

## **Minutes of the UW System Board of Regents Education Committee Meeting on February 7, 2019**

### **Education Committee**

The Education Committee convened at 9:00 a.m. on the UW-Madison campus, in Varsity Hall II within the Union South building. Present were Regents Millner, Jones, Stanford-Taylor, Peterson, Plante, Ring, and Tyler. Absent was Regent Klein. The December 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes passed unanimously. Regent Jones moved for approval and Regent Peterson seconded the motion.

**Vice President's Report.** Karen Schmitt, Interim Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs provided an update regarding both the UW System Student Success Collaborative and the UW Higher Education Location Program (UW HELP).

As part of her remarks, Vice President Schmitt introduced Dr. Benjamin Passmore, UW System Associate Vice President for the Office of Policy Analysis and Research. Dr. Passmore described the UW System Student Success Collaborative, which includes the Education Advisory Board's (EAB) Navigate Student Success Management System. This system will allow campus faculty and student advisors to provide timely, targeted, and proactive student support, in order to constantly improve retention and graduation rates.

Regent Millner stated that this initiative is critically important, and that it represents a significant financial investment. Therefore, the Office of Academic and Student Affairs will be asked to return, in order to provide a full update and progress report to the full Board of Regents at its March 7, 2019 meeting. She also invited the Provosts from each UW System institution to express their questions and concerns regarding the initiative, so that they could be addressed within this full Board presentation.

Vice President Schmitt then introduced Dr. Christine Navia, UW System Associate Vice President for Student Success. Pursuant to the UW System Restructuring Initiative, Dr. Navia described how the UW Higher Education Location Program (UW HELP) has been joined with the Office of Student Success. She also explained that UW HELP was established in 1973, to serve as a single access point of coordinated information for prospective students, parents, high school counselors, and other key stakeholders, seeking to learn about higher education opportunities within the UW System. Going forward, UW HELP seeks to: further advance student outreach and recruitment; increase communication with high school students and advisors; simplify the application process; and refer students to a second UW System institution, if they are not admitted to their first choice campus. Dr. Navia also introduced Sir Williams, who newly has been hired as the Interim Director of UW HELP.

Regent Jones asked whether Dr. Navia, as part of her leadership of UW Help, has a plan to consistently stay current with information technology, especially given the fact that technology changes so rapidly. Dr. Navia stated that UW HELP is focused upon staying current with information technology, especially given the fact that high school students increasingly rely upon technology to navigate many aspects of their lives, not just the college application process. In particular, she stated that UW HELP has a specific focus upon interacting with students via cell phone.

Regent Millner asked whether there was a plan to improve student transfer, in particular the transfer paths for students from UW System branch campuses. She stated that several people have contacted

her to express that there is no information about what those transfer pathways are and how those transfer plans work for students. Dr. Navia stated that the current system is fairly old. Thus, the Office of Student Success is hoping to purchase a software package called "Transferology," which would be integrated into the UW HELP office, so that students would not only have access to technology but also access to human resources, in terms of direct contact with counselors who could assist them throughout the transfer process.

Regent Millner reminded the committee members that the issues of recruitment and retention are critical issues for our campuses. And thus, both Drs. Passmore and Navia will return to the Education Committee in the future, in order to report on their ongoing work.

**Eau Claire.** The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire proposed to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Actuarial Science within the Department of Mathematics. Provost Patricia Kleine presented on behalf of the campus. She stated that this new major will replace the existing actuarial science emphasis, within the current mathematics major. Thus, the proposed program builds upon a successful emphasis for which the curriculum, faculty, and advising support already are in place. The proposed program responds to the 41.8% increase in student enrollment in the emphasis since 2012. Graduates will be equipped with a blend of technical expertise and business understanding that is necessary for a successful actuarial career. The new program will also serve to enhance employment opportunities for graduates, by ensuring that employers universally understand the depth of actuarial training provided by UW-Eau Claire to the students who graduate from the university.

Regent Jones moved for approval. Regent Plante seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**UW-Green Bay.** The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay proposed to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Water Science. Chancellor Gary Miller appeared on behalf of the campus. He stated that this degree program responds to local, state, national, and global needs in water science. Support for the program has been expressed by leaders and members of academic, government, and private industry. These include the Wisconsin Rural Water Association; Green Bay Water Utility; the Bellevue Water Utility; Natural Resource Solutions, LLC; NEW Water; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and the Clean Water Action Council.

