

**Minutes of the Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee
University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents
UW-Milwaukee, June 6, 2019**

Committee Chair Eve Hall called the meeting to order at 10:51 a.m. All committee members were present and newly appointed Regent Karen Walsh was welcomed as a guest.

a. Approval of the minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting.

On a motion by Cris Peterson and seconded by Mark Tyler, the minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

b. WiSys Technology Foundation Progress Report on Faculty and Undergraduate Research, Technology Transfer, and Commercialization Initiatives.

The campus-based network of WiSys regional associates and student ambassadors continues to expand “in market” support for faculty and students at UW System comprehensive institutions. WiSys President Arjun Sanga said the WiSys ambassadors visit a UW campus essentially every day of the week, with 65 regional associate presentations and 325 separate meetings and 42 Quick Pitch events by students.

Over the past five years, the invention disclosures have increased from one per month to a total of one per week today. Arjun Sanga and WiSys Regional and Licensing Associate Tony Hanson highlighted a wide and growing range of successful campus initiatives and introduced a student from UW-Platteville who participated in one such event, the WiSys Prototype Hackathon.

Dr. Hall asked about outreach to underrepresented students. Arjun highlighted the WiSys Symposium networking events. Regent Walsh asked about the patent process. Arjun outlined the WiSys approach to guiding students and faculty through the intricacies of the provisional patent process. Regent Tyler asked about future plans for the Skillsboard prototype demonstrated by student Brian Tuttle, who said he has plans to interest certain outdoor product retailers to serve as channels for distribution of the product. Regent Tyler concluded the discussion by highlighting WiSys considerable success over the last five years and commending it for its positive prospects for the future. In closing, Dr. Hall encouraged WiSys to reach into the high schools to help encourage and inspire students to begin the exploration and discovery process earlier in their education journey. Arjun said WiSys is working with various Wisconsin Technology Festivals across the state to help spread the word.

c. Inclusive and Innovative Approaches to Teaching and Learning: UWM Student Panel with Focus on Preparing Students for Jobs of the Future in an Increasingly Diverse Marketplace.

UWM Chancellor Mark Mone and Vice Chancellor Joan Prince led a panel discussion outlining how UWM prepares students to succeed in STEM majors and STEM-related internships. The panel consisted of students with current summer internships and served as a showcase of UWM student talent that supports the state's workforce needs for jobs of both the present and future. Chancellor Mone said the program helps to close the achievement gap and fill the talent pipeline.

Vice Chancellor Prince said UWM launched the program in 2012 with National Science Foundation (NSF) funding; today the UWM program has attracted the largest number of student participants nationally and also boasts the largest number of graduates. Program director Aniq Ruiz introduced three student peer mentors, including first generation student Nicole Vigon, who is working on research related to connective tissue disorders. Architecture and urban planning student Teonna Cooksey highlighted her internships and research in urban housing and development, and mentioned she was named president of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students at UWM. Faculty mentor Dr. Arijit Sen, described Teonna as an inspiration to other minority students. Finally, student and peer mentor Tamia Williams was introduced. She is studying biochemistry and microbiology and has participated in a global health initiative in Taiwan. Upon graduation from UWM, she plans to attend medical school.

In closing, Chancellor Mone highlighted the importance of advising and peer mentor support available through the program, thus helping underrepresented students better discern the best pathways to classroom and career success. Regent Tyler thanked panel members for their inspiring stories. He said, "We all need heroes and they come in many forms. It is hard to overstate the value of the work you have done and have yet to inspire." Regent Walsh reminded students to continue to use their newly honed skills and experiences to continue to network as they move through their careers.

Dr. Hall commended the student presenters and faculty mentors for their perseverance, diligence, passion, and commitment. She also complimented and thanked the chancellor, vice chancellor and program director and applauded them for the impact and continued growth of the WisAMP program through the years.

d. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.