He said it would be amazing to see students, faculty and
administration come together to create collaborative narratives for the future of their campuses and communities.

Mr. Dahlk stated that campuses have a responsibility to take on social issues that have damaging effects on their students’ lives, and collaboration between campuses, private organizations, and local authorities on those issues can improve efficiency and be mutually beneficial to all parties involved. He pointed to UW-Madison’s UniverCity Alliance as one of the examples of this kind of collaboration, as it brings research centers, students and local leaders together to improve local health.

Mr. Dahlk also proposed greater collaboration between departments, noting that blending disciplines and incorporating new perspectives can lead to creative developments and fewer errors in research. He gave credit to UW-Eau Claire’s liberal studies program for helping students develop an interdisciplinary mindset by allowing them to select up to three areas of emphasis – for example, his own program includes courses on theory, history, and civic engagement.

Citing his belief that studies in interdisciplinary theory have been beneficial to him as a researcher and that the importance of theory should be elevated on campuses, Mr. Dahlk shared that he was in the process of building an organization called the “Community Theory Organization,” which will work to integrate academic knowledge into communities, sponsor positive activism, and encourage people to break down boundaries in order to create productive narratives with each other. He added that he was both surprised and excited to see that UW-Eau Claire’s master plan for civic engagement fits well with several of his own ambitions for community revitalization.

Presidents Cross and Millner thanked Mr. Dahlk for his remarks. President Millner also commended the City of Eau Claire for its partnership with UW-Eau Claire. She observed that the educational experience this partnership provides is clearly benefitting both students and the community, which is what business and community mobilization is all about.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

President Millner called on Regent Hall to present the report of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee.

Regent Hall stated that the UW School of Medicine and Public Health presented its annual report to the committee. As background, she explained that when Blue Cross and Blue Shield United of Wisconsin converted from a nonprofit service corporation to a stock insurance corporation, the proceeds from the sale of stock were provided to the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and the Medical College of Wisconsin to form the Wisconsin Partnership
Program. The annual report detailing that programs’ activities and expenditures is presented to the Board of Regents each year.

Dean Robert Golden provided a brief overview of the Wisconsin Partnership Program’s 2015 annual report. Highlights include a total of $186 million awarded through 427 grants throughout Wisconsin since the program’s creation; the leveraging of initial funds to successfully compete for $326 million in extramural funds; and the launch of two new community grant programs addressing a range of health issues facing Wisconsin communities, including obesity, alcohol and other drug abuse, child abuse, and mental health.

Regent Hall said that Dean Golden then presented the four recommended appointees for the Oversight and Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Partnership Program. The committee reviewed and approved each of the candidates. Regent Hall moved adoption of Resolution 10749, approving the appointments to the Oversight and Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Regent Whitburn and adopted on a voice vote.

Approval of School of Medicine and Public Health Appointments to the Oversight and Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future

Resolution 10749 That, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System and the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Board of Regents approves the reappointment of Gregory Nycz and Kenneth Taylor and Drs. Robert F. Lemanske and Patrick Remington to the UW School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Partnership Program for four-year terms beginning November 1, 2016.

Regent Hall continued her report, stating that UW Colleges Professor Christa James-Byrnes had presented a competitive project that took top honors at the 2016 national Rube Goldberg competition. Under her direction, a team of UW-Barron County engineering students built a Nicola Tesla-themed umbrella-opening machine that won first place at the national finals held in Columbus, Ohio. The competition included teams from Purdue, the University of California-Berkeley, Penn State, and many others.

Regent Hall also noted that Professor James-Byrnes, who was present in the gallery, had recently been honored with the 2016 Career Award from the UW Colleges and UW-Extension. She then asked Professor James-Byrnes to stand and be recognized.

Finally, the committee learned that UW-Eau Claire is consistently rated among the top ten public Midwestern comprehensive universities and conservatively contributes $300 million of economic impact to the state. Chancellor Jim Schmidt led a panel discussion by regional business and healthcare leaders on how Eau Claire is expanding innovative partnerships to strengthen the region. The panel included Dr. Randy Linton, president and CEO of the Northwest Wisconsin Region of Mayo Clinic Health System; Julie Manas, president and CEO of the HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital; Nick Meyer, editor, publisher and owner of Volume One; and Mark Stoering, president of Xcel Energy of Michigan and Wisconsin.
President Millner commented that she had the opportunity to observe the UW-Barron County students explain their work on the Rube Goldberg machine to the committee, and offered her own congratulations to the team.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

President Millner called on Regent Mueller to present the report of the Business and Finance Committee. Regent Mueller said the committee began by hearing from Chancellor Schmidt about innovation and change at UW-Eau Claire. He explained how the campus has adapted to budget cuts while dealing with its second-largest freshman enrollment in recent history, which had included working to improve and consolidate certain operations.