With its four coastal campus locations, UW-Green Bay is positioned in a unique geographic region of Wisconsin. Thereby, the UW-Green Bay Water Science program will be an integrated program designed to provide students with the tools necessary to solve the water related challenges of today and tomorrow. The curriculum will be interdisciplinary, with a core set of courses drawn from geoscience, chemistry, environmental science, biology, physics, math and statistics, and public and environmental affairs. In addition, a diverse set of elective courses will allow students to focus on sub-disciplines in water science, which will meet their career needs and interests. UW-Green Bay faculty members are very active in research on water and wastewater treatment, runoff pollution, stream hydrology, groundwater quality, limnology, and aquatic ecology. As a result, students will develop knowledge and skills, including a solid understanding of the chemistry, surface water hydrology, groundwater, and biology of freshwater systems.

The proposed major will prepare students for career opportunities in private industry, water utilities, geotechnical consulting, natural resource management, state and federal government agencies, or environmental policy organizations. For students interested in pursuing graduate work, the program will

help to set a solid foundation for students interested in UW Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Science graduate program or other programs nationwide.

Regent Jones asked whether the Education Committee could have a future presentation that covers all of the work that is being done by our campuses in the freshwater space. He also expressed an interest in understanding how all of our campuses are collaborating on the issue of freshwater.

Vice President Schmitt expressed gratitude to Regent Jones for his questions. She stated that all of our UW System institutions are currently collaborating around the issue of freshwater science to address some of the grand challenges for the world, as related to water and its usage.

Chancellor Miller stated that Wisconsin sits on one of the largest freshwater tables in the world, and that this is a critical time, on a global scale to address water usage issues for the human population. He also stated that UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Mark Mone has taken leadership on this issue by advancing the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin.

Chancellor Mone explained that UW-Milwaukee has worked to ensure that all key stakeholders are engaged in this discussion not only with UW System institutions, but also community and business stakeholders. They seek to meet the needs of industry, employers, and public health providers. There also is a focus on research projects to answer the grand challenges of our time as related to water. These include problems such as fertilizer run-off from farming, lead water in pipes, or weather related crises. These research projects are ready to go as part of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin.

Regent Ring commended Chancellor Miller on the letters of support that the campus submitted in support of the degree program, and this was impressive, because it demonstrates that the campus is dedicated to serving the best interests of the community.

Regent Ring moved for approval. Regent Tyler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**UW-Madison:** The University of Wisconsin-Madison proposed to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Health Promotion and Health Equity (HPHE). Appearing on behalf of the campus were Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf; Dr. Carolyn Kelley, Senior Associated Dean, School of Education; and Dr. Gary Diffie, Department Chair of the Kinesiology Department.

Provost Mangelsdorf stated that this degree program responds to student interest and employer demand for health-related expertise and health education careers. Graduates will pursue emerging career opportunities as health educators within non-profit community health organizations, health insurance companies, hospital-based systems, mental health centers, senior citizen centers, home visitation programs, and governmental health offices. The program also will serve as a stepping-stone to graduate study in fields such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, public health, and mental health counseling.

Students will learn about the theoretical, programmatic and empirical foundations of health promotion and health equity interventions, as well as demonstrate competence in evaluating strengths and weaknesses in health promotion programs. The major will prepare graduates to practice as health educators by preparing them for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam, which sets a

national standard of practice for health education specialists. The CHES credential attests to the individual health education specialists' knowledge and skills and assists employers in identifying qualified health education practitioners. Some students may also use the Health Promotion and Health Equity major as preparation for graduate study in other disciplines, such as counseling, physical therapy, public health, and occupational therapy, and will need to complete coursework beyond the requirements of the major to be competitive for post-bachelor's programs in health professions.

Dr. Gary Diffie highlighted collaboration among three different departments within the School of Education, which allows for the degree program to approach human health in a holistic way. He also stated that the focus on health equity allows students to think about health in lots of diverse communities, such as: rural v. urban, women's health, the access of people with disabilities to health care.

Regent Jones moved for approval. Regent Peterson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**UW System: Office of Educational Opportunity.** Latoya Holiday, Associate Director, Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO), presented on behalf of OEO, and was accompanied by school leaders from both One City Schools and the Isthmus Montessori Academy.

