

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

Thursday, April 7, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

Dreyfus University Center  
1015 Reserve Street  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

-President Manydeeds presiding-

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

Thursday, April 7, 2022  
8:45 a.m.

Dreyfus University Center  
1015 Reserve Street  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

-President Manydeeds presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [April 7, 2022 Webcast](#)

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## CALLING OF THE ROLL

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

PRESENT: Regents Robert Atwell, Scott Beightol, Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, Michael Grebe, Mike Jones, Tracey Klein, Edmund Manydeeds, John Miller, Rodney Pasch, Andrew Petersen, Cris Peterson, Ashok Rai, Brianna Tucker, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regent Corey Saffold

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## LAND RECOGNITION STATEMENT

UW-Stevens Point Student Government Association President Will Scheder delivered the Land Recognition Statement:

We would like to recognize that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point occupies the lands of the Ho Chunk and Menomonee people. Please take a moment to acknowledge and honor this ancestral Ho Chunk and Menomonee land, and the sacred lands of all indigenous peoples.

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## DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

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.

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## UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:02:38\]](#)

President Manydeeds welcomed the 9<sup>th</sup> UW System President, Jay Rothman, who will start his new role on June 1<sup>st</sup>. President Manydeeds said Jay Rothman's leadership and executive management skills will be invaluable assets to the UW System moving forward and he is confident that Mr. Rothman, in partnership with the chancellors, faculty, and staff, will strengthen the UW for the students and people of Wisconsin.

Mr. Rothman expressed his thanks to the Board of Regents for their confidence in him, as well as thanks to the System leadership for help during the transition, and said he was looking forward to being fully on board come June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Rothman said he had been spending time listen to people within and outside of the UW System to learn more about the challenges and opportunities the university faces. Mr. Rothman stated, "It is heartwarming to continually hear so many stories about the transformative power campuses have on lives of students. These are the impacts that dramatically impact the trajectory of so many people in Wisconsin and beyond."

President Manydeeds then welcomed Regent Emeritus Michael J. Falbo, the Interim President of the UW System. President Manydeeds noted that Interim President Falbo was appointed to the Board of Regents in 2004 and served until 2015, also serving as Board Vice President and President during that time. He also recognized Interim President Falbo for his 40 decades in the banking industry, as a graduate of the UW-Madison Graduate School of Banking, and as a Veteran of the United States Army and Marine Corp., and for receiving two Honorary Doctorate Degrees from UW-Milwaukee and UW-Parkside. President Manydeeds thanked Interim President Falbo for his service.

Interim President Falbo stated he was honored to be asked to serve in the Interim role and assist in the transition process. He commented on how exciting it was to re-visit all the campuses and see the changes that have been made and the good work being done. He also expressed thanks for the research being done around Wisconsin that helps to improve lives and help the UW System serve the people of Wisconsin.

Interim President Falbo introduced Glendalí Rodríguez, who was named the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Provost at UW-Stout after serving in the interim position since August 2019.

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## **APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS**

President Manydeeds noted the records of the February 10-11, 2022 meeting of the Board of Regents would be provided at the next meeting in June.

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## **REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

[\[Recording: 00:11:59\]](#)

### **Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board**

The March 2022 report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided. There were no comments or questions.

### **Update on UW-Madison Chancellor Search Process**

President Manydeeds reported that the 21-member Search & Screen Committee, chaired by Regent Vice President Walsh, held a series of listening sessions with UW-Madison faculty, academic and university staff, students, alumni and community members to hear their views on the qualities and characteristics to be sought in the next Chancellor. The committee then considered the input from the listening sessions to select the semi-finalist candidates to be invited to interview.

President Manydeeds said that following those interviews, the Search & Screen Committee will forward their recommended candidates to a Special Regent Committee, which is anticipated to announce the finalist candidates later this month with on-site visits in early May. The Special Regent Committee consists of Regents Bogost, Jones, Klein, Miller, Walsh, and Regent President Manydeeds as chair.

### **Update on the UW-Platteville and UW-Whitewater Chancellor Search Processes**

President Manydeeds announced that Tammy Evetovich will begin serving as the Interim Chancellor at UW-Platteville on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She is currently Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UW-Platteville.

President Manydeeds also announced that John Chenoweth would be stepping in as the Interim Chancellor at UW-Whitewater. He is currently Provost at UW-Whitewater and previously served as the Dean of the UW-Whitewater College of Business and Economics.

