

**Minutes of the UW System Board of Regents  
Education Committee Meeting on  
February 8, 2018**

**Education Committee**

The Education Committee convened at 9:14 a.m. in the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Union South, Varsity Hall II. In attendance were Regents Millner (Chair), Jones (Vice Chair), Higgins, Klein, Ring, and Tyler. Regent Evers joined in the meeting at approximately 10:12 a.m.

**Committee Actions**

The Education Committee unanimously adopted the December 7, 2017, Meeting Minutes, and approved seven resolutions, including:

- **Resolution I.1.c.**, Approval of the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience at UW-Eau Claire;
- **Resolution I.1.d.1.**, Approval of the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at UW-Green Bay;
- **Resolution I.1.d.2.**, Approval of the Establishment of a School of Engineering, and Renaming of the College of Science and Technology at UW-Green Bay;
- **Resolution I.1.e.**, Approval of the Master of Arts in Applied Professional Studies at UW-Parkside;
- **Resolution I.1.f.**, Approval of the Master of Science in Education in Montessori Education at UW-River Falls;
- **Resolution I.1.g.**, Renewal of the Charter School Contract with Woodlands School, Incorporated; and
- **Resolution I.1.h.**, Approval of the Charter School Contract with Rocketship Education Wisconsin, Incorporated.

**Vice President's Report:** Jim Henderson, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, reported on two topics.

First, he stated that the UW System has been awarded a \$2.3 million grant from the Great Lakes Foundation, which will support the UW System Math Initiative. Grant funds will be distributed directly to UW System institutions, in support of their efforts to:

- Increase undergraduate student enrollment in developmental, introductory, and upper level math courses in their first year of college;
- Increase completion rates for first year students enrolled in developmental and introductory math courses; and
- Ensure transferability of introductory math courses among UW System institutions.

Vice President Henderson formally recognized the co-authors of the grant proposal, who were in attendance: Dr. Jennifer Kosiak, Professor, UW-La Crosse Department of Mathematics and Statistics; and Dr. Carrie Tirel, Associate Professor, UW-Fox Valley. Vice President Henderson also recognized the dedicated work of Alice Pulvermacher, Project Manager, UW System; and Sandy Kallio, Communications Specialist, UW System, who were in attendance.

Second, Vice President Henderson reported that in order to advance the goal of meeting workforce demand for more highly-qualified teachers in Wisconsin, Assistant State Superintendent, Dr. Sheila Briggs would present at the meeting on the Department of Public Instruction's process for approving teacher education programs leading to licensure.

Vice President Henderson also reported that Dr. Mary Ann Rankin, Provost at the University of Maryland, will present at the Education Committee meeting on April 5, 2018. Dr. Rankin will discuss UTeach, which is an innovative teacher preparation program that she launched while Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. UTeach has demonstrated enormous success in graduating high-quality students from STEM fields for careers as secondary science, math and computer science teachers.

**UW-Eau Claire:** The Committee unanimously approved a new Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Neuroscience within the Department of Psychology at UW-Eau Claire.

Dr. Michael Carney, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented on behalf of UW Eau Claire. He explained that the degree programs emphasize a broad-based, multidisciplinary approach to understanding the brain, from the fields of psychology, biology, mathematics, chemistry, philosophy, music, and communication sciences and disorders. The degree programs also encourage transformative learning via embedded high-impact practices, such as undergraduate research opportunities and internships. Notably, students will engage in neuroscience-related research opportunities, supported by UW-Eau Claire's Blugold Commitment Program, which funds student research and the costs associated with student presentations at national research conventions. Moreover, the Mayo Clinic Health Care System will provide undergraduate research opportunities.

Regent Millner commended UW-Eau Claire for its strong relationship with the Mayo Clinic, and stated that this is the second example of UW-Eau Claire working with the Mayo Clinic to establish undergraduate research opportunities in the medical field.

**UW-Green Bay:** The Committee unanimously approved a new Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Mechanical Engineering at UW-Green Bay. In support of this program, the Committee also unanimously approved a proposal to create a new School of Engineering at UW-Green Bay, and to change the name of the College of Science and Technology to the "College of Science, Engineering and Technology." Approval of the Mechanical Engineering B.S. was conditional, subject to the availability of funds identified by UW-Green Bay as being

dedicated to the degree program, and to the use of no additional or new GPR funding in support of the degree program for the first five years.

