

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

of the

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Held in Union South, Varsity Hall II  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, Wisconsin

Friday, February 3, 2017  
9:00 a.m.

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-President Millner presiding-

PRESENT: Regents John Behling, José Delgado, 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 and Tony Evers

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2016 MEETING**

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

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**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**

***Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board***

The report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided. There were no questions or comments.

***Task Force Updates***

President Millner thanked Chancellor Blank for her generous hospitality throughout the Regents' time at the UW-Madison campus, and added that the Board's February meeting had so

far been very informative, enlightening and enjoyable. She then opened her report with a brief update on task force activities.

The Task Force on Campus Climate, chaired by Regents Eve Hall and Ed Manydeeds, was scheduled to meet again later in February. Work had been continuing between meetings, with Regents Hall and Manydeeds and the task force staff team contacting task force members, campus staff and chancellors to seek information and feedback regarding current policies, practices, and climate issues on the UW campuses, laying the groundwork for the next meeting.

The Tuition-setting Policy Task Force had also continued its work since the last meeting. President Millner indicated that the final touches were being applied to their recommendations, to be completed in the near future. She again thanked Regent Higgins and all members of the Tuition-setting Policy Task Force and said she was confident their efforts will influence how the UW System approaches tuition setting in future years.

### ***Preview of March 2017 Board of Regents Meeting***

President Millner said that two guest speakers would join the Board for its next meeting, scheduled for March 9, 2017, in Madison.

Dr. Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University, would speak about opportunities and challenges in education and innovation. Dr. Crow is co-author of the 2015 book, “Designing the New American University,” and has been a strong advocate for reinventing the public research university.

The second speaker would be Dr. Susan Baxter, executive director of the California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB). In the previous day’s REDI Committee meeting, Vice President Henderson spoke about the value of establishing consortia to focus on a common research topic of interest to the state. Dr. Baxter has advocated for and led similar efforts in California in the biotech world, and she will talk about that experience.

President Millner said the Regents look forward to hearing what both Dr. Crow and Dr. Baxter have to say, and predicted that their presentations would provide much fodder for discussion.

Also in March, President Millner said the Board could expect a more comprehensive report from the UW System on federal issues, including research funding availability.

### ***Research in the Rotunda***

President Millner noted that the UW System’s Research in the Rotunda – a celebration of undergraduate research – would be coming up on April 12 in the State Capitol. Previously known as Posters in the Rotunda, this event is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and is a wonderful showcase of the many and varied research endeavors taken on by student researchers and their faculty advisors

across the UW System. It is also a popular opportunity to join other UW representatives in making legislative visits. She encouraged her colleagues to mark this event on their calendars.

### ***Sexual Violence and Harassment Awareness, Prevention, and Response Website***

In December 2016 the Board heard a report from the co-chairs of the UW System's Task Force on Sexual Violence and Harassment, which was created by President Cross to lead and coordinate systemwide efforts in this area. One key recommendation of this task force was the creation of a central UW System website that would quickly connect users with support services and resources at UW institutions to address responses to, awareness of and prevention of sexual violence and harassment. President Millner said she was pleased to share the news that the new website is now live.

This comprehensive site also serves as a central portal to the System's policies, procedures and data, as well as state and federal laws, other reports, resources, and research. President Millner stated that the Regents have a responsibility to students, their families, employees, and the people of Wisconsin to see that the UW System provides a safe environment as it fulfills its educational missions.

Finally, President Millner extended happy birthday wishes to UW-Whitewater Chancellor Bev Kopper.

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## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYSTEM**

President Millner turned to President Cross for his report.

President Cross began his report by introducing Dr. Ruttanatip "Dang" Chonwerawong, who will be joining the UW System in a two-year project appointment as the Special Assistant to the President for Educational Pipeline Development. In this new role, Dr. Chonwerawong will collaborate with both the President's Office and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs on the development and implementation of strategic and action plans for UW System priorities.

Most recently, Dr. Chonwerawong was at the California State University-San Marcos, where she was an associate vice president for student academic support services. Prior to that, she served as Assistant Dean for Student Diversity Programs at UW-Madison. Dr. Chonwerawong has a Ph.D. from UW-Madison and master's degrees from UW-Platteville and UW-Madison.

President Cross welcomed Dr. Chonwerawong to UW System Administration.

### ***Legislative Updates***

President Cross announced that the new legislative session had begun and the UW System was actively engaging its partners in the legislature and the administration. He had been

invited by Governor Walker to attend the State of the State Address, where the UW System and college affordability issues were major focal points.

Having had several opportunities to meet with the Governor and his staff, President Cross said he was pleased with the way the Governor has responded to the System's budget request. He had also met with DOA Secretary Scott Neitzel on the System's capital budget request, to discuss some potential flexibilities that would help the UW System operate more efficiently and more cost effectively for students.

President Cross reported that he has also met with a number of new and returning legislators, including Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair John Nygren (Marinette), Assembly Colleges and Universities Chair David Murphy (Greenville), new Joint Finance Committee member Mark Born (Beaver Dam), Senator Jerry Petrowski (Marathon), Senator Rob Cowles (Green Bay), Finance Committee member Gordon Hintz (Oshkosh), Senator LaTonya Johnson (Milwaukee), new Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee member Jimmy Anderson (Fitchburg), Representative Don Vruwink (Milton), Senator Dan Feyen (Fond du Lac), and Representative Rob Summerfield (Bloomer).

The UW System is also keeping in close contact with the leadership in each house, with Senator Sheila Harsdorf and Representative David Murphy both having returned as chairs of their houses' higher education committees. Two days previous, at the UW System's request, these leaders hosted an informational session for legislators looking to learn more about the UW System. President Cross estimated that 75 members and staff attended the event, and he thanked President Millner and Chancellors Sandeen and Kopper for joining him at this well-attended and well-received session.

President Cross said the UW System would begin to advocate with the legislature, on behalf of the System's reasonable budget request, following Governor Walker's budget address on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

President Cross indicated that there was also considerable activity on the federal front, and said the UW System is working closely with several U.S. senators and representatives to receive more information about what is going on. He promised a more comprehensive report on this at the Board's March meeting.

In January, UW System student representatives traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with their elected representatives. President Cross expressed his thanks to Regent James Langnes, who was a member of that delegation. President Cross said that Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin each gave generously of their time.

Students advocated for a continued commitment to the federal Pell Grant program, asking legislators to not only support current funding but to work on expanding that funding overall. The students also asked Congress to elevate discussions about sexual violence and assault on college campuses, asking the legislators to support legislation to improve services, transparency and accountability for campuses.

President Cross said students were also interested in the establishment of a program that would allow for refinancing of federal student loans at a more favorable interest rate. Currently, the federal government does not allow for refinancing, and students argued that this would save them thousands of dollars that otherwise would be spent on high interest rates.

President Cross stated that the UW System can be proud of its student government leaders for telling their stories and representing the voices of 180,000 students in the UW System while in D.C.

As in the past, the UW System will closely monitor legislative initiatives on both the state and federal level and will review any that may impact the System. President Cross said he would inform the Board of that legislation on a regular basis.

