

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

Thursday, August 20, 2020
12:45 p.m.

By WebEx Teleconference
1860 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Petersen presiding-

CALLING OF THE ROLL.....	3
DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS.....	3
APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS	4
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD.....	4
Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board	4
Update on the UW-River Falls and UW-Stevens Point Chancellor Searches	4
All in Wisconsin.....	4
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYSTEM	5
Update on Fall 2020	5
UW System Priorities	6
REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BUSINESS & FINANCE COMMITTEE	7
<i>UW System Status Report on Large/Vital Information Technology Projects.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>UW-Milwaukee Service Agreement with EAB Global, Inc.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>UW-Madison Master Research Agreement with Adisseo France S.A.S.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>UW-Madison Collaboration Agreement with HackerUSA</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>UW-Madison Master Research Agreement with Rockwell Automation, Inc.....</i>	<i>9</i>
REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE	9
<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Science in Financial Economics, UW-Madison</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Science in Information, UW-Madison</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Educational Specialist in School Psychology, UW-Madison</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Freshwater Sciences, UW-Milwaukee.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science, UW-Oshkosh</i>	<i>11</i>

<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Arts in Professional Communication, UW-Parkside</i>	11
<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, UW-Stout</i>	11
<i>New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Public Leadership and Innovation, UW-Superior</i>	11
<i>Approval of Temporary Suspension of ACT/SAT Requirements in Regent Policy Document 7-3, "UW System Freshman Admissions Policy" for the University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	11
<i>Approval of New Regent Policy Document, "Application Fees and Waiver"</i>	12
REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CAPITAL PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE	12
<i>Authority to Construct a 2019-21 Classroom/Instructional Technology Improvement Program Project, UW System</i>	12
REPORT OF THE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION COMMITTEE	13
REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE	14
PRESIDENT THOMPSON'S STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS	14
UW SYSTEM 2021-23 BIENNIAL OPERATING BUDGET FUNDING REQUEST AND FINANCIAL AID REQUEST	17
<i>Approval of the UW System's 2021-23 Biennial Operating Budget Funding Request and Financial Aid Request</i>	21
UW SYSTEM 2021-23 BIENNIAL CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING REQUEST	22
<i>Approval of the UW System's 2021-23 Biennial Capital Budget Funding Request and 2021-27 Six-Year Capital Plan</i>	23
UPDATE ON EMERGENCY RULES FOR CHAPTERS UWS 4, 7, 11, AND 17, WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND INTERIM CHANGES TO REGENT POLICY DOCUMENT 14-2, "SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT"	24
<i>Approval of Changes to Regent Policy Document 14-2, "Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment"</i>	25
REGENT COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS	26
CLOSED SESSION	26
<i>Closed Session Resolution</i>	26
<i>Authority to Rename the Engineering Building, UW-Platteville</i>	26

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

Thursday, August 20, 2020
12:45 p.m.

By WebEx Teleconference
1860 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Petersen presiding-

- - -

The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [August 20, 2020 Webcast](#)

- - -

CALLING OF THE ROLL

PRESENT: Regents Robert Atwell, Scott Beightol, Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, José Delgado, Michael Grebe, Eve Hall, Mike Jones, Becky Lezvow, Edmund Manydeeds, Andrew Petersen, Cris Peterson, Corey Saffold, Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Karen Walsh, Kyle Weatherly, and Olivia Woodmansee. Regent Tracey Klein joined the meeting following the roll call.

UNABLE TO ATTEND: None.

- - -

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

[\[Recording: 00:01:44\]](#)

Before considering any items on the open session agenda, President Petersen asked if any Board members wished to declare any conflicts of interest as per Regent Policy Document 2-4, "Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy for the UW System Board of Regents."

Regent Scott Beightol recused himself from voting on Resolution 11480, "UW-Madison Master Research Agreement with Rockwell Automation, Inc."

- - -

APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS

[\[Recording: 00:02:09\]](#)

Regent Jones moved approval of the records of the June 4, 2020 regular meeting of the UW System Board of Regents and the June 9, June 18, July 9, July 20, and August 5, 2020 special meetings of the UW System Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Regent Beightol and approved on a voice vote.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

[\[Recording: 00:02:35\]](#)

Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

The report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board was provided. There were no comments or questions.

Update on the UW-River Falls and UW-Stevens Point Chancellor Searches

President Petersen said the UW-Stevens Point Chancellor Search & Screen Committee, chaired by Regent Walsh, recently selected semi-finalist candidates with interviews scheduled for the upcoming week.

President Petersen announced that, at the request of campus shared governance groups, the search for a new UW-River Falls Chancellor will be postponed until January 2021. Dr. Connie Foster has agreed to extend her appointment as interim Chancellor to accommodate this request. President Petersen said he looks forward to naming the search committee in the fall with Interim System President Thompson and search committee chair Regent Beightol.

All in Wisconsin

Highlighting the role of the UW System as one of Wisconsin's biggest economic drivers, President Petersen remarked on the one-year anniversary of the "All in Wisconsin" campaign. He reported that university officials had an opportunity to engage with business and community leaders on 11 of the 13 campuses prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that common themes in the feedback received at these events included a strong desire for even closer connections between universities, communities, and businesses to solve problems.

