

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

Thursday, July 8, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Gordon Dining & Event Center
770 W. Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Manydeeds presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [July 8, 2021 Webcast](#)

CALLING OF THE ROLL

PRESENT: Regents Robert Atwell, Scott Beightol, Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, Michael Grebe, Mike Jones, Becky Lezvow, Edmund Manydeeds, John Miller, Andrew Petersen, Cris Peterson, Ashok Rai, Corey Saffold, Brianna Tucker, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly.

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Tracey Klein and Jill Underly

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

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

Before considering any items on the open session agenda, President Manydeeds 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.

UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:00:45\]](#)

President Manydeeds announced that Regent Jill Underly, who recently started her term as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, would be formally introduced at the next day's meeting.

President Thompson welcomed Dr. Jim Henderson as interim Chancellor of UW-Whitewater. Dr. Henderson's appointment began on July 1st following Chancellor Dwight Watson's retirement due to health concerns. Dr. Henderson has previously served as interim Provost at UW-Madison after retiring as the UW System Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs.

President Thompson announced that Scott Neitzel will be resigning as interim Vice President for University Relations and thanked him for his service over the past year. Jeff Buhandt, Associate Vice President for Government Relations, will take on the interim role.

APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS

[\[Recording: 00:09:20\]](#)

Regent Petersen moved for the approval of the records of the June 2, 2021 special meeting and the June 3-4, 2021 meeting of the UW System Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Regent Beightol and approved on a voice vote.

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:19:15\]](#)

In his first report as President of the Board of Regents, President Manydeeds thanked interim System President Thompson, past Regent President Petersen, and past Regent Vice President Grebe for their work over the past two years, including looking out for the mental health of students and helping the UW System get through the pandemic.

President Manydeeds said the Board's main focus moving forward will be returning to the pre-pandemic college experience for the UW System's students. Noting that the pandemic will have lingering effects, particularly in the area of student and employee behavioral health, he highlighted the ongoing behavioral health initiative to improve the well-being and academic success of students across the UW System. Efforts include providing timely access to high-quality counseling, medical and crisis intervention services; supporting diverse student populations who often feel more vulnerable and marginalized; and

cultivating a campus- and System-wide culture of well-being so students feel comfortable openly talking about the challenges they may face. President Manydeeds thanked the talented and caring professionals on every campus in the System who are working to support students' overall well-being.

President Manydeeds said the Board of Regents also wants to improve the campus climate for underrepresented students and employees, and will be implementing changes to impact diversity, equity, and inclusion on all levels: "As the leading educational system in the State of Wisconsin, in the Midwest, and perhaps the nation, we have to do more than just talk about equity, inclusion, and diversity – we have to live it, we have to weave it through everything that we do in the System." He called on all the campuses to make an effort to be more inclusive and welcoming.

President Manydeeds pointed to the new Wisconsin Regent Opportunity Scholarships as one example of how the UW System is helping recruit, retain, and graduate students who are underrepresented and underserved. In the program's inaugural year, 267 students across the UW System will be awarded scholarships totaling \$995,000.

President Manydeeds announced that in the upcoming weeks he intends to appoint several Regents to the Special Regent Committee on Governance Issues, which was approved by the Board of Regents in May 2021. He indicated that allocation of state GPR dollars will be among the priority items the committee will be asked to address.

President Manydeeds said he looks forward to working with this Board and colleagues around the System to continue providing students, families, and the people of Wisconsin the highest quality education possible: "The people that are here on the Board of Regents have been successful, are intelligent, possess a will and a drive to win, love the university system, and will do all in their power to help everyone in it succeed."

President Manydeeds emphasized that the Regents always want to hear from the Chancellors so they can make better informed decisions: "You know your campuses, you know your issues, you know what's best for your students." He also recognized interim System President Thompson and all the great staff in the UW System for their hard work.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYSTEM

[\[Recording: 00:19:15\]](#)

Regarding the Wisconsin Regent Opportunity Scholarships mentioned by President Manydeeds, President Thompson indicated that the source of those funds was unrestricted savings from reduced travel and other expenses and from employee furloughs. He

expressed his hope that the UW System will be able to successfully continue the program in the future.

Return to School for Fall 2021 Semester

President Thompson reported that the UW System is keenly focused on ensuring campus communities enjoy a full return to the pre-pandemic college life experience, including in-person classes. Noting that more than 264,000 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered at clinics on UW campuses, President Thompson reiterated the UW System's goal of having at least 70% of students vaccinated on every campus (90% for UW-Madison).