The committee spent the bulk of its time reviewing the FY 2016 UW System Report on Program Revenue Balances and the individual spending and savings plans included in that report. Regent Mueller emphasized that the report represents a snapshot of the System’s program revenue reserves as of June 30, 2016. Unrestricted fund balances have continued to decline, particularly the tuition balance which has declined from $551.5 million to $295.6 million. The remaining funds are either planned or obligated, the two highest categories of commitment on the spectrum.

She encouraged the Regents to review the appendices of the report, which contained a great deal of information on the revenues and expenses at each campus, System Administration, and systemwide.

The committee also heard from UW-Madison staff on three master clinical trial agreements, all of which established general terms for individual studies and had an estimated value of over $1 million over the life of the contracts.

The committee approved a request from UW-Madison for an exception to the Board policy on large unendowed gifts, allowing the university to spend the full $500,000 bequest from the Marion Lou Coyle Trust as the lead gift for a tennis facility fundraising campaign.

The committee approved updates to the Board’s policies related to health, safety and security planning, as well as the repeal of an outdated policy on security lighting.

Regent Mueller said that David Miller, UW System Vice President for Administration and Fiscal Affairs, discussed revisions to the UW System’s administrative policies, which provide additional guidance to UW institutions in the policy areas which are broadly set by Regent policy. Vice President Miller also shared an update on the UW System Information Assurance Council’s efforts to improve information security, which Regent Mueller noted is a topic of great concern to both the Audit Committee and the Business and Finance Committee. Policy development is under way to address several key areas of information security.
Interim Vice President for Finance Julie Gordon informed the committee that the Legislative Audit Bureau has begun its FY 2016 financial audit, which would include follow-up on past audits. Regent Mueller noted that this audit may be delayed, not due to any issues on the UW System’s end, but rather due to some delays in receiving financial information from the state.

Finally, Regent Mueller reported that Vice President Miller provided the committee with additional updates on the human resource system upgrade, which continues to be on target and is 75 percent of the way through testing, and on the Commitment to Operational Reform and Efficiencies (CORE) project.

Regent Mueller then moved adoption of Resolutions 10750, 10751, 10752, 10753, 10754, 10755, and 10756. The motion was seconded by Regent Behling and adopted on a voice vote.

**Approval of UW System Program Revenue Balances Report, FY 2015-16**

**Resolution 10750**
That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the UW System report on the 2015-16 year-end program revenue balances as categorized by each institution and the System as a whole. In so doing, the Board approves: (1) the spending plans for institutional balances above 12 percent of total year-end expenditures in Tuition, Auxiliary Operations, General Operations, or Other Unrestricted Program Revenue; (2) the savings plans submitted by institutions with a negative balance in Tuition or Auxiliary Operations; and (3) the justification and multi-year spending plan submitted by UW System Administration for the entire UW systemwide balances maintained for the System as a whole.

**UW-Madison Contractual Agreement with Lilly USA, LLC**

**Resolution 10751**
That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and Lilly USA, LLC.

**UW-Madison Contractual Agreement with MacroGenics, Inc.**

**Resolution 10752**
That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and MacroGenics, Inc.
UW-Madison Contractual Agreement with Genentech, Inc.

Resolution 10753  That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and Genentech, Inc.

UW System Trust Funds Exception to Board Policy on Large Unendowed Bequests/Gifts for the Marion Lou Coyle Bequest

Resolution 10754  That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, an exception to RPD 31-15 be granted to allow for the expenditure of the principal of the Marion Lou Coyle bequest.


Resolution 10755  That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the attached proposed Regent Policy Document to be titled, “Health, Safety, and Security at UW System Institutions.”


Resolution 10756  That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents directs the removal from the Regent Policy Documents of Regent Policy Document 19-10, “Procedures for Security Lighting and Emergency Telephones,” because it is obsolete.

REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

President Millner called upon Regent Whitburn to present the report of the Education Committee.

Regent Whitburn began by reporting that the Education Committee approved an online Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition at UW-Madison and an online Master of Science in Information Science and Technology at UW-Milwaukee.