Appearing on behalf of UW-Green Bay were: Chancellor Gary Miller; Provost Greg Davis; John Katers, Dean of the College of Science and Technology; Craig Dickman, Trustee for UW-Green Bay; and Lou Lecalsey, Trustee for UW-Green Bay.

Chancellor Miller stated that the new Mechanical Engineering B.S. will be a business- and community-supported degree program designed to: meet a critical talent need in Northeast Wisconsin, increase the college attainment rate for the region, and contribute to the realignment of regional higher education assets to support economic growth for the region. A recent economic strategic plan sponsored by the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce strongly argued for highly focused engineering programs at UW-Green Bay. The Wisconsin Legislature also recognized the need for an engineering program in northeast Wisconsin, when it established and authorized the Brown County STEM innovation center to be located on the UW-Green Bay campus.

Provost Davis stated that UW-Green Bay expects to gain accreditation several years after launching the engineering degree program, and that the university is actively engaged in developing financial resources, so that necessary faculty can be hired to successfully launch the program. He also explained that UW-Green Bay expects to enroll students from the region, and will actively collaborate with other UW System institutions, in order to build stronger engineering programs across Wisconsin.

Dean Katers explained that UW-Green Bay has a history of offering pre-engineering and engineering technology degrees, and that the new engineering degree program will build upon this base. He also stated that UW-Green Bay has excellent faculty for both the pre-engineering and engineering technology programs, and they are incredibly excited about developing the new engineering degree program.

Trustee Lecalsey stated that from a community perspective, there is deep support for the engineering degree program, not just in Green Bay, but across Northeast Wisconsin. He stated that he has served as the chairperson of the Board of Trustees for 21 years, and has lived in Green Bay since the 1960s. In all of these years, he has never seen such strong community support for anything but this engineering degree program. He also stated that for decades the lack of an in-region engineering degree program has been a sore subject, and that as an employer, he could not hire engineers unless he went out of the region in order to find them.

Trustee Dickman concluded UW-Green Bay's presentation by explaining that the engineering degree program meets a very real market need in Northeast Wisconsin, and that the regional economy is dynamically changing. In particular, the manufacturing environment needs to be transformed, entrepreneurial opportunities need to be developed, and UW-Green Bay is central to meeting these needs. He concluded by stating that there is very real community engagement, by which the community will not only financially support this degree program, but

also engineering students by providing them with internships and job opportunities upon graduation.

Regent Millner asked: How many engineering firms are located in the Green Bay region, and what plans are in place to expand the market? Chancellor Miller responded that the engineering market is expanding and expected to continue growing. For example, in 2015 there were 2,200 mechanical engineers employed in Wisconsin, but by 2017, that number had expanded to more than 10,000 mechanical engineers.

Regent Ring commended UW-Green Bay for developing the degree program, and stated that there is a demonstrated need for students to obtain engineering degrees in the region. He also asked why there is a \$700 per semester fee for engineering students. In response, Dean Katers explained that this fee is the same as the one already assessed for students enrolled in the Engineering Technology programs, and that the engineering degree is a revenue-based program, which relies upon tuition and fees for funding.

Regent Higgins thanked the Council of Trustees for allowing him to participate in their meetings for the last few years. Regent Higgins also explained that he has witnessed the community support for this degree, as well as UW-Green Bay's dedication to becoming a key partner in transforming the regional economy.

Regent Klein expressed her full support for the program and for the vision put in place to make it happen. She expressed that this degree program is the Wisconsin Idea in action, because UW-Green Bay is addressing community and regional needs.

**UW-Parkside:** The Committee unanimously approved a new Master of Arts in Applied Professional Studies (MAPS) at UW-Parkside.

Appearing on behalf of UW-Parkside were Provost Robert Ducoffe, and Peggy James, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies. Provost Ducoffe explained that the mission of this degree program is to meet workforce demand among regional employers for advanced employee training in data visualization, public service leadership, and content expertise for professional educators. The College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies, together with the Center for Professional Studies, anticipate enrollment primarily from working professionals, and all courses will be offered via an online, readily-accessible, and affordable course structure.

Dean James stated that UW-Parkside's mission is to ensure student success, and that in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, students need to develop transferrable skills in order to move vertically in their organizations, and horizontally across job sectors. Thus, UW-Parkside worked closely with community leaders to develop the program curriculum, which is designed to meet specific employer needs. Moreover, high school teachers who seek to teach dual enrollment courses will be able to obtain HLC accreditation by participating in this program.