President Petersen said the “All in Wisconsin” campaign will continue with President Thompson at the helm, working to build stronger connections with the people, businesses, and communities of Wisconsin. President Thompson said he would like to meet with legislators to discuss the importance of the universities in their districts.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYSTEM

[\[Recording: 00:11:22\]](#)

Update on Fall 2020

President Thompson gave an update on the Fall 2020 semester, which for most campuses will begin on September 2nd. He described the “operations room” where UW System leadership meet daily to discuss the challenges facing the campuses, including testing protocols, availability of personal protective equipment (PPE), delivery of instruction, and best practices for cleaning facilities. He noted that chancellors, provosts, and staff at the UW institutions have also been meeting with local and national health officials to develop protocols and plans to mitigate risks and keep campus communities healthy and safe.

President Thompson said \$32 million in funding from Governor Evers and the federal CARES Act will allow for testing up to 34,000 students who present with COVID-19 symptoms, with 28,000 tests distributed to the universities and 6,000 tests held in reserve by UW System. The funding will also provide for an additional 317,000 tests for students living in residence halls at UW-Milwaukee and the comprehensive universities. (He noted that UW-Madison has its own testing plan funded with \$8 million allocated by the Governor’s office.)

President Thompson said the UW System will use Quidel antigen testing machines, which will enable institutions to quickly identify individuals who are COVID-19 positive but asymptomatic. Campuses will also be equipped with necessary PPE, including hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and face masks.

Following the guidance of public health experts, President Thompson said the UW System’s mask-wearing requirement will help prevent the spread of the virus while its testing program will help identify and contain cases. He added that UW institutions will work closely with local public health departments to monitor trends in their communities and discuss contact tracing.

Noting that a dashboard for public reporting of cases within the UW System is expected to be ready by the beginning of the fall semester, President Thompson indicated that the System is making aggressive and careful plans for what to do if case numbers start to rise. He stated that success is dependent on responsible student behavior, and the UW System

is focused on mitigating risk as much as possible. President Thompson shared that he and the chancellors have been in contact with the Tavern League and local bar and restaurant owners about the importance of controlling crowds to help campuses stay open for the full semester.

President Thompson said each campus has plans on how to effectively and safely isolate or quarantine students who test positive or have direct contact with someone who is positive. These includes plans for monitoring the students, providing treatment if necessary, delivering meals, and continuing their education. He shared a brief video showcasing the work done by the universities to prepare for a safe return to campuses in the fall.

UW System Priorities

President Thompson said he would discuss key priorities for the UW System moving forward during the afternoon's discussion on the biennial operating and capital budget requests. He indicated that two immediate priorities are reducing administrative costs and enhancing opportunities for underrepresented and underserved students.

President Thompson announced that UW System Administration leadership will streamline operations by implementing a 10 percent reduction in state-supported salaries by the end of Fiscal Year 2022, which will be achieved by not filling some open positions and eliminating others. Other cost-saving measures include limiting out-of-state travel through June 30, 2021; reducing supply and equipment needs; eliminating some memberships, sponsorships, and subscriptions; and moving some UWSA meetings from in-person to virtual formats.

President Thompson indicated that these cost reductions, taken together with \$1.3 million in savings from UWSA furloughs, should save UW System Administration more than \$10 million through Fiscal Year 2022. He noted that the 13 universities have pursued their own cost-saving measures, including furloughs and staff reductions.

President Thompson said a portion of these savings will be directed toward creating scholarships and services for underrepresented and underserved students. Beginning in Fall 2021, the UW System will administer the new Wisconsin Regents Opportunity Scholarship to provide hundreds of students with access to affordable higher education through a \$1 million annual appropriation for each cohort, growing to \$4 million over four years. The initiative will also enhance support programs critical to student success, such as counseling, internships, and mentorships.

President Thompson said the UW System will also launch a \$1 million diversity initiative to help recruit more underrepresented and underserved students, faculty, and staff to its universities. He added that a search is currently underway for a Senior Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer who will report directly to the System President.

REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BUSINESS & FINANCE COMMITTEE

[\[Recording: 00:37:12\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Beightol to present the report of the Business & Finance Committee.

Regent Beightol reported that the committee received a semi-annual update on the UW System's large/vital IT Projects, including 16 different IT projects with actual or projected costs greater than \$1 million or which were deemed high risk. He reviewed some of the projects impacted by shifting financial and human resources and supply chain delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also highlighted two recently completed projects – the UW System's Seamless Transfer Solution for simplifying the credit transfer process, and the UW System's Digital Learning Environment for delivering online and hybrid instruction – the latter of which was completed \$1.44 million under budget.

Regent Beightol said the committee also reviewed the semi-annual report on gifts, grants, and contracts awarded to the UW System, which totaled approximately \$1.7 billion in FY 2020 (an increase of \$61 million or 3.7% over the previous year). He noted that federal awards increased by about \$110 million, largely a result of the \$942 million received through the federal CARES Act.

Regent Beightol reported that the committee approved a five-year contract between UW-Milwaukee and EAB Global for a \$1.12-million technology platform to support collaborative efforts aimed at reducing equity gaps and improving access and matriculation among underrepresented students in the southeastern Wisconsin region.

