

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

Thursday, December 8, 2022
1:00 p.m.

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

-President Walsh presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [December 8, 2022 Webcast](#)

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

[\[Recording: 00:00:07\]](#)

PRESENT: Regents Angela Adams, Robert Atwell (virtual), Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, Mike Jones, Edmund Manydeeds, John Miller, Rodney Pasch, Cris Peterson, Ashok Rai, Jennifer Staton (virtual), Brianna Tucker (virtual), Jill Underly (virtual), Dana Wachs, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Scott Beightol

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

[\[Recording: 00:01:22\]](#)

Before considering any items on the open session agenda, President Walsh 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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APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS

[\[Recording: 00:01:35\]](#)

Regent Jones moved for the approval of the records of the November 10, 2022 meeting of the UW System Board of Regents; the November 27, 2022, special meeting of the UW System Board of Regents; and the November 28, 2022 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Regent Colón and approved on a voice vote.

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:02:12\]](#)

Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

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

Update on the UW-Platteville Chancellor Search Processes

President Walsh reported the UW-Platteville Chancellor Search officially opened on November 11, 2022 and the deadline for assured consideration of applications is January 17, 2023. She said the Search & Screen Committee, chaired by Regent Cris Peterson, will consider feedback from the campuses before selecting semifinal candidates for interviews in the spring.

Update on the UW-Whitewater Chancellor Search Process

President Walsh reported that on-site campus visits for the five finalist candidates in the UW-Whitewater Chancellor Search were currently underway. She said faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members will have the opportunity to hear from each finalist in open forums during their visits between December 5-December 15, 2022. President Walsh said President Rothman and the Special Regent Committee, chaired by Regent Bogost and including Regents Rai, Underly, and Weatherly, will interview the finalists and recommend a candidate to the Board of Regents for approval as UW-Whitewater's 18th Chancellor.

UW-Madison Professorships

President Walsh reported a group of donors had created two new professorships at UW-Madison in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Rebecca Blank and her husband, Hanns Kuttner. She said the early achievement professorship funds would be awarded to recently tenured

faculty who have built an outstanding record in teaching, research, and service. President Walsh said the goal is to retain emerging star faculty across the campus and provide additional support for scholarship. She noted Chancellor Emeritus Blank helped develop the program, which makes the name and funds in honor of Rebecca Blank and Hanns Kuttner even more meaningful. President Walsh thanked Provost Scholz for his role in bringing the professorships to fruition.

REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:05:11\]](#)

Increasing Graduates

President Rothman said a key component of helping to develop talent for Wisconsin's workforce is providing greater access to higher education for more people, with the goal of ultimately increasing the number of college graduates in Wisconsin. He said several strategies could help move the UW System forward on this goal, including direct admissions and the Wisconsin Tuition Promise. He noted that the Education Committee discussed two additional strategies earlier in the day: credit for prior learning to (re)engage new traditional learners, and dual enrollment.

President Rothman said credit for prior learning targets adult learners and dual enrollment provides high school students with the opportunity to take college classes and earn college credit, while still in high school. He said both populations are needed to grow graduation numbers. President Rothman said the Board would hear more about both strategies during the Education Committee's report to the Board on Friday morning, but he wanted to call attention to the multiple avenues being pursued to make progress on strategic goals. He acknowledged Regent Chair Kyle Weatherly for bringing these topics before the Education Committee.

President Walsh paused proceedings upon the arrival of Governor Tony Evers for his address to the Board of Regents.

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR TONY EVERS

[\[Recording: 00:06:28\]](#)

Governor Evers thanked the members of the Board of Regents for their service to the state and the UW Chancellors for their work, particularly during the pandemic. He acknowledged the difficult decisions that needed to be made and commended university leaders for “following the science” to help save lives. Remarking on the impact to students’ mental health, Governor Evers said his administration will work with the UW System going forward to determine what sort of resources are needed to help students recover fully from the pandemic.