President Manydeeds reported that members of the search committees for the UW-Whitewater and UW-Platteville Chancellors would start to be identified in the coming weeks. President Manydeeds said he expected the searches for both positions to officially launch by the end of the month, with the goal to complete both searches by January of 2023.

### **Update on Special Regent Committee on Governance Issues**

President Manydeeds reported he had asked the Board Office to identify additional meetings for the Special Regent Committee on Governance Issues over the course of the next few months, after its work was temporarily suspended during the final stages of the Presidential Search process.

### **Spring Commencements**

President Manydeeds offered congratulations to the 23,000 students around the UW System who are expected to receive their degrees in May. He said the diplomas received are a recognition of the dedication and hard work and that the graduates and their families should be proud.

President Manydeeds also recognized Regent Saffold who will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in Criminology from UW-Whitewater. President Manydeeds acknowledged this as Regent Saffold's last meeting and expressed his thanks to Regent Saffold for his insight, thoughtfulness, and influence.

President Manydeeds also noted that this may be the last meeting for Regents Drew Petersen and Michael Grebe, whose seven-year terms on the board will end May 1<sup>st</sup>. President Manydeeds said both Regent Drew Petersen and Regent Grebe helped the Board through one of the hardest times during the pandemic. He thanked them for their time and work while on the Board.

President Manydeeds said Regent Saffold, Regent Drew Petersen, and Regent Grebe would be recognized at a future meeting. Again, President Manydeeds thanked the Regents and said they can rise above partisan politics to ensure the Board remains a place of collegial, respectful discourse in service to our students.

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## **REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT**

[\[Recording: 00:18:43\]](#)

### **Farewell to Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs**

President Falbo reported that Anny Morrobel-Sosa, the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, has resigned from the UW System with her last day in office being May 31<sup>st</sup>. Vice President Morrobel-Sosa has been with the UW System since 2019 and helped renew a vision of the Wisconsin Idea for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by focusing on access, flexibility, relevance, and lifelong learning. President Falbo extended his gratitude for her service to the UW System, the faculty and staff, and the students.

### **Presidential Transition**

President Falbo said he accepted this interim position because of his deep appreciation and affection for the universities within the UW System, and because he wanted to help the next System President be successful. He reported he has been relying on the Chancellors for advice about how he and President Rothman can best serve the UW System.

President Falbo reported a transition team has been formed to help prioritize the work of UW System Administration to effectively serve campuses and students, while also assisting the Board in meeting its fiduciary duties. The Transition Team includes Chancellors Ford, Frank, Gibson, and Gow, UW-Whitewater Vice Chancellor Artanya Wesley, Interim Vice President Jeff Buhrandt, and Regents Jones, Manydeeds, Rai, and Walsh.

President Falbo concluded his remarks by addressing campuses opening up and returning to “normal”. He said System Administration has an opportunity to focus attention on further enhancing communications and services to the campuses.

### **Research in the Rotunda**

President Falbo reported that after a year’s hiatus due to COVID, the UW System returned to the Capitol for the 18th annual Research in the Rotunda event. More than 100 undergraduate students and their faculty advisers from across the UW System displayed their research findings on a variety of important topics with legislators, state leaders, UW alumni, and other supporters. President Falbo said how important it is that the educational experiences offered to UW students are relevant to the real-world. He then shared a brief video from the event.

Finally, President Falbo offered congratulations to UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford who recently received the prestigious Salute to Catholic School Alumni Award in Louisville,

Kentucky. The award, which was presented by the Catholic Education Foundation, recognizes individuals for their leadership and dedication to community service.

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## **HOST CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-STEVENSON POINT CHANCELLOR THOMAS GIBSON: "PURPOSE-DRIVEN EDUCATION: POINT OF TRANSFORMATION"**

[\[Recording: 00:29:24\]](#)

Regent Tucker introduced Chancellor Gibson and spoke about their shared passion for UW-Stevens Point and the UW System.

Chancellor Gibson presented on UW-Stevens Point's dedication to purpose driven education. He said this includes inclusive pedagogy, impactful research, critical thinking, and applied learning. UW-Stevens Point students are transformed by what they learn and how they learn it.

Chancellor Gibson said, "Students come to UW-Stevens Point to discover their purpose... Some come with a clear purpose in mind, other comes to discover a world that they can only imagine." He emphasized UW-Stevens Point's history and ongoing role in serving first-generation students and offering degrees in natural resource management and conservation.

