

MEETING NOTICE

BOARD OF REGENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 3, 2018
8:00 a.m.
To be held by telephone conference

1820 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin

AGENDA

1. Calling of the roll
2. Approval for UW System institutions to offer the UW Colleges Associate Degree Online and in the Flex format
[Resolution 2]
3. Adjourn

Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree Online and
Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree in the Flex format

BOARD OF REGENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Resolution:

WHEREAS Resolution 10956 authorized UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Whitewater to grant those degrees granted by the UW Colleges, which includes the Associate of Arts & Sciences degree in the traditional format; and

WHEREAS expanding the availability of the Associate of Arts & Sciences degree in the Online format by collaborating with all of the UW comprehensive institutions and UW-Milwaukee to offer this degree will provide opportunities for citizens across the state to access high-quality educational programming in a manner and format that meets their needs; and

WHEREAS UW-Milwaukee is a leader among UW institutions in offering degree programs in the Flex format, and has developed the necessary infrastructure to expand its Flex-degree offerings;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Chancellors and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, that UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Superior, and UW-Whitewater are authorized to offer the Associate of Arts & Sciences degree in the Online format, as a Collaborative Online Degree Program, operated through the UW System Administration's Division of Continuing Education, Outreach & E-Learning, effective July 1, 2018;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to offer the Associate of Arts & Sciences degree in the Flex format.

**RESTRUCTURING OF UW COLLEGES AND UW-EXTENSION:
AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER THE
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS & SCIENCES DEGREE
IN THE ONLINE AND FLEX MODALITIES**

BACKGROUND

In October 2017, UW System President Ray Cross announced a proposal to restructure UW Colleges and UW-Extension, integrating UW Colleges campuses into UW four-year institutions, and assigning divisions within UW-Extension to UW-Madison and UW System Administration. The impetus for President Cross's restructuring proposal included enrollment declines due to the state's demographic challenges, budgetary constraints, as well as the need for closer alignment between research and practice.

At the November 9, 2017 meeting of the Board of Regents, the Board approved President Cross's proposal to restructure UW Colleges and UW-Extension as of July 1, 2018 with the approval of Resolution 10956. This resolution joined each of the UW Colleges' 13 campuses with a four-year UW System institution, and joined the UW-Extension's Cooperative Extension Division and the UW-Extension Conference Centers with UW-Madison. The remaining divisions within UW-Extension – the Division of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Division of Broadcasting and Media Innovation, and the Division of Continuing Education, Outreach, and E-Learning, as well as UW Colleges Online – were moved to UW System Administration. This action was amended at the December 7, 2017 meeting of the Board, to provide the UW System President with the authority move the UW Colleges Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree in the Online and Flex modalities to an accredited four-year institution, subject to the approval of the Board's Executive Committee.

At the January 3, 2018 meeting of the Board's Executive Committee, President Cross will present his recommendation regarding which institution(s) will offer the UW Colleges Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree in the Online and Flex modalities.

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution 2., approving the System President's recommendation to authorize UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Superior, and UW-Whitewater to offer the Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree Online, effective July 1, 2018, and to authorize UW-Milwaukee to offer the Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree in the Flex format, effective July 1, 2018.

DISCUSSION

UW Colleges currently offers an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree, which is considered the foundation for many college majors and for the bachelor's degree. This degree is offered at each of the UW Colleges' 13 campuses, as well as through UW Colleges Online and through the UW Flexible Option format.

The Higher Learning Commission recently advised that upon the restructuring of the UW Colleges and UW-Extension, the Associate of Arts and Sciences degree in the Online and Flex formats must be offered by an institution accredited as a degree-granting authority. Although UW System Administration could pursue the accreditation needed to offer these two programs, the lengthy accreditation process would not allow for the seamless continuation of these two programs.

Following the advice provided by the Higher Learning Commission, President Cross consulted with chancellors to regarding institutional interest and capacity in offering the existing Associate degree in the Online and Flex formats. Based on the feedback provided by Chancellors as well as the Restructuring Steering Committee, President Cross is recommending that UW-Milwaukee be authorized to offer the Associate of Arts & Sciences degree in the Flex format, and that UW-Milwaukee and all 11 of the comprehensive UW institutions be authorized to offer the Associate of Arts & Sciences degree in the Online format.

RELATED BOARD OF REGENTS ACTIONS

Resolution 10956, Approval of Restructuring of UW Colleges and UW-Extension

Resolution 10961, Amendment of Resolution 10956, Approval of Restructuring of UW Colleges and UW-Extension