Governor Evers stated, “As a Board member, I always felt that I must advocate for the System and do what’s best for the students. As a former Board member, I believe that the Board members need autonomy and to be free of the whims of politicians. Guarding that independence was a promise I made four years ago, and it will continue to be my promise going forward – but while I cherish your independence, I do have a few suggestions.

I know that the everyday work that you do is to create a workforce for our state and to transfer research into practice that will drive our economy. I know those are important things – these are no small tasks either – but I also encourage you to nurture the future artists, musicians, voters, journalists, teachers, poets, governors... Across the board – whether it’s humanities, liberal arts, sciences, agriculture – you’re making citizens for the state of Wisconsin.”

In reference to the upcoming state budget discussion, Governor Evers called upon President Rothman and especially the Chancellors to be actively involved in the process and work with their local elected officials to secure resources for their campuses.

President Walsh thanked Governor Evers for his visit.

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REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT (CONT.)

[\[Recording: 00:14:06\]](#)

UW-Platteville Richland Campus

President Rothman acknowledged students from the UW-Platteville Richland campus and leadership from the County Board in Richland County. Stating that he met with the students and county leadership privately prior to the start of the afternoon portion of the Board meeting, President Rothman said he admired their passion and appreciated their advocacy.

President Rothman said it was a difficult decision to direct Interim Chancellor Tammy Evetovich to end in-person instruction at the UW-Platteville Richland campus, effective the

beginning of the 2023-24 academic year. He emphasized that the university's commitment to its critical access mission remains the same, and that the Richland campus will be re-purposed to better serve the needs of the community. He noted this will also maintain the UW System's fiduciary responsibility of ensuring university operations are financially sound. Noting that Fall 2022 enrollment at UW-Platteville Richland dropped to 60 degree-seeking students, President Rothman stated that this is not financially viable, nor do these conditions provide students with the college experience they deserve.

Looking ahead, President Rothman said the System is prepared to provide a UW presence at the Richland campus which may include enrichment programs, online reskilling and upskilling instruction for adult learners, and online degree completion courses. He said UW-Platteville expects to work with the Richland County government officials, as well as business and community leaders, to ensure that the UW presence on campus continues to meet regional needs.

President Rothman said students who are currently attending the Richland campus will be offered the opportunity to complete their degrees at UW-Platteville, its Baraboo campus, or other UW System schools. UW-Platteville will also develop a plan for faculty and staff who are currently employed at the Richland campus.

Stating that this is not a step he has taken lightly, President Rothman said that as responsible stewards, university leaders must continue to evaluate circumstances and make adjustments as needed. Acknowledging questions about whether other two-year campuses may face similar changes in the future, President Rothman said their enrollment trends are being watched closely, but the UW System will ensure that these critical access points throughout the state continue to innovate and provide education and services that Wisconsinites rely upon.

Digital Learning Updates

President Rothman said that since the summer of 2017, when the universities started implementing a new digital learning platform, and the beginning of the pandemic, much has been learned about the technology used for teaching and learning. Survey results showed three key findings of what is working well and what is being improved. First, students want course videos to be closed captioned, so now the default settings in the Kaltura video platform automatically provide machine-generated captions at no cost. Second, faculty now have access to a licensing tool to check the accessibility of their Canvas courses. Finally, a search function in Canvas is planned to become available in early 2023.

Recognition of Special Accomplishments in the UW System

President Rothman congratulated Chancellor Mnookin and UW-Madison on the fifth year of Bucky's Tuition Promise, which has awarded nearly 5,000 scholarships overall. He said

this year's class of 937 recipients represent 66 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. President Rothman said the UW System looks forward to the launch of the Wisconsin Tuition Promise, a similar scholarship at all other UW universities, in order to provide broader opportunities and the promise of a quality UW educational experience to Wisconsin students.