President Cross also noted that there have been some questions raised regarding the UW System's admissions process. He stated that this issue was important and deserved a thorough and thoughtful response; he indicated that the UW System would be researching what other institutions are doing, analyzing the legal issues surrounding this issue, and reviewing historical perspectives on what the System has done in the past. He and Vice President Henderson had plans to initiate a discussion of the System's current admissions process at upcoming provost and chancellor meetings. President Cross noted that he would work to deliver recommendations to the Board very promptly, possibly as early as April.

### ***News from Around the UW System***

President Cross introduced his report on News from Around the UW System, presented in a new video format. In the video, President Cross reported the following items:

#### **UW-Madison's Badgerloop Team Participates in International Competition**

UW-Madison's Badgerloop team recently participated in an international competition featuring futuristic high-speed transportation. The team's 200-mph pod levitates its passengers through an above-ground vacuum tube. A team from MIT and another from the Netherlands were the only ones to score higher than Badgerloop.

#### **UW-Whitewater's Online MBA Ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the Nation**

UW-Whitewater's online MBA ranks 16<sup>th</sup>-best in the United States, according to U.S. News and World Report. In addition to being among the elite 5 percent of business schools worldwide, this online MBA offers greater flexibility as most students take courses while working full time.

#### **UW-Superior Choir Travels to Poland**

A UW-Superior choir made its first trip to Poland in January, introducing Wisconsin talent to an international audience and spreading the UW-Superior name overseas. The students

shared the universal language of music, experienced a new culture, and built bridges in the choral community.

### **UW-Stout Biology Professor Discovers Bacterium Killing Honey Bee Hives**

UW-Stout biology professor Jim Burritt and his students discovered a bacterium that may explain why honey bee hives are dying during the winters in the Upper Midwest. Honey bees and other pollinators are crucial to the ecosystem and the economy.

### **UW-Stevens Point Recognized as Green Power Leader**

UW-Stevens Point is being recognized as a green power leader. The campus uses more than 24 million kilowatt-hours of green power annually, which represents 90 percent of its total power needs.

### **UW-River Falls Hosts Fifth Annual Undergraduate Research Gala**

UW-River Falls hosted its fifth annual undergraduate research gala in December for 244 students. Shanna Burris is one of the students who participated, and she showcased her Independent Saddle Lift. This lift allows disabled horseback riders to saddle their horse without assistance. This technology is being patented through WiSys.

### **UW-Platteville Receives \$300,000 USDA Research Grant**

UW-Platteville has received a \$300,000 USDA grant to support grazing research for dairy cattle at Pioneer Farm. As part of this grant, students will examine whether certain grasses increase milk yield and quality.

### **UW-Parkside Business Students Win National Sales Awards**

UW-Parkside business students Jack Nickeas and Nicole Thomassen won national sales awards at the 2016 National Sales Challenge. More college graduates will find their first career in sales than all other careers. Competitive opportunities like this help prepare students for career success.

### **UW-Oshkosh Receives Two Grants to Improve Healthcare Access**

UW-Oshkosh received two grants from the Aurora Health Care Better Together Fund, to improve access to healthcare. These grants will help fund initiatives at the university-run Living Healthy Community Clinic, as well as expand violence prevention education for students.

### **UW-Milwaukee Creates App to Help Provide Emergency Treatment to Children**

UW-Milwaukee created an app with the Medical College of Wisconsin to help doctors treat children in emergency situations. A doctor enters a child's age and weight, and the "First



Five Minutes” app determines the correct medication dose. Every second can make a difference during an emergency.

### **UW-La Crosse Offers Classes to New Entrepreneurs**

UW-La Crosse Small Business Development Center is holding a series of classes for new entrepreneurs. One of the classes in the series is “The First Steps to Starting Your Business.” These innovative classes are promoting future generations of business leaders.

### **UW-Green Bay Helps Athletes Transition to Business World**

UW-Green Bay is teaming with a local business to help professional and college athletes – including former Green Bay Packers – transition to the business world. This partnership with InitiativeOne is a great example of how UW-Green Bay is supporting the community. Services are available for athletes across all sports.

### **Wisconsin Public Television Launches Free Channel and Online Streaming Services**

Wisconsin Public Television launched a free PBS Kids 24/7 channel and online streaming service statewide in January. WPT is supported by UW-Extension and other partners, and this new service will expand access to educational programming.

### **UW-Eau Claire Remains National Leader in Study Abroad**

UW-Eau Claire continues to be a national leader in the number of students studying abroad. This experience helps students build critical competencies needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students learn problem-solving skills and an ability to work with people from different backgrounds.

President Cross indicated that, during the 2020*FWD* listening sessions, business and community leaders strongly emphasized that they need employees who can work as part of a team with people from different cultures, geographic areas, or even different political philosophies.

### **UW Colleges Students Conduct Research on Scientific Software Systems**

Students from UW-Sheboygan, UW-Marathon County and UW-Fox Valley are conducting an undergraduate research project studying scientific software systems. These UW Colleges’ students will present their performance, security and quality findings at national and international conferences.

### **UW-Milwaukee Launches Joint Initiative to Increase Student Graduation and Success**

After the video, President Cross shared an additional, late-breaking item. He offered congratulations to UW-Milwaukee, which is part of the M<sup>3</sup> partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools and Milwaukee Area Technical College. Together, these three organizations recently

launched an initiative to increase the number of students who graduate from high school and then higher education – and to better prepare them to succeed in the workforce.

### ***Student Spotlight***

For his Student Spotlight, President Cross said he was delighted to introduce Stephanie Starr, a junior at UW-Madison and a native of Milton, Wisconsin. He explained that Ms. Starr is a first-generation college student who began her studies at UW-Rock County and always dreamed of coming to UW-Madison.

Ms. Starr is a nursing major who just submitted her application to UW-Madison's nursing school. President Cross said that it is no surprise to those who know her that Ms. Starr has achieved academic excellence while working two jobs and volunteering at the UW Hospital Burn Center.

President Cross then introduced Chancellor Blank to say a few words about why Ms. Starr was selected for the Student Spotlight from among UW-Madison's 29,000 undergraduates.

Chancellor Blank acknowledged that chancellors usually do not speak before the Student Spotlight, but said she wanted to add context before Ms. Starr spoke.

Chancellor Blank explained that Ms. Starr was asked to address the Board because she is a terrific example of the best among UW-Madison students, and because she represents the kind of student that UW-Madison is hoping to help with the Badger Promise for first-generation transfer students, which was announced at the previous day's meeting. She added that students like Ms. Starr deserve an opportunity for a world-class education at an affordable price, and Wisconsin needs the talent of people like her. She then invited Ms. Starr to come forward.

Ms. Starr expressed thanks for the opportunity to speak to the Board. She began by saying how grateful she is for her time in Madison. Sharing that she has a chronic illness, Ms. Starr said she was so sick during high school that she thought she was never going to be able to attend any university, much less her dream university, UW-Madison. She explained that she struggled immensely with her fibromyalgia in her first two years out of high school as well, recalling times when she could barely hold down a part-time job. However, she said that the longer she had her diagnosis, the better she was at managing her symptoms.

