

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

Friday, April 9, 2021  
8:45 a.m.

Pyle Center Alumni Lounge  
702 Langdon Street  
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Petersen presiding-

<b>CALLING OF THE ROLL.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Approval of a UW-Madison Agreement with Context Biopharma, Inc. and Medical College of Wisconsin.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Approval of a UW-Madison Agreement with Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Amendment of Regent Policy Document 13-4, "University of Wisconsin System Policy on Institutional and Employee Relationships with Educational Loan Lenders".....</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Approval of Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, UW-Madison.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Approval of Bachelor of Science in Arts Administration and Entrepreneurship, UW-Stout.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Rescind Regent Policy Document 4-15, "Excess Credit Policy," to Eliminate the UW System Excess Credit Surcharge Except for UW-Madison.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<b>REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CAPITAL PLANNING &amp; BUDGET COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Authority to Extend a Lease of Space for a Research Library, UW-Madison.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Authority to Transfer Land and Improvements and Construct the UW-Managed Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Digital Publishing and Printing Services Relocation and the Facilities Planning &amp; Management Physical Plant Relocation Projects, UW-Madison.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Authority to Construct Minor Facilities Renewal Projects, UW System.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Authority to Construct an All Agency Maintenance and Repair Project, UW System.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Amendment of Regent Policy Document 19-12, "Oversight of Facilities Constructed for University Purposes".....</i>	<i>9</i>
<b>REPORT OF THE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PROJECT DE+ ONLINE EDUCATION INITIATIVE.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Discussion .....	12

<b>REGENTS TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTATION.....</b>	<b>15</b>
2020 Regents Teaching Excellence Awards Introduction.....	15
<i>Individual Award: Dr. Jerry Hoepner, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, UW-Eau Claire.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Individual Award: Dr. Richard Stewart, Professor of Transportation and Logistics Management, UW-Superior.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Program Award: Department of Radio TV Film, UW-Oshkosh.....</i>	<i>17</i>
2021 Regents Teaching Excellence Awards Introduction.....	18
<i>Individual Award: Dr. Ekaterina Levintova, Professor of Political Science and Global Studies, Department of Democracy and Justice Studies, UW-Green Bay.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Individual Award: Dr. Renee Redman, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biology, UW-La Crosse.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Program Award: Nutrition Sciences/Dietetics Program, UW-Green Bay.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<b>DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS RELATED TO ELECTION OF OFFICERS.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>REGENT COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.....</b>	<b>22</b>

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [April 9, 2021 Webcast](#)

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## **CALLING OF THE ROLL**

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

PRESENT: Regents Robert Atwell, Scott Beightol, Amy Bogost, Michael Grebe, Eve Hall, Mike Jones, Tracey Klein, Becky Levzow, Edmund Manydeeds, John Miller, Andrew Petersen, Cris Peterson (by videoconference), Corey Saffold, Karen Walsh, Kyle Weatherly, and Olivia Woodmansee.

Regent Carolyn Stanford Taylor joined the meeting by videoconference at 8:53 a.m.

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regent Héctor Colón

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## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS**

[\[Recording: 00:01:16\]](#)

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 Kyle Weatherly recused himself from voting on Resolution 11611, "Authority to Extend a Lease of Space for a Research Laboratory, UW-Madison."

President Petersen noted for the record that Regent Carolyn Stanford Taylor, who had not yet joined the meeting, planned to recuse herself from voting on Resolution 11612, "Authority to Transfer Land and Improvements and Construct the UW-Managed Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Digital Publishing and Printing Services Relocation and the Facilities Planning & Management Physical Plant Relocation Project, UW-Madison."

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

[\[Recording: 00:1:51\]](#)

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

Regent Beightol reported the Business & Finance Committee approved two contractual agreements submitted by UW-Madison. The first agreement with Context Biopharma, Inc. and the Medical College of Wisconsin will provide drug supplies and financial support for a breast cancer treatment clinical trial.

The second agreement with Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc. is to replace the electronic door access system across the UW-Madison campus, including 5,000 access points in 150 buildings. Regent Beightol noted that access control and up-to-date security are key to retaining and attracting federally funded research projects.

Regent Beightol said the Business & Finance Committee also approved proposed changes to Regent Policy Document 13-4, "Institutional and Employee Relationships with Educational Lenders." The updates will align the policy with current federal regulations and reformat the policy in line with the standards for Regent Policy Documents.

As a follow-up to UW-Madison's February 2021 presentation on innovative opportunities for funding its public mission, Regent Beightol said the Business & Finance Committee heard from Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Rob Cramer, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning & Management; and Aaron Oliver, managing director of University Research Park, about UW-Madison's plans for generating revenue through real estate development.