President Rothman said UW-Stevens Point received a \$1.5 million National Science Foundation grant, the Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM grant), which will eliminate barriers for low-income students pursuing in-demand careers in the sciences.

President Rothman highlighted UW-Eau Claire's new hydroponic garden, a student project through the Office of Sustainability. He said the crops harvested will be donated to the university's Campus Harvest food pantry, which serves hundreds of students in need of food assistance.

Following up on an event mentioned at the November Board of Regents meeting, President Rothman shared a photo taken at the unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at UW-Platteville. The memorial honors 12 UW-Platteville students and alumni who were killed in action in the Vietnam War. He said nearly 300 people attended the dedication ceremony, including family and friends of the 12 veterans being honored. President Rothman thanked UW-Platteville for acknowledging those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

President Rothman also congratulated UW-Madison Chancellor Mnookin and Athletic Director Chris McIntosh on hiring Luke Fickell as their new head football coach.

Winter Commencements

President Rothman reported that about 10,000 students around the UW System are expected to receive their degrees at Winter Commencements. He said the graduates are the workers, leaders, and innovators who will define the economy and culture of Wisconsin moving forward. He said the education they received at UW universities has prepared them well for their future. President Rothman congratulated the class of 2022 and wished them great success. He also thanked the faculty, staff, university communities, and families who supported the students throughout their educational experience.

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PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE UW SYSTEM'S 2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

[\[Recording: 01:38:29\]](#)

President Walsh called on President Rothman to present the final version of the UW System's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan for approval by the Board.

President Rothman said the Strategic Plan has evolved since May 2022 with input from various stakeholders, including members of the Board of Regents, UW System Administration, chancellors and members of their leadership teams, members of shared governance, legislators, and the employer community. He thanked all those who had provided input and feedback, including Jenny Faust and her team at UW-Madison's Office of Strategic Consulting, who provided consulting support throughout the process.

President Rothman said the plan had been modified most recently based upon input from the Regents at the November 10, 2022 meeting. Stating that the proposed success measures had been finalized and are aspirational, yet achievable, he thanked the chancellors and Associate Vice President for Policy Analysis and Research Ben Passmore for providing the necessary data.

President Rothman shared several changes that had been made to the plan after the November Board of Regents Meeting:

- Per Regent input, in Strategy 1 (S1) the measure of Pell grant recipients was modified from a percentage to a numerical value. The target is now set as an increase from 26,000 Pell-eligible students to 35,000 students.
- In S1, an increase of 12 percentage points in the graduation rates for underrepresented students was added.
- In S2, a new target to increase the number of adult learners enrolled exclusively in online programs from 5,700 to 10,000 was added.
- In S2, the target of adult learners receiving employer-paid tuition was removed, as data showed the target was not reliable.
- At the request of Regents, in S5 a target was added related to eliminating any structural deficits at the universities during the term of the plan.
- In S6, the reference to UW-Milwaukee's Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) ranking was eliminated, as it was determined that ranking is less relevant to UW-Milwaukee in maintaining its R1 status.
- In S9, specific metrics were included for improvement in the number of new System graduates who secure employment in Wisconsin post-graduation.

President Rothman said he believes the targets are reasonable, but aspirational, and said the goals will require substantial effort, innovation, and creativity in order to achieve them. He indicated the plan is an acknowledgement that the status quo is not sustainable, but the

UW System is positioned and has a responsibility to the people of Wisconsin to address challenging issues.

President Rothman said data about demographics; wealth distribution; equity, diversity, and inclusion; public perception of higher education; workforce demand; and educational attainment trends impacting the state of Wisconsin pose an existential threat to the state's long term economic viability. He said it is essential the UW System produces more graduates at universities to support the needs of Wisconsin Employers. The plan also calls for enhancing the stature of UW System universities in the field of research and creative activity, including increasing the HERD ranking of UW-Madison from eight to six. Additionally, President Rothman said the UW System wants to support the employer community in Wisconsin by providing reskilling and upskilling educational opportunities for their employees. He added that the plan's aspirations are "consistent with living that noble mission of the Wisconsin Idea."

