

6/23/2017

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

I.4. Research, Economic Development,  
and Innovation Committee

Thursday, July 6, 2017  
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Gordon Dining and Event Center  
770 West Dayton Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Symphony Room  
Madison, Wisconsin

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2017, Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. WiSys Technology Foundation – 2017 Progress and Performance Report – Operational Excellence – Led by Executive Director Arjun Sanga  
[Resolution I.4.b]
- c. Discussion on the Metrics of Entrepreneurship and WEDC Partnerships with UW System – Led by WEDC Vice President Aaron Hagar
- d. Update and Strategic Review of UW-Stout Discovery Center Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Activities – Led by Randy Hulke, Executive Director, Discovery Center

UW System Board of Regents  
Reaffirmation of Support of WiSys

RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Resolution I.4.b.:

That, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the UW System Board of Regents reaffirms its support of WiSys as the sole technology transfer mechanism for research, innovation, and technology transfer at UW System two-year colleges and four-year comprehensive universities and of the further development of policies and practices that support and encourage faculty and undergraduate research, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

**WISYS TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION – 2017 PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE  
REPORT – OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE – LED BY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ARJUN SANGA**

**BACKGROUND**

The UW System Board of Regents' Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee is responsible for adopting policies and developing strategies designed to strengthen the UW System's overall contribution to the economic development of the state and to consider any matters related to the University's role in enhancing its research enterprise, including technology transfer, entrepreneurship, industry partnerships, and the development of intellectual capital.

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) created WiSys to extend its mission, goals, and objectives to UW System comprehensive universities and colleges. Since 2000, WiSys has provided significant support to advance research at UW System campuses and played a critical role in transforming technology into jobs. As a key link between the campuses of the UW System and the statewide business community, WiSys remains committed to identifying and invigorating partnerships that will help address Wisconsin's critical educational and economic development challenges.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Approval of Resolution I.4.b.

**DISCUSSION**

WiSys is the technology transfer entity authorized by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System for all UW System institutions other than UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee. Those two research institutions maintain their own distinct entities for this purpose, the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Research Foundation, respectively.

WiSys has demonstrated leadership in advancing research and technology development across Wisconsin in a cost-effective manner by building strategic partnerships with innovative start-ups, high-tech companies, clinical organizations, and UW campuses. Since its inception, WiSys has been successful in significantly reducing technology development costs and in improving process efficiency.

To date, WiSys has received 62 new invention disclosures, approximately one-third of which include or are from students. WiSys has launched new innovation programs in the past three years to increase activity and enhance the student experience. These programs include the Student Ambassador program, the WiSys Quick Pitch for undergraduate research, the Prototyping Hackathon, and Innovation in Aging.

The UW System allocates \$1 million of funding annually to WiSys for administration and project development, and WEDC has committed to providing additional funding (up to \$250,000) to support projects through Ideadvance that align with the state's economic development priority industries and industrial clusters. With continued funding support from UW campuses and a renewed commitment for funding from UW System, WiSys will continue to serve as an effective channel for fostering UW research and development, provide enhanced support for commercialization of intellectual property, and provide business-development resources and infrastructure that support commercialization activities. These efforts will encourage best-practice entrepreneurial "ecosystems," thereby helping accelerate the path to growth and job creation across Wisconsin.

A strong and sustainable WiSys represents an integral component of the UW System Board of Regents' economic development strategic direction. In light of the new funding arrangements with UW System and WEDC, and in light of the changes made to the WiSys governance structure, it is recommended that the UW System Board of Regents recognize the efficacy of this arrangement and affirm its support of WiSys as the single technology transfer entity for the two-year colleges and the four-year institutions other than UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee.

#### **RELATED REGENT POLICIES**

No applicable Regent Policy Documents

July 6, 2017

Agenda Item I.4.c.

**DISCUSSION ON THE METRICS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND WEDC  
PARTNERSHIPS WITH UW SYSTEM – LED BY WEDC  
VICE PRESIDENT AARON HAGAR**

**BACKGROUND**

The UW System and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) continue to strengthen and expand partnership initiatives designed to identify and leverage collaborations and initiatives accelerating innovation in regional and international business development. WEDC provides regular updates to the REDI Committee on current and planned initiatives and provides progress reports on outcomes.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Information only.

**DISCUSSION**

Aaron Hagar, WEDC's Vice President of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, will provide an update on current initiatives and programs with a focus on WEDC's efforts to collaborate with the university and state businesses to foster entrepreneurial activities and business innovations, and to speed the time from idea to product commercialization across the state.

**RELATED REGENT POLICIES**

Not applicable.

**STRATEGIC REVIEW OF UW-STOUT DISCOVERY CENTER RESEARCH,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION – LED BY EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR RANDY HULKE**

The University of Wisconsin-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, is a comprehensive, career-focused university where students, faculty, and staff use applied learning, scientific theory, and research to solve real-world problems, grow the state economy, and serve society. The Discovery Center is UW-Stout's comprehensive technology transfer and public and private research entity. Launched in July 2009, the Discovery Center serves as the primary point of contact to facilitate access to UW-Stout's research, innovation, and economic development assets. This unique structure streamlines engagement processes and ensures efficient collaboration between UW-Stout and private and public organizations, companies, and partner institutions.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Information only.

**DISCUSSION**

Positioned to fuel Wisconsin's economic development through cross-disciplinary applied research and technology transfer activities, the Discovery Center's accomplishments include administering UW-Stout's internally and externally funded grants and contracts and delivering measurable bottom-line and top-line client-reported impacts from collaborative industry projects.

The Discovery Center executes a strategic plan that focuses on fostering innovative discoveries to advance knowledge, applying research to solve real-world challenges, and facilitating technology transfer to bolster Wisconsin industry. The presentation to the Research, Economic Development and Innovation Committee will summarize recent accomplishments, provide a status update of federal and state partnerships and Fab Lab initiatives, and highlight the Center's alignment with UW-Stout priorities, state workforce needs, and REDI Committee initiatives.

**RELATED REGENT POLICIES**

Not applicable.