

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

**February 2, 2017**

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

**a. Approval of the Minutes of the December 8, 2016, Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee**

Chairman Hall asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016, REDI Committee meeting. Motion was made by Regent Tyler and seconded by Regent Erickson to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Strengthening UW-Madison's Research Capacity and Competitiveness**

Marsha Mailick, UW-Madison Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, presented information on recent research expenditure trends for UW-Madison and peer universities. UW-Madison is the only institution in the top five of national research institutions that experienced a decrease in research expenditures. This decrease is also seen when looking at the last five years. The greatest drop in expenditures by source of funding is state and local government. When averaged, both the top ten and top twenty-five institutions show upward trends. Vice Chancellor Mailick was joined by Professor Nadine Connor and PhD student Heidi Kletzien for a discussion on the factors that contribute to faculty research and student success. Professors at UW-Madison play an integral role in acquiring funding. However, competing for funding represents a fraction of the multiple responsibilities of a professor, and when the burden of other responsibilities increases, the capacity for competing for funding decreases. Regent Higgins asked if more could be done to get additional funding, and Chancellor Blank responded that they can grow best in specialized areas. Growth in areas that do not already have an established reputation produces significant higher costs. Managing Director of Venture Investors Paul Weiss concluded with a presentation on the impacts of university innovation.

Chairman Hall asked about other opportunities for funding, and Weiss responded that there are opportunities for public-private partnerships. Regent Tyler asked if federal funding overall is declining. Vice Chancellor Mailick responded that it was; however, elite universities were still seeing overall increases in funding. Regent Tyler asked what the partners wanted, and Vice Chancellor Mailick responded that partners want the expertise that UW-Madison researchers can provide. The top priority goal is to solve human problems to add value to the state of Wisconsin.

**c. Dairy Science at UW-River Falls: Supporting a Key Wisconsin Industry through Engaged Learning and Regional and Global Partnerships**

Interim Provost Faye Perkins and Jennifer Lu, Economic Development Consultant with the Wisconsin International Agribusiness Center/DATCP, joined UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen for a presentation on the dairy science program. UW-River Falls has one of the largest

undergraduate [dairy science programs](#) in the nation, with a focus on experiential learning and providing students with relevant business experiences. Crediting much of the success of the program to inclusion of high-impact practices and local partnerships, Dr. Perkins explained that the program has become the second largest in the country with more than 140 students. The industry collaborations have been essential to providing educational opportunity. Jennifer Lu expanded on the partnership approach of the program. The program has established a strong relationship with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, which in turn has led to state, national, and international exposure and engagement. Regent Tyler commended UW-River Falls for collaborating with UW-Platteville during the expansion of their dairy program.

**d. A Collaborative Approach to Supporting Research, Community Engagement, and Student Involvement**

Jim Henderson, UWSA Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, was unable to present due to time constraints.

Chairman Hall adjourned the meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee at 10:30 a.m.