Regent Beightol said the Business & Finance Committee received a quarterly report from Chuck Saunders, Director of the UW System Office of Trust Funds, and two representatives from the State of Wisconsin Investment Board on the performance of the UW System's trust funds.

Finally, Regent Beightol said Vice President for Finance Sean Nelson provided an update on federal COVID-19-related assistance and estimated COVID-related expenses and revenue losses through May 2021, which total approximately \$534 million. Regent Beightol noted that federal funding and campus expense cost savings, including furloughs and restricted travel, have mitigated this overall financial impact; however, UW institutions will collectively have an estimated net loss of \$168 million through the end of the spring semester.

Regent Beightol then moved for the adoption of Resolutions 11605, 11606, and 11607. The motion was seconded by Regent Bogost and approved on a voice vote.

Approval of a UW-Madison Agreement with Context Biopharma, Inc. and Medical College of Wisconsin

Resolution 11605     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 clinical trial agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and Context Biopharma, Inc. and Medical College of Wisconsin.

Approval of a UW-Madison Agreement with Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc.

Resolution 11606     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 service agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc.

Amendment of Regent Policy Document 13-4, "University of Wisconsin System Policy on Institutional and Employee Relationships with Educational Loan Lenders"

Resolution 11607     That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the UW System Board of Regents approves the amendment of Regent Policy Document 13-4, "University of Wisconsin System Policy on Institutional and Employee Relationships with Educational Loan Lenders," and renames the policy "Institutional and Employee Relationships with Educational Loan Lenders."

Related to the Business & Finance Committee's discussion about strategies for generating revenue through real estate development, President Thompson clarified that, rather than just selling land, campuses across the UW System are attempting to develop joint ventures

in order to create ongoing revenue streams. He indicated that the System would return to the Board in June with an update on the RFP process for real estate development proposals.

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## **REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

[\[Recording: 00:11:49\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Klein to present a report of actions taken by the Education Committee.

Regent Klein reported the Education Committee heard a presentation from Interim Provost Glendali Rodriguez and Dean of Students Sandra Scott highlighting UW-Stout's new e-sports program and distinctive academic programs, as well as the university's dedicated work in serving adult learners through customized programming in online instruction.

Regent Klein said the Education Committee also received its regular update on curriculum development, collaborative programming, and funding opportunities related to the Freshwater Collaborative initiative. Vice President for Academic Affairs Anny Morrobel-Sosa also provided the Education Committee with a preview of the UW System's online education initiative, Project DE+.

Finally, Regent Klein said the Education Committee approved rescinding Regent Policy Document 4-15, "Excess Credit Policy," and approved two new academic degrees, including the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering at UW-Madison, and the Bachelor of Science in Arts Administration and Entrepreneurship at UW-Stout.

Regent Klein moved for the adoption of Resolutions 11608, 11609, and 11610. The motion was seconded by Regent Hall.

Regent Beightol asked whether the focus of the Freshwater Collaborative initiative has begun to expand beyond coordination of academic programming to include internships and career opportunities for students. Regent Klein indicated that although Executive Director Dr. Marissa Jablonski's report did not specifically address internships, she and the Chancellors have been taking a multi-faceted approach by reaching out to local businesses and the Legislature in order to promote this initiative.

With no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolutions 11608, 11609, and 11610 was approved on a voice vote.

Approval of Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, UW-Madison

Resolution 11608 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 Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Approval of Bachelor of Science in Arts Administration and Entrepreneurship, UW-Stout

Resolution 11609 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 Bachelor of Science in Arts Administration and Entrepreneurship program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Rescind Regent Policy Document 4-15, "Excess Credit Policy," to Eliminate the UW System Excess Credit Surcharge Except for UW-Madison

Resolution 11610 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the UW System Board of Regents rescinds Regent Policy Document 4-15, "Excess Credit Policy," to eliminate the UW System excess credit surcharge, except for UW-Madison.

The Board authorizes the UW-Madison Chancellor to develop a UW-Madison policy regarding the assessment of a surcharge for students who have accumulated 165 credits or 30 credits more than required by their degree program, whichever is greater, on credits beyond that level. The policy should allow for appropriate exceptions to ensure that students are able to complete their degree requirements.

The Board of Regents directs the UW System President and UW Chancellors to continue efforts to review degree programs that require more than 130 credit hours to complete and implement approaches that reduce time- and credits-to-degree. Further, the Board directs UW Chancellors to continue efforts to identify and counsel students who are accumulating credits in a manner that could result in amassing more than 165 credits or 30 credits more than required by their degree programs, whichever is greater.