The committee held its second reading of UW-Oshkosh’s revised mission statement, which was approved. The committee also approved changes to faculty personnel rules related to
graduate programs and councils at UW-Green Bay, and to complaints and grievances against faculty at UW-Whitewater.

Regent Whitburn announced that the committee had approved the creation of the Office of Educational Opportunity within the President’s Office. This office was provided for in the state’s 2015-17 biennial budget for the purpose of authorizing charter schools.

Regent Whitburn stated that Vice President Jim Henderson reported on the progress being made at UW institutions toward the establishment of the required campus post-tenure review policies. Regent Whitburn shared his expectation that a number of these policies would be coming to the Board for approval in November. He added that the chancellors and provosts would be working with the UW System’s Office of General Counsel to ensure that their campus policies align with Regent policy before sending them on to the Education Committee.

Dr. Henderson also updated the committee on the UW System’s current distance education program array. Currently the System has 11 distinct undergraduate degree programs and 20 distinct master’s-level programs offered exclusively as distance education programs. Fall enrollment in these distance-learning programs totals about 4,300 students; enrollment levels have remained constant in recent years. About 1,200 degrees are granted annually through the UW System’s distance learning programs.

Associate Vice President Steve Kolison briefed committee members on the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), which establishes a state-level reciprocity process that will support the approval of distance education courses and programs offered across state lines. Regent Whitburn added that this agreement was very affordable for the UW System and its campuses.

Finally, the committee heard a presentation from Provost Kleine on UW-Eau Claire’s academic master plan. For the fall 2016 semester, UW-Eau Claire saw 6,513 potential freshmen applications, admitted 5,079 prospective students, and enrolled 2,303 new Blugolds. Among the enrollees were 50 Wisconsin high school valedictorians.

The institution’s academic goals include increasing the percentage of students participating in learning-abroad experiences from 25 percent to 35 percent. UW-Eau Claire has also placed a significant emphasis on improving time to graduation, with specific strategies for various majors and academic disciplines that are designed to increase the number of four-year graduations.

Regent Whitburn then moved adoption of Resolutions 10757, 10758, 10759, 10760, 10761, and 10762. The motion was seconded by Regent Steil and adopted on a voice vote.
Program Authorization (Implementation), Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition, UW-Madison

Resolution 10757 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the online Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition at UW-Madison.

Program Authorization (Implementation), Online (Hybrid) Master of Science in Information Science and Technology, UW-Milwaukee

Resolution 10758 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the online (hybrid) Master of Science in Information Science at UW-Milwaukee.

Mission Statement Revision, UW-Oshkosh

Resolution 10759 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized implement the revised UW-Oshkosh mission statement.

Faculty Personnel Rules, UW-Green Bay

Resolution 10760 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the changes to the UW-Green Bay Faculty Personnel Rules Sections 53.12 A and 53.12 E and Sections 54.01-03.

Faculty Personnel Rules, UW-Whitewater

Resolution 10761 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the changes to the UW-Whitewater Faculty Personnel Rules, Chapter VI.

Approval of the Office of Educational Opportunity, UW System Office of the President

Resolution 10762 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, and as required by s. 36.64, Wis. Stats., the Board of Regents creates the Office of Educational Opportunity within the Office of the President.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

President Millner called upon Regent Grebe to present the report of the Audit Committee.

Regent Grebe first reported that Chief Audit Executive Lori Stortz briefly reviewed the status of the various audits that were approved as part of the FY 2017 Audit Plan and reported that her office was on track to have all scheduled audits completed by the end of the fiscal year. The committee then heard reports from staff regarding recently completed audits.

Regent Grebe stated that IT Audit Director Mary Luebke reviewed the report on UW-Madison’s Auxiliary Services – Separation of Duties in Information Technology audit, which was rated unsatisfactory. The focus of the audit was to determine if there was adequate separation of duties at the Union and the applications utilized to process financial transactions. Regent Grebe reported that committee members expressed disappointment with comments surrounding passwords and security, especially in light of the significant dollars at risk. The committee then heard from Jane Orberdorf, Assistant Director for Administration at the Wisconsin Union, regarding plans to address the issues raised in the audit.

Audit Director Steve Mentel reviewed the International Education audit report for UW-Parkside, which was also rated unsatisfactory. The committee then heard from Chancellor Ford regarding actions that had already been taken to address and resolve the issues that were raised.