Regent Beightol said the committee also approved three contracts for UW-Madison:

- a five-year agreement with Adisseo France S.A.S. for research in the areas of ruminant nutrition and physiology focusing on dairy cattle;
- a five-year agreement with Rockwell Automation for research in the areas of motion, drive, motor control, communications, security and safety, emerging human machine interfaces, algorithms, simulation and emulation, sensors, and thermal management; and
- a three-year agreement with HackerUSA for intensive digital skills training programs offered by the College of Engineering's Office of Engineering Professional Development.

Regent Beightol reported that the committee received updates on from Vice President for Administration Rob Cramer on preplanning activities for the Administrative Transformation

Program (ATP), which has experienced slight delays due to COVID-19; how UW Shared Services has responded to recent changes in resources, including budget cuts, layoffs, and the transition of several services to UW System Administration; and recent information security incidents related to vendor-provided services.

Regent Beightol said the committee received an update from Vice President for Finance Sean Nelson on the allocation of over \$40 million in CARES Act funding for emergency grants to students across the UW System, as well as an additional \$19 million for COVID-19 related expenses. The committee also heard from President Thompson about funding sources for implementation of the UW System's COVID-19 testing program.

Regent Beightol moved for the adoption of Resolutions 11476, 11477, 11478, and 11479. The motion was seconded by Regent Atwell.

Regent Walsh noted that the Audit Committee had discussed the one-year time limit for campuses to distribute the remaining \$6 million for student grants. She encouraged the chancellors at UW-Platteville and UW-Whitewater to communicate with students about how to claim those emergency funds.

The motion to adopt Resolutions 11476, 11477, 11478, and 11479 was approved on a voice vote.

UW System Status Report on Large/Vital Information Technology Projects

Resolution 11476 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents approves: (1) the UW System Status Report on Large/Vital Information Technology Projects dated August 20, 2020; and (2) UW System Administration's submittal of the report on the Board's behalf to the legislative Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology, as required by s. 36.59(7), Wis. Stats.

UW-Milwaukee Service Agreement with EAB Global, Inc.

Resolution 11477 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 the contractual service agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Milwaukee, and EAB Global, Inc., for a five-year term.

UW-Madison Master Research Agreement with Adisseo France S.A.S.

Resolution 11478 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and Adisseo France S.A.S. for a five year term.

UW-Madison Collaboration Agreement with HackerUSA

Resolution 11479 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and HackerUSA for a three-year term.

Regent Beightol moved for the adoption of Resolution 11480. The motion was seconded by Regent Jones and approved on a voice vote. (Regent Beightol abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.)

UW-Madison Master Research Agreement with Rockwell Automation, Inc.

Resolution 11480 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and Rockwell Automation, Inc. for a five-year term.

REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

[\[Recording: 00:51:13\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Klein to present the report of the Education Committee.

Regent Klein said the Education Committee received updates from Vice President Morrobel-Sosa and her staff on the UW System's EApp electronic application, the UW System Behavioral Health Initiative, and the UW System Online Learning Initiative. She indicated that the Online Learning Initiative, which was generously funded by an

anonymous donor, is focused on providing high quality online instruction at scale across the System with equitable access for all students.

Regent Klein reported that the Education Committee also received an update on recent efforts related to the Freshwater Collaborative, which she noted has been included as a priority in President Thompson's biennial budget proposal.

Regent Klein moved for the adoption of Resolutions 11481, 11482, 11483, 11484, 11485, 11486, 11487, 11488, 11489, and 11490. The motion was seconded by Regent Stanford Taylor and approved on a voice vote.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Science in Financial Economics, UW-Madison

Resolution 11481 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Master of Science in Financial Economics program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Science in Information, UW-Madison

Resolution 11482 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Master of Science in Information program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Educational Specialist in School Psychology, UW-Madison

Resolution 11483 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) in School Psychology program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Freshwater Sciences, UW-Milwaukee

Resolution 11484 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in

Freshwater Sciences program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science, UW-Oshkosh

Resolution 11485 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Oshkosh and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science program at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Arts in Professional Communication, UW-Parkside

Resolution 11486 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Parkside and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Master of Arts in Professional Communication program at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, UW-Stout

Resolution 11487 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Public Leadership and Innovation, UW-Superior

Resolution 11488 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Superior and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Public Leadership and Innovation program at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Approval of Temporary Suspension of ACT/SAT Requirements in Regent Policy Document 7-3, "UW System Freshman Admissions Policy" for the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Resolution 11489 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board temporarily suspends the requirement in Regent Policy Document 7-3, Sections I. C. and II. B. that all

freshman applicants provide an ACT or SAT score as part of their application. The suspension of this requirement applies to all freshman applications to UW-Madison, for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years and conforms with Resolution 11430.

Approval of New Regent Policy Document, "Application Fees and Waiver"

Resolution 11490 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves a new Regent Policy Document entitled "Application Fees and Waiver."

REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CAPITAL PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE

[\[Recording: 00:56:24\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Jones to present the report of the Capital Planning & Budget Committee.

Regent Jones said the Capital Planning & Budget Committee received a progress report on current capital design and construction projects, an overview of the UW System's proposed six-year capital plan for 2021-27, and an update on the outcome of the State Building Commission's August 2020 meeting.