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

[\[Recording: 00:21:04\]](#)

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

Regent Jones said the Capital Planning & Budget Committee heard a presentation from UW-Stout on “Planning and Building for the Future (COVID-19 and Beyond),” which demonstrated the urgent need for the renovation of Heritage Hall in order to enhance cross-institutional collaboration.

Regent Jones said Senior Associate Vice President Alex Roe provided the Capital Planning & Budget Committee with updates on the State Building Commission’s February meeting and March hearing on the 2021-23 capital budget hearing. He noted that, as the State Building Commission did not agree on any of Governor Evers’ recommendations, the Joint Finance Committee is expected to take up the capital budget later in this legislative session.

Regent Jones stated that a UW-Madison report on preliminary findings of the investigation into the concrete panel collapse at Van Hise Hall included recommendations to remove any similar panels, install new handrails, and take action to protect the exterior envelope of the building. Collaboration efforts are ongoing between UW System and UW-Madison facility planning and management staff and the Department of Administration as external experts evaluate the structural integrity of Van Hise Hall.

Regent Jones reported that the Capital Planning & Budget Committee approved resolutions authorizing UW-Madison to extend a lease of space for a research laboratory; authorizing land transfers and construction related to two UW-Madison relocation projects; and the construction of various minor facilities renewal projects and an all agency maintenance and repair project. The committee also approved amendments to Regent Policy Document 19-12, “Oversight of Facilities Constructed for University Purposes,” to update the policy to meet the standards of Regent Policy Documents and to clarify certain provisions.

Regent Jones moved for the adoption of Resolutions 11611, 11612, 11613, 11614, and 11615. The motion was seconded by Regent Klein and approved on a voice vote, with Regent Weatherly and Regent Stanford Taylor abstaining.

### Authority to Extend a Lease of Space for a Research Library, UW-Madison

Resolution 11611      That, upon the recommendation of the UW-Madison Chancellor and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents grants authority for UW-Madison to extend the term of an existing lease of 19,000 GSF and provide additional tenant improvements for a



research laboratory, which is occupied by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, the School of Veterinary Medicine, and the School of Medicine and Public Health.

Authority to Transfer Land and Improvements and Construct the UW-Managed Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Digital Publishing and Printing Services Relocation and the Facilities Planning & Management Physical Plant Relocation Projects, UW-Madison

Resolution 11612 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents authorizes: (a) the transfer of 1.91 acres of land and improvements from the Department of Public Instruction to the Board of Regents for an estimated total cost of \$6,645 Program Revenue-Cash; (b) the completion of design, and construction of the UW-Managed DoIT Digital Publishing & Printing Services Relocation project for an estimated total cost of \$2,212,000 Grant Funds; and (c) the completion of design and construction of the UW-Managed Facilities Planning & Management, Physical Plant Relocation project for an estimated total cost of \$9,000,000 Grant Funds.

Authority to Construct Minor Facilities Renewal Projects, UW System

Resolution 11613 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents grants authority to construct various maintenance and repair projects at an estimated total cost of \$9,941,500 General Fund Supported Borrowing.

Authority to Construct an All Agency Maintenance and Repair Project, UW System

Resolution 11614 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents grants authority to construct these maintenance and repair projects at an estimated total cost of \$5,742,000 (\$1,704,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing; \$2,538,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing and \$1,500,000 Gifts).

Amendment of Regent Policy Document 19-12, "Oversight of Facilities Constructed for University Purposes"

Resolution 11615 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendment of RPD 19-12, "Oversight of Facilities Constructed for University

Purposes," to update the policy and meet the standards for a Regent Policy Document.

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## **REPORT OF THE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE**

[\[Recording: 00:27:09\]](#)

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, and Innovation Committee heard a presentation on UW-Stout's impressive work in applying advanced virtual technologies to learning modules in manufacturing settings.

Regent Atwell said the Research, Economic Development & Innovation Committee also recognized the 2021 UW System Regent Scholar Award recipients: Dr. Francis Mann from UW-Parkside; Dr. Haijian Sun from UW-Whitewater, and Dr. Ava Udvadia from UW-Milwaukee. This program provides prestigious one-time grants to individual faculty or campus programs that undertake undergraduate research projects having the potential to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and talent development.

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## **REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

[\[Recording: 00:31:40\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Walsh to present a report of actions taken by the Audit Committee.

Regent Walsh reported that the Audit Committee received an update on progress to date on the UW System's FY2021 internal audit plan, as well as a high-level summary of recently-issued reports related to foreign influence, independent contractors, information technology disaster recovery plans, and non-competitive negotiations.