In order to achieve the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan, President Rothman said resources need to be secured to invest in the plan. He said some will come from internal prioritization and cost efficiencies, but support from other sources, including the state of Wisconsin, are also needed. If the plan is approved, President Rothman said work plans focused on the specific steps necessary to implement the strategies will be assembled to help start the journey toward the achievement of the success measures.

In a follow-up to previous discussions, Regent Colón asked how UW-Milwaukee is prioritized in the final Strategic Plan. President Rothman said the success measures outlined in the plan, such as increasing UW-Milwaukee's research spending by 15% and maintaining and strengthening UW-Milwaukee's R1 status, show the support for UW-Milwaukee is there.

Regent Atwell thanked President Rothman, the chancellors, and everyone who worked on the plan. He said he had not fully yet decided how he was going to vote on the Strategic Plan, but if the vote were taken at that moment he would abstain. Regent Atwell clarified that an abstention did not mean he was rejecting the plan, but rather that he believes the plan falls short as a response to the critical situation the UW System is currently in. Regent Atwell said he would have liked for the Board to set the parameters of the process, setting broad expectations of what is to be accomplished. He said identifying the specific things to be addressed aggressively could have been more helpful for the chancellors.

Regent Atwell continued, saying he believes higher education is in deep turmoil and the UW System has a sprawling, aging infrastructure. He said the faculty and staff are very important and should be paid adequately so they know their work is valued, but he does

not see that reflected in the current plan. Regent Atwell also said, "Any strategic plan needs to take a deep look at the competitive environment it operates in and identify the competition we face both as a system and as universities. I don't see that in the report yet." He mentioned UW universities seem to have started to compete with each other. Regent Atwell said he wanted to be serious about the challenges the UW System is facing but is hopeful about what can be done through collaboration.

President Rothman agreed new ways must be identified to attract more people to the state, such as incentives to attract people to attend school in Wisconsin and stay after graduation. He said the goal of increasing the number of graduates by 10% is aspirational, but critical to the economic well being of Wisconsin. President Rothman also agreed competitive compensation is an important part of the plan but noted more financial resources are needed.

In response to Regent Atwell's comment on campuses competing, President Rothman said he might also have had that impression upon assuming his role, however he has since seen an impressive amount of collaboration between the UW universities.

Looking at prioritization within the plan, President Rothman said the top three priorities are: graduating 41,000 students by the end of 2028, including increasing the number of graduates from underrepresented groups; addressing social mobility and closing the wealth gap; and promoting research and creative activity.

Regent Underly said she looks forward to the positive impact of the Strategic Plan, such as addressing access, affordability, and time to graduation. She also said she agreed with some of the points Regent Atwell made, such as competitiveness and addressing historic needs like investment at the state level in education. She expressed she would also have liked there to be more engagement with Regents, students, and faculty throughout the planning process, and that she wanted more in the plan on recruitment and retention of faculty and staff.

Regent Underly said she looked forward to additional conversations with President Rothman on identifying more K-12 connections and opportunities, and that she would like a Systemwide plan to be created addressing the recruitment and retention of K-12 teachers. Regent Underly also requested a focus on rural Wisconsin students.

Regent Manydeeds expressed his full support for the plan, saying it was shared governance at its finest. He said the plan was not meant to directly address every issue within the UW System, but rather guide how to proceed in the future. He said the chancellors had a large hand in creating the plan. Regent Manydeeds continued, saying Regents had many

opportunities to ask questions and provide comments and suggestions. He noted much of this feedback had been added to the plan. He said the next steps for Regents would be to advocate for the UW System and work with representatives for support. Regent Manydeeds referenced how this was already taking place, highlighting a panel discussion held earlier in the day at the Education Committee meeting. State representatives were invited to sit at the table and participate in the discussion about strategies for increasing support for students, specifically in regards to dual enrollment and credit for prior learning.