Chancellor Gibson also reported that last Fall, UW-Stevens Point became the first campus in the state to build critical thinking into the general education program for first year students, helping to prepare them for real-world issues and fulfilling a critical workforce need. He described other efforts UW-Stevens Point has made to engage with the local business community and prepare students for community engagement and advocacy.

President Manydeeds asked how UW-Stevens Point is aligning its finances with sustainability efforts. Chancellor Gibson said the institution is prioritizing its limited resources by engaging the student body on what sustainability features or practices are most important to them.

Regent Atwell asked how UW-Stevens Point is engaging the communities of Wausau and Marshfield in order to address enrollment issues on the branch campuses. Chancellor Gibson said UW-Stevens Point is pursuing new degree programs to attract new populations of students to both of its regional campuses.

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## **SUSTAINABILITY- BUILDING ON OUR PAST TO SECURE OUR FUTURE**

[\[Recording: 01:24:40\]](#)

President Manydeeds introduced the next topic of discussion, Sustainability, which he said is generating increasing interest nationally, in the UW System, and on the UW-Stevens Point campus. He reported that over the past several months he had been meeting with groups of UW students concerned about sustainability issues and invited them to present at this meeting.

UW System Vice President for Finance, Sean Nelson, started by thanking campus stakeholders, sustainability directors, CEOs, Chancellors, and facilities people for their support. He then introduced the group of staff presenters including Katie Nelson, Director of Sustainability at UW-Milwaukee; Dave Barbier, Sustainability Coordinator at UW-Stevens Point; and Andrea Hicks, Director of Sustainability Education & Research at UW-Madison.

Andrea Hicks presented on some of the sustainability efforts at UW-Madison and the different programs and projects students are able to be a part of. She also talked about professional skills students develop from being involved in different sustainability initiatives and teams on campus.

Dave Barbier spoke about the increasing importance of sustainability to students both current and prospective. He also talked about how being focused on sustainability can help increase enrollment, help students' mental health, and control utilities costs that continue to rise.

### **Student Perspectives**

Eliza Lindley, from UW-Madison, said, "While I've had a long-standing love for the environment, I have come to realize that environmental protection must be deeply intertwined with the protection of human communities. Sustainability provides a framework to protect these dual efforts." She said she would like to help people see that it is important to tackle climate change for the sake of ourselves and for future generations. The awareness and sense of urgency surrounding environmental sustainability continues to grow and much of the push is coming from students. She asked for this to be seen as an opportunity to advance the mission of UW System and consider sustainability in each decision made.

Allyn Lottouzee, from UW-Milwaukee, said, "I come with a desire for collaboration toward common achievable goals." He asked that UW System divest from carbon intensive businesses and invest in sustainable initiatives. He also requested all UW institutions offer undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs to "get ahead of future challenges rather than react to them". Lottouzee made suggestions on ways to connect like-minded students such as course offerings, campus clubs, and LLCs all based around sustainability. He also

called for sustainability representatives in student senate and an office of sustainability at each UW institution, with a paid student sustainability position, as well as centralized organization with a position that coordinates sustainability efforts between the Board of Regents and the UW campuses. Lottouzee also said campuses focusing on their own carbon footprint is important. They should strive to be carbon neutral and have LEED certified buildings.

Abrina Leonhard, from UW-Stout, spoke about being an agent of change. She shared how the words her grandfather spoke to her as a child – “It is our job to protect God’s beautiful earth. We must protect the land and its creatures” – stayed with her as she matured, leading to her being an agent of change and taking action to introduce sustainability into her life and community. She spoke about how many people will challenge and criticize sustainability efforts, but encouraged people to keep striving for change in hopes the impact will be felt for future generations. She asked to work together and strive for excellence in order to change the future.

Maddie Loeffler, from UW-Eau Claire, talked about campus sustainability and her efforts as the director of the student office of sustainability. She mentioned some initiatives within campus buildings that have been completed, but stressed that much of the UW System sustainability and climate action initiatives have not left the planning stage. She noted that climate change is a deciding factor in her future choices, as many other young people would agree, and that the inaction on climate change causes much anxiety. She said UW System must be climate conscious in order to reach its 2050 carbon neutral goal.

Molly McGuire, from UW-Stevens Point, spoke about the frustration of realizing her sustainability efforts were limited by upper-level policies and decisions. She noted how the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association makes decisions about UW-Stevens Point endowment investments. McGuire co-founded the UW Divestment Coalition as a way to unite students, faculty, and alumni from all UW campuses in calling on the university to divest from fossil fuels. McGuire called upon the Regents to have transparent communication about how the Board will assist in making fossil fuel divestment a reality. She also stressed that not taking further action against climate change may cause sustainability-concerned students to lose interest in UW schools. She closed by saying, “I would like to remind you that I am one student, but I speak for many. There are thousands of students, and many more future students just like me, concerned about climate change and eager to make changes and find solutions.”