Regent Jones reported that the committee approved the construction of one classroom renovation/instructional technology project at UW-Stout, which will involve relocating the Apparel Department from Heritage Hall and reconfiguring underutilized space in Fryklund Hall and the Communication Technology building to create two maker labs, one CADD lab, and one conference room. He noted that this project will provide students with access to larger open labs and greater opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration.

Regent Jones moved for the adoption of Resolution 11491. The motion was seconded by Regent Delgado and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Construct a 2019-21 Classroom/Instructional Technology Improvement Program Project, UW System

Resolution 11491 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents approves the allocation of the first 2019-21 Classroom Renovation/Instructional Technology Improvement Program funds; authorizes construction of the related project at an estimated total cost of \$3,019,000 General Fund

Supported Borrowing of the originally enumerated \$31,689,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing; and allows the Division of Facilities Development to transfer balances, adjust individual project budgets, and add or substitute other high-priority Classroom Renovation/Instructional Technology projects within the authorized funding.

REPORT OF THE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION COMMITTEE

[\[Recording: 00:57:57\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Atwell to present the report of the Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee.

Regent Atwell reported that the Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee first heard from President Thompson, who highlighted the UW System's innovative approach to economic engagement and the extraordinary work of statewide partners – including the Small Business Administration, the UW System Small Business Development Centers, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation – in providing pandemic recovery support to Wisconsin businesses.

Regent Atwell said the Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee also heard updates from employees, clients, and funding partners of the UW System's Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship, which has helped deliver more than \$11.4 billion in federal and state relief to Wisconsin businesses.

Regent Atwell said he also shared with committee members his perspective on how Northern Wisconsin businesses have responded to the pandemic. Although he noted that certain sectors, particularly the hospitality industry and main street businesses, have suffered heavily in recent months, Regent Atwell observed that overall businesses and individuals in his region have demonstrated strength, resilience, and adaptability.

Regent Atwell indicated that a planned presentation on the UW-Green Bay Water Science program was rescheduled for the Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee's next meeting.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

[\[Recording: 01:03:20\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Walsh to present the report of the Audit Committee.

Regent Walsh reported that Chief Audit Executive Lori Stortz reviewed progress to date on the FY2020 audit plan and provided a high-level summary of a recently-issued audit report focused on emergency grant aid payments made to students under the CARES Act; an external assessment and self-assessment report with independent validation; the Quality Assurance and Improvement Program; and the Office of Internal Audit's FY2020 Annual Report.

Regent Walsh indicated that the Audit Committee had requested Internal Audit staff be provided with professional development opportunities to stay current on IT security issues.

PRESIDENT THOMPSON'S STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

[\[Recording: 01:05:25\]](#)

Stating that the 2021-23 biennial budget may be the most important budget in the UW System's 50-year history, President Petersen invited interim UW System President Thompson to provide an overview of the current state of the university and its priority initiatives moving forward.

President Thompson said the support of the public and the strong relationships fostered with businesses and communities around Wisconsin will be vitally important as the UW System works to get through the current public health crisis. Noting that the world has changed in recent months, he said present circumstances demand many difficult but also necessary decisions.

President Thompson said the UW System is a \$6 billion entity that serves as a powerful economic engine for the state, with a total impact of \$24 billion annually on Wisconsin's economy. The UW System provides a 23:1 return on investment for every dollar invested by the State of Wisconsin; however, the UW System receives just 17% of its support from the state.

President Thompson said the UW System must find creative ways to diversify its revenue streams and modernize its finances while continuing to meet the needs of the state. He identified 10 areas where the UW System should focus its attention over the next 18 months to help renew the Wisconsin Idea:

- 1) **Launch The Wisconsin Tuition Promise.** As part of the UW System's commitment to make quality education more broadly accessible, President Thompson said this initiative would expand the benefits of UW-Madison's Bucky's Promise program to all campuses in the System. The Wisconsin Tuition Promise would cover the costs of tuition and segregated fees over four years for freshmen and two years for transfer students whose adjusted household gross income is \$60,000 or less. As a "last dollar" aid program, the Wisconsin Tuition Promise would be applied after all other scholarships and grants have been exhausted.
- 2) **Enhance and Expand Online Educational Opportunities.** In addition to offering the 815,000 Wisconsin adults who have some college credits but no degree with an avenue to finish their education, President Thompson said enhanced online opportunities also offer new options for lifelong learning and career advancement.
- 3) **Advance Wisconsin's Teachers.** President Thompson said the UW System is considering several ideas to help Wisconsin recruit and retain more teachers and school leaders, including increasing funding for existing student loan forgiveness programs; reducing overly restrictive requirements for students to qualify for funding; and providing incentives for educators in high-demand fields and high-need school districts.
- 4) **Diversity Revenue Sources.** President Thompson said the university must become more entrepreneurial in looking for alternative ways to fund the UW System's public mission for the next generation of Wisconsin families.
- 5) **Expand Financial Options and Modernize Administrative and Financial Processes.** President Thompson noted that, unlike most American universities, the UW System cannot borrow money or access a line of credit to augment its short-term cash flow under current state law. He warned that this lack of flexibility could force the UW System to make damaging cuts that are short-sighted but unavoidable. President Thompson said the UW System must also modernize its administrative and financial processes and strengthen information security.
- 6) **Increase Regulatory Flexibility.** President Thompson said the UW System is requesting removal of many statutorily required reports that provide outdated information, are redundant or no longer relevant, and receive little to no interest from state officials. He noted that the intent is not to obscure information from the public or policymakers, but instead to redirect valuable time and resources from outdated reports to supporting the educational mission of the university.
- 7) **Secure Wisconsin's Role as the National Hub for Freshwater.** Remarking on Wisconsin's abundance of freshwater resources, President Thompson said the

Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin offers a diverse curriculum that builds on the broad expertise, world-class facilities, and research strengths already in place across all 13 UW institutions.