Regent Jones complimented Regent Underly and Regent Atwell's thoughtful comments, saying they are important to note. Regent Jones then expressed his full support for the adoption of the Strategic Plan and said it was an excellent step forward. He added there would be a need to be agile and course correct when executing the plan, as unplanned situations could arise.

President Walsh highlighted the process for creating the plan and how it differed from the development of past plans, which she said did not include numerical measurements and input from the chancellors and campuses. She said the collaboration on this plan showed how President Rothman treated the chancellors and campuses as invaluable resources, and allowed them to help guide the plan's creation. President Walsh also noted the input from shared governance. She said the goals and measurables made this a true strategic plan, and agreed with Regent Jones that the plan is a living, developing plan. President Walsh said as time goes on some pieces of the plan may need to be adjusted, but the values will remain the same.

Regent Pasch said his main concern was that the Strategic Plan was student focused and that this plan absolutely was. He expressed his comfort with the plan because of the planning process, which engaged in active dialogue and participation. Regent Pasch said the plan should not be limited by best practice or the status quo, stating that the UW System should want to set the standard, rather than just meet the standard. He said a review of practices, processes, staff, and priorities was necessary in order to implement the Strategic Plan.

Vice President Bogost moved for the adoption of Resolution 11944. The motion was seconded by Regent Wachs and approved on a roll call vote with Regents Adams, Bogost, Colón, Jones, Manydeeds, Miller, Pasch, Peterson, Rai, Tucker, Underly, Wachs, Walsh, and Weatherly all voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes. Regent Atwell abstained. Regent Staton was online during the vote, but unable to vote due to technology issues.

Approval of the 2023-2028 UW System Strategic Plan

Resolution 11944 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents adopts the proposed UW System Strategic Plan for 2023-2028.

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CLOSED SESSION

[\[Recording: 02:57:01\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Vice President Bogost 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 Adams, Atwell, Bogost, Colón, Jones, Manydeeds, Miller, Pasch, Peterson, Rai, Tucker, Underly, Wachs, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions. Regent Staton was online during the vote, but unable to vote due to technology issues.

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 11945 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: a) consider the acceptance of a confidential gift and the naming of a facility and a school at UW-Stevens Point, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats.; b) consider pay plan/compensation adjustments for the UW System chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.; and c) consider a recommendation for the employment of an Executive Director and Corporate Secretary, Office of the Board of Regents, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.

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Before considering items on the closed session agenda, President Walsh 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 Atwell left the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

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Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolutions 11946 and 11947. The motion was seconded by Regent Adams and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Name the Collins Classroom Center "Sentry Hall", UW-Stevens Point

Resolution 11946 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Stevens Point and the President of the UW System and contingent upon: (a) numeration of the project in the capital budget and (b) approval to construct the project, the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System grants authorization to: (a) enter into a gift agreement with the Sentry Insurance Foundation, Inc. to administer a charitable gift of \$10,000,000 made to the UW-Stevens Point Foundation, for the benefit of the School of Business and Economics and (b) name the Collins Classroom Center "Sentry Hall."

Authority to Name School of Business and Economics, UW-Stevens Point

Resolution 11947 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Stevens Point and the President of the UW System, the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System grants authorization to change the name of the UW-Stevens Point School of Business and Economics to the "Sentry School of Business and Economics."

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Regent Staton left the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

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Regent Manydeeds moved for the adoption of Resolution 11948. The motion was seconded by Regent Colón and approved on a voice vote.

Proposed Chancellor Pay Plan Adjustments

Resolution 11948 That, upon the recommendation of the President of University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves a 2% pay plan and equity increase for Chancellors effective January 1, 2023 as set forth in Attachment A.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

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Submitted by:

/s/_____

Megan Wasley
Executive Director & Corporate Secretary
Office of the Board of Regents
University of Wisconsin System