

**Minutes of the UW System Board of Regents Education
Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 6, 2017**

Chairperson Regina Millner convened the meeting of the Education Committee on Thursday, July 6, 2017 at 10:45 a.m. In attendance were Regents Evers, Higgins, Klein, Ring, and Tyler. Regent Farrow was absent.

Committee Actions

Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 Meeting of the Education Committee

Chairperson Millner requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2017, Education Committee meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Regent Jones and seconded by Regent Tyler. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee also approved the following six resolutions:

- a. **Resolution I.1.c.**, Approval of the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science at UW-Eau Claire. Motion for approval was made by Regent Higgins, seconded by Regent Ring, and unanimously approved.
- b. **Resolution I.1.d.**, Approval of the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Science at UW-Eau Claire. Motion for approval was made by Regent Tyler, seconded by Regent Klein, and unanimously approved.
- c. **Resolution I.1.e.**, Approval of the Master of Science in Athletic Training at UW-Oshkosh. Motion for approval was made by Regent Higgins, seconded by Regent Ring, and unanimously approved.
- d. **Resolution I.1.f.**, Approval of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science at UW-Superior. Motion for approval was made by Regent Jones, seconded by Regent Ring, and unanimously approved.
- e. **Resolution I.1.g.**, Approval of the UW-Green Bay Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff and Termination. Motion for approval was made by Regent Tyler, seconded by Regent Klein, and unanimously approved.
- f. **Resolution I.1.h.**, Approval of the Proffers from the Vilas Trust Fund to UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee. Motion for approval was made by Regent Higgins, seconded by Regent Evers, and unanimously approved.

Report of the UW System Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Jim Henderson, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, previewed five of the initiatives that the Office of Academic and Student Affairs will address in the coming year. They include efforts to:

- (1) Develop an outcomes-based funding formula for UW System institutions, as directed by, and due to, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature by February 15, 2017.
- (2) Review of the UW System Policy on Monitoring Low-Degree-Producing Academic Degree Programs, which will be led by Carleen Vande Zande, UW System Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Educational Innovation.
- (3) Continue to revise math courses for incoming, undergraduate students, particularly as related to student assessment, student placement, and course delivery. The three primary goals of this initiative are to: reduce the number of students in remediation, increase the success rate of students placed into remedial classes, and increase the success rate of students in their first credit bearing math course.
- (4) Develop predictive analytics to positively impact student success, especially in advising, enrollment management, and academic programs.
- (5) Increase the efficiency of the student transfer process.

Regent Higgins asked whether students would succeed in graduating more quickly if they understood that the minimum number of credit hours per semester ought to be fifteen. Vice President Henderson responded that students do graduate more quickly when they are encouraged by their universities to take 15 credit hours per semester. However, because federal student loan guidelines only require students to enroll in 12 credit hours per semester, in order to qualify for full-time student status, they are not financially incentivized to enroll in 15 credit hours per semester.

Regent Tyler stated that in many instances students completely understand the opportunity cost of not graduating in a timely fashion, but they have situations where they have to work in order to make a living, in order to make enough money to eat and pay their rent.

Vice President Henderson responded that when he was a Dean at California State University Los Angeles, which is situated in East Los Angeles, many students worked 3-4 jobs, while they were trying to go to college, and sometimes, their families asked them to drop out of college altogether, in order to work more hours and provide more financial support. Thus, we need to understand the individual circumstances of our students, and see that many students undertake heroic efforts to complete their degrees, especially when family and poverty demands are at issue.

Chairperson Millner thanked Vice President Henderson for his presentation, stating that the Committee very much appreciates his deep commitment to the people of the State of Wisconsin.

Chairperson Millner next raised the topic of a strategic plan for the Education Committee. She stated that several years ago, Regent Michael Falbo requested a strategic plan from each of the Board of Regent committees, and thus, suggested that this year, the Education Committee consider whether it would be beneficial to establish a work plan and set of objectives that could guide the committee's work for a number of years. Chairperson Millner also stated that she would like to consider initiatives related to teacher education, because student enrollment is diminishing in UW System teacher education programs, and because rural school districts, which comprise 72% of Wisconsin's school districts, are experiencing a severe teacher shortage. Chairperson Millner then welcomed discussion among the committee members.

Regent Evers stated that as related to teacher education, many groups from all across the State of Wisconsin already are working to address low student enrollment in teacher education programs, as well as the teacher shortage in rural school districts. Therefore, it would be beneficial to collaborate with efforts that already are underway. Finally, Regent Evers stated that he appreciates the opportunity to collaborate, because teacher education programs are approved by the Department of Public Instruction.

Regent Higgins stated that when the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee was formed, the committee members engaged in a strategic planning process, which included comparing potential strategic priorities. Thus, it also may be beneficial for the Education Committee to identify and compare all of the potential strategic priorities, in addition to teacher education.

Regent Klein stated that focusing on teacher education programs is a worthy first issue. She also stated that it may be beneficial to develop a framework and process for the Education Committee's oversight of all academic programs.

Resolution I.1.c. & d., UW-Eau Claire: The Committee was asked to approve two undergraduate programs within the Department of Kinesiology: the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, and the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Science. Both programs were formerly undergraduate degree emphases within the Kinesiology Major, and both will be housed in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

To describe this degree program for the Committee, Chairperson Millner invited UW-Eau Claire Provost Patricia Kleine; Dr. Carmen Manning, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences; and Dr. Jeff Janot, Chairperson of the Kinesiology Department.