## **Discussion and Next Steps**

President Manydeeds thanked the students for coming before the Board. He said, “The students just presented evidence with witnesses who want to do something to help this planet, this state, this campus ... and they’re right. The verdict has to be we’re going to do something about it.”

Regent Jones said the question for the Regents and System Administration is “what are we going to do?” He asked what the next steps are and said that it needed to be decided how they are going to approach this problem. He said it could be good to have a quarterly update on this issue.

Regent Rai said some of the Board’s control would be in relation to capital and finance, including approving the construction and maintenance of buildings. He suggested looking at the sustainability impact of capital projects.

Regent Atwell asked what funds the Board has available in order to evaluate more sustainable investing. Regent Atwell did caution against “getting caught up in another highly profitable revenue stream for investment markets that move water from one end of the bathtub to another”. He said the place to start would be evaluating what the Board can control by charging a committee with overseeing a report.

Kate Nelson then presented on what needs to be done next by the UW System. She noted that the prioritization of the community and students had been discussed, but there is also the “social cost of carbon”, meaning what you do not spend and invest in now will come back as another cost in the future. Ms. Nelson spoke about a few different sustainable energy projects that are producing a small portion of Wisconsin’s energy, but noted that the efficiency of the building is key to ensuring success. She talked about the rising costs of energy and called for more large-scale renewable energy projects in Wisconsin. Ms. Nelson closed by saying, “We need new goals, we need new capacity, and we need better planning. All the while we know there are things we can do today.”

Chancellor Mone said he wanted to address the question from Regent Jones about what the Board of Regents can do. Chancellor Mone reiterated the importance of sustainability to the faculty, staff, and students in the university community. He noted Kate Nelson and her departments work on the sustainability operations on campus at UW-Milwaukee. He also noted UW-Milwaukee’s Green Ribbon Award and their documentation on saving energy and federal sustainability tracking. Chancellor Mone said more cannot be done without additional help and support from the Board. He asked for a comprehensive strategic framework for sustainability across a number of different fronts and noted UW-Milwaukee would be an active partner and happy to support in whatever way possible.

Chancellor Blank said there are three main things done at the UW-Madison campus: 1) Education on environmental issues, wildlife ecology, sustainability, and environmental engineering; 2) Research, with approximately one-quarter of funding going into environmental and climate-related research; and 3) Running facilities well in order to cover the cost of the work being done. She also noted her support for divestment, but reminded that under state law the chancellors are not to intervene in the decision making of the Foundations. Chancellor Blank said the divestment piece is a harder, more distant issue to

get involved in, but the places they have leverage are in education, research, and ensuring the running of a sustainable campus.

Chancellor Gow noted that newly-constructed buildings typically are designed with sustainability in mind and try to obtain LEED certifications. He also echoed Chancellor Blank's note that the campuses do not control the investment money at the Foundation level. He encouraged the students to speak with the Foundation boards. Chancellor Gow also said the money generated by investments is typically coming back to the campuses in the forms of scholarships to make school more affordable.

President Manydeeds noted that while they cannot directly interfere with the Foundations, they can be informed about the thoughts and wishes of the Board and the campuses.

Regent Underly wanted to ensure the K-12 system was also being considered. She said environmental education and curriculum as well as the infrastructure are all areas to be addressed. Regent Underly said it was important to look to the future and keep in mind the impact that could be made on the Wisconsin economy if the agricultural products it produces are effected by climate change.

Chancellor Leavitt said there are three big rocks on campus: cars, heating plants, and electricity. He said in order be more efficient, there needs to be more efficient heating and cooling of campuses and to get cars off campus in some way.

President Manydeeds told the student presenters their efforts are supported and they should continue encouraging the UW System to take the necessary and appropriate steps to get where it needs to be on sustainability.

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## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR UW-MADISON CHANCELLOR REBECCA BLANK'S SERVICE TO THE UW SYSTEM**

[\[Recording: 02:36:31\]](#)

President Manydeeds thanked Chancellor Rebecca Blank for her tremendous leadership over the past eight years and invited Vice President Walsh to present the resolution of appreciation to Chancellor Blank.