Regent Walsh said Chief Audit Executive Lori Stortz presented a report on upcoming efforts to rebrand and refresh communications about the UW System's waste, fraud, and abuse hotline to ensure all members of the campus community know the hotline is at their disposal and that cases submitted are addressed and resolved in a timely manner.

Regent Walsh said the Audit Committee also received an update from Sarah Harebo, Title IX and Clery Administrator, about progress towards compliance with the new Title IX

requirements. Final revisions of Regent Policy Document 14-2, "Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment," are expected to come before the Board in June.

Finally, Regent Walsh said Chief Compliance Officer Katie Ignatowski provided the Audit Committee with a demonstration of the Compliance Matrix tool, which currently contains over 500 obligations of federal laws, state laws, and Regent policies. All campuses have responded and identified the responsible parties for each item on their campus. The matrix tool will automatically generate email reminders to responsible parties 90 days, 60 days, and 30 days in advance of due dates to facilitate compliance. The tool will also house reference materials that may be useful when onboarding new employees.

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## **PROJECT DE+ ONLINE EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

[\[Recording: 00:36:21\]](#)

President Petersen said the Board would next hear a presentation on one of the key initiatives included in the UW System's 2021-2023 biennial budget request: expanding opportunities for online education.

President Thompson stated that the UW System needs to make sure the 815,000 Wisconsin adults with some college credits but no degree know they have a homegrown avenue to earn that degree or other credentials while also maintaining other commitments to a job or their family. According to 2017 U.S. Census survey data, about 300,000 of these 815,000 are actively seeking some form of higher education and the majority want online options, with non-credit, work-related training preferred two-to-one over degree offerings.

President Thompson noted that Wisconsin businesses want and need more people with the very education and skills that this population is seeking, and the UW System has the opportunity to connect the needs of both employers and potential employees.

President Thompson warned that other well-funded and successful out-of-state providers have been investing in delivering online content: Western Governors University and Southern New Hampshire spent an estimated \$3.1 million in marketing to enroll 2,400 Wisconsin residents, sending \$17.4 million in tuition out of state and nearly doubling their enrollment in two years. For all out-of-state online competitors, the marketing investment and tuition dollars leaving the state are 3 to 4 times larger.

To compete with larger out-of-state online providers, President Thompson said the UW System is proposing to make changes in three areas:

- 1) Relentless Consumer Focus: The UW System needs to make sure students are prepared with the knowledge and/or skills they need and employers demand.

- 2) Increased Flexibility: The UW System needs to build an online effort with the flexibility necessary to respond to evolving education demands in the online education market.
- 3) Maximize Resources: The UW System needs to do a better job maximizing past and future resources to attract consumers in a highly competitive online market.

Noting that he has plans to meet with campus leaders soon on this topic, President Thompson said that if the legislature decides to fund this initiative the UW System's efforts must be unified, rather than dividing the funds among the 13 campuses, in order to successfully compete with out-of-state providers.

President Thompson turned the floor over to Vice President Anny Morrobel-Sosa, who explained how the needs and expectations of adult learners are distinct from traditional college students, and how the UW System's offerings and approach can be adjusted to meet those needs.

Regarding challenges to growth in online education, Vice President Morrobel-Sosa indicated that the UW System needs to scale up the quantity and quality its programming, as well as marketing efforts and market research analysis in order to determine which programs to develop. The UW System also needs to decrease the time it take to develop new programs in order to remain responsive to the market; she noted that the program development timetable is currently constrained by the capacity of faculty with the appropriate subject matter knowledge and experience in online course development and delivery. Finally, she noted that working adults are most interested in more flexible, career-focused programming rather than traditional degree achievement, which may necessitate a redesign of some courses and programs; developing multiple modes of delivery; and even unbundling the academic calendar.

Vice President Morrobel-Sosa laid out the UW System's four-point plan for responding to these challenges and building a better business model for online education:

- 1) Investing in accelerated program development and streamlining the approval process.
- 2) Increasing awareness in new programs with enhanced marketing efforts.
- 3) Using existing and increased program revenues to incentivize campus participation.
- 4) "Unbundling everything" with a focus on the needs of the education consumer.

## **Discussion**

Several Regents, including Regent Klein and Regent Hall, expressed their support for pursuing a unified collaborative strategy in expanding online education rather than taking a campus-by-campus approach.

Regent Saffold said increasing the quantity of courses offered online and offering more accelerated programs with the ability to test out of some classes if students have relevant life experiences are two types of flexibility that he would appreciate as a current nontraditional working adult student. He also noted that as a former police officer he received numerous advertisements from out-of-state online education providers, but never any from UW System institutions.

