

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

Thursday, November 10, 2022
9:00 a.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: [November 10, 2022 Webcast](#)

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

[\[Recording: 00:00:08\]](#)

PRESENT: Regents Robert Atwell, Scott Beightol, Edmund Manydeeds, John Miller, Rodney Pasch, Cris Peterson, Ashok Rai, Jennifer Staton, Brianna Tucker, Jill Underly, Dana Wachs, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

Regent Robert Atwell joined the meeting virtually at 9:01 a.m., after the calling of the roll.

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Angela Adams, Héctor Colón, and Mike Jones

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

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."

Regent Walsh recused herself from voting on Resolution 11933, "UW-Milwaukee License Agreement with Verizon Wireless," to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS

[\[Recording: 00:01:15\]](#)

Regent Wachs moved for the approval of the records of the September 29-30, 2022 meeting of the UW System Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Regent Manydeeds and approved on a voice vote.

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UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:01:40\]](#)

President Walsh congratulated the winners of the Tuesday, November 8, 2022 election. She said the Board looks forward to reaching out to elected officials on both sides of the political aisle and keeping lines of communication open. President Walsh also recognized and thanked those who did not win their elections but were willing to serve their state. She said the UW System's relationships with federal and state lawmakers have never been more important.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:02:30\]](#)

First-Generation Student Week

President Walsh thanked UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford for bringing to her attention that it was currently First-Generation Student Week. She noted that there are approximately 8,400 first-generation students in the UW System, but that the number has been steadily declining over the last ten years. To show the importance of first-generation students, President Walsh asked all those in the room who were first-generation students to stand up. She stressed the importance of mentoring and focusing on the success of the UW System's first-generation students, saying they are the future leaders.

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

President Walsh reported that the UW-Whitewater Chancellor Search and Screen Committee, chaired by Vice President Bogost, recently interviewed semifinalists and forwarded its recommendations to the Special Regent Committee. She said the Special

Regent Committee would meet later in November to confirm the candidates who will be invited to visit the campus as finalists in early December. The Special Regent Committee is expected to interview finalists in January.

Next, President Walsh reported the UW-Platteville Chancellor Search & Screen Committee, chaired by Regent Peterson, had its first meeting in October and has since held a series of listening sessions at all three UW-Platteville campuses. The Search & Screen Committee met to review the position prospectus, which was approved by the Special Regent Committee. President Walsh said the search officially opens November 11, 2022, and the deadline for assured consideration of applications is January 17, 2023.

President Walsh also congratulated UW-Stevens Point Chancellor Tom Gibson, UW-Stout Chancellor Katherine Frank, and UW-River Falls Chancellor Maria Gallo on their recent inauguration/installation/investiture, which had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She said each of the leaders rose to the occasion when they stepped into their new roles during a time of considerable anxiety and uncertainty. President Walsh said the special events created an opportunity to see the role of the universities in their respective communities.

Veterans Day

In recognition of Veterans Day, President Walsh thanked those who have served or are serving the country. She expressed respect and gratitude for those who have ensured our country's freedom, security, and way of life. President Walsh asked any veterans in the room to stand so they could be recognized. Later in the meeting, President Walsh said the Board would hear from a panel about how the UW System serves its current, past, and future military students.

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REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:06:50\]](#)

President Rothman thanked veterans for serving the country, expressing his appreciation for their commitment, drive, and patriotism. He particularly recognized those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the country.

FAFSA Campaign

President Rothman reported on the initial success of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) campaign, which encourages students to complete the FAFSA. He said the campaign launched October 1 and is the first step for students to gain access to the

Wisconsin Tuition Promise, which starts in the fall of 2023. In the first month of the campaign there have been more than 9,000 clicks on the FAFSA website. President Rothman said in addition to the advertising on social media sites like Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and TikTok, the campaign would expand to include advertising on streaming platforms like Spotify and Pandora. He said there are also plans to run ads on Wisconsin radio stations starting in mid-December.

President Rothman said the need for the FAFSA campaign stems from the low high-school senior completion rate and is part of the UW System's expanding effort to provide access to higher education to a broader population. He said the UW System's ability to enroll and graduate more people is a critical element to support the state's long-term economic prosperity.

Other Updates

President Rothman highlighted two award ceremonies taking place later in the day: the 2022 Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award and the 2022 P.B. Poorman Award for Outstanding Achievement on Behalf of LGBTQ+ People.

President Rothman said the UW System will recognize 13 recipients of the 2022 Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award. The award is an annual honor given to faculty, staff, students, and community members in recognition of their achievements in advancing equity and inclusion for people of color within the UW System as well as communities across the state.

