

**MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION COMMITTEE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS**

Thursday, June 3, 2021  
UW-Milwaukee and WebEx Videoconference

Regent Bob Atwell called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Regents Cris Peterson, Becky Lezow and Kyle Weatherly were present. Regent Atwell provided an opportunity for committee members to declare any conflicts of interest; none were so stated.

**a. Approval of the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting.**

The minutes of the April 8, 2021, REDI Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

**b. UW-Milwaukee: Future-Focused Research and Industry Partnerships Drive Innovation and Economic Competitiveness**

Chancellor Mark Mone and UWM Senior Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships Jennifer Abele provided an overview of UWM's Office of Strategic Partnerships including its vision, value proposition, and results. Chancellor Mone emphasized that the innovation and talent produced by state's urban research university help to drive the vitality of the Wisconsin economy.

The UWM presenters highlighted three key initiatives: the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute, the Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA), and TechEd Frontiers. Abele said these initiatives are highly successful today because their strategies are responsive to what employers are seeking in terms of collaborative research and workforce skills. Sam Ridders, the Deputy Secretary and COO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) joined the UWM team to underscore the power of university-industry-government collaborations and their impact on building vibrant economic ecosystems.

Regent Cris Peterson pointed out the value of using data-driven solutions to help disparities across the region. Regent Kyle Weatherly noted the critical importance of UWM in moving the "M7" region forward in an increasingly competitive environment.

**c. UW-Green Bay Partnership with Microsoft/LinkedIn Delivers Workforce Credentialing Across Multiple Disciplines**

Chancellor Michael Alexander provided an overview of UW-Green Bay's continuing efforts to re-imagine education. He noted that in the past, many of the tools in the Microsoft platform were viewed simply as the IT Department's to manage and not as assets capable of transforming how education is accessed and delivered. As part of this new way of thinking, the university and its multiple-campus locations have built a collaboration with Microsoft's TechSpark program and LinkedIn. This new approach will provide on-line professional development opportunities for university faculty and staff, expand career connections for UW-Green Bay students, and deliver LinkedIn Learning programming across the university's four-campus community.

Provost Kate Burns described the use of LinkedIn Learning in the classroom for tutorials on writing and soft management skills, engineering learning, and remedial work. From a staff development standpoint, HR Director Melissa Nash said the initial success of the program is due to a “service mindset” approach being taken. The Chancellor concluded by emphasizing that the familiarity and ease of use of the Microsoft tools will allow UW-Green Bay to develop and deliver content more quickly and at lower cost than in the past. The program is already being considered by higher educational entities across the state and beyond.

**d. WiSys: Update on Faculty and Undergraduate Research, Technology Transfer, and Statewide Commercialization Initiatives.**

WiSys is the technology transfer entity authorized by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to advance promising research and innovation from discovery through commercialization at the UW System’s 11 four-year comprehensive universities. WiSys Board Chair David J. Ward and WiSys President Arjun Sanga provided an update of 2020-2021 programs and highlighted successful campus initiatives. Despite the pandemic, the campus-based network of WiSys regional associates and student ambassadors has continued to expand “in-market” support for faculty and students.

David Ward said that over the past year, invention disclosures have been registered at a pace equal to or greater than last year, and one-third of the disclosures have come from students. Arjun Sanga noted that virtual delivery of programs and workshops has increased participation overall with more than 1400 attendees, the largest participation ever. Additionally, the 11 universities served by WiSys have been named among the nation’s best (#2 overall) for undergraduate research and student/faculty involvement. Regent Peterson asked Arjun how many projects WiSys “juggles” day to day with faculty, staff and students. Sanga estimated it was approximately 100 at any given time during year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.