Once she finally felt ready, Ms. Starr enrolled at UW-Rock County and completed her first two successful semesters of college. She indicated that when she received her acceptance letter to UW-Madison it made all of the hard work seem like nothing, because she had finally achieved her biggest goal.

Ms. Starr recalled that, once the shock wore off, she had wondered how she was going to pay to go to an exceptional school like UW-Madison, especially as a first-generation college student. Soon after, she received a letter informing her that she had been accepted as a Fast Track Student, which guaranteed grants and loans to pay for her education. She said she was not

sure if she would be at UW-Madison today if she had not received that letter; or, if she had chosen to attend, whether she would be graduating with an enormous amount of debt.

Ms. Starr indicated that her success at UW-Madison would not have happened without the incredible support her mother had given her over the years. She said that being a first-generation college student is a unique experience, and described the process of applying for admission and financial aid as “daunting” for those who do not know someone who has done those things before.

Ms. Starr suggested that having to figure everything out as she went along became part of the reason that she is so resourceful. Though difficult in the moment, she said she felt better off and more prepared for the real world because she had to apply for such things as health insurance and financial aid without any help.

Ms. Starr added that it was also hard for her to imagine the life she was going to have after earning a college degree, when she grew up in a household without one. She said she was curious to learn in what ways her life would be different.

Ms. Starr said that she had been able to make social connections at UW-Madison, even though she is a little older than most other undergraduate students and lives off campus. She indicated that there are numerous opportunities if one is looking for them. As part of Alpha Omega Epsilon, a sorority for women in science and engineering, she found her best friends on campus. She also mentioned finding leadership opportunities within the sorority, including being scholarship chair and treasurer. Even though the campus is big, Ms. Starr said she has managed to find a home at UW-Madison.

Ms. Starr said that after graduation, her career plans include working as a nurse in an ICU, and eventually applying to a nurse anesthetist master’s program. She said she has always known that she wanted to work in health care, to be able to take care of those in need. She indicated that her volunteering in the Burn Unit at UW Hospital has confirmed her desires to be a nurse – while there, she is at her most enthusiastic. She added that she greatly appreciates being able to help the nurses in the unit with anything they need, while soaking up all the information she possibly can by listening to the conversations among the nurses, doctors, and patients.

Ms. Starr concluded that she knows she is pursuing the right career because she can see herself in the nurses’ shoes, and said that after graduation she would love to work in Madison at UW Hospital.

President Cross asked Ms. Starr’s mother and grandmother, who were seated in the gallery, to stand and be recognized. He then thanked Ms. Starr for her remarks.

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## **UW-MADISON ANNUAL NCAA DIVISION I ATHLETICS REPORT**

Turning to athletics, President Millner stated that in 2012, the Board of Regents approved new reporting guidelines, calling for UW institutions that participate in NCAA Division I athletics to annually provide information to the Board regarding academic, fiscal, and compliance matters related to NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics.

President Millner said this accountability framework allows the Board to provide proper oversight, and also safeguards the wellbeing and success of UW System student athletes. In addition, it provides an opportunity for the Regents to review the financial viability of UW athletic programs, and how they contribute to the institutions' academic missions. Through these regular reports, the hope is to maintain good lines of communication between the institutions and the Board.

The UW System has three institutions with Division I NCAA athletic programs: UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee and UW-Green Bay. President Millner welcomed Athletic Director Barry Alvarez to deliver the report from UW-Madison.

### ***Athletic Performance***

Athletic Director Alvarez reviewed the highlights of UW-Madison's Division I athletics report, beginning with the past season's athletic performance. He indicated that the Badger football team surprised all of the experts by winning the West Division in the Big Ten Conference, going 11-3 to win the Cotton Bowl, and finishing the season ranked ninth in the country.

The men's basketball team qualified for the NCAA Sweet 16 Tournament in March 2016 under new Head Coach Greg Gard. The 2016-17 team is currently ranked among the top ten.

UW-Madison's volleyball team ranked fifth nationally after making it to the Elite Eight in Fall 2016.

The women's hockey team won 35 consecutive games before falling in the NCAA Frozen Four in March 2016. The program is currently ranked number one in the country.

Athletic Director Alvarez said that former Badger Tony Granato was hired as the men's hockey coach in March 2016. The team has just entered the top 20 for the first time in the last three seasons; Mr. Alvarez suggested that it is safe to say the program is way ahead of schedule.

He indicated that no other school in the nation has more combined bowl appearances and NCAA men's tournament appearances since 1997 than UW-Madison. UW-Madison's current run of 15 straight seasons with a bowl appearance and NCAA men's basketball tournament appearances is an NCAA record.

Stating that UW-Madison has had one of the most consistent and successful athletic departments in the country over the past quarter of a century, Director Alvarez attributed much of this to the department's continued investment in its student athletes.

### ***Compliance and Fiscal Responsibility***

Athletic Director Alvarez said that the UW-Madison Athletic Department has built a culture around rules compliance. Director Alvarez said he was proud to report that the department had gone another year without a major rules violation. The department's compliance staff annually reports approximately 20 to 30 minor violations, many of which are inadvertent, to the Big Ten or NCAA. He added that employees are encouraged to speak up and self-report if necessary.

Athletic Director Alvarez said the Athletic Department has also built a culture around fiscal responsibility. The department annually operates in the black – one of the relatively few in the nation that can make that claim – and does so without the use of taxpayer funding. A substantial proportion of athletic revenue is annually distributed to the rest of the campus; he indicated that this amount would increase in the next year.

### ***Academic Success***

Athletic Director Alvarez said that the Athletic Department places a premium on academic performance and earning a degree. He expressed pride in the department's cumulative 3.06 GPA and multi-year APR scores above 930 in all sports, including 11 sports that achieved a perfect single-year APR score of 1000.

He recalled mentioning during the previous year's athletics report that UW-Madison's men's hockey team had a 29-percent single-year graduation rate, which has since improved to 50 percent. He acknowledged that the rate is still not where the department wants it to be; however, of the six students in the most recent cohort, three have graduated, two are playing professionally, and one has transferred to another institution.

Similarly, the women's basketball team also has a 50-percent graduation rate. Of the two students in that cohort, both graduated; however, one transferred and graduated from Bradley University. Director Alvarez indicated that these two examples show how the federal graduation rate does not always reflect student success.

Director Alvarez also mentioned how proud he is of UW-Madison's commitment to help its former student athletes who left school early to play professionally, many of whom return to earn their degrees at a later date, including Ron Dayne, Tony Granato, Rashard Griffith, Troy Vincent, and Michael Finley.

### ***Opportunities and Challenges***

Athletic Director Alvarez said that the Athletic Department has both opportunities and challenges on the horizon. First, there is a tremendous opportunity for the department to

continue to embrace its already-strong focus on investing in the overall welfare of student athletes.