The 2022 P.B. Poorman Award for Outstanding Achievement on Behalf of LGBTQ+ People will be given out to 12 recipients. President Rothman said it is an annual honor given to recognize those who have helped to create a safer and more inclusive climate for LGBTQ+ people. He noted the award celebrates the memory and legacy of Dr. Paula B. Poorman, a highly regarded faculty member of UW-Whitewater who was dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

Recognition of Special Accomplishments in the UW System

President Rothman congratulated Chancellor Gibson and UW-Stevens Point on receiving a state Workforce Innovation Grant for the Wisconsin Forestry Center at UW-Stevens Point. He said the grant funds a Forest Industry Workforce Recruitment and Development Initiative to be led by the university's Wisconsin Forestry Center in collaboration with industry, education, and economic development partners across the state. It is the largest state grant awarded to UW-Stevens Point in recent history.

President Rothman reported UW-Superior was recently awarded a \$2 million Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions grant. He congratulated Chancellor Wachter and UW-Superior, saying they will use the funds to provide professional development for faculty and staff to implement best practices related to advising and student success, as well as to implement fully the software platform Navigate as well as to fully implement the Navigate software platform.

The State Council on Affirmative Action chose UW-Stout as its winner of the 2022 Ann Lydecker Educational Diversity Award for the Stoutward Bound Program. President Rothman congratulated Chancellor Frank on the success of the Stoutward Bound Program, which is a learning and living community for Stout's first-year ethnic minority students and is designed to provide students with mentoring and connections to campus resources to help them be successful during their academic journey.

President Rothman congratulated Chancellor Gallo, from UW-River Falls, on receiving the NASPA Region IV-East President's Award. He noted NASPA, which stands for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, presents this honor to a college or university president or chancellor who has, over a sustained period of time, advanced the quality of student life on campus by supporting Student Affairs staff and initiatives.

President Rothman reported UW Oshkosh's biogas program announced a partnership with Agra Energy of Irvine, California. Together, they will break ground on Wisconsin's first commercial facility to turn dairy farm waste into renewable biofuel. President Rothman congratulated Chancellor Leavitt and UW Oshkosh on the partnership, additional research in sustainability, and the hands-on experience it will provide for students to learn about biogas systems.

President Rothman recognized Dr. Monica Kim, a UW-Madison historian, for being awarded a 2022 MacArthur Fellowship. He congratulated Dr. Kim and noted that three others who received MacArthur Fellowships this year had ties to UW-Madison.

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PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: "ADDRESSING CAMPUS ANTISEMITISM: AWARENESS, ALLYSHIP, ACTION"

[\[Recording: 00:19:13\]](#)

President Walsh introduced Mark Rotenberg, Vice President of University Initiative and Legal Affairs for Hillel International, and Greg Steinberger, President and CEO of UW Hillel. She welcomed them, saying they would be giving insight as to how higher education

institutions can better serve and accommodate students from various religious backgrounds. President Walsh noted that this is a part of UW System's continuing commitment to providing an inclusive and welcoming university environment for people to live, work, and study.

Mr. Rotenberg gave a brief history of Hillel International, which was founded at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1923, with the local chapter of Hillel at UW-Madison being founded in 1924. He said initially when Hillel was founded antisemitism was rampant in higher education, but it became less severe from around 1960 to the 2000s. Noting that antisemitic incidents in higher education started to rise again in 2013, he said Hillel's mission is now to be part of universities' commitment to fairness for all minority communities": "When equality and justice are not provided for one group, it will not be provided for another group."

Citing a statistic from a Hillel survey in 2021, Mr. Rotenberg said 41% of students do not know how to report an antisemitic incident when it occurs. He said universities have a responsibility to help students who experience antisemitism, or any kind of bias, know how to report it and the universities also need to understand what to do about it. Mr. Rotenberg reported there has been a 459% increase in antisemitic incidents in Wisconsin between 2015-2021. Mr. Steinberger said, "sentiments that may have been hidden previously have been normalized. Now it's a constant and regular thing."

To address the rise in antisemitic acts on campuses nationwide and a lack of awareness among the student population about how to report incidents, the UW System and UW-Madison are participating in Hillel International's Campus Climate Initiative (CCI). This program includes more than 40 campuses and uses assessment tools to measure climate; training and education for campus administrators and Hillel professionals; and action planning with campus leaders and administrators using cohort university best practices. Mr. Rotenberg also highlighted President Rothman's recent amendment to UW System Administrative Policy 165, "The Academic Calendar," which addresses how institutions should consult with available religious calendars to minimize academic calendar conflicts with religious holidays.