Mr. Mentel then briefly reviewed the UW-Superior Emergency Preparedness audit report, which was also rated unsatisfactory. UW-Superior Business Officer Gigi Koenig discussed plans to address the comments made in that report.

Regent Grebe reiterated that in each case of an unsatisfactory report, the committee heard from campus representatives who were working hard to resolve those matters.

Satisfactory reports reviewed by audit staff included Cash Handling reports for UW-Parkside, UW-Madison (Custodian Funds), and UW-Superior; Grading Data Security reports for UW-Parkside and UW-Oshkosh; an International Education report for UW-Whitewater; and seven more Emergency Preparedness reports for UW-Eau Claire, UW-Extension, UW-La Crosse, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, and UW-Stevens Point. There was also one report rated “excellent,” for an Emergency Preparedness audit at UW-River Falls.

Regent Grebe said that the committee expressed some disappointment with the audit comments related to the Systemwide Purchasing Card report, which was reviewed by Mr. Mentel. Ms. Stortz indicated that she would bring the Audit Committee’s comments forward for discussion at the next Chief Business Officers conference.

Mr. Mentel then provided a summary of the progress made by management toward resolving the comments and recommendations included in previously issued and open audit reports. The committee was very pleased with the results of that progress.
Finally, Regent Grebe reported that the Audit Committee moved into closed session.

President Millner complimented Ms. Stortz on doing a complicated job well, and expressed appreciation to the campuses for their cooperation. She stated that the internal audit function benefits the Board of Regents and each of the UW institutions with its oversight.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CAPITAL PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

President Millner called upon Regent Manydeeds to present the report of the Capital Planning and Budget Committee.

Regent Manydeeds said the committee heard three presentations. First, Associate Vice President Alex Roe gave an informative update regarding the condition of UW System facilities as reported by each institution, and explained how the 2017-2023 Capital Plan was addressing those conditions. However, there would not be enough funding available to improve all of the known issues.

Second was a presentation on UW-Eau Claire’s community collaborations in regard to facilities, and how those relationships and partnerships are enhancing both the community and the campus.

Finally, Associate Vice President Roe presented the committee with updates on State Building Commission actions.

Regent Manydeeds said the committee then approved four resolutions:

- Resolution 10763, brought by UW-Eau Claire, requested authority to construct the Towers Hall Renovation project in order to repair the exterior envelope and renovate both wings of the facility, enhancing the quality of the residence hall experience for its students. The project involves renovations to the building’s common spaces, upgrades to interior areas, expansions to resident bathrooms, the replacement of HVAC systems and exterior windows, and the refurbishment of both elevators in each tower.

- Resolution 10764, brought by UW-La Crosse, requested authority to construct a 32,200-square foot addition to the Recreational Eagle Center to house and enlarge strength-training space, a large multi-purpose recreation room, and other support spaces.

- Resolution 10765, brought by UW-Madison, requested authority to lease space for the College of Letters and Science to facilitate the merger of the Career Initiative and Career Service units, allowing them to offer a broader array of career services to students, visiting employers, alumni, participating faculty, and corporate and business donors at one convenient location.
• Resolution 10766, brought by the UW System, sought approval for UW-River Falls’ request for the South Fork Suites roof replacement, which was badly needed.

Regent Manydeeds moved adoption of Resolutions 10763, 10764, 10765, and 10766. The motion was seconded by Regent Langnes and adopted on a voice vote.

**Approval of the Design Report and Authority to Construct the Towers Residence Hall Renovation Project, UW-Eau Claire**

Resolution 10763 That, upon the recommendation of the UW-Eau Claire Chancellor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Design Report of the Towers Hall Renovation project be approved and authority be granted to construct the project for total cost of $32,969,000 Existing Program Revenue Supported Borrowing.

**Approval of the Design Report and Authority to Construct the Recreational Eagle Center Addition Project, UW-La Crosse**

Resolution 10764 That, upon the recommendation of the UW-La Crosse Chancellor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Design Report of the Recreational Eagle Center Addition project be approved and authority be granted to construct the project for an estimated total cost of $8,616,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing.

**Authority to Lease Space for the College of Letters and Science, Career Initiative and Career Services, UW-Madison**

Resolution 10765 That, upon the recommendation of the UW-Madison Chancellor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, authority be granted to enter into a new lease agreement to provide 7,200 gross square feet of office space for the College of Letters and Science, Career Initiative and Career Services.