Providing a few examples of UW-Madison's commitment in this regard, he noted that UW-Madison has the only athletic department in the nation with a Department of Diversity and Inclusion. The program operates a highly successful community service initiative for student athletes called, "Badgers Give Back." Finally, the Office of Student Athlete Development offers a wide variety of opportunities for student athletes regarding leadership, career development, and personal development.

Among the challenges faced by the department, he explained that a level of uncertainty remains on the collegiate athletic landscape due to a variety of lawsuits that have yet to be resolved. There also remains an ongoing escalation in the cost of renovating and building new facilities, as well as in athletic personnel's salaries – particularly for football and men's basketball coaches.

Athletic Director Alvarez said UW-Madison's Division I athletics program will remain competitive and continue to be fiscally responsible; its history shows it is possible to do both.

## ***Discussion***

President Millner opened the floor to questions from the Regents.

Regent Higgins congratulated Athletic Director Alvarez on running an exemplary athletic program, noting that UW-Madison is ranked among the best by the Wall Street Journal every year. Remarking on Director Alvarez's ability to address problems as he sees them, Regent Higgins asked about his efforts to improve several unmet benchmarks meant to assess student athlete academic progress.

Director Alvarez asked Doug Tiedt, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Student Services, to answer this question. Mr. Tiedt explained that UW-Madison's athletic department has tried to set benchmarks that address institutional, Big Ten, and NCAA standards. He indicated that the department has done remarkably well with the NCAA and the Big Ten, but added that graduation rates, especially the federal graduation rate, are not where they should be compared with UW-Madison's standards.

Mr. Tiedt said that the athletic department has invested significant resources – personnel and financial – into the success of its students and their welfare. This includes spending almost \$300,000 on the services of 80 to 90 tutors, in addition to the department's diversity and inclusion program, "very robust" life skills program, and Office of Student Athlete Development.

Regent Higgins acknowledged that the department is doing a lot to help athletes. He said that the department's benchmark of maintaining a student athlete graduation rate that is greater than the rate for all UW-Madison students is "a wonderful goal," but pointed out that the

department has not met this benchmark from 2013 to 2016. He asked what specifically the department is doing to address that particular goal.

Mr. Tiedt suggested that student athletes face certain challenges or certain opportunities that the normal student body does not face. One-third of UW-Madison's total student population transfers, including its student athletes. For purposes of graduation rates, the current cohort includes students who attended UW-Madison in their first semester but are no longer at the university. He explained that students who decide to transfer somewhere else, or who decide to play professional sports, are counted against the graduation rates.

Mr. Tiedt indicated that a better measure would be the graduation-success rate, though the Department of Education has not authorized the use of this rate as a comparable to all-campus graduation rates; this rate recognizes students who leave to pursue opportunities elsewhere. Including students who leave to play professionally, transfer while still eligible to play, or graduate from another institution, the UW-Madison Athletic Department's success rate is actually about 87 percent, he said.

Regent Higgins asked if it would be a good idea to revisit this benchmark. Mr. Tiedt noted that athletic department personnel around the country agree that the federal graduation rate is not the best measure for determining academic success of student athletes, and said this is part of the reason the Academic Progress Rate (APR) was instituted. The APR gives a real-time measure of student athlete eligibility and retention. For this measure, students who leave to pursue professional opportunities or who transfer to other schools are not included in the cohort, rather than counting against the rate.

Regent Higgins, President Millner, and Regent Langnes each thanked Mr. Tiedt for this clarification.

Regent Langnes also observed that the athletic department had underbudgeted for financial aid by a significant amount over the last few years, with an increase of about \$2 million for that expense in 2016. He asked if financial aid was considered difficult to gauge, and whether the large increase was due to a change in policy that allowed the department to give more financial aid to student athletes.

Mario Morris, Associate Athletic Director for Business Operations, explained that the primary increase in financial aid expenses was due to the NCAA's initiatives related to cost of attendance. For the first time in 2016, student athletes were able to qualify for the full cost of attendance, as regular students can. Cost-of-attendance estimates are intended to cover the cost of travelling home and other miscellaneous expenses.

Athletic Director Alvarez added that the specific cost of attendance number is determined by the university's financial aid office, and not by the athletic department.

Regent Petersen recalled that, at the time of the last UW-Madison athletics report, there had been discussion of the necessity of the Department of Athletics' working collaboratively with the Board of Regents, particularly so the Board could provide transparency to the legislature

related to funding. Noting that the Board had discussed adjustments to coaches' salaries during the previous day's closed session, he expressed appreciation to Athletic Director Alvarez for the way that process more effectively engaged Regents this year. President Millner echoed this sentiment.

Regent Farrow commented that she wished there were a way for the university to give the same type of academic support – tutoring and nurturing students – to the student body as a whole that the athletic department provides so well to its student athletes. She said that she had made a similar comment the day before in the Education Committee meeting.

Thanking Athletic Director Alvarez and his associates for their report, President Millner congratulated them on a good year and wished them the best for the next year.

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## **REPORT OF 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 said that the REDI Committee began with a presentation by Dr. Marsha Mailick, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, on the research enterprise at UW-Madison. For the first time since 1972, UW-Madison is not ranked in the top five research institutions based on research expenditure data collected and reported by the National Science Foundation. Vice Chancellor Mailick presented information on research expenditure trends for UW-Madison and peer universities, discussed efforts that other states and universities are undertaking to increase their competitiveness and research portfolios, and presented information on steps that UW-Madison is undertaking to further strengthen its research capacity and competitiveness.

Vice Chancellor Mailick was joined by UW-Madison Professor Nadine Connor, UW-Madison graduate student Heidi Kletzien, and Paul Weiss, Managing Director of Venture Investors.

Professor Connor discussed her research in communication sciences and disorders, and noted the essential role that funding support plays in the ability of a professor to excel in all aspects, including teaching, mentoring, service, and research.

Ms. Kletzien described her experiences and opportunities as a student working for Professor Connor, the role that resources and funding play in attracting quality students and professors to UW-Madison, and how a critical mass of exceptionally talented people is needed for the University of Wisconsin to thrive.



Mr. Weiss discussed his experiences commercializing research through his Venture Investors capital firm. He noted the unique expertise that UW-Madison offers, the critical need to support research at UW-Madison, and the benefits such support provides the entire state by providing jobs, increasing the tax base, attracting a major corporate presence, and attracting and retaining the best faculty and students.

Regent Hall said the REDI Committee then heard from Chancellor Dean Van Galen, who led a presentation on the dairy science program at UW-River Falls and the high-impact practices and partnerships that have allowed the program to be so successful. He was joined by Interim Provost Faye Perkins, who noted that collaborations and partnerships were essential for providing educational opportunities to students and developing the international presence of UW-River Falls.

Jennifer Lu, an Economic Development Consultant with the Wisconsin International Agribusiness Center at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, then spoke to the Committee about her organization's collaboration with UW-River Falls and the outcomes that impacted intergenerational agribusiness – an industry where Wisconsin exports a total of \$3.2 billion.