President Petersen observed that time-to-degree concerns have been the biggest issue raised by potential adult learners.

Regent Bogost shared her experience working with the National Tribal Trial College program, which includes six months of online coursework followed by one week of in-person instruction at the UW Law School. She indicated that over six years the program has reduced its attrition rate from 50% to zero through the incorporation of intensive advising and student support services.

Vice President Morrobel-Sosa said UW Extended Campus similarly has an 80% retention rate – double the national average – because of its intrusive advising and coaching.

Regent Woodmansee asked how Project DE+ would affect current online programs at the UW institutions. Vice President Morrobel-Sosa indicated that this initiative will identify and expand the most successful elements of current campus programs. President Thompson said funding for this initiative would allow the UW System to scale up marketing efforts in order to make UW online education programs competitive with out-of-state providers.

Noting that the Education Committee discussed the importance of including shared governance in the UW System's online education efforts, Regent Manydeeds said he was glad to hear that President Thompson was scheduled to meet with university leaders and faculty representatives regarding the Project DE+ initiative.

Regent Beightol said he appreciated the presentation's inclusion of information about market shares and competitors in providing online education. He also emphasized the need for consensus among the campuses on the UW System's approach, noting that the Legislature is unlikely to fund an initiative that does not have support from internal stakeholders.

President Petersen said to make this initiative successful, discussions with campus stakeholders must be collaborative, open, and transparent, but must also be accelerated to avoid missing out on further opportunities.

Regent Atwell observed that a highly effective online education program can compete for tuition dollars, both in-state and out-of-state, that are not currently available to the traditional UW institutions. Pointing to examples in other industries such as book selling,

video rentals, and banking, he noted that traditional providers typically fail to respond effectively to digital disruption by appropriately redirecting resources from more traditional activities to new endeavors, and so over the course of years can sink into irrelevance. Regent Atwell added that for the UW System this issue is compounded by internal competition between the UW institutions: "We're not only competing with each other for a declining pool of traditional students, but we're being disrupted from outside. We're trying to preserve what we have rather than defining our own future." He concluded that defending the UW System's traditional model while trying to divert or add a few resources to online education does not make a very compelling case to the Legislature.

President Petersen said the UW System can leverage its brand reputation and affordability as it pivots from the sudden expansion of digital instruction during the pandemic to a more forward-looking approach to online education rooted in best practices.

Regent Levzow concurred with Regent Bogost about the importance of securing resources for intensive advising in order to retain students and ensure the success of this initiative.

Regent Levzow also asked about the anticipated timeline for implementing Project DE+ if the UW System received the requested funding and buy-in from the campuses. Vice President Morrobel-Sosa said the UW System projects that the initiative will be up and running within 12 to 18 months after receiving funding and expects to see some returns after 2.5 to 3 years. She noted that with increased marketing the UW System can rely on a great deal of work that has already been done by UW institutions and UW Extended Campus.

Regent Levzow asked if there are certain areas or professions that the UW System plans to target first. Vice President Morrobel-Sosa said everyone in the online education market has identified three areas – business, information technology, and health-related professions – but the UW System also plans to target satellite businesses supporting those industries.

Noting that competitors in the online education market have "staggering" marketing budgets, Regent Walsh warned that the UW System cannot put effort into developing courses and support services and then short itself on marketing.

President Thompson noted that much like Amazon was willing to lose money in every market it has entered until its competitors were destroyed, online education providers are pursuing a similar "land grab" model for their investments in marketing. He indicated that the UW System must establish itself early in order to remain competitive in the future.

In response to a question from Regent Walsh, President Thompson and President Petersen indicated that members of the Board would have an opportunity to hear and address any concerns from the campuses regarding this initiative.

Regent Weatherly shared some anecdotal experiences of applying for online UW classes in the summer and fall semesters, noting that each time it took several weeks to hear a decision from the institution. He said these kinds of delays are not going to be acceptable if the UW System wants to recruit adult learners.

Regent Stanford Taylor encouraged President Thompson to share Board's rationale for pursuing this initiative with Chancellors, Provosts, and others on the campuses to help bring all parties on board.

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## **REGENTS TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTATION**

[\[Recording: 01:44:20\]](#)

President Petersen called upon Regent Manydeeds, chair of the selection committee, to introduce the annual Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Awards, which are meant to recognize outstanding faculty and instructional academic staff members in the UW System.

### **2020 Regents Teaching Excellence Awards Introduction**

Welcoming the award recipients and their families, friends, and colleagues, Regent Manydeeds explained that the Regents Teaching Excellence Awards program formally recognizes some of the UW System's most outstanding teachers, departments, and programs.