**Authority to Construct an All Agency Maintenance and Repair Project, UW System**

Resolution 10766 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, authority be granted to construct the UW-River Falls South Fork Suites Roof Replacement maintenance and repair project at an estimated total cost of $331,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing.

Having discussed the subject in the Capital Planning and Budget Committee’s meeting, Regent Farrow said it would be wise for the UW System to start a discussion with the state Department of Administration (DOA) about the justification for the 4-percent fee collected by DOA for each university project it manages. President Millner said her suggestion would be taken under advisement.
PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: “AFFORDABILITY OF A HIGH-QUALITY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION”

President Millner stated that the Board would discuss accessibility and affordability. She invited President Cross to share a few thoughts on the topic.

President Cross first recognized Representative Dana Wachs, who was watching from the gallery. He thanked Representative Wachs for being a strong supporter of the university.

President Cross stated that throughout the UW System’s 2020FWD listening sessions, more than 5,000 people had indicated that one of the biggest concerns facing families is the affordability of higher education. This message was reinforced by the report of the Wisconsin Technology Council, about which Tom Still had spoken the day before. Business leaders share this concern, which has grown more acute as the need for talent and Wisconsin’s pressing demographic challenges become more apparent.

When talking about affordability, tuition is often the first thing mentioned. President Cross stated that, while tuition is the most visible component, it represents only a piece of the issue. There are other major, possibly even more important, factors being overlooked.

He explained that there are five major components to college affordability: state funding, also known as general purpose revenue (GPR), financial aid to students, the cost of the university experience, time to degree, and tuition. He added that the Board had already helped to address the first four factors when it approved the UW System’s 2020FWD strategic framework; the remaining component is tuition.

**State Support**

President Cross indicated that state funding for the UW System had declined by $362 million over the last five years. The System has asked for an increase of $42.5 million in new GPR funding over the next biennium for specific initiatives to help address some of the concerns raised in the 2020FWD listening sessions, many of which are tied to affordability.

**Financial Aid**

In June 2016, the Board approved a request for an additional $19 million in new student financial aid over the biennium. The Higher Educational Aids Board had not received any increases in funds for financial aid in the past seven years.

**Cost to Deliver the Educational Experience**

President Cross said the UW System had been working to answer the question of how to control the cost of delivering the educational experience. The Commitment to Operational Reform Excellence (CORE) Project is an effort to streamline the university’s non-instructional
activities in particular, requiring the System to consider how to improve, re-engineer, standardize or streamline those processes. He said the Regents would hear more about this effort at the Board’s November meeting.

**Time to Degree**

Time to degree is perhaps the largest factor impacting affordability. President Cross posed a hypothetical situation wherein the university charges an additional $100 per semester for tuition, which would cost students an extra $800 over four years. However, if a student has to attend for an additional semester, the additional cost could be $5,000.

Helping students complete their degrees on time is an incredibly important affordability factor and a top priority of the UW System’s strategic framework. Initiatives to address this factor include reducing the number of credits in some areas, more efficiently delivering courses, and providing improved advising support to students.

**Tuition**

Resident undergraduate tuition in the UW System has been frozen for the past four years, and the Governor and some legislators have indicated that they would like the freeze to continue for at least one more year. President Cross explained that the Board has traditionally discussed tuition as a part of its budget discussions in June or July, only a few months before the start of the new school year. This timeline can make it difficult for students and families to plan, and it forces the university to build its budget backwards by establishing expenses first and then finding the necessary revenues to cover them.

Having had conversations with several Regents, legislators, and the Governor’s office, President Cross said that he and President Millner agreed that the Board should address tuition sooner to give the university and students’ families a better opportunity to plan for the future.

President Millner noted that the Regents were responsible for both acting for the present and planning strategically for the future. She said the Tuition-setting Policy Task Force chaired by Regent Tim Higgins was an excellent example of planning for the future, while the Board’s current discussion would be about action in the present.

She noted that, with the UW System in its fourth year of a freeze on resident undergraduate tuition, the last time the Board held a vote on resident undergraduate tuition was in June 2012 – which happened to be her very first meeting. Many current board members have not participated in these tuition discussions before.

Providing some background and historical context on the process, President Millner explained that under state law, the Board of Regents of the UW System has the authority to set tuition. With that authority comes the critical responsibility to completely understand when and why tuition might be raised, and how decisions on tuition factor into affordability.
Tuition typically supports only the instructional portion of the UW budget. Instructional costs include student services; supplies and services; administration; libraries; support costs; and faculty salaries and fringe benefits, which comprise the largest portion of these costs.