President Thompson indicated that the UW System will be expanding some of its traditional programs to address students' greater academic, emotional, financial, and overall health needs. This includes resuming summer youth programs and loaning \$1.3 million to help the Chancellors expand summer bridge programs on their campuses.

President Thompson announced that new Fall freshmen applications are up by about 30% over each of the last two years, including increases in applications by Wisconsin residents, first generation students, and underrepresented minority students. He noted that the UW System has taken several actions over the previous year to simplify the application process, including waiving application fees on all but three campuses; creating a new electronic application system that allows students to submit one application for multiple universities; and suspending ACT/SAT requirements.

President Thompson also summarized steps the UW System is taking to become more efficient and effective related to the Administrative Transformation Program (ATP) and the Procure-to-Pay Automation Project.

Legislative Updates

President Thompson reported that the state biennial budget passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Evers provides \$8.2 million in additional GPR, \$628 million for building projects, a 2% pay plan in each year, and returns tuition-setting authority to the Board of Regents by not extending the tuition freeze: "This is an incredibly important step, one that restores power and accountability back to the UW System and the Board of Regents." The budget also terminates the \$45 million annual lapse moving forward.

President Thompson thanked Governor Evers and the Legislature for investing in critical improvements to the university's infrastructure and for supporting university employees.

Preview of 2021-22 Annual Operating Budget

President Thompson offered some key takeaways regarding the proposed annual operating budget for 2021-22:

- The increase to the average cost of attendance at UW universities has been 1% or less for four years in a row.
- Planned increases in GPR for 2022 will be used to invest in several key initiatives, including the Freshwater Collaborative, additional agricultural positions at UW-Madison, and the establishment of a Foster Youth program.
- Additional funding will be provided to support nursing educators across Wisconsin for FY 2023.
- Faculty and staff will receive 2% pay plan increases in January 2022 and January 2023.

UW SYSTEM 2021-22 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET AND TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULES

[\[Recording: 00:40:14\]](#)

President Manydeeds called upon Vice President for Finance Sean Nelson to present an overview of the UW System's 2021-22 annual operating budget and tuition & fee schedules.

Vice President Nelson reported that state operational funding, or GPR, will increase about \$42.3 million or 4.4%, about half of which will be allocated towards the UW System's pay plan. The proposed budget will call for no increase in tuition for resident undergraduate students in the upcoming academic year, and the average cost of attendance will hold to a 1% increase for the fourth consecutive year.

Providing an overview of fund sources and revenue changes, Vice President Nelson noted that decreases in auxiliary revenues and federal financial aid are a direct reflection of lower enrollments and fewer students on campus at most of the UW institutions during the past year.

Vice President Nelson noted that the net increase of \$42.3 million in Operational GPR funds will include: \$2.5 million to advance the Freshwater Collaborative; \$1 million intended for hiring UW-Extension Cooperative County Agricultural Agents; and \$250,000 for supporting foster youth programs. The budget also includes one-time funding for two new initiatives: \$250,000 to support collaboration efforts between the UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the U.S. Department of Defense, and \$250,000 to foster collaboration between the UW System, the U.S. Department of Defense, and The Water

Council, a global partnership based in Milwaukee to advance water research and economic development.

Regarding the 2% pay plan increases planned for January 2022 and January 2023, Vice President Nelson explained that traditionally pay plan costs are shared by the state (70%) and the campuses (30%). He noted that this will be the fifth consecutive year the UW System has had a pay plan increase during the tuition freeze, requiring campuses to cover the pay plan costs from existing funds.

Vice President Nelson indicated that program revenue balances are projected to remain below 12% of operating expenses.

Vice President Nelson attributed the net tuition revenue increase to professional school and differential tuition increases, as well as enrollment changes at UW-Madison. Total segregated fees at the four-year campuses will increase on average by \$10 per year, or 0.1%. Room and board rates at the four-year campuses will increase on average by \$150 per year, or 1.8%.

Vice President Nelson also provided some background on how state GPR funds are allocated among the UW institutions. Incremental increases or decreases to GPR base funding for each campus are decided annually, based in part on biennial budget changes; pay plan increases and fringe benefit adjustments; and adjusted utility costs based on actual expenses. Noting that there have been several efforts to comprehensively review the GPR allocation formula since 1998, including most recently in 2014-15, but that no substantive changes have been made, Vice President Nelson suggested that such an exercise is easier in an environment where revenues are increasing.

Two minor changes to the GPR allocation that have occurred since 2017 include the return of \$25 million in lapsed funding in FY 2018, and the allocation of \$45 million in outcomes-based funding in FY 2019-20. Vice President Nelson indicated that changes to the outcomes-based funding formula would require approval by the Joint Finance Committee.