- 8) **Provide Necessary Support for Student Mental and Behavioral Health.** Noting that this issue has been a priority for the Board, President Thompson recommended a Systemwide initiative to provide expanded staffing, training, and operations to better prevent, evaluate, and address student mental and behavioral health issues.

- 9) **Extend Additional Support to Wisconsin's Agricultural Sector.** Stating that agriculture is the core of Wisconsin's economy, President Thompson said this proposed initiative would support 20 county-based agriculture positions in the Division of Extension at UW-Madison for local experts to provide free research and technical assistance to Wisconsin farmers on agricultural practices, business management and planning.

- 10) **Expand Educational Opportunities to Wisconsin's State Prison and Local Jail Systems.** President Thompson said a partnership between the UW System and the Department of Corrections would provide access to vocational education for the 41,000 adults currently incarcerated in Wisconsin, with the goal of reducing recidivism rates and increasing the number of prisoners eligible for gainful employment after serving their sentences.

President Thompson said these key initiatives are woven into the UW System's 2021-23 biennial operating budget request, which provides a 3.5% increase in each year of the biennium, for a total of \$95.7 million. He noted that although this may seem like a large ask, the UW System has already been asked to return about \$100 million to the state as part of two lapses ordered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting financial crisis.

Noting that a significant portion of the UW System's building inventory was constructed between 1950 and 1979, President Thompson said the UW System's 2021-23 biennial capital budget request of \$1.2 billion is focused on repairing, renovating, and replacing obsolete facilities. The proposed request would renovate almost 3 million square feet, or 4% of the more than 67 million square feet comprising the UW System.

Remarking on the UW System's role as the state's largest talent pipeline, as a driver of research and entrepreneurship, and in keeping quality higher education affordable and accessible, President Thompson stated that an investment in the UW is an investment in Wisconsin. He concluded that the decisions made today will have consequences far into the future as the UW System serves the state for generations to come.

UW SYSTEM 2021-23 BIENNIAL OPERATING BUDGET FUNDING REQUEST AND FINANCIAL AID REQUEST

[\[Recording: 01:34:08\]](#)

President Petersen invited Vice President for Finance Sean Nelson to present the UW System's 2021-23 biennial operating budget request and financial aid request.

Vice President Nelson stated that the UW System's estimated revenue for FY 2021 totals \$6.449 billion. With \$894.4 million in operational General Purpose Revenue (GPR) and \$219 million in GPR debt service, state support currently comprises 17% of the total budget.

Vice President Nelson said the UW System's 2021-23 budget request includes 3.5% increases in operational GPR for each of the next two fiscal years, for a total increase of \$95.7 million in state support over the biennium.

Vice President Nelson warned that the UW System's base funding will be significantly reduced if the \$100 million lapse in state support for FY 2020 and FY 2021 becomes a permanent budget reduction. Assuming the lapse ends in FY 2021, the UW System's revenues are projected to total \$995.2 million in FY 2022 and \$1.02 billion in FY 2023.

Vice President Nelson provided examples of how the Wisconsin Tuition Promise initiative would provide free tuition and segregated fees for freshmen and transfer students from households with an adjusted gross income of \$60,000 or less. He estimated that just under 6,000 students would be eligible under this program. Vice President Nelson also summarized how other initiatives identified by President Thompson would advance workforce development and improve student success.

Vice President Nelson said the UW System is recommending a biennial increase of \$4.6 million, or 3.7%, to fully fund all eligible students for the needs-based Wisconsin Grant financial aid program. He explained that this recommendation, if approved by the Board, will be advanced to the Higher Educational Aids Board.

Vice President Nelson highlighted several changes to statutory language the UW System is pursuing related to program revenue bonding, operational borrowing, reductions in reporting requirements, and renegotiation of the Minnesota/Wisconsin reciprocity agreement to direct revenues to the campuses that support participating out-of-state students.

Vice President Nelson explained that standard budget adjustments in the proposed request reflect actual costs to continue the UW System's operations into the next fiscal year, including full funding of fringe benefits and contractual lease increases.

Vice President Nelson noted that the UW System's 2021-23 compensation recommendation will be presented at the Board's December meeting.

President Petersen reiterated that although the requested increase of \$95.7 million in state support may seem like a large ask, the UW System has been asked to return \$100 million to the state in lapses recent ordered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting financial crisis.

Regent Jones moved for the adoption of Resolution 11492. The motion was seconded by Regent Klein.

