

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 3, 2021**

Proceedings of the Education Committee Meeting. The Education Committee convened in person from 10:36 a.m. to 12:06 p.m. Committee members in attendance were: Regents Klein (via phone), Manydeeds, Stanford Taylor, Walsh, Colón, and Weatherly. 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 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 three following items on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2021 Meeting of the Education Committee
2. UW-Eau Claire: Approval of Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship
3. UW-Eau Claire: Approval of Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management
4. UW-Eau Claire: Approval of Bachelor of Business Administration in Operations and Supply Chain Management
5. UW-Madison: Approval of Master of Science in Sports Leadership
6. UW-Milwaukee: Approval of Bachelor of Business Administration in General Business
7. UW-Milwaukee: Approval of Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience
8. UW Oshkosh: Approval of Bachelor of Science in Strength and Conditioning
9. Approval of the Annual Request for Funding from the Vilas Trust Fund for UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee

UW System Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Anny Morrobel-Sosa provided an overview of each item on the consent agenda. All items remained on the consent agenda. A motion to approve item was made by Regent Klein and seconded by Regent Colón. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item D. UW-Whitewater: First Reading of Revised Mission Statement.

The Education Committee held the first required reading of UW-Whitewater's revised mission statement, which has previously been approved by shared governance bodies at the university as well as by the Provost and Chancellor.

Dr. Greg Cook, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Whitewater, presented the revised mission. Provost Cook stated that the new mission statement defines the various student populations that UW-Whitewater serves, lists the levels of academic programs offered and areas of academic programming. The revised mission statement highlights the mission of the institution to serve students with disabilities and underscores the UW-Whitewater's commitment to access and to being an inclusive community. He also stated that UW-Whitewater will now hold a public hearing on the mission statement to solicit community feedback before the revised mission statement comes to the Board for final review.

In response, Regen Klein asked about the LEAP [Liberal Education and America's Promise] standards and why they were not included in the revised mission. Regent Walsh asked about the relationship between the mission and campus vision and strategic plan. In response, Provost Cook stated the revised mission does include the liberal education values, and that the mission was last updated in 2005 and was revised in consideration of the UW-Whitewater strategic plan.

Agenda Item E. Approval of the 2021 Report on Faculty Promotions, Tenure Designations, and Other Changes of Status.

The Vice President introduced the annual report on tenure designations, promotions, and new tenured appointments made at the 13 UW institutions. She explained the number of tenured faculty is lower this year in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic and faculty requests to extend tenure timelines, and previous budget cuts to the university, and that the UW System will examine these trends.

A motion to approve the report was made by Regent Walsh, who then asked how campuses have responded to requests to extend tenure timelines. The Vice President responded that stated the UW System will examine these issues, including the impact on faculty of color.

The motion was seconded by Regent Stanford Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item F. Presentation: UW System Office of Educational Opportunity—Overview of Responsibilities, Process for Evaluating Charter Schools, and State Formula for Charter School Funding.

The Vice President reported on the assignment of the Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO) within the Office of Academic and Student Affairs and how it will support future innovation. She then introduced OEO Director Vanessa Moran, who shared updates on authorized charter schools and OEO revised standard operating procedures and practices for approving new charter schools that will include multiple phases, to increase transparency and accountability. Bob Soldner, Assistant State Superintendent at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, presented information related to charter school funding.

Regent Colón asked about the advantage for a school to be authorized by OEO rather than UW-Milwaukee or another UW campus. Director Moran responded that the capacity of the OEO and its statewide focus could be a better fit for some schools.

Regent Walsh asked about the OEO Advisory Council and who appoints members, how long they serve, how often they meet, and the standards used to review applications. Director Moran stated that previously the OEO Director had appointed members, but that she is reexamining the process. The Council met as needed to review schools and applied rubrics based on national standards and practices from other authorizers.

Regent Walsh then asked that since the OEO has existed since 2015, and has authorized 4 schools, shouldn't OEO focus on setting up a sustained and transparent process, especially considering that UW-Milwaukee has a process and that there are local school districts that may not want a charter school. In response, Vice President Morrobel-Sosa stated that standardization and accountability was part of the reason to move the OEO under the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

Regent Klein asked about the school performance standards and encouraged the ability to evaluate schools on a common platform or data points. In response, Director Moran stated that while local districts often have their own process for chartering schools, OEO is seeking to develop common performance standards and will prepare an annual report for the Board.

UW System Interim President Tommy Thompson described the history and purpose of the school choice program in Milwaukee, and that the UW can define the role of the OEO. The President also encouraged the Board to advocate for changes to school district funding to allow traditional districts to recover funding when a student attends an independent charter school. Regent Stanford Taylor stated agreement about the need to improve the school funding formula.

Agenda Item G. UW-Milwaukee Host Campus Presentation: Students at the Center—Planning for a Radically Welcoming Campus.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) presentation focused on the student-focused components of the University's 2030 campus planning initiative. Student-centric initiatives include the Moonshot for Equity regional consortium, general education reform, reducing financial barriers for students in need, and wrap-around student support services. The presentation also addressed the impact of the pandemic on UWM to undertake key 2030 initiatives, encompassing the student perspective and UWM's response and future growth as a caring community. The presentation was given by UW-Milwaukee Provost Johannes Britz, Provost, Senior Student Affairs Officer Kelly Hagg, Associate Vice Chancellor-Enrollment Management Kay Eilers, UW-Milwaukee, Vice Provost for Student Success David Clark, and Student Association President Amilia Heredia.

In response to the presentation, Regents Walsh and Klein encouraged the UW System to continue to learn the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, including best practices in creating communities in a virtual space.

Agenda Item F: 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 was the eighth in a series, and was delivered by Marissa Jablonski, FCW Executive Director.

Regent. Manydeeds thanked Dr. Jablonski for her presentation and outreach. He then stated that due to time constraints, the report from the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs will be removed from the agenda and will be heard at the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06.