Tuition is affected by changes in state funding and other factors. As President Cross had pointed out, state GPR funding for the UW System had declined by $362 million from FY 2012 through FY 2017. Adjusted for inflation, GPR funding was currently at its lowest level in the UW System’s history.

Significant reductions to state funding were made in eight of the last ten years. Typically, the Board of Regents increased tuition to partially offset these GPR base reductions.

The Board’s guiding principles for tuition-setting state the following: “Where general budget increases are not sufficient to maintain educational quality, supplemental tuition increases should assist in addressing the imbalance between needs and resources. Tuition increases should be moderate and predictable, subject to the need to maintain quality.”

President Millner acknowledged that a tuition freeze is popular, and does provide relief in the short term. However, a freeze does not necessarily equal affordability. The quality of the university experience may be impacted if a tuition freeze is not offset, and the cost to students and families may actually increase. In other words, good intentions can sometimes lead to unintended consequences.

She explained that in recent years UW chancellors and their campuses had done an admirable job of managing the double-hit of reduced state funding and frozen tuition. Systemwide, they had implemented cost savings and leveraged innovation to protect the university experience and provide the excellence that students and families expect and deserve. She added that some of those changes would continue into the future regardless of funding.

Despite these efforts, however, there have been undeniable impacts. Students may have more difficulty getting the classes they need in a timely fashion, thus extending their time to graduation. As President Cross pointed out, even one extra semester can mean more than $5,000 in additional costs, on top of lost earning potential.

Saying that as a former businesswoman, she would like to expand upon how Chancellor Schmidt had discussed costs for the Blugold community, President Millner explained that a UW-Eau Claire graduate’s average starting salary is $44,000. When students are not able to get the classes they need and must attend an extra year, the opportunity cost of that fifth year includes both the additional tuition and that lost salary; at UW-Eau Claire, that cost would be $52,800.

The impact of both reducing state funding and freezing tuition may also make it more challenging over time to attract and retain the high-quality faculty and staff that are the hallmarks of the UW System. President Millner said that this is another example of the responsibility that Regents have to strategically plan for the future while dealing with the present – to look not just at the next two years, but also at the next decade. She stated that the bottom line was simple: continued budget cuts and frozen tuition cannot be sustained.
The Board is dedicated to keeping college affordable, and the Regents are statutorily required to protect the quality of the college experience in the UW System. The budget request approved by the Board in August is fiscally responsible and includes initiatives to address college affordability by getting students through the educational pipeline faster so they can graduate and enter the workforce more quickly. The 2020FWD framework expands the college-credit options for high school students, increases college-credit transfer options, and responds to the needs of nontraditional students, such as working adults.

President Millner reminded the Regents that the request to move up the tuition-setting timeline is directly linked to the feedback heard in the strategic planning listening sessions held all around the state, which included more than 5,000 citizens, business and community leaders, legislators, faculty, staff and students, all of whom offered their input and reinforced the importance of keeping college affordable.

Taking all these issues under consideration, and after consultation with President Cross, President Millner said it was their joint recommendation that the Board take up this important issue at the October meeting rather than in June or July. This action would provide more time to plan for students and their families, as well as for the university.

President Millner then asked Executive Director Jane Radue to read aloud Resolution 10767:

**Statement on Affordability of a High-Quality University of Wisconsin Education and Establishment of Resident Undergraduate Tuition for the 2017-19 Biennium**

Resolution 10767  
WHEREAS the Board of Regents affirms that the University of Wisconsin System is dedicated to providing an affordable, high-quality education for its students; and

WHEREAS affordability is influenced by the five key elements of time to degree, state support, financial aid, tuition, and cost to deliver the educational experience; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System is reducing time to degree by providing additional opportunities for high school students to complete college coursework, enhancing advising for UW students, and expanding seamless transfer opportunities; and