Finally, Regent Hall said the REDI Committee closed its session with UW System Vice President James Henderson, who laid the groundwork for future discussions on public/private partnerships. Vice President Henderson specifically noted the success of the California State University System and its CSUPERB program, which saw a twelve-fold return on seed grant funding and demonstrated a high graduation rate of 90 percent for students supported by seed grants (compared to the system average of 51 percent).

President Millner thanked Regent Hall for her report of the REDI Committee's continuing examination of research being done on UW campuses.

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

President Millner called upon Regent Mueller to present the report of actions taken by the Business and Finance Committee.

Regent Mueller said the Business and Finance Committee approved a charter for a newly established Subcommittee on Investments, with the goal of becoming more efficient and effective in the Board's trust fund oversight. The charter outlines how members of the subcommittee are to be appointed; the role of the trust officer and any advisors or liaisons to the subcommittee that might be appointed; and specific responsibilities of the subcommittee, which include overseeing the management and administration of funds administered and invested on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Stating that the Business and Finance Committee received a summary of the quarterly Gifts, Grants and Contracts report for fiscal year 2017, Regent Mueller reported that awards in general are down, and federal awards in particular decreased by \$38.1 million.

The Business and Finance Committee also received a high-level summary of a financial management report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2017. Both expenses and revenues are running below budget.

The Business and Finance Committee discussed two reports: the UW System report on major information technology projects, and another report on large and vital information technology projects. Regent Mueller explained that both of these reports are eventually sent to members of the legislature. She indicated that the four large IT projects are generally on time and on budget, though an interactive reporting tool showed some cause for concern because of delays in that system. She said the committee members discussed these projects carefully and would continue to watch them.

The Business and Finance Committee approved a UW-Madison request for an exception to Board policy on large unendowed bequests and gifts. Regent Mueller reminded her colleagues that non-endowed gifts in excess of \$1 million become Board-designated endowments. Chancellor Blank had spoken to the committee and requested that the Board allow the full expenditure of approximately \$3.5 million from a bequest from the Louis and Annette Kaufman Trust; she indicated that the funds would be used for the Educational Innovation Initiative and to support the new Hamel Music Center project, which will soon begin construction.

Regent Mueller reported that the Business and Finance Committee approved a salary range for the Dean of the School of Business at UW-Madison that could exceed 75 percent of the System President's salary. This action will allow UW-Madison to recruit for the position at a salary level up to \$475,000.

Interim Vice President for Finance Julie Gordon informed committee members that the financial statements for fiscal year-end June 30, 2016, are still not available. These statements are typically brought before the Business and Finance Committee and full Board in February of each year, but have not been received due to delays with the State of Wisconsin's new financial reporting system. Regent Mueller indicated that the System hopes to receive the statements in March.

Finally, Regent Mueller said Business and Finance Committee members heard a report from Vice President Rob Cramer, who indicated that he had been on the job for four days.

On behalf of the Business and Finance Committee, Regent Mueller moved adoption of Resolution 18022, the charter for the Business and Finance Committee Subcommittee on Investments; Resolution 10823, approval of the UW-Madison request for an exception to Board policy on large unendowed bequests and gifts; and Resolution 10824, approval of a salary range exceeding 75 percent of the UW System President's salary for the Dean of the School of

Business at UW-Madison. The motion was seconded by Regent Grebe and adopted on a voice vote.

**Approval of the Charter for the Business and Finance Committee Subcommittee on Investments**

Resolution 10822 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents adopts the attached Subcommittee on Investments Charter to define the roles of the subcommittee created at the Board's November 10, 2016 meeting.

**UW System Trust Funds Exception to Board Policy on Large Unendowed Bequests/Gifts for the Louis and Annette Kaufman Bequest**

Resolution 10823 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 Louis and Annette Kaufman bequest.

**Approval of Salary Range Exceeding 75% of the President's Salary, Dean of the School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Resolution 10824 That, upon recommendation of the UW-Madison Chancellor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, UW-Madison be authorized to recruit for a Dean of the School of Business at a salary that may exceed 75% of the UW System President's current salary, up to a maximum of \$475,000. Pursuant to Regent Policy Document 6-3, the Board of Regents authorizes the President of the University of Wisconsin System to approve the appointment and the salary for this position.

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**REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

President Millner called upon Regent Whitburn to present a report of the actions taken by the Education Committee.

Regent Whitburn said the Education Committee considered and approved a Bachelor of Science in Education Studies for UW-Madison. Calling it a very interesting addition to UW-Madison's education program array, he explained that this bachelor's degree is for students who intend to work in education policy at a foundation, think tank, or government setting, rather than in the classroom.

He indicated that UW-Superior's post-tenure review policy had been completed and cleared review by General Counsel Tom Stafford and Vice President Jim Henderson, and that the Education Committee approved the policy.

UW-Milwaukee presented a proposal for a new charter high school to be located near downtown Milwaukee. The Pathways High School charter and contract was approved by the Education Committee.

UW-Parkside also recommended a renewal of the charter school contract for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Preparatory School in Racine. Regent Whitburn said that this school has been operating for 15 years with positive results; the committee approved the renewal.

Regent Whitburn reported that Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf provided the Education Committee with an excellent update on UW-Madison's educational "lay of the land." The fall freshmen class included 6,443 enrollees, of which 3,671 (or 57 percent) were Wisconsinites and 511 were international students.

Regent Whitburn said the Education Committee looked at some interesting data which showed that freshman applications at UW-Madison were up 29 percent over the past eight years. In this same period, minority applications were up 89 percent, and international applications were up about 136 percent. Meanwhile, applications from Wisconsin residents were down by about 6 percent since 2008.

With the current focus on college costs and student debt, Provost Mangelsdorf and the Education Committee discussed UW-Madison's four-year graduation rate, which has improved from 50 percent in 2007 to 61 percent in 2016. Although this was a substantial improvement, Regent Whitburn noted that some of UW-Madison's peers among the Big Ten public institutions are doing better – for example, the four-year graduation rate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is over 70 percent, and the rate is 77 percent at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He said the Education Committee encouraged Provost Mangelsdorf to drive an agenda to get UW-Madison's numbers higher.

Finally, Vice President Henderson had updated the Education Committee on what his office is doing to establish common cut scores in the math remediation programs across the UW institutions, including contacting experts in both the University System of Maryland and the University of Tennessee System for input.

Regent Whitburn then moved adoption of Resolutions 10825, 10826, 10827, and 10828. The motion was seconded by Regent Steil and adopted on a voice vote.

**Program Authorization (Implementation), Bachelor of Science in Education Studies, UW-Madison**

Resolution 10825      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 Bachelor of Science in Education Studies at UW-Madison.

**Approval of Post-Tenure Review Policy, UW-Superior**

Resolution 10826 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the University's Post-Tenure Review Policy.

**UW-Milwaukee Approval of Charter School, Pathways High School**

Resolution 10827 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the charter school contract with Milwaukee Pathways High, Inc., to operate a public school known as Pathways High School, for a period of five years, from July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2022.

