

UW System Board of Regents Education Committee

UW-Madison, Van Hise Hall, Room 1820

1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI

April 4, 2019

Education Committee

The meeting of the Education Committee was called to order by Regent Regina Millner at 10:30 a.m. All committee members were present, including Regents Millner, Jones, Klein, Peterson, Plante, Ring, Stanford Taylor, and Tyler. Regent Millner provided an opportunity for anyone to declare a conflict of interest: None were stated.

I.1.a. Approval of the Minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting of the Education Committee

Upon the motion of Regent Klein and the second of Regent Jones, the Education Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes from February 7, 2019.

I.1.b. Report of the Interim Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Karen Schmitt, Interim Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, provided an update regarding both the UW System Task Force for Advancing Teacher Education and School Leadership in the State of Wisconsin, and the UW System Restructuring of UW Colleges and UW-Extension.

At the beginning of her remarks, Interim Vice President Schmitt introduced Dr. Deborah Kerr, Superintendent of the Brown Deer School District; and Co-chairperson of the UW System Task Force for Advancing Teacher Education and School Leadership in the State of Wisconsin.

Dr. Kerr provided background information, as well as an update on the activities of the task force.

Background. In December 2018, the UW System Board of Regents asked the UW System Office of Academic and Student Affairs to create a task force to two specific questions:

- (1) How can the UW System work collaboratively with key stakeholders to develop financial incentive programs for students to: improve affordability, reduce student loan debt, address teacher workforce shortages in Wisconsin, and increase access, enrollment, and graduation from teacher education and administrative leadership programs at UW Colleges and Schools of Education?
- (2) How can the UW System engage with key stakeholders to understand their concerns, and to consider how to raise public esteem for teachers and school leaders in Wisconsin?

Activities. Dr. Kerr reported on the work of the task force. In particular, she highlighted the listening sessions at which members of the task force will seek public input. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person, by teleconference, or by webinar, and each listening session will be livestreamed online.

The listening sessions were scheduled, as follows:

- Tuesday, April 2, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., hosted by UW-Milwaukee
 - UWM Golda Meir Library, 4th Floor Conference Center
 - UWM Livestream Link
- Thursday, April 11, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., hosted by UW-Green Bay
 - University Union, Room 1965
 - UW-Green Bay Livestream Link

- Monday, April 15, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., hosted by UW-Eau Claire
 - Davies Center, Centennial Hall 1804
 - UW-Eau Claire Livestream Link

Dr. Kerr also discussed the opportunity for the public to provide input for the task force by submitting comments online on the Task Force website. Finally, Dr. Kerr stated that the Task Force will submit its evidence-based report to the Board of Regents on Friday, July 12, 2019.

Next, Interim Vice President Schmitt provided an update on the UW System Restructuring of UW Colleges and UW-Extension. In particular, she discussed the UW System Policy for approving Associate Degree Programs (SYS 102). Dr. Schmitt explained that one of the primary goals of the UW System associates degree programs is to establish a curriculum, which transfers seamlessly to the bachelor's degree programs that already exist on our UW System campuses. In this way, students are able to transfer directly into campus degree programs. She also explained that the UW System is paying close attention to curriculum design and early student advising. This way, students can easily identify which degree programs are available for transfer, which will result in higher graduation rates and lower rates of student debt across the UW System.

I.1.c. UW-Green Bay: Second Reading and Approval of the Proposed Select Mission Change

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay UW-Green Bay sought a second reading and approval of its proposed mission change. Chancellor Gary Miller appeared on behalf of the campus. He explained that UW-Green Bay engaged in a four-year process, which not only fulfilled all of the requirements set forth by both the UW System Board of Regents and the Higher Learning Commission, but also engaged faculty, staff, students, and members of the sixteen-county campus community. As a result, UW-Green Bay has developed a revised mission statement to:

- Closely match its programs and partnerships to a rapidly changing region;
- Better serve regional goals for increasing the economic output of Northeast Wisconsin, as expressed within the Greater Green Bay Economic Development Strategic Plan; and
- Align the narrative between the UW System Board of Regents and UW-Green Bay regarding the institution's academic program portfolio, innovation risks, and regional obligations and opportunities.

Upon the motion of Regent Tyler and the second of Regent Jones, the Education Committee unanimously approved the UW-Green Bay Proposed Select Mission Change.

I.1.d.(1) & I.1.d.(2) UW Collaborative Degree Programs

The Education Committee considered two collaborative degree programs, as submitted for approval by (1) UW Extended Campus; (2) Lead campuses, UW-Madison and UW-Oshkosh; and (3) Supporting campuses, UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW- Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW Stevens Point, UW-Superior, and UW-Whitewater. Appearing on behalf of the degree programs were:

- UW-Madison was Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost, UW-Madison;
- Richard Moss, Senior Associate Dean, for the School of Medicine and Public Health;
- John Koker, Provost, UW-Oshkosh;
- Michael Eierman, Professor and Department Chair of Information Systems; and
- Aaron Brower, Executive Director, UW Extended Campus;

Background. Dr. Brower explained that collaborative degree programs allow UW campuses to benefit from the shared academic and administrative resources of all partnering institutions. The two proposed degree programs, like other collaborative degree programs currently offered within UW System, provide each institution with the ability to offer a high-quality, sustainable graduate program, without a requirement to extend significant local resources, or risk of compromising existing degree programs.