WHEREAS in August 2016 the Board of Regents and the University of Wisconsin System requested a reasonable increase in state General Purpose Revenue for the 2017-19 biennium to address the state’s workforce and educational needs, as guided by the 2020FWD strategic framework; and
WHEREAS to better serve eligible UW System students, in June 2016 the Board of Regents approved a request for an increase in state financial aid funding to be included in the Higher Educational Aids Board budget; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System continues to address the cost to deliver the educational experience by creating operational efficiencies through standardizing, consolidating, and streamlining operations, as expressed in the Commitment to Operational Reform and Effectiveness (CORE) initiative; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents recognizes that tuition is an important factor in maintaining affordability and would like to provide Wisconsin citizens with a fifth year of flat tuition for resident undergraduates in 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, a high-quality education can only be delivered in a timely manner if tuition keeps pace with the cost of living;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents approves a zero-percent increase in resident undergraduate tuition for the 2017-18 academic year and an increase of no more than the rate of the Consumer Price Index in 2018-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents takes this action in the interest of maintaining a high-quality educational experience for UW System students, of giving Wisconsin students and their families the ability to plan ahead, and of promoting affordability.

President Millner moved adoption of Resolution 10767; the motion was seconded by Vice President Behling. President Millner then opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion

Regent Whitburn said that the affordability of higher education is a more critical issue than ever before, both nationally and in Wisconsin, and that the Board must therefore act carefully, timely, and with appropriate sensitivity. He stated that the proposed resolution, which would defer raising undergraduate residential tuition until FY 2019, and then only by an amount consistent with Consumer Price Index (CPI), was appropriate. The adjustment would be modest and should be affordable for students and their families; and it was also necessary, looking ahead to the UW System and campuses’ financials in the next biennium.

Regent Langnes stated that, as a student, he had personally benefitted from the tuition freeze. During his college career he has not seen tuition rise; however, before his time at the university, tuition had increased at such a rate that it caught the eye of not only students and parents but also the legislature and the Governor, which led to a decline of trust in the UW
System throughout the State of Wisconsin. Ever since, the UW System has been working hard to regain this confidence and trust.

As an undergraduate business student, Regent Langnes said he understood that to maintain a sustainable, high-quality educational system, tuition cannot remain flat forever, given the external forces at work, such as inflation and the increased cost of living. While recognizing that tuition will rise in the future, he cautioned that the System must raise it with due diligence so as to keep the trust it has earned back, to stay accountable to the citizens of Wisconsin, and to continue to pursue truth and move forward together as a System, state and people.

Expressing her agreement with President Millner’s statement, Regent Farrow emphasized that the Board of Regents is the body that is supposed to set tuition to guarantee a quality education. She also indicated that the Board should look seriously at the work Regent Higgins has been doing with the Tuition-setting Policy Task Force. In addition, she expressed approval for moving the timeline for setting tuition forward. Finally, Regent Farrow suggested Board members meet with the Joint Finance Committee to educate that committee’s members on the tuition-setting process.

Regent Klein spoke in favor of the resolution, noting that UW tuition is low compared to peer institutions. Although the UW System had issues in the past with a lack of transparency around its fund balances, she said the legislature should restore the tuition-setting authority to the Board of Regents. She also expressed support for Regent Farrow’s idea of a joint meeting with the Joint Finance Committee.

Regent Klein emphasized that the preeminent goals in setting tuition should be to meet an institution’s financial requirements in order to deliver a quality education, and to keep tuition as affordable as possible.

Speaking to the issue of time to degree, Regent Klein made two observations: first, that low tuition can in itself encourage a longer time to degree; and second, that the need for remedial education can lengthen time to degree, therefore lessening the value of a degree for some students, or even increasing a student’s risk of not graduating at all.

Speaking as a parent who had recently written a check to the university, Vice President Behling said that, while no one ever wants to pay more, he thought this resolution both timely and smart. He reminded his colleagues that the day before they had heard from a number of business owners in the UW-Eau Claire area who wanted UW graduates right away, reinforcing that this resolution was not just about students’ parents, but was also about employers and economic development. He expressed strong support for the resolution.

Regent Tyler spoke in favor of the resolution. He also asked about how the increase would be applied. President Cross confirmed there would just be a one-year CPI-based increase when tuition is set for the second year of the biennium.

Regent Higgins said that Presidents Millner and Cross had shown a great deal of concern about the affordability of education, both in this resolution and in meetings with the Tuition-
setting Policy Task Force. It was also obvious that the Board and UW System Administration were both very concerned about the ability of resident undergraduates to afford an education at the UW institutions.

Expressing concern that the CPI-based increase could be viewed as a return to former times, when tuition increases were increased by 5.5 percent without an adequate explanation, Regent Higgins indicated that the Tuition-setting Policy Task Force had been leaning in the direction of tuition increases that are specifically justifiable in ways that laypersons, including legislators and parents, will be able to follow.

