

RECORD OF THE MEETING

of the

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 3, 2018
8:00 a.m.

Held by telephone conference
1820 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin

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PRESENT: Regents John Behling (Chair), Michael Grebe, Tim Higgins, Drew Petersen, Bryan Steil, and Gerald Whitburn

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Eve Hall, Tracey Klein, and Regina Millner

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After the roll was called, Regent President Behling asked President Cross to provide an overview of the restructuring item under consideration by the Executive Committee.

President Cross started by explaining that at its November meeting, the Board approved moving the UW Colleges' Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS) degree in both the Online and Flex formats to UW System Administration. After consulting with the Higher Learning Commission, Chancellors, and the Restructuring Steering Committee, President Cross said he is recommending a multi-campus approach for offering the AAS degree in the online format, for the following reasons:

- Federal financial aid is awarded through the accredited institution the student attends, and students currently taking AAS online courses receive their financial aid through UW Colleges. Allowing all of the institutions to offer the AAS degree as a collaborative online degree program means students will continue to be eligible for financial aid for these online courses.
- Limiting the AAS degree online to a single institution conflicts with one of the core principles of the restructuring: to expand access to higher education. By protecting financial aid for these online courses, the UW System will increase the likelihood of success for students at greater risk of not being able to afford college: first generation, low income, and rural students.

- A collaborative, multi-campus approach paves the way for significant changes and improvements related to the transfer of credits between institutions.

President Cross recommended an amendment to the proposed resolution to also authorize UW-Madison to offer the AAS degree in the online format.

With regard to the AAS degree in the Flex format, UW-Milwaukee is the campus leader in providing degrees in the Flex format, and it makes sense to move this program to that institution.

In response to questions from Regent Whitburn, President Cross and Chancellor Sandeen noted that seven institutions currently offer an Associate degree. The proposed resolution will allow all of the institutions to offer the AAS degree and participate in the collaborative degree format. Enrollment in the AAS online degree has increased over the past several years.

President Behling asked for a motion to adopt the amended resolution. Resolution 10982, as amended, was moved by Regent Whitburn, seconded by Regent Petersen, and adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Resolution 10982

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, UW-Madison, 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-Madison, 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.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 a.m.

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Submitted by:

/s/ Jess Lathrop

Jess Lathrop, Interim Executive Director and Corporate Secretary
Office of the Board of Regents
University of Wisconsin System