Regent Colón asked whether the proposed initiatives would replace any existing programs. President Thompson said he has not yet had time to review the effectiveness of existing programs, but following the budget process he would like to meet with chancellors and provosts to review the missions of each campus and identify where efforts are being duplicated.

Regent Delgado asked whether this budget proposal takes into account any contingency plans that may need to be implemented on the campuses during the 2020-21 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. President Thompson said the institutions are planning for many different scenarios. He reported that even the most financially vulnerable campus has indicated it could withstand an enrollment reduction up to 12%. Noting that final numbers will not be known until the semester begins, President Thompson said the greater concern currently is an increase in the number of students withdrawing from residence halls.

President Thompson said the UW System is limited in its ability to move resources between campuses but has embraced online instruction as one way to share courses and reduce costs. He said the UW institutions have offered distance learning accommodations for students and faculty who are not comfortable with in-person instruction.

President Petersen observed that communication between the chancellors, provosts, and System Administration has never been stronger. He noted that System Administration has been in the process of identifying and addressing financial weaknesses or challenges at the UW institutions since before the pandemic. He said it is incumbent on the Board to make sure those corrective steps are being continuously implemented.

Regent Klein commended President Thompson for bringing the Wisconsin Idea into the 21st century. She expressed support for his initiatives related to diversifying revenue sources, seeking greater regulatory flexibility, and bringing higher education opportunities to prisons. She also stated that she was "confident" in the UW System's plans to reopen for the fall semester.

President Petersen highlighted President Thompson's tenacity in securing state and federal funding and procuring supplies for the UW System's COVID-19 response.

Stating that President Thompson's initiatives present a vision for the UW System, Regent Beightol said he would like to see the Board move into a more strategic role in the university's partnership with the state legislature. He also requested additional details about how this budget proposal will improve the UW System's outcomes on a macro level, including how many more students UW institutions will be able to enroll, retain, and graduate.

President Thompson said he wants to stop apologizing for the UW System and instead rebuild trust with the Governor's Office and the state legislature. He indicated that he plans to seek bipartisan sponsors for legislation related to each of the UW System's priorities independent of the budget process. He also said he would like to set up receptions to build the relationships between Board members and legislators.

Stating that the Board wanted an innovative, assertive, and realistic budget, President Petersen said this request fits because it identifies solutions to problems, seeks to change the tone of the university's relationship with the legislature, and is financially responsible. He said this proposal shows the university can deliver solutions for about the same cost by changing how it operates.

Commenting on the over 800,000 Wisconsin residents with some college credits but no degree, Regent Walsh said this is both an opportunity for the UW System and a sign of a potential retention issue. She emphasized the importance of high-touch student support services in retaining students and expressed concern about the impact of staff furloughs on recruitment and retention efforts.

Observing that students of color report feeling unwelcome on UW campuses more than any other group, President Thompson said the UW System must change this.

Regent Walsh noted that there are markers and tools that can alert staff to proactively intervene and get students the help they need to succeed, but institutions need to have enough trained staff to do so effectively.

Recalling that the Board previously heard presentations on how recruitment, retention, and graduation rates can be improved through persistent advising efforts, President Petersen noted that not long after that meeting the UW System was criticized for increasing the number of non-instructional staff. He said allocating resources to advising, mental health, and other wrap-around services is necessary for graduating students in a timely manner.

Regent Atwell said he would not want to see the UW System set up a line of credit as a substitute for the hard work of bringing legislators and others together in support of investing in the university. He also cautioned against “planning for failure” by borrowing money rather than having confidence in the UW System’s plans for safely returning students to campuses in the fall.

President Thompson noted that beyond the financial costs to the university, not returning to campuses would also have incalculable costs to students’ mental and emotional health. He added that any discussions with the legislature and the Governor about accessing future lines of credit would go well into 2021, so this tool would not be available for the UW System to use during the fall reopening.

Reiterating that many universities and vocational schools in the U.S. have access to lines of credit, President Thompson said the Board of Regents could set restrictions on how the UW System uses lines of credit, for example by requiring Board approval and a plan for repayment. He suggested that the Board might use a line of credit to make investments in worthwhile programs that pay future dividends without needing to make cuts elsewhere.

Regent Bogost said she looked forward to building relationships with the legislature to help them understand what the UW System is all about. She expressed support for expanding online educational opportunities to help Wisconsin residents finish their degrees, but emphasized that UW institutions must offer the highest quality online or hybrid education to distinguish themselves from other universities who may offer less expensive online classes. Pointing to how some professors have found innovative ways to hold online office hours, she encouraged university leaders to listen to ideas coming from shared governance groups.

Stating that the UW institutions did well with the unanticipated transition to delivering an online curriculum midway through the spring semester, President Thompson said the UW System should accelerate those efforts to build its brand in online education.

Regent Bogost noted that expanding online education could also create international opportunities for the UW System’s agriculture and freshwater initiatives.

Regent Hall said plans for remote learning should take into consideration the “digital divide” in access to fast, reliable Internet among Wisconsin residents.

Noting that a disproportionate number of Black and brown people are incarcerated in Wisconsin’s prison system, Regent Hall said that although she is excited to create opportunities within prisons, she would also like to see the university help reduce the number of people entering the prison system by eliminating inequities and changing the climate both on campuses and in the state.