**UW-Parkside Charter School Renewal, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Preparatory School**

Resolution 10828 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the renewal of the charter school contract with Racine Charter One, Inc., maintaining a charter school known as 21st Century Preparatory School.

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**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

Regent Grebe said the Audit Committee began with Chief Audit Executive Lori Stortz's review of the status of the various audits that were approved as part of the FY 2017 audit plan, which continues to be on schedule. The committee also briefly discussed the development of the next year's audit plan.

The Audit Committee heard reports from the staff regarding audits completed since its last meeting. Audit Director Paul Rediske reviewed the UW-Stout cash handling report, and Phil Lyons, UW-Stout's chief business officer, discussed plans to address the comments identified in that report.

Regent Grebe said Mr. Rediske also described the cash handling report for UW-River Falls, which did not include any comments with a high audit priority rating.

Audit Director Steve Mentel reviewed the purchasing card audit for UW System Administration, which contained various comments about purchasing card transactions. Two new comments were discussed regarding credit analysis and purchases through contracted and institution-developed vendors. Regent Grebe indicated that the Audit Committee continues to be concerned about purchasing cards, but very much appreciates the significant progress that has been made by management to continue to monitor those matters and make substantial improvements.

Audit Director Amanda Nehmer summarized the NCAA compliance audit at UW-Madison. Regent Grebe said the relatively few comments all had a low audit priority rating. Mr. Rediske also summarized the NCAA agreed-upon procedures audit report for UW-Milwaukee and UW-Green Bay.

Ms. Nehmer presented the international education audit for UW-Stevens Point, which contained two comments – including one that had a high audit priority rating – regarding the time limits of account reconciliations in order to allow timely refunds to students.

Mr. Rediske reviewed the emergency preparedness report for UW-Milwaukee. Regent Grebe said there were only two audit comments, neither of which received a high audit priority rating.

Regent Grebe said that the Audit Committee requested that best practices be actively shared by the audit team with the various UW institutions around the state, and also asked for Chief Audit Executive Stortz to have periodic communications with chancellors regarding outstanding significant issues.

Regent Grebe reported that Ms. Nehmer provided a summary of the progress that management has made across the campuses toward resolving the comments and recommendations that had been included in previously-issued audit reports. Regent Grebe said the Audit Committee was very pleased with the progress that has been made.

He reported that the committee members discussed how the Audit Committee should be prioritizing some of the audit comments. He observed that the nature of these audits is such that there are occasionally a significant number of comments, and the committee wants to be sure that it is not confusing a quantitative analysis with a qualitative analysis. He indicated that the Audit Committee and a number of the chancellors present had a productive conversation in that regard, and discussed the benefits of also publicly recognizing the substantial progress that campuses make in response to the audits.

President Millner thanked Regent Grebe for his report.

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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 actions taken by the Capital Planning and Budget Committee.

Regent Manydeeds said the Capital Planning and Budget Committee heard a presentation from UW-Madison regarding its campus master plan update, “Extending Our History – Embracing Our Future.” Topics of the update included the 2015 Master Plan goals, major recommendations, long-range building opportunities, transportation recommendations, and utility initiatives.

The committee also heard a report from Vice President Alex Roe regarding State Building Commission actions, and approved three resolutions.

Resolution 10829, brought forward by the UW System on behalf of UW-Madison, requested approval of the Health Science Learning Center Academic Affairs Curriculum Enhancement Project, which is solely funded by \$16 million in gift funds. This project renovates space on four floors of the Health Science Learning Center to enhance the teaching, administrative, and public space for academic affairs. It also improves the mechanical system and provides security enhancements to support a new medical education curriculum and prepare for an accreditation evaluation.

Resolution 10830, brought forward by UW System on behalf of UW-Madison, requested authority to complete the design and construction of the School of Business Learning Commons Project, which is solely funded by approximately \$10 million in gift funds. This project will renovate space across three floors of library, classroom, and computer lab space within Grainger Hall. It will improve the mechanical system and provide audio-visual equipment to support flexible active-learning classrooms.

Resolution 10831, brought forward by the UW System, requested approval of the major capital projects evaluation criteria. Regent Manydeeds explained that planning for the 2017-2019 capital budget had begun, and the criteria used for prioritizing major building projects have been updated to reflect the current systemwide initiatives, priorities, and goals of the Board of Regents. The intended use of the criteria is to create a priority list of projects that addresses the greatest needs, highest academic priorities, and most cost-efficient solutions to established facility deficiencies.

Regent Manydeeds then moved adoption of Resolutions 10829, 10830, and 10831. The motion was seconded by Regent Delgado and adopted on a voice vote.

**Approval of the UW-Madison Health Science Learning Center Academic Affairs Curriculum Enhancement Project, UW System**

Resolution 10829      That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, authority be granted to complete the design and construction of the UW-Madison Health Science Learning Center Academic Affairs Curriculum Enhancement project for a total estimated cost of \$16,025,264 Gift Funds.

**Approval of the UW-Madison School of Business Learning Commons Project, UW System**

Resolution 10830      That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, authority be granted to complete the design and construction of the UW-Madison School of Business Learning Commons project for a total estimated cost of \$10,082,266 Gift Funds.

**Approval of the Criteria for Ranking Building Projects, UW System**

Resolution 10831      That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Criteria for Evaluating Major Capital Projects be adopted as the basis for prioritizing major capital projects for inclusion in UW System capital budget requests.

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**CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO THE UW SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS BYLAWS – TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES**

President Millner noted that the Board’s bylaws were in need of several updates and corrections. Indicating that they were all straightforward, she opened the floor to questions about any of the proposed updates. Hearing none, President Millner then requested a motion to adopt Resolution 10832. Regent Petersen moved adoption of Resolution 10832. The motion was seconded by Regent Behling and adopted on a voice vote.

**Approval of Amendments to Update the Bylaws of the Board of Regents**

Resolution 10832      That, upon the recommendation of the President of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the attached amendments to update the Bylaws of the Board of Regents.

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## PRESENTATION OF BOARD OF REGENTS 2017 DIVERSITY AWARDS

President Millner stated that one of the most enjoyable responsibilities for the Board is the presentation of Regent Awards. She said the ninth annual Regents Diversity Awards would recognize outstanding faculty and staff members from three different institutions. The Board honors these individuals for the support and opportunities they offer students. President Millner stated that these colleagues, their work, and their achievements speak strongly to the systemwide commitment to diversity.

To lead the awards presentation, President Millner turned the floor over to the Chair of the Diversity Awards selection committee, Regent Mark Tyler.

On behalf of his colleagues, Regent Tyler extended a special welcome to the 2017 award recipients and their families, friends and colleagues who were present in the gallery.

Currently in its ninth year, the Board of Regents' presentation of Diversity Awards is meant to recognize outstanding contributions to diversity and inclusion by people and programs throughout the UW System. While the awards are relatively new, Regent Tyler said the ideals that these awards represent have been promoted by the System for 25 years.