Ms. Holiday explained that the Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO) was created under 2015 Act 55, which granted authority to the Director of the OEO to contract with a person to operate a charter school. Since its inception in 2015, the mission of the OEO has been to incubate educational innovations, improve known best practices, and increase educational equity. The aim of the OEO is to be the *Wisconsin Idea* in action, by increasing access to high-quality public educational options, supporting efforts to close opportunity gaps, and disseminating information about what is learned through OEO's efforts.

Ms. Holiday also stated that the Office of Educational Opportunity seeks Regent approval for two public charter schools. Prior to seeking Regent approval, OEO engaged in an extensive application review process. Based on analysis of the application materials submitted by both the One City Schools, Inc. Charter School, and the Isthmus Montessori Academic (IMA), Inc., the Office of Educational Opportunity, therefore, recommends approval of the contracts with both charter schools.

Regent Jones asked: If the Office of Educational Opportunity has already authorized these charter school contracts, then why is the Education Committee now being asked to approve them?

Regent Millner responded by stating that since 1997, the Board of Regents has transparently and publicly to review charter school contracts. She also asked Attorney Noah Brisbin from the UW System Office of General Counsel to explain the relevant legal issues.

Attorney Brisbin provided a three-part response to Regent Jones' question, as follows:

**(1) Consistent Business Practice.** Beginning in 1997, when UW-Milwaukee was first granted legal authority to authorize charter schools, the Board of Regents has consistently and publicly reviewed all charter school contracts. Thus, the Board of Regents now seeks to maintain this consistent business practice, in order to best serve the public good.

**(2) Exercise of Superintending Authority.** As a chartering board, the Board of Regents has superintending authority over the contracts that are authorized by UW System institutions. 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 granted the UW System Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO) supplemental authority to approve charter school contracts, and removed the express requirement that the Board of Regents approve charter school contracts.

The Act did not, however, remove the Board's broad superintending authority over all contracts under its authority. Thus, the Board may still choose to exercise its superintending authority by requiring these contracts to come to them for formal approval.

**(3) Transparency and Accountability.** By publicly reviewing all charter school contracts, the Board of Regents can highlight the quality of the schools that it chooses to charter. The Board also can hold accountable the schools that do not meet performance standards, in order to ensure that, going forward, the children who are enrolled there will receive a high quality education.

Regent Stanford Taylor asked: If these contracts already have been approved, then what is the effect of having the Board of Regents also approve these contracts.

Attorney Brisbin explained that this approval process allows the Board to engage in public discourse regarding the charter schools. The Regents seek to be publicly transparent and publicly accountable by discussing these charter school contracts in public.

Ms. Holiday expressed that going forward, OEO will ensure that the Board first approves these contracts before OEO.

Regent Tyler moved for approval. Regent Ring seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **UW-Milwaukee: Office of Charter Schools.**

Appearing on behalf of UW-Milwaukee were Chancellor Mark Mone, Provost Johannes Britz, and Adrienne Woods, Director of the Office of Charter Schools.

**Report on Academic Progress at Woodlands School-State Street Campus.** Ms. Woods began by explaining that the initial charter for Woodlands School-State Street (WS-SS) campus was granted by the Board of Regents on February 7, 2013, and was effective from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018.

The UWM Office of Charter Schools (Office) facilitated an extensive contract renewal process, which began with the submission of a renewal application by Woodlands School-State Street campus on September 29, 2017, and concluded with the Charter Evaluation Committee conducting a renewal site visit and assessment on October 25, 2017.

The Office presented findings from the evaluation process for WS-SS campus to the Board of Regents Education Committee at its February 8, 2018 meeting. Chancellor Mone and the Director of the Office recommended Woodlands School, Inc., be granted a three-year renewal contract effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021, to continue operation of Woodlands School-State Street campus. On February 8, 2018, the Board of Regents approved the three-year contract, and also required the Office to return to

the Education Committee within one calendar year, in order to report on student achievement and performance under the renewal contract.

Therefore, the Office of Charter Schools has submitted the required report as an informational item to the Board of Regents Education Committee. Ms. Woods described that the school has made progress, but still has areas that need growth. She also stated that the school was required to submit a corrective action plan, which requires monthly meetings with the Office of Charter Schools, as well as quarterly reports from the school.