**UW-River Falls:** The Committee unanimously approved a Master of Science in Education (MSE) in Montessori Education at UW-River Falls.

Appearing on behalf of UW-River Falls were Provost Faye Perkins; and Michael Harris, Dean of the College of Education. Provost Perkins explained that since 2012, UW-River Falls has offered Montessori credentialing options under the existing MSE in Elementary Education and MSE in Secondary Education degrees. Thus, the new degree will continue to serve enrolled graduate students, the majority of whom already are employed full-time and are required to earn their Montessori credential per their teaching contracts. The program was specifically designed to accommodate teachers working full-time from within a 200-mile radius of campus, and will be financially supported as a cost-recovery program. It is the first MSE in Montessori Education degree program in the State of Wisconsin.

**UW-Milwaukee:** The Education Committee renewed and approved two charter school contracts through UW-Milwaukee. Appearing on behalf of UW-Milwaukee were Provost Johannes Britz, and Adrienne Woods, Director of the Office for Charter Schools.

First, Provost Britz asked the Committee to approve UW-Milwaukee's request to renew the charter school contract with Woodlands School, Inc., which seeks to maintain a charter school in Milwaukee known as Woodlands School-State Street, for a period of three years, effective July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2021.

Regent Evers asked a broad question of the committee members: Although the Legislature took away the authority of the Board of Regents to approve charter school contracts, what would happen if the Board of Regents says no? Regent Millner responded by explaining that the UW System Office of General Counsel would provide a response to this question in the future, because legal counsel was not present at the meeting.

Regent Evers also expressed concern regarding the school's performance. He stated that the original term of the contract was for five years, and that the requested renewal is for three years, rendering a total contract time period of eight years. But the school is not working very well. Although it is supposed to be a leader in closing the achievement gap and in meeting the needs of children, it is not succeeding. Thus, he stated that he would oppose the motion.

Regent Jones stated that the school has agreed to an improvement plan and to specific improvement goals. And thus, he supports the motion.

Regent Klein stated that three years was too long of an improvement time period for grade school students. She also stated that it would be important to ensure that the Education Committee is engaged in adequate oversight on behalf of the children enrolled in this school. Thus, she asked whether it would be possible to enter into an annual contract, rather than a three year contract.

Regent Klein also expressed that it is harder sometimes to terminate a contract rather than to renew it, and asked whether UW-Milwaukee could return in a year to report on how the school is performing. She stated that an annual review would fulfill the Education Committee's obligation to the grade school students enrolled in the school, as well as its oversight role.

Regent Millner stated that it makes good sense to have an annual reporting requirement, and thus, Regent Klein offered a friendly amendment to the resolution, requiring UW-Milwaukee to return to the Education Committee within one calendar year, in order to report on student achievement and performance under the contract.

Regents Millner, Jones, Klein, Higgins, Ring, and Tyler voted to approve the amended motion. Regent Evers voted to oppose. The amended motion carried.

Second, Provost Britz asked the Committee to approve the charter school contract with Rocketship Education Wisconsin, Inc., which seeks to maintain two charter schools known as Rocketship Southside Community Prep., and Rocketship North Side School, for a period of five years, from July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2023.

Regent Evers asked why Rocketship is moving out of the City of Milwaukee. Adrienne Woods explained that Rocketship seeks to work with only one authorizing authority, and that because the Milwaukee Public School District did not authorize it to operate a school within city limits, Rocketship had to move out of the City of Milwaukee.

Regent Evers expressed concern regarding the school's truancy rate. He also stated that Milwaukee County has experienced declining enrollment, and thus, he did not understand why Rocketship was opening a school in an area where there are decreasing numbers of children. Thus, he asked from where did Rocketship expect to enroll students?

Adrienne Woods stated that due to open enrollment, students could come from anywhere, not just within the neighborhood in which the school is situated.

Regents Millner, Jones, Klein, Higgins, Ring, and Tyler voted to approve the motion. Regent Evers voted to oppose. The motion carried.

**UW-Madison:** UW-Madison Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf delivered a presentation entitled: "UW-Madison Educational Update."

**Department of Public Instruction:** Dr. Sheila Briggs, Assistant State Superintendent, delivered a presentation entitled: "The Process for Approving Educator Preparation Programs Leading to Licensure."

Regent Millner adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.