President Walsh expressed how hard it is to hear about the incidents that have taken place on campuses. She reiterated her and President Rothman's support for the participation in the Campus Climate Initiative as well as Hillel's work on campuses. President Walsh then asked about the estimated number of unreported incidents on campuses.

Mr. Rotenberg suggested some students may say they do not know how to report in order to mask an unwillingness or apprehension to report. He said an estimated 1,000 incidents on campuses every year go unreported.

President Rothman asked for suggestions on how the UW System can encourage or help students to report antisemitic incidents. Mr. Rotenberg said it is important for students to see universities explicitly addressing the incident which took place, which can help make it known to students that the university is listening and clearly responding to reported incidents.

Regent Rai expressed his desire to see the CCI learnings shared across all 13 UW System universities. He said this will help expand insights beyond the campus walls and educate the rest of the state of Wisconsin.

Regent Pasch asked about the cause of the drop in antisemitic incidents, which began in the 1960s. Mr. Rotenberg said after U.S. citizens began to understand the full magnitude of the Holocaust, it was particularly unacceptable to engage in antisemitic behavior in any form.

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The Board took a brief recess from 9:58 a.m. to 10:08 a.m.

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PANEL DISCUSSION: "SERVING STUDENTS WHO SERVED: HOW UW SYSTEM SUPPORTS STUDENT VETERANS"

[\[Recording: 00:57:47\]](#)

President Walsh introduced the panelists for the discussion on how the UW System universities serve student veterans: Joe Rasmussen, UW-Madison Director of University Veterans Services; Aaron Kloss, UW Oshkosh Veteran Benefit Coordinator with the Veterans Resource Center; Daniel McKearn, UW Oshkosh Student Association President and United States Marine Corps Sergeant; and Regent Jennifer Staton, a United States Army Veteran and student at UW-Parkside.

President Walsh noted Wisconsin has some of the most robust educational benefits in the country for military veterans and their families who wish to attend college during or after their service. She said the Wisconsin GI Bill provides additional support to the federal GI Bill.

Joe Rasmussen complimented the Wisconsin GI Bill, saying it is a fantastic program that provides opportunities to veterans and their families and is unmatched anywhere else. He explained that student veterans tend to come to campus at a time of major life transition. Mr. Rasmussen offered insight as an administrator, saying while the GI Bill has great benefits it is often difficult for veterans to navigate, and it is time consuming to administer. He expressed the importance of School Certifying Officials (SCOs) on campuses and their ability to assist veterans in getting the maximum benefits from the GI Bill.

Aaron Kloss said the needs of veterans and their families are constantly changing, so the services and programs offered should be evaluated to ensure they are getting the support they need.

Sgt. Daniel McKearn stressed the importance of supporting the Veterans Resource Centers. He said student veterans often have a very different life experience prior to coming to campus compared to other students, and the Veterans Resource Center is a place for them to find a community, support, and guidance during their transition.

Regent Staton said the strong collaboration between veterans' service centers, both inside and outside the UW-System, helped facilitate her smooth transition to UW-Parkside. She noted the value of having "subject experts" at campus veterans' centers to explain and coordinate GI benefits. Regent Staton said the SCOs on campus were instrumental in her transition and getting the maximum benefits from the GI Bill.

President Walsh asked Regent Staton to elaborate more on the importance of the relationship with SCOs. Regent Staton said they help to keep veterans informed of any changes to eligibility or benefits of the GI Bill.

President Walsh asked Mr. Kloss about the changes he and his office have to navigate. Mr. Kloss said the demographic they serve has changed from a majority of combat veterans to largely dependents and spouses using GI Benefits.

President Walsh asked Regent Staton about her experience with the helpful collaboration between Gateway Technical College and UW-Parkside. Regent Staton said there was a prior relationship between groups at each college, which was maintained and utilized to help guide veterans to resources they could benefit from.

Regen Pasch, a Vietnam Army veteran, asked Interim Chancellor Evetovich to speak more about an event taking place on the UW-Platteville campus the following day, Veterans Day.

Interim Chancellor Evetovich said a Vietnam Memorial was being unveiled to honor UW-Platteville students who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. She said a historian was involved in the project to ensure the accuracy of the names. President Walsh asked how the memorial project began. Chancellor Evetovich said an alumnus suggested the memorial and the project gained momentum with support from other alumni and faculty.

Regent Weatherly asked the panelists how the UW System can attract more veterans to move to Wisconsin. Mr. Rasmussen shared some of the barriers families face when looking to move to Wisconsin. He said residency status for in-state tuition is extremely complicated to gain. Additionally, the Wisconsin GI Bill