**Assignment Agreement: UW-Milwaukee Office of Charter Schools and Stellar Collegiate Charter School.** Ms. Woods explained that the Stellar Collegiate Charter School, Inc., was awarded a five-year contract by the Board of Regents on February 4, 2016, to operate a public school known as Stellar Collegiate Charter School. The contract is effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021. The school is located at 1115 S. 7th Street in Milwaukee, and has 149 students enrolled in grades 4K through 3rd grade, adding a grade each year to 5th grade.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Stellar Collegiate (Stellar) and Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Inc. (Carmen), Stellar seeks to assign all of its assets to Carmen. Consequently, Carmen and Stellar now seek Board of Regent approval to transfer the existing Stellar Collegiate Charter School contract to Carmen High School of Science and Technology. Should the transfer be approved, the Stellar charter school will continue to operate under the existing charter provisions; the only change would be the underlying party to the contract.

Regent Millner asked for a description of this request. Ms. Woods stated that Stellar Collegiate identified that it would be unable to fulfill the terms of its contract with UW-Milwaukee. Thus, it approached Carmen High School of Technology, which is a long-standing charter school in the City of Milwaukee, that is authorized by the Milwaukee School District. Hence, nothing in the charter school contract will change, school leadership and curriculum remains the same, only the board leadership changes to a new board of directors.

Regent Jones moved for approval. Regent Peterson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Office of Charter Schools Review and Renewal Process.** Finally, Ms. Woods explained that the UW-Milwaukee Office of Charter Schools recommends renewal of the contracts with the four following charter schools: (1) Bruce Guadalupe Community School; (2) Milwaukee Scholars Charter School; (3) Seeds of Health Elementary, Tenor High School, and Veritas High School; and (4) Woodlands School-Bluemound Campus.

Requests for contract renewal of an existing charter school are made by July 1 of the final year of the contract, and the evaluation process occurs during the fall of the final year of the contract. The Performance Framework drafted by the Office of Charter Schools was implemented beginning with the 2016- 17 school year, and it is the standard to which all UW-Milwaukee charter schools are held for academic, financial, and organizational performance. The Performance Framework is the guide for determining a baseline renewal recommendation, which is shared with the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee reviews the comprehensive renewal application, and conducts a full-day site visit before making the final renewal recommendation, which is provided to the director of the Office of

Charter Schools. This Performance Framework ensures adherence to principles and standards of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), as required by s. 118.40 (3m) (b), Wis. Stats.

Chancellor Mone stated that the Education Committee will find very strong performance among all four of the schools seeking contract renewal at this meeting. He stated that only one school, Milwaukee Scholars, has only a three-year renewal recommendation, due to concerns regarding student performance. However, the remaining three schools have such strong student performance that they are being recommended for five-year contract renewals.

Ms. Woods stated that these schools exceed expectations and represent the most high-performing schools that UW-Milwaukee's Office of Charter Schools has in its portfolio. She also stated that their only concern is in regard Milwaukee Scholars, for which they are recommending only a three year contract renewal. She explained that the Office of Charter Schools expects more in terms of reading and math scores among students. Ms. Woods also stated that schools in this same neighborhood are not doing as well as the Milwaukee Scholars school. And that the school has a new leader, who is only in her second year of leadership. But she is a highly effective leader who will be able to address the concerns expressed within the data dashboard. This school also has a corrective action plan, which requires monthly meetings and quarterly reports to ensure that going forward the problems that have been identified are solve on behalf of the children who are enrolled in the school.

Regent Jones lauded the work that has been done by the Bruce Guadalupe School, which has transformed the neighborhood within which it is situated on the South Side of Milwaukee.

Regent Stanford Taylor asked that the Office of Charter Schools return next year to report on the Milwaukee Scholars Charter School, in order to discuss whether the school has indeed made progress as promised. She also recommended an amendment to the Resolution, such that contract approval is conditioned upon having the Milwaukee Scholars Charter School return next year to report on its progress under the contract renewal and corrective action plan.

Regent Jones moved for approval of the amended resolution. Regent Ring seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Resolution was amended accordingly to read as follows:

Resolution I.1.f.(2)(d):

That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves renewal of the charter school contract with Milwaukee Scholars Charter School, Inc., maintaining a charter school known as Milwaukee Scholars Charter School for the period of three years, effective July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2022, so long as UW-Milwaukee returns to the Education Committee within one calendar year, in order to report on student achievement and performance under the contract.

**Host Campus Presentation.** UW-Madison Provost, Sarah Mangelsdorf, delivered a presentation titled: "UW-Madison Educational Updates and Innovations."

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