The Regents Diversity Awards are part of a special family of awards that the Regents sponsor; these also include the Teaching Excellence Awards and the Academic Staff Excellence Awards, both of which recognize exceptional service. The Regents Diversity Awards were established through a Board directive calling for formal recognition of individuals, teams and units within the UW System that have successfully fostered greater access and success for historically under-represented populations.

Regent Tyler recognized his colleagues who served on the selection committee: Regents Eve Hall, Tim Higgins, and Ed Manydeeds. He also thanked the other nominees who submitted applications, and expressed appreciation for the work of staff who supported the committee, including Sal Carranza and his team, Jennifer Moore, and others.

Regent Tyler said the people and the programs that the Board would hear about understand what is needed, and also do something to meet those needs. Each of the 2017 award winners shows genuine respect for human differences, a deep attentiveness to the learning process, and a keen responsiveness to students and their educational needs. He indicated that the Diversity Awards Committee was proud to recognize their accomplishments and have them as part of the UW System family.

### ***Dr. Cyndi Kernahan, UW-River Falls – Individual Award***

Regent Hall said it was her privilege to present the first 2017 Board of Regents Diversity Award in the individual category to Dr. Cyndi Kernahan, Psychology Professor and Assistant Dean for Teaching and Learning at UW-River Falls.

Since joining UW-River Falls in 1999, Dr. Kernahan has established herself as a recognized expert in the study of racism and prejudice. Under her leadership, the university has improved campus climate and is addressing issues of diversity and inclusion through university-level strategic planning.

Dr. Kernahan helped design and implement a campus climate survey and worked to create action steps to address issues revealed in the survey results. She uses data to understand impediments to academic progress and recently helped UW-River Falls earn a grant to improve retention among under-represented minority students.

Regent Hall stated that Dr. Kernahan developed and teaches “The Psychology of Prejudice and Racism,” a course that has specific learning outcomes requiring data collection and reporting on a five-year basis. At the university and System levels, she leads faculty development opportunities and serves on diversity-related committees.

Dr. Kernahan has invited expert speakers to campus, presented at conferences, and delivered sessions to student audiences, including a seminar at UW-Barron County and a fraternity at UW-River Falls. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals and is cited frequently among scholars in the field. Her most recent publications were designed to help instructors improve their teaching.

Regent Hall noted that Dr. Kernahan was described in her nomination materials as “passionate about good evidence and an enthusiastic teaching-scholar who is always assessing the best way to engage in discussions and teach about equity and diversity.”

Regent Hall presented an individual Regents Diversity Award to Dr. Cyndi Kernahan, who was greeted with a standing ovation.

Dr. Kernahan thanked the Board of Regents for sponsoring the Diversity Awards, noting that the award reflects what the Regents believe is important. She also thanked UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen; Provost Faye Perkins; Dean Brad Caskey; and Psychology Department Chair Travis Tubré, who had nominated Dr. Kernahan for the award.

Dr. Kernahan said she had been asked to discuss what she believes is important for reducing achievement gaps. She indicated that there are two basic keys to closing achievement gaps, which matter for the health of the state, the economy, and the UW System – believing in all students, and believing students if they feel unwelcome or dismissed on campus.

First, it is important to believe in all students, including those who might have a harder time with college or getting to college. Specifically, for students of color and first-generation students, the UW System needs to have the same high standards that it has for all students.

Second, the university must believe students when they say they feel dismissed or unwelcomed on campus. Dr. Kernahan said that campus climate is about whether students feel like they belong on campus; taking these issues seriously helps those students achieve.

Dr. Kernahan added that her daughter was recently accepted to UW-Madison and is excited to attend. She stated that for her daughter to be successful, all the students on campus need to be successful. She then ended her remarks by once again thanking Regents for sponsoring the Diversity Awards and for recognizing her.

***Ms. Angela Miller, UW-Platteville – Individual Award***

Regent Higgins stated that the next Regents Diversity Award in the individual category would go to Angela Miller, Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs at UW-Platteville.

Under Ms. Miller’s leadership over the past five years, the office has had a sustainable impact on underrepresented minorities on campus. She implemented the Academic Enrichment Program, a comprehensive approach to supporting students who are first-generation or from at-risk populations. Its services include supplemental advising, summer bridge programs, and first-year interest groups.

Regent Higgins said that Ms. Miller also implemented SUCCEED, a three-week residential summer program focused on students of color and first-generation college students, as well as the DRIVEN Scholars Program, a comprehensive advising model to monitor academic progress and degree completion.

With the help of the Admissions Office, Ms. Miller developed an outreach program to middle schools and high schools called “Paths to Platteville.” She also directs the College Club, a school-based program in the town of Darlington that presents students in grades six to twelve with the opportunity to learn about college.

Regent Higgins observed that, by many measures, Ms. Miller’s efforts were showing remarkable success in a short period of time. Between 2009 and 2013, the gap in cumulative credits between underrepresented minorities and white students declined from greater than six credits to less than one credit. Similarly, the gap in grade point average has declined significantly. Her efforts are credited with helping to grow the underrepresented student population at UW-Platteville from 11 to 15 percent between 2009 and 2015.

Regent Higgins quoted the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success at UW-Platteville as saying about Ms. Miller: “As Chief Diversity Officer, Angela leads by example and reaches out to her colleagues to promote valuable resources for her team and the students. She shares the message about [how] diversity...is crucial for students to become responsible citizens that will contribute to society. Angela has brought about institutional change that has improved the climate and cultural competence on the UW-Platteville campus.”

With that, Regent Higgins presented the 2017 Regents Diversity Award in the individual category to Angela Miller, who was greeted with a standing ovation.

Ms. Miller began by stating that she was humbled and appreciative of the Regents' acknowledgment. She also expressed her deep respect for the good work that occurs on so many campuses and with so many of her colleagues in diversity and inclusion.

In thinking about what is essential for having a measurable impact on closing equity gaps for under-served students, Ms. Miller said she would share what she had found to be successful and hoped to continue to develop at UW-Platteville: how important campus partnerships are, and how important it is to have the willingness to change institutionally.

She said this requires asking the hard questions and reflecting on the fact that some of the ways in which educators systemically approach their work need to change – even if they are proud of them, or have always done things that way. She indicated that she appreciated hearing from the other award recipient, Dr. Kernahan, about the importance of listening to the students and understanding their experience, and understanding how that experience can be changed.

Ms. Miller highlighted the Academic Enrichment Program as an example of UW-Platteville's willingness to change and work with campus partnerships. She expressed appreciation for the direction of Chancellor Dennis Shields and the willingness of others at UW-Platteville to think about different ways to move forward.

Stating that she is a proud alumna of UW-Whitewater and UW-Madison, Ms. Miller said she is both a product of and a firm believer in the UW System. She noted that among the people who had traveled to join her at the awards ceremony from UW-Platteville, UW-Madison, and UW-Whitewater was one of the three people who had taught her the importance of community: Dr. Roger Pulliam. She described how meeting Dr. Pulliam when she was an undergraduate changed the direction of her life. His passion, work, and transformational attitudes on how to serve students from different backgrounds at UW-Whitewater pushed her and taught her how to create community in an infrastructure where that can sometimes be difficult.