Noting that last year's awards presentation was postponed due to the pandemic, Regent Manydeeds thanked the 2020 recipients for their patience.

Individual Award: Dr. Jerry Hoepner, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, UW-Eau Claire

Regent Levzow presented the first Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award in the Individual category to Dr. Jerry Hoepner, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at UW-Eau Claire.

Regent Levzow noted that Dr. Hoepner is known for creating transformative learning experiences for his students in his courses, in his research mentoring, and in clinical settings. For example, he implemented an apprenticeship model that asks his student researchers to review session videos first to form their own judgments before he meets with them. He also leads his department's instructional internship program, in which undergraduate students can be a part of the teaching team for courses they have already completed.



Regent Levzow shared that Dr. Hoepner co-founded a disciplinary journal to share research on best practices for future speech-language pathologists and audiologists, and his published research frequently includes students as co-authors and contributors. He also helped develop a think tank on communication sciences and disorders that began with six UW universities and expanded to become an Upper Midwest consortium.

Dr. Hoepner stated, "Having a department that values innovation in teaching and learning pushes me to create an environment where a wide range of students can learn." He noted that meeting and conversations with his colleagues are valuable opportunities to discuss best practices and new research about teaching and to identify and support students who may be struggling.

Noting that he had listened to the Board's earlier discussion about online education and agreed that the UW System needs to step into this opportunity, Dr. Hoepner added that his department has offered both online and in-person courses for the last 12 years: "I think all my colleagues and I would say teaching online has made us better teachers in both contexts – in person and online."

Individual Award: Dr. Richard Stewart, Professor of Transportation and Logistics Management, UW-Superior

Regent Hall presented the next Regents Teaching Excellence Award in the Individual category to Dr. Richard Stewart, Professor of Transportation and Logistics Management at UW-Superior. Dr. Stewart is also director of the Transportation and Logistics Research Center and co-director of the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute.

Regent Hall said that within two decades of Dr. Stewart's leadership, UW-Superior's Transportation and Logistics Management major has grown from three students to one of the largest programs in the university. The program averages 26 percent women, well above the industry average of 10 percent women, and also averages 26 percent international students.

Regent Hall noted that Dr. Stewart's students get out of the classroom, taking trips on Great Lakes vessels as well as visiting shipyards, railyards, and other facilities, and have also been winners at state and national competitions. She quoted one of his colleagues: "Dr. Stewart's graduates almost all receive employment immediately upon graduation and that is due to their extraordinary pre-professional and liberal arts preparation. The reputation of Dr. Stewart is known by employers and community partnerships throughout the Midwest and nation."

Dr. Stewart stated, "I have learned that the highest quality education requires ongoing multi-level engagement. This demanding personal interaction leads to both the student



and faculty member becoming enlightened and excited about learning.” He added that many of the most important outcomes of quality education – such as developing student self-confidence and excitement about learning – are difficult to quantify and often do not become apparent to the students until well after they have graduated.

Acknowledging that technology can make significant positive contributions to the education process, Dr. Stewart observed that in-person student and faculty engagement with the community are essential in building a program that serves the needs of all parties: “Students, faculty, and the community should be the driving forces in the design of quality educational processes, with input derived from – and not driven by – data and technology.”

Citing a core tenet in business that investing in quality lowers costs while focusing on cost-cutting measures usually lowers quality, Dr. Stewart concluded, “Wisconsin has a long history of citizens being willing to invest in creating world-class educational systems. I am optimistic that Wisconsin’s citizens will continue to make the investments needed for future generations to have the highest quality education.”

#### Program Award: Department of Radio TV Film, UW-Oshkosh

Regent Stanford Taylor presented the 2020 Regents Teaching Excellence Award in the Program category to the Department of Radio TV Film at UW-Oshkosh.

Regent Stanford Taylor said the department offers a 21st-century mass media education that helps students establish successful careers in modern media production and studies. UW-Oshkosh provides access to the latest in industry equipment and facilities, with Titan TV, WRST-FM, and Film Society serving as learning laboratories for students who win state, regional, national, and even international awards.

Regent Stanford Taylor highlighted that students from the program have won at least 17 competitive internships in the nationwide Academy of Television Arts & Sciences’ college student internship program. Graduates work at radio and television stations around the country, including well-established television networks such as ABC, CBS, TNT, TLC, and Netflix, and on some major Hollywood films and TV shows, such as Daredevil, Ford versus Ferrari, The Avengers, and more.

Regent Stanford Taylor also noted that alumni return to campus each fall to be interviewed for a televised, student-hosted industry panel, while students in the Los Angeles Connection course spend two weeks immersed in the Los Angeles entertainment industry, meeting more than 50 department alumni.

