

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2021**

Proceedings of the Education Committee Meeting. The Education Committee convened via WebEx from 10:30 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. Committee members in attendance were: Regents Colón, Hall, Klein, Manydeeds, Stanford Taylor, Walsh, Weatherly, and Woodmansee. No Regent declared a conflict of interest regarding any of the items listed on the meeting agenda.

Agenda Item C.: Proposed Consent Agenda. Given the large number of agenda items to be covered during the 90-minute meeting, the Chair requested a motion to move the following routine, non-controversial items to a consent agenda. Note: Items on a consent agenda may be acted upon by the committee in a single vote. Any Board Member may remove items from a consent agenda for separate discussion and consideration. The meeting minutes must reflect the motion and vote on each item. The meeting agenda reflected the six following items on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2020 Meeting of the Education Committee
2. UW-Green Bay: Approval of Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education
3. UW Madison: Approval of Master of Science in Environmental Remediation and Management
4. UW-Madison: Approval of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Information
5. UW-River Falls: Approval of Doctor of Education (EdD) in Montessori Studies
6. UW-Whitewater: Approval of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies

Regent Colon asked about the process for establishing new programs given current constraints. In response, UW System Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Anny Morrobel-Sosa explained the curricular approval and consultation process. She also stated that an affirmative vote does not necessarily mean a degree program will ultimately be implemented.

A motion to approve was made by Regent Woodmansee, and seconded by Regent Stanford Taylor. All items remained on the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Extension of the Temporary Suspension of ACT/SAT Requirements in Regent Policy Document 7-3, “UW System Freshman Admissions Policy.” The committee approved an Extension of the Temporary Suspension of ACT/SAT Requirements in Regent Policy Document 7-3, “UW System Freshman Admissions Policy.” Regent Klein asked Vice President Morrobel-Sosa to present the motion, who then invited Dr. Christine Navia, UW System Associate Vice President for Student Success, to explain this policy action.

Dr. Navia stated that the UW System continues to face challenges in its freshman applicants’ ability to submit ACT or SAT scores because of the COVID-19 crisis. In response, the Board of Regents is being asked to extend the temporary suspension of Regent Policy Document 7-3, Sections I. C. and II. B., that requires the submission of ACT/SAT test scores by freshman applicants. She also stated that the waiver ensures consistency among UW campuses and that the UW System’s Office of Academic and Student Affairs will undertake a formal research study of the waiver’s impact both on the application process and student outcomes.

Regent Klein asked how applicants are evaluated in the absence of the test scores. Dr. Navia responded that while each campus conducts its own review process, generally they look more closely at other parts of an application including the high school transcript and grades.

Regent Weatherly asked if, since the waiver makes submission of test scores optional for an applicant, there are potential negative consequences or biases for the application process. Dr. Navia explained that students whose applications do not include a standardized test will not be disadvantaged during the application review process. She stated that campuses conduct wholistic reviews of applicants. She noted that currently, the race of the applicant is the biggest factor correlated with test score inclusion, and that this will be part of the research study. Betsy Morgan, Provost, UW-Lacrosse also responded that because test scores had been used for determination of scholarship or other eligibility, a waiver does require a more complex review from campus admissions. She explained that because many high schools no longer include class rank, it is more difficult to evaluate grades in context. In response, Regent Weatherly asked for a future discussion of how campuses evaluate student success after admission.

A motion to approve was made by Regent Walsh, and seconded by Regent Weatherly. The motion passed unanimously.

Update: Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin. This presentation provided an update on the status of planning for the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin (FCW). This initiative builds upon the collective assets of all 13 four-year institutions to collaborate on freshwater research, training, innovation and economic development. At its June 6, 2019, the Board of Regents requested periodic updates on the FCW. This presentation is the sixth in a series, and was delivered by Marissa Jablonski, FCW Executive Director.

UW-Madison Host Campus Presentation: Delivering High-Quality Education in a Pandemic. Regent Klein welcomed Karl Scholz, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Madison and Kassem Fawaz, Professor, College of Engineering, UW-Madison to complete the host campus presentation.

Provost Scholz described the challenges the global COVID-19 pandemic brought to higher education for instruction including limitations on student study groups and labs, and mental health and other challenges. He described some of the steps taken at UW-Madison and survey results from the just-completed semester. Professor Fawaz provided an instructional example of providing remote lab experiences for students in Engineering.

In response to the presentation, Regent Walsh asked if data is available to show how faculty are adapting to the changes. Provost Scholz expressed concern for faculty given different time constraints and explained that results of an instructor time-use study were similar to other years.

Regent Klein stated her desire that the UW will learn from the response to the pandemic and take lessons that will be useful in the future. She thanked Provost Scholz and Professor Fawaz for the presentation.

Report of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Anny Morrobel-Sosa, UW System Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, reported on two topics, including: (1) an update on the UW System Reverse Transfer Implementation Plan, and (2) the UW System Teacher Workforce Initiative.

The Education Committee meeting was adjourned by Regent Klein at 11:55 a.m.