Regent Whitburn underscored that this resolution only provided for a one-year CPI adjustment, and was not intended to be an ongoing action.

Regent Farrow also affirmed that the task force should be responsible for recommending the new methodology for calculating and justifying tuition rates.

President Millner said that the task force was not only developing a rationale for calculating tuition, but was also analyzing the cost and pricing of the UW System’s “product.” She suggested that the task force’s work may result in an entirely new approach to how the UW System currently manages tuition-setting policy, but it would require time for the Board of Regents and the university’s stakeholders to gain a clear understanding of those recommendations. She expressed appreciation for Regent Higgins’ comments.

Regent Petersen commented that he had been on the Board since July 2012, and neither he nor many of his colleagues on the Board had ever voted on resident undergraduate tuition. However, Regents had been confirmed by the state legislature with the expectation that they would be judicious about financial accountability, most notably as it relates to tuition. He said he was very supportive of this measure because it emphasizes that perhaps the Regents’ most important responsibility is to address the affordability of a UW System education.

With no other comments or questions, Resolution 10767 was adopted on a voice vote.

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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO UW-EAU CLAIRE FOR HOSTING THE OCTOBER MEETING

Next, President Millner called upon Regent Manydeeds to read the resolution of appreciation for UW-Eau Claire’s hosting the October meeting.

Resolution of Appreciation: UW-Eau Claire

Resolution 10768  WHEREAS the members of the Board of Regents are pleased to recognize the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire as the official host campus for the Board’s October 2016 meeting; and
WHEREAS the Board is grateful for the generous hospitality extended this
month by Chancellor James Schmidt and the entire Blugold community;
and

WHEREAS the Board appreciated hearing Chancellor Schmidt’s
presentation, “Partners in Wisconsin’s Future;” and

WHEREAS the Business and Finance Committee learned how UW-
Eau Claire is encouraging innovation and change, and the members of the
REDI Committee – Research, Economic Development, and Innovation –
listened to a CEO panel discussion led by Chancellor Schmidt on business
and community mobilization, specifically UW-Eau Claire’s focus on
economic development, undergraduate research, and business partnerships;
and

WHEREAS the Capital Planning and Budget Committee heard how UW-
Eau Claire is “Opening Doors through Campus-Community
Collaborations;” and

WHEREAS the Education Committee thanks Provost Patricia Kleine for
presenting UW-Eau Claire’s Academic Master Plan; and

WHEREAS Board members were glad to attend the groundbreaking of the
Confluence Arts Center, which will be a three-theater arts center used by
UW-Eau Claire performing arts students and faculty, as well as the Eau
Claire Regional Arts Council, community arts organizations, and Visit Eau
Claire; and

WHEREAS the Board was delighted to hear from Derek Dahlk, a UW-Eau
Claire senior majoring in liberal studies who was featured in this month’s
Student Spotlight;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents hereby thanks
UW-Eau Claire for this month’s informative presentations, its forward-
thinking spirit, and its many continued contributions to the UW System and
to the state of Wisconsin.

CLOSED SESSION – MENOMINEE ROOM (320F)

President Millner called upon Vice President Behling to present the resolution to move
into closed session. The motion was seconded by Regent Farrow and adopted on a roll-call vote,
with Regents Behling, Erickson, Farrow, Grebe, Hall, Higgins, Klein, Langnes, Manydeeds,
Millner, Mueller, Petersen, Steil, Tyler, and Whitburn voting in the affirmative. There were no
dissenting votes and no abstentions.
Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 10769  That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: (a) consider personal histories related to the naming of a facility at UW-Madison, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; (b) confer with legal counsel regarding pending or potential litigation, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats.; and (c) consider annual personnel evaluations, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.

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The Board recessed at 10:48 a.m. to relocate to the Menominee Room. The meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

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The following resolution was adopted during the closed session:

Authority to Name the Kemp National Resources Station Education and Outreach Center Building, the “Connor Forestry Center,” UW-Madison

Resolution 10770  That, upon the recommendation of the UW-Madison Chancellor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, authority be granted to name the Kemp National Resources Station Education and Outreach Center building, which is located at 9161 Kemp Road in Woodruff, Wisconsin, the “Connor Forestry Center.”

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The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

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Submitted by:

/s/ Jane S. Radue
Jane S. Radue, Executive Director and Corporate Secretary
Office of the Board of Regents
University of Wisconsin System