The award was accepted by Department Chair Dr. Andrew Smock, who stated, “I have the great honor of working with an absolutely fantastic and talented group of individuals that are highly dedicated to the success of our students.” He observed that outstanding

teaching begins with having a passion for one's discipline, truly caring about students, and designing an educational program that includes engaging student learning opportunities within and beyond the classroom – all qualities that are strongly evident in the Radio TV Film Department.

## **2021 Regents Teaching Excellence Awards Introduction**

Turning to the 2021 Regents Teaching Excellence Awards, Regent Manydeeds acknowledged the extraordinary demands placed on all of the nominees over the past year due to the UW System's quick pivot to remote teaching and learning in response to the pandemic.

Individual Award: Dr. Ekaterina Levintova, Professor of Political Science and Global Studies, Department of Democracy and Justice Studies, UW-Green Bay

Regent Hall presented the first 2021 Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award in the Individual category to Dr. Ekaterina Levintova, Professor of Political Science and Global Studies in the Department of Democracy and Justice Studies at UW-Green Bay.

Regent Hall said that Dr. Levintova, who joined UW-Green Bay's faculty in 2007, is a leader in global learning, gender, and equity research. She teaches students with a wide range of experience, from first-year seminars to upper-level political science courses. Her innovative teaching blends discussion and lecture with simulations, such as asking students to stage public opinion polls and a mock political campaign. In addition to her regular teaching duties, she supervises independent research projects, directs honors projects, and supervises internships. She earned the UW-Green Bay Founders Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2019, the same year she earned an alumni achievement award from her Ph.D. institution.

Regent Hall noted that Dr. Levintova has served as a UW System Wisconsin Teaching Fellow as well as a UW-Green Bay Teaching Scholar, and has received multiple grants related to lesson studies and engaged learning. Dr. Levintova actively publishes peer-reviewed articles and book chapters related to teaching, including her use of role-play simulations to increase understanding of global issues. She is also the co-editor of *Syllabus Journal*, a peer-reviewed publication showcasing course syllabi, as well as articles on assignment design and syllabi best practices.

Reflecting on one of UW-Green Bay's past mottos, "Connecting Learning to Life," Dr. Levintova said that beyond preparing her students for career success, she also wants to inspire an appreciation for lifelong learning. She also emphasized the importance of remembering that students have lives outside of campus – as parents, as caregivers to the aging, as veterans, and as people who are dealing with bereavement, breakups, or health

issues – and suggested the university should consider how to connect learning to those students' lives in ways that affirm their roles and identities beyond traditional education.

Individual Award: Dr. Renee Redman, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biology, UW-La Crosse

Regent Levzow presented the next Regents Teaching Excellence Award in the Individual category to Dr. Renee Redman, senior lecturer in the Department of Biology at UW-La Crosse.

Regent Levzow reported that Dr. Redman joined UW-La Crosse as a senior lecturer in 2005 and has taught more than 13,000 students over the course of her career. In addition to advising up to 30 students each semester, she teaches introductory biology, general biology for majors, anatomy and physiology, cell biology, genetics, senior capstone projects, and a course on health, wellness, and disease.

Regent Levzow said Dr. Redman took the lead in developing a high-quality Biology Master Canvas course with seven other instructors, helping ensure core materials are covered regardless of instructor or format, and was instrumental in implementing several grant-supported course redesigns during the COVID-19 pandemic. All three courses are part of UW-La Crosse's core curriculum, affecting thousands of students each year.

Regent Levzow noted that Dr. Redman received the Eagle Teaching Excellence Award in 2018, a student-driven recognition of teaching excellence. In addition to using interactive polling technology, small group projects, in-class discussions, and creative art projects to teach complex biology concepts in a way that connects with her students, Dr. Redman also developed weekly "knowledge checks" to help students apply course material through problem sets.

Dr. Redman said that when students feel comfortable asking questions in her lectures, she knows she has created an inclusive environment in her classroom where students believe she is committed to their success and feel safe working together to engage in pure learning and critical thinking: "By asking a question, they've become empowered to advocate for themselves not just in my class, but throughout their careers and their lives." She added that students' questions are also opportunities for her to identify what she can do better the next time she teaches that class: "Learning is a lifelong commitment – no one and no course is ever finished."

Program Award: Nutrition Sciences/Dietetics Program, UW-Green Bay

Regent Woodmansee presented the final Regents Teaching Excellence Award in the Program category to the Nutrition Sciences/Dietetics Program at UW-Green Bay. This program is an emphasis within the Human Biology major and currently enrolls 73 students.