President Thompson said he would like to explore the solutions recommended in the campus climate report that was issued by the Systemwide work group chaired by Regent Hall and Regent Manydeeds. Regent Hall encouraged the campuses to form partnerships with organizations in their local communities to work on these issues.

Regent Klein said the Education Committee has heard presentations on the support and resources campuses are providing to faculty and academic staff on the transition to online instruction. She suggested the Board should begin thinking strategically about what it wants online education to look like for the UW System as a whole. President Petersen agreed that online education will look very different in the future than it has in the past.

With no further questions or comments, Resolution 11492 was approved on a voice vote.

Approval of the UW System's 2021-23 Biennial Operating Budget Funding Request and Financial Aid Request

Resolution 11492 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the submission of:

- 1) the Board's 2021-23 Biennial Operating Budget request, totaling \$95,700,000 biennially in GPR for key initiatives;
- 2) the Wisconsin Grant-UW request to the Higher Educational Aids Board for inclusion in its 2021-23 biennial budget request totaling \$4,550,800 biennially;
- 3) a technical request that adjusts the general program operations appropriation and FTE to the UW System's 2020-21 annual operating budget level for academic student fees;
- 4) recommended statutory language changes related to capital bonding, operational bonding, reduced reporting, and Minnesota reciprocity; and
- 5) statutorily-required performance measures for 2021-23.

In addition, the Board of Regents delegates authority to the UW System President to approve and submit a 0% and 5% biennial budget reduction plan, as required by 2015 WI Act 201 and standard budget adjustments for items such fringe benefits should it be determined they are necessary.

UW SYSTEM 2021-23 BIENNIAL CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING REQUEST

[\[Recording: 02:43:20\]](#)

President Petersen invited Associate Vice President Alex Roe to present the UW System's 2021-23 biennial capital budget funding request.

AVP Roe said the UW System includes over 67 million gross square feet of facilities, nearly half of which were constructed in the post-war era between 1950 and 1970. She noted that facilities from this time tend to be energy inefficient, lack flexible teaching and learning environments, and were not built to last.

AVP Roe said that although it is generally recommended that major building systems be replaced every 25 to 35 years, many of the UW System's post-war era facilities have never had their electrical, HVAC, plumbing, or exterior envelopes replaced or repaired. She added that newer buildings have computerized systems that require more frequent upgrades and replacement than older buildings. She indicated that the intersection of these two renovation cycles will create serious challenges for the campuses.

AVP Roe said the UW System's \$3.2 billion six-year capital plan includes a \$1.281 billion capital budget request for 2021-23. She reported that her office received 183 requests from the campuses, including 54 major projects valued at over \$3 million, 22 minor facility renovation projects valued between \$3 million and \$7.4 million, 20 instructional space projects valued at \$7.4 million, and 15 projects recommended for planning funding.

AVP Roe said the majority of work included in the six-year plan is renovation of existing space, followed by some new construction and demolition of obsolete facilities. In the first biennium the UW System will renovate 4% of its existing space, demolish 1%, and replace or build 2%. She noted that these figures do not include projects submitted to the All Agency Maintenance and Repair program. AVP Roe shared images from existing facilities that require renovation or replacement to reduce operating challenges and costs.

Speaking on the impact of COVID-19, AVP Roe said her office has been having discussions with the Department of Administration regarding recommendations for HVAC and other building systems from the CDC and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, which sets the standards for HVAC designs. She reported that research is ongoing about how these systems either impede or enhance the transmission of the virus, but identified facilities without mechanical cooling systems as potentially problematic because they do not flush air out of indoor spaces.

AVP Roe said her office will work closely with colleagues in academic affairs to ensure future renovation and construction plans take hybrid teaching and learning needs into consideration.

AVP Roe concluded her presentation with a preview of the new Capital Plan Dashboard, which offers an interactive breakdown of the capital plan by region or institution.

Responding to a question from President Petersen, AVP Roe confirmed that the UW System has the greatest square footage of facilities of any state agency. President Petersen said that with that context, the UW System's capital budget request is reasonable and in line with previous biennia.

AVP Roe reported that many of the UW System's post-war era facilities, including most of the science buildings at the comprehensive institutions, are in poor condition and cannot be renovated because the codes have changed too much.

Regent Woodmansee asked if future design plans will continue to include more collaborative learning spaces considering the pandemic. AVP Roe said flexible, collaborative spaces have proven easier to transition for social distancing purposes. She indicated that today's students are "digital natives" who prefer 20- to 25-seat classrooms enabled with collaborative technology that facilitates both in-person and remote learning opportunities.

Regent Walsh moved for the adoption of Resolution 11493. The motion was seconded by Regent Delgado and approved on a voice vote.