Looking ahead, Vice President Nelson said the UW System is awaiting approval of the pay plan by the Joint Committee on Employee Relations in late summer or early fall. He also suggested reviewing the timeline for future auxiliary and tuition rate setting in order to give students and their families more certainty in planning for educational costs for the upcoming academic year, in addition to reviewing considerations on how state support (GPR) should be allocated amongst the UW institutions.

Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 11647. The motion was seconded by Regent Atwell.

Regent Atwell observed that the UW System made progress in the recently approved state budget with regards to the lapse, the pay plan, and restoring tuition-setting authority to the Regents. He expressed his appreciation for the university's efforts to keep costs to students down, noting that student access is a big part of the UW System's mission.

Noting that at least six of the four-year regional comprehensive institutions have demonstrated consistent declines in enrollment, Regent Atwell advised taking into account the scope of the UW System in relation to the state's low-growth population and demographic distribution, as well as the need to expand access to underrepresented groups, to make sure that state funds are invested in a way that supports the outcome of more accessible, higher quality education across as many locations as the UW System can maintain.

President Thompson noted that the economic impact of the University of Wisconsin System offers a high return on investment for the State of Wisconsin. He advocated for the creation of a blue ribbon task force to study higher education in Wisconsin, including the UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Regent Rai noted that this was one of the first budgets he had seen presented without a strategic plan or performance metrics in his years running a company and serving on boards.

Noting that UW institutions are facing increased expenses and compliance requirements, in addition to declining enrollments and flat state support, UW-Platteville Chancellor Dennis Shields recommended that campus leadership be engaged in discussions about new revenue sources and expanding access to underserved populations.

UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank observed that the different circumstances of each campus can complicate central planning efforts. She also noted that any discussion about tuition-setting should include considerations about differential tuition rates on each campus.

UW-La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow pointed out that outcomes-based funding can create a paradox wherein a campus that is performing well in one measure is rewarded with more money, but another campus that is not performing as well receives no additional resources for improvement.

Regent Colón agreed that collaboration with the Chancellors would make any strategic planning efforts more successful.

Responding to questions from Regent Walsh and Regent Colón about the process for creating a blue ribbon commission, UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Mark Mone noted that it

could take a year or two to put such an effort together and emphasized the urgent nature of the issues facing the UW System.

Regent Beightol suggested that the recently approved Special Regent Committee on Governance Issues could take up topics such as GPR allocation and invite Chancellors to participate in developing a blueprint for further discussions with other constituencies, such as the business community or the Legislature.

Following the discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 11647 was approved on a voice vote.

UW System 2021-22 Annual Operating Budget and Tuition and Fee Schedules

Resolution 11647 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves a 0% increase to resident undergraduate tuition rates for the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year, maintaining the 2012-13 tuition rates. The Board further approves the 2021-22 operating budget, including segregated fees, room and board, and textbook rental, as attached in the document, "2021-22 Operating Budget and Fee Schedules, July 2021".

The Board also authorizes the UW System President to make adjustments as necessary to implement the final state budget. Should a significant change be required, the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents will be consulted.

CLOSED SESSION

[\[Recording: 01:36:50\]](#)

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

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 11648 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: a) consider personal histories related to the naming of a facility at UW-Whitewater, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; b) deliberate regarding a recommendation for dismissal with cause of a UW-Stout

faculty member, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(a) and (b), Wis. Stats.; c) consider personnel evaluations of chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.; and d) discuss ongoing personnel matters, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.

Before considering any items on the closed session agenda, President Manydeeds 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 11649 was moved by Regent Rai, seconded by Regent Petersen, and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Rename Starin Hall, UW-Whitewater

Resolution 11649 That, upon the recommendation of the UW-Whitewater Chancellor and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents authorizes that Starin Hall be renamed, "Roger Pulliam Hall."

Regent Jones left the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

The Board of Regents reconvened in open session at 4:30 p.m., immediately following the closed session.

Regent Beightol moved for the adoption of Resolution 11650. The motion was seconded by Regent Petersen and adopted on a roll-call vote, with Regents Atwell, Beightol, Bogost, Colón, Grebe, Lezvow, Manydeeds, Miller, Petersen, Peterson, Rai, Saffold, Tucker, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

Adoption of Decision and Order of Dismissal of a UW-Stout Faculty Member

Resolution 11650 That the Board of Regents adopts the attached proposed decision and order as the Board's final decision and order of dismissal in the matter of Pavel Bizyukov, UW-Stout.

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Jess Lathrop

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