Regent Stanford Taylor noted that three faculty members contribute to the teaching of this program – Dr. Deb Pearson, Ms. Sara Wagner, and Dr. Leanne Zhu – with Heather Masters serves as the dietetic internship director. The program’s mission is to provide high-quality interdisciplinary courses and learning opportunities that focus on biological, physiological, and behavioral aspects of people with an emphasis on the role that food and nutrition have in maintaining and improving our health. The instructors teach first-year seminars, general education courses, and courses for the nutrition science emphasis.

Regent Stanford Taylor reported that the program received a competitive university grant in 2019, allowing its faculty to leverage best practices for online and hybrid instruction. The program has an 85 percent placement rate for its students into food, nutrition, and dietetic-related professions within six months of graduation. Its students also have an impressive 98.3 percent pass rate on the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist exam.

Regent Stanford Taylor noted that the program is expanding its reach by launching a Master of Science in Nutrition and Integrative Health in fall 2021.

Accepting the award on the program’s behalf, Dr. Deb Pearson said she and her colleagues are united in their commitment to and enjoyment in mentoring and supporting the professional and personal growth of students. She added, “Our passion is sustained by our commitment to our own professional development so we can keep providing a rigorous, evidenced-based and up-to-date curriculum.”

Dr. Pearson noted the program’s faculty and staff work hard to provide students with opportunities to apply their academic knowledge in real-world, community-based experiences. Beyond introducing students to a broad range of career possibilities, she said these experiences also help students build important cultural awareness and expand their understanding of social justice issues which are inextricably linked to individual and community nutrition, health, and disease realities.

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## **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS RELATED TO ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

[\[Recording: 02:40:40\]](#)

President Petersen proposed an amendment to the Bylaws of the Board of Regents to require a roll call vote for the election of officers, rather than voting by ballot, “to provide greater openness and transparency in how this Board operates.” President Petersen moved for the adoption of the following resolution to amend the bylaws by striking “ballot”

and inserting the words “roll call vote”. The motion was seconded by Regent Stanford Taylor.

That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, the Board of Regents approves the attached amendment to the Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

During the following discussion, several Regents raised concerns about the timing of the proposed amendment, both in relation to the item’s inclusion on the April meeting agenda and in the context of the annual elections to be held at the Board’s next regular meeting in June.

Regent Klein suggested that the Board should conduct a comprehensive review of the Bylaws in their entirety to ensure the document is up-to-date and in line with best governance practices, perhaps through the appointment of a Special Regent Committee.

Following a motion by Regent Manydeeds to table the motion to another time, and a second by Regent Vice President Grebe, Regent President Petersen asked General Counsel Williams to determine if a motion to table is debatable.

Regent Beightol asked if it was the recommendation of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) that officer elections be held by roll call vote. President Petersen answered that AGB’s recommendation is that elections be held regularly and at least annually, but does not address the manner or method of elections.

General Counsel Williams stated that a motion to table is not debatable, but it should be clarified if the motion included a timeline. Regent Grebe suggested that the original motion be withdrawn and brought back at a future time, if Regent President Petersen and Regent Manydeeds were agreeable to doing so. Noting that the Board will likely hold a special meeting in May to approve a new chancellor for UW-River Falls, President Petersen agreed to withdraw the original motion to allow more time for Regents to consider the proposed amendment. Regent Manydeeds agreed to withdraw his motion to table the original motion.

Regent Klein suggested the appointment of a committee to complete a thorough review of the bylaws and proposed changes. Regent Beightol suggested that President Petersen appoint someone to review the process to be used for the upcoming election, to be deliberated and decided by the body. Regent President stated he would take the suggestion under advisement.

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Discussion on the previous item was briefly interrupted by an urgent update on the status of Van Hise Hall.

Associate Vice President for Capital Planning & Budget Alex Roe reported that Governor Evers had just signed an Emergency Order to remove concrete panels from the exterior envelope of Van Hise Hall, and that the Department of Administration was working with a contractor to begin work as early as next Monday. She indicated that for health and safety reasons, employees will be relocated out of the building until a full assessment can be done and panel replacement is completed.

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## **REGENT COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS**

[\[Recording: 03:09:51\]](#)

Noting that this meeting could be the last for several colleagues, President Petersen thanked Regents Eve Hall, Becky Levzow, and Olivia Woodmansee for bringing their valuable experience and insights to the Board's discussions over the years.

President Petersen also noted the recent passing of Thomas Lyon, a respected agriculturalist and former member of the UW System Board of Regents from 1986 to 1993, who also served as Board President from 1990 to 1992. President Petersen extended the Board's condolences to Mr. Lyon's family, friends, and colleagues.

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The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

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Submitted by:

/s/ Jess Lathrop

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