Vice President Walsh spoke about Chancellor Blank's creativity and persistence in developing revenue streams to continue successfully running her campus. Vice President Walsh also talked about the admiration and respect that she and UW-Madison's senior cabinet staff have for Chancellor Blank.

Vice President Walsh then read aloud the Board's resolution of appreciation for Chancellor Blank's service to the UW System, which was adopted by acclamation.

Resolution of Appreciation for UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank's Service to the University of Wisconsin System

Resolution 11810      WHEREAS, Rebecca M. Blank served as the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison from 2013 to 2022, successfully leading the university through a period of extraordinary financial challenge, social justice upheaval, and a global public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, All Ways Forward, the most successful fundraising campaign in UW–Madison's history, raised more than \$4 billion, far surpassing its original goal; and

WHEREAS, she prioritized diversity, equity, and inclusion on the UW–Madison campus by investing in efforts to diversify the faculty, staff, and student body; enhancing relationships with the Native Nations of Wisconsin through the Our Shared Future initiative and the creation of a new position, Tribal Relations Director; and commissioning the Public History Project to tell the full story of the university; and

WHEREAS, under her tenure, UW–Madison enhanced its position as one of the world's top public research universities, with \$1.4 billion in annual research expenditures, and continued to play a critical role in Wisconsin's economy by attracting jobs, talent, and money to the state; and

WHEREAS, she built and strengthened UW–Madison's relationships with citizens, businesses, community leaders, other UW System campuses, and policymakers, and increased access to a UW–Madison education for Wisconsin residents by creating the Bucky's Tuition Promise and Badger Promise scholarship programs; and

WHEREAS, under her tenure, UW–Madison set new records for undergraduate applications and enrollment, improved educational outcomes, raised graduation rates, lowered time to degree, and reduced the graduation gap between all students and students from underrepresented groups; and

WHEREAS, she is a strong proponent of sustainability efforts, leading the university to win a 2021 Green Ribbon Schools Sustainability Award and signing the Second Nature Resilience Commitment to help UW–Madison mitigate and prepare for the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, she oversaw the growth and revitalization of campus infrastructure through numerous facilities projects to position UW–Madison for the future and ensure that the university will continue to attract and retain the best and brightest faculty, staff, and students; and

WHEREAS, she created financial stability for the university and grew investment income that has made it possible to expand scholarships, offer more competitive faculty salaries, and increase graduate student stipends;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System hereby offers thanks to Rebecca Blank for her service as Chancellor of UW–Madison and wishes her a successful tenure as the 17th President of Northwestern University.

Chancellor Blank said it had been an honor to serve in her position. She expressed her thanks to the students, staff, and faculty for all the work they do to make UW-Madison one of the greatest public universities in the country. She also thanked the Regents for their work and effort.

When talking about her love for the Madison area and UW-Madison, Chancellor Blank said, “Wonderful music, wonderful dance, absolutely great student athletes, and a campus environment that can’t be beat for beauty. It has been a joy to be in this job, and thank you all for being such great colleagues.”

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## **CLOSED SESSION**

[\[Recording: 02:45:23\]](#)

President Manydeeds called upon Vice President Walsh to read the motion to move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Regent Drew Petersen and adopted on a roll-

call vote, with Regents Atwell, Beightol, Bogost, Jones, Klein, Manydeeds, Miller, Pasch, Cris Peterson, Rai, Tucker, Underly, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

#### Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 11811 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: (a) Consider a compensation adjustment for an individual with a salary that exceeds 75% of the UW System President's salary, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.; (b) Consider compensation adjustments for chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.; and (c) Discuss ongoing personnel matters, as permitted by s. 19.85 (1)(c) and (f), Wis. Stats.

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Before considering 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.

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Regent Drew Petersen moved for the adoption of Resolution 11812. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai and approved on a voice vote.

#### Approval of Salary for Dean of the School of Medicine and Public Health, UW-Madison

Resolution 11812 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the UW System and the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Board of Regents approves an annual salary of \$435,389 for Robert N. Golden, Dean of the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, effective April 24, 2022.

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Regent Drew Peterson left the closed session at 4:38 p.m.

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Regent Atwell moved for the adoption of Resolution 11813. The motion was seconded by Regent Beightol and approved on a voice vote.

Approval of Annual Base Salary Adjustments for Chancellors

Resolution 11813 That, upon the recommendation of the President of University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves salary increases for chancellors, effective April 10, 2022, as set forth in Attachment A to recognize merit and in response to competitive factors.

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

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Submitted by:

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