UW Extended Campus provides administrative support, financial investment, marketing, and student services for the program. All partners share equally in the net revenues from the program, once realized.

Students enrolled in each degree program choose a home institution from which their degree will be conferred. All courses are listed in each partner institution's course catalog and registration system. The student record is maintained in the student information system of the home institution.

For the two degree programs presented at the meeting, faculty and staff from five partner institutions collectively developed and approved the program curriculum, student learning outcomes, and admission requirements. Going forward, partner institutions will identify qualified faculty and instructional staff to deliver coursework, assess student learning, and conduct program review. The faculty and staff who teach in the program will be qualified, per Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and UW System requirements, to teach graduate-level coursework.

(1) Approval of the Master of Science in Applied Biotechnology [Resolution I.1.d.(1)]

UW-Madison Vice Provost Jocelyn Millner explained that the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison proposes to establish a collaborative online Master of Science (M.S.) in Applied Biotechnology, with UW-Madison as the lead institution and on behalf of the defined academic partners: UW-Green Bay, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Whitewater. She also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the highly effective and efficient staff and leadership of UW Extended Campus.

Dr. Millner explained that the M.S. in Applied Biotechnology represents a fully online, asynchronous curriculum comprised of 31 credits and includes a culminating, project-based experience. This program responds to the recognized growth of the biotechnology industry and the resulting increase in demand for highly qualified professionals in the field. Core courses provide students with a solid foundation in biotechnology, leadership, ethics, research, communications, product development, quality control, as well as regulatory and compliance practices. Graduates will serve an important function and role within the biotechnology workforce, and thereby support economic development in Wisconsin.

Regent Millner expressed gratitude to UW-Madison for collaborating with colleague institutions. She also stated that it is important that this degree program responds to workforce demand.

Regent Tyler expressed that the tuition rate may be low, because employers may pay for these degrees, given the fact that they are targeted at working professionals, who already are gainfully employed. The limit for a company without tax consequences is \$5600 per year. The individual does not have to pay taxes for \$5600 or less. There is very little tax consequence for employees. There is a high likelihood that companies will step up and pay the tuition rates for these degrees.

Dr. Brower explained that UW Extended Campus looks at employer willingness to pay for collaborative degrees. Thus, they have a good sense of what employers are likely to be willing to fund. And whether

there are opportunities for cost sharing, between employers and employees. This is an integral part of the UW Extended Campus process before developing these degree programs.

Regent Klein asked how students learn about the opportunity to enroll in these degrees. Dr. Brower explained that marketing is directed at students, and that there are dedicated websites for each degree program and that they are easy to find online.

Regent Klein then asked who receives the revenue from these programs. Dr. Brower explained that revenue is shared equally among partners, and that UW Extended Campus charges only its actual costs in supporting the programs.

Upon the motion of Regent Jones and the second of Regent Peterson, the Education Committee unanimously approved the Collaborative Online Master of Science (M.S.) in Applied Biotechnology.

(2) Approval of the Master of Science in Information Technology Management [Resolution I.1.d.(2)]

UW-Oshkosh Provost John Koker presented on behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, as lead campus, and on behalf of UW-La Crosse, UW- Parkside, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Superior, proposes to establish a collaborative online Master of Science in Information Technology Management (M.S. in IT Management).

Dr. Koker explained that the M.S. in IT Management is a fully online, asynchronous curriculum comprised of 37 credits, which culminates in a project-based experience. The program represents a multidisciplinary curriculum that balances real-world applications and practices relevant to the current field, and draws primarily from business, information systems, information technology, cybersecurity, data science, communications and project management. Similar to other need-based, collaborative online programs developed by UW Extended Campus, this degree program is designed to satisfy a recognized workforce gap within the state and the region. Graduates of the program will gain the core competencies required to manage information technology functions across a wide range of industries.

Regent Tyler asked about the credentials that would qualify a student to enter this program. He challenged the campuses to open the door of opportunity for people who do not have bachelor's degrees. Or a pathway for them to gain entry, rather than just sending them away.

Dr. Brower stated that UW Extended Campus directs people without an undergraduate degree to a variety of online programs to help them complete their undergraduate degree programs, so that they may enter the master's degree programs.

Upon the motion of Regent Jones and the second of Regent Tyler, the Education Committee unanimously approved the Collaborative Online Master of Science in Information Technology.

Regent Millner then asked the Provosts from each institution to join the committee in order to further discuss the two collaborative degree programs.

Regent Millner adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 12:00 p.m.