Approval of the UW System's 2021-23 Biennial Capital Budget Funding Request and 2021-27 Six-Year Capital Plan

Resolution 11493 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the 2021-23 Capital Budget request and that it be submitted to the Department of Administration and the State Building Commission. The 2021-23 Capital Budget Request of \$1,281,472,000 (\$1,017,543,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing; \$109,564,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing; \$25,955,000 Cash; \$74,787,000 Gifts; and \$53,623,000 Building Trust Funds) includes the following:

1. Six categorical enumerations of \$294,002,000 for capital projects programs including (a) \$150,000,000 (\$100,000,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing and \$50,000,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing) for the All Agency Projects Program; (b) \$31,875,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing in two prioritized groups for the Instructional Space Projects Program; (c) \$100,427,000 (\$91,673,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing and \$8,754,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing) in two prioritized groups for the Minor Facilities Renewal Projects

- Program; and (d) \$11,700,000 Cash to establish a new Campus Master Plan Land Acquisition Program.
2. Sixteen individual project enumerations of \$949,289,000 (\$793,995,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing; \$50,810,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing; \$13,000,000 Cash; \$73,078,000 Gifts; and \$18,406,000 Building Trust Funds).
 3. Six individual planning and design funding enumerations of \$38,181,000 (\$1,255,000 Cash; \$1,709,000 Gifts; and \$35,217,000 Building Trust Funds).
 4. Authorization for the UW System President or designee to adjust individual project budgets as necessary in the development of the final 2021-23 Capital Budget recommendation with the Department of Administration.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Regents recommends that the University of Wisconsin System 2021-27 Six-Year Capital Plan be submitted to the Department of Administration in accordance with Wis. Stats. § 13.48(1), related to the long-range public building program.

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY RULES FOR CHAPTERS UWS 4, 7, 11, AND 17, WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND INTERIM CHANGES TO REGENT POLICY DOCUMENT 14-2, "SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT"

[\[Recording: 03:00:26\]](#)

President Petersen said the Board recently met to approve emergency rules for Chapters 4, 7, 11, and 17 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and interim changes to Regent Policy Document (RPD) 14-2 in order to bring the UW System into compliance with new federal Title IX regulations which went into effect on August 14, 2020. He invited Katie Ignatowski, Director of the UW System Office of Compliance and Integrity, to provide an update on the implementation of those changes and the next steps in the rulemaking process.

Director Ignatowski reported that her office is working to draft permanent rules and to develop resources and tools to support campus compliance efforts. The next step of the rulemaking process will be to hold a legally required hearing in September to seek input from internal and external stakeholders on how the emergency rules are working in practice and what revisions should be considered in the permanent rules.

Director Ignatowski said that once permanent rules are drafted, her office will hold an additional 3- to 4-week public comment period and make any necessary revisions based on feedback from members of the public and the campus communities. She indicated that an

aggressive communications strategy will be employed to ensure the broadest possible scope of input. The final permanent rule language will require approval by the Board of Regents, followed by review by the Governor and the legislature.

Director Ignatowski noted that the emergency rules currently in place are set to expire on January 10, 2021, with the possibility of two subsequent 60-day extensions if granted by the legislature. She said the UW System's goal is to have permanent rules in place before the emergency rules expire.

To support campus efforts to comply with the new policies and procedures, Director Ignatowski said her office is developing guidance and trainings and establishing resource pools of hearing officers and advisors for campuses to draw from.

Responding to a question from Regent Woodmansee, Director Ignatowski said she was not aware of any institutions who failed to comply with the new federal regulations by the August 14th deadline.

President Petersen thanked the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Compliance & Integrity for their extra efforts to bring the UW System into compliance under difficult circumstances.

Director Ignatowski introduced additional revisions intended to further clarify and align the language of Regent Policy Document 14-2, "Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment", with the new federal regulations. She explained that these changes are being requested in response to feedback received from internal stakeholders on the campuses and include: clarifying that certain conditions related to the informal resolution process apply only to Title IX misconduct cases; broadening the section imposing penalties for false accusations to include all types of false statements; and making technical edits for consistency and clarity.

Director Ignatowski confirmed that final adjustments to RPD 14-2 will be made once permanent rules are in place.

Regent Atwell moved for the adoption of Resolution 11494. The motion was seconded by Regent Jones and approved on a voice vote.

Approval of Changes to Regent Policy Document 14-2, "Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment"

Resolution 11494 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves revisions to Regent Policy Document 14-2, "Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment".

REGENT COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

[\[Recording: 03:07:43\]](#)

There were no communications, petitions, or memorials.

CLOSED SESSION

[\[Recording: 03:07:58\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Vice President Grebe to read the motion to move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Regent Saffold and adopted on a roll-call vote, with Regents Atwell, Beightol, Bogost, Colón, Delgado, Grebe, Hall, Jones, Lezow, Manydeeds, Petersen, Peterson, Saffold, Walsh, and Woodmansee voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 11495 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to consider personal histories related to the naming of a facility at UW-Platteville, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.

Before considering any items on the closed session agenda, President Petersen asked if any Board members wished to declare any conflicts of interest as per Regent Policy Document 2-4, "Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy for the UW System Board of Regents." No conflicts were declared.

During the closed session, adoption of Resolution 11496 was moved by Regent Delgado, seconded by Regent Walsh, and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Rename the Engineering Building, UW-Platteville

Resolution 11496 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Platteville, and the President of the UW System, the Board of Regents authorizes that the Engineering Building be named, "Busby Hall of Engineering."

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

- - -

Submitted by:

/s/ Jess Lathrop _____

Jess Lathrop
Executive Director & Corporate Secretary
Office of the Board of Regents
University of Wisconsin System