

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

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

Thursday, October 5, 2017
8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Great Hall
UW-Stout Memorial Student Union
Menomonie, Wisconsin

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the July 6, 2017 Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. UW-Stout Focus on Economic Development, Undergraduate Research, FabLabs, and Business Partnerships – Led by Chancellor Bob Meyer
- c. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) – Channeling Tomorrow’s Talent through Partnerships, FabLabs and More– Led by WEDC Chief Operating Officer Tricia Braun
- d. UW-Extension Update on Business & Entrepreneurship Unit and Big Data– Led by Chancellor Cathy Sandeen and Director Mark Lange

UW-STOUT FOCUS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, FABLABS, AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

BACKGROUND

UW System campus locations statewide are adopting an increased focus on undergraduate research, economic development, and innovation initiatives across a wide spectrum of high-impact-practice areas. These efforts are focused on building greater connectivity of faculty and students with local community organizations and business partners.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

DISCUSSION

Chancellor Bob Meyer will provide an update on activities in these important focus areas at UW-Stout. His presentation will highlight business collaborations and discuss campus initiatives related to career preparation and job readiness. The foundation of these efforts is robust undergraduate research and strong business partnerships. These business partnerships are bolstered by the collaborative work of the Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC), Professional Education and the highly successful and rapidly expanding statewide FabLab program that brings together local community businesses with students and faculty to create joint initiatives that benefit all parties involved.

Additional presenters include:

- Randy Hulke, Executive Director, UW-Stout Discovery Center
- Larry Blackledge, Director, Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (unit within Discovery Center)
- Elizabeth Buchanan, Director, UW-Stout Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (unit within Discovery Center)
- Joni Geroux, Director, Professional Education Programs and Services (unit within Discovery Center)

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

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Agenda Item I.4.c.

**WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (WEDC):
CHANNELING TOMORROW'S TALENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS,
FABLABS, AND MORE**

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 that accelerate innovation, entrepreneurship and workforce 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

WEDC Chief Operating Officer Tricia Braun will highlight current and planned UW/WEDC partnership initiatives, and Kathy Heady, WEDC Industry Sector Director, will provide an update on WEDC's efforts to collaborate with the university and with state businesses to support the innovative expansion of FabLab facilities across Wisconsin.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

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Agenda Item I.4.d.

UW-EXTENSION UPDATE ON BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP UNIT AND BIG DATA

BACKGROUND

The University of Wisconsin-Extension's Division for Business and Entrepreneurship helps entrepreneurs, businesses and economic development professionals across the state to achieve their goals by offering technical assistance and leveraging data.

The Division's mission is to serve Wisconsin's aspiring, new and established small businesses by connecting them to resources, information and services that improve and increase capabilities for success. Organizations in the Division include the Small Business Development Center Network, the Center for Technology Commercialization, the Center for Business Intelligence, the Food Finance Institute, and the Business Dynamics Research Consortium. Each of these groups coordinates their efforts to support and complement the work done by WEDC, UW System institutions, and local business support groups.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information only.

DISCUSSION

UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor Cathy Sandeen will introduce Mark Lange, Executive Director, Business and Entrepreneurship, who will provide an update on his organization's initiatives and programs. He will also provide information about the "Wisconsin Business Economy" and new economic and business research resources now available to UW System institutions and beyond.

Additional presenters will include:

- Gregg Cole – Senior Researcher and Data Innovation, UW-Extension

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.