Ms. Miller also acknowledged her two other “teachers” on the importance of community: her partner, Joe Lubasz, and an uncle who had recently passed away. She said their work caring about people has united communities from across Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ontario, and Manitoba in ways that have transformed her life and provided her with opportunities to understand the concepts of building community and helping people feel valued, which enrich her work on campus.

Stating how important it is to work with great people who really care about the students, Ms. Miller said she has the distinct pleasure of working with people who have no problem covering four to five positions because they know that students come first. She added that these people lead by trying to understand – rather than being combative and resisting change – which is instrumental for UW-Platteville to continue to change and move forward.

Ms. Miller also thanked the students, parents and families who continue to invest their time, money, and support in the UW System and UW-Platteville. She indicated that educators learn a lot from their students, especially those from historically under-represented backgrounds.

She acknowledged these students' persistence and resiliency in working through the educational system as universities continue to work on changing some of the issues that are problematic.

Finally, Ms. Miller thanked the Board of Regents for spending time and resources on acknowledging the work that is being done in this area, which she noted reflects on the Board's values. She congratulated the other Diversity Award recipients, past and present, and said she felt honored to have had this opportunity.

### ***Blugold Beginnings, UW-Eau Claire – Team Award***

Regent Manydeeds said he was honored to present the Regents Diversity Award in the team category to the Blugold Beginnings program at UW-Eau Claire. He reminded his colleagues that they had met some of the program's young participants at the Board's October 2016 meeting at UW-Eau Claire.

Led by Program Director Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Blugold Beginnings is an innovative precollege program designed to increase enrollment and retention of under-represented minority students in higher education. The program now serves fifth grade through high school students, and has expanded to include a campus learning community, which supports students admitted to UW-Eau Claire.

Blugold Beginnings also offers a fifth-grade campus visit, which now includes 2,000 fifth graders, mentored by more than 550 UW-Eau Claire students. Regent Manydeeds observed that these are impressive numbers. In the team's nomination materials, Chancellor Jim Schmidt described the value of the campus tour day: "During these annual visits, the campus is transformed into an incubator for fifth graders to dream about the possibilities a post-secondary education can provide for them. This visit day lays the groundwork for kids to see themselves as college students one day."

Regent Manydeeds explained that the fifth graders are invited back for longer summer camps, and eighth graders can attend a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Day to learn about STEM fields. Additional programming is available for high school students.

Blugold Beginnings serves students from low-income, first-generation, and historically under-represented groups; 70 percent of the student mentors mirror the population they serve. In the last six years, the learning community program has served more than 300 students during their college careers at UW-Eau Claire, with a focus on maximizing their experiences and graduating in four years.

Regent Manydeeds indicated that students in the Blugold Beginnings cohort group are welcomed to campus early to jumpstart their college experience and help them become familiar with the facilities and resources. Students are paired with both upper-class student mentors and a faculty member, who help to guide them through the semester. Research has shown that students enrolled in the program have a higher grade point average than all students of color and first-year students not in the program.

Regent Manydeeds then presented the Regents Diversity Award to the Blugold Beginnings team, represented by Program Director Jodi Thesing-Ritter, who was greeted with a standing ovation.

Ms. Thesing-Ritter began by recognizing the members of her “dream team” at UW-Eau Claire. Present in the gallery were Khong Meng Her, Whisper Kappus-McDew, Karen Dominguez, and Cheri Snobl. Unable to attend were Dennis Beale, D’Karlos Craig, and Olivia Vruwink.

Echoing the sentiments of the previous recipients, Ms. Thesing-Ritter stated that her team’s work requires institutional and systemic change. The Blugold Beginnings program was a challenge from UW-Eau Claire’s previous chancellor to finally, and once and for all, attack the opportunity gap problem.

To make systemic change requires the infusion of money and resources in terms of staffing; Ms. Thesing-Ritter applauded Chancellor Schmidt and previous chancellors for making the commitment to provide staffing and support so that the Blugold Beginnings team could seek external funds. Stating that UW-Eau Claire had received more than \$3 million in grants to build a program from the ground up that changes the system, she said that what her team is doing works: Blugold Beginnings students are performing well, and the program is increasing the number of students who attend UW-Eau Claire while also creating a college-going culture in the region.

Ms. Thesing-Ritter said the university must continue to fight vigilantly to allocate the necessary resources to appropriately support underserved students so they can have the same success as fully resourced students. Indicating that she feels passionately about this issue, she encouraged the Regents to continue to share this commitment.

Ms. Thesing-Ritter concluded by expressing her appreciation for the value that the Board places on diversity by creating such an award.

President Millner said the real pleasure of being part of the Board of Regents happens when spending time at graduations, visiting campuses and meeting with the students, and at the Regents Awards ceremonies, because these are the times that give the Regents an opportunity to see the results of what is happening on the UW campuses. She congratulated all of the award recipients and wished them well.

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## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO UW-MADISON AS HOST OF THE FEBRUARY BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**

President Millner called upon Regent Petersen, one of her fellow Regent-liaisons with UW-Madison, to read the resolution of appreciation to UW-Madison as host of the February meeting.

Regent Petersen said he was always astonished at all that the Board experiences during the course of a meeting on any of the campuses; the Regents are given a look at the economic impact the UW System is having, and at the success of its faculty, staff, and students. On behalf of the Board of Regents, he then read the resolution of appreciation for UW-Madison.

**Resolution of Appreciation: UW-Madison**

Resolution 10833

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Regents are pleased to recognize the University of Wisconsin-Madison as the official host campus for the Board's February 2017 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board is grateful for the generous hospitality extended this month by Chancellor Rebecca Blank and the entire UW-Madison community; and

WHEREAS, the Board appreciated hearing Chancellor Blank's presentation, "Why We Need to Reinvest in UW-Madison"; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Capital Planning and Budget Committee were pleased to receive an update on UW-Madison's campus master plan, titled, "Extending Our History – Embracing Our Future"; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation – or REDI – Committee heard an informative presentation led by Marsha Mailick, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, which highlighted UW-Madison's efforts to strengthen its research capacity and competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Education Committee thanks Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf for leading a discussion about some of UW-Madison's data on enrollment and student success; and

WHEREAS, the Board was delighted to hear from Stephanie Starr, a UW-Madison junior majoring in nursing, featured in this month's Student Spotlight;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents hereby thanks UW-Madison 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.

On behalf of the Board of Regents, President Millner presented a football to Chancellor Blank as a token of appreciation from the Regents who attended the Cotton Bowl, to celebrate both UW-Madison's hospitality and also an excellent football season.

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## CLOSED SESSION

President Millner called upon Vice President Behling to present the resolution to move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Regent Tyler and adopted on a roll-call vote, with Regents Behling, Delgado, 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 10834      That the Board of Regents move into closed session: (a) to consider personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons and the investigations of charges against specific persons, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial effect upon the reputation of such persons, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; and (b) to consider an annual personnel evaluation, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.

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The Board recessed at 10:40 a.m. to relocate to Varsity Hall I and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

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The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 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