Provost Kleine stated that UW-Eau Claire has offered a Kinesiology degree for a very long time, and now the campus is revamping the degree program, so that it will be much clearer to students and employers what their concentration of study was during their degree program. The Exercise Science Major, while new in name, comprises a revision and promotion of the existing Movement Studies Emphasis within the current Kinesiology Major, while the Rehabilitation Science Major comprises a revision and promotion of the existing Pre-Professional Option within the Human Performance Emphasis of the Kinesiology Major. For both programs, the curriculum will include multiple high-impact practices, such as courses that involve applied clinical skills, undergraduate research opportunities, and required practicum experiences to include internships with many health and wellness providers in the region, such as the Center for Healthy Living, YMCA, and the L.E. Phillips Senior Center. Finally, Provost Kleine stated that no new resources or new faculty would be needed to complete these changes.

Dr. Manning stated that the department is moving from a range of degree emphases to two majors, which will allow employers to better understand what students have to offer. Thus, the focus is upon preparing students for workforce entry or admission to graduate schools.

Regent Jones expressed appreciation for UW-Eau Claire's efforts to align the Exercise Science degree with workforce needs, stating that it is helpful for employers and communities that have an exploding need for these types of workers.

Regent Higgins asked whether there are financial or economic incentives to shed academic programs that are not performing as predicted.

Provost Kleine stated that UW-Eau Claire has been working for several months to review its low-enrollment academic programs. Given budgetary constraints and student enrollment, they seek to recommend whether low-enrollment programs ought to continue, discontinue, combine with other programs, or move to service learning options.

Regent Tyler asked how UW-Eau Claire manages a situation where a program has incredible student demand, but horrible outcomes after graduation.

Provost Kleine responded that this situation does not happen on the Eau Claire campus, because they look very carefully at outcomes after graduation, and prioritize this with their students. As a result, 96% of UW-Eau Claire students report that they are highly-prepared for their careers upon being hired at their first job.

Resolution I.1.e., UW-Oshkosh: The Committee was asked to approve the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Master of Science (M.S.) in Athletic Training degree in the Department of Kinesiology. To describe this degree program for the Committee, Chairperson Millner invited UW-Oshkosh Provost Lane Earns, and John Koker, Dean of the College of Letters and Science to join the committee.

Provost Earns explained that UW-Oshkosh currently offers a Baccalaureate degree in Athletic Training, which since its approval by the Board of Regents in 2002, has excelled at developing successful graduates who are lifelong learners. Notably, this proposal aligns with the recent decision by the Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) to require all athletic training programs to be offered at the master's level by 2022. Accordingly, the program is designed to satisfy all of the requirements specified by CAATE, so that program graduates will be qualified to sit for the Athletic Training Board of Certification exam.

Finally, Provost Earns stated that because the undergraduate program is phasing out, the faculty from this program will retain to the new master's program, and thus, no new faculty will need to be hired. Moreover, the workforce demand for athletic trainers necessitates growth in this area of employment.

Regent Higgins asked whether the requirement for a master's degree for athletic trainers was an example of credential creep by accrediting entities.

Provost Earns explained that accreditation creep has been an issue for many years. He also stated that although the time to address these issues is before the accreditors make these decisions, they often do not often give universities notice before changing accreditation requirements. Thus, universities must meet these requirements in order to be competitive in the marketplace and for their students to be employable upon graduation.

Resolution I.1.f., UW-Superior: The Committee was asked to approve the proposed Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Environmental Science at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Chairperson Millner invited UW-Superior Interim Provost, Jackie Weissenburger, to join the committee in order to describe this degree program.

Provost Weissenburger explained that as the only UW campus located on Lake Superior, UW-Superior is uniquely positioned to serve as an Environmental Science research and learning laboratory on our Nation's largest freshwater Great Lake. The program will also build stronger collaborative ties with the Learning Sciences Research Institute and the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve. Finally, by adding an Environmental Science major, UW-Superior will be able to recruit new students to campus. Notably, in 2010 the University of Minnesota-Duluth, with which UW-Superior directly competes for students, added a B.S. in Environmental Science, and this program has quickly grown to support 125 students in the major. Therefore, strong student demand is anticipated for this degree program.

Resolution I.1.g., UW-Green Bay Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff and Termination. Chairperson Millner welcomed UW-Green Bay Provost Gary Davis to join the committee in order to the new procedures, which were carefully developed and approved on April 26, 2017 by the Faculty Senate.

Provost Davis reported that on March 10, 2016, the UW System Board of Regents created Regent Policy Document (RPD) 20-24, Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program

Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff and Termination, which states that: “UW System institutions shall submit to the Board of Regents for approval any institutional policy developed in accordance with this Regent policy.” On April 26, 2017, the UW-Green Bay Faculty Senate voted to wholly replace the former campus procedures, and approved new Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff and Termination. Accordingly, Chancellor Gary Miller submitted this formal request for approval from the Board of Regents for these new procedures.

Chairperson Millner reported that the UW System Office of General Counsel and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs had reviewed and approved the proposed procedures, and therefore, she recommended committee approval of the procedures. She also thanked Provost Davis and the Faculty Senate for their time and hard work in completing these procedures, and expressed that the Education Committee welcomes future procedures from other UW campuses.

Resolution I.1.h., Vilas Trust Fund Proffer Request: Chairperson Millner reported that the Vilas Trust Fund Proffer Request represents the second of an annual, two-step approval process. Therefore, she recommended that the Committee approve the proffer from the trustees of the William F. Vilas Trust Estate for \$6,876,878 for fiscal year 2017-2018. These funds will support student scholarships, student fellowships, academic programs, Vilas Research Professorships, and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorships at both UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee in Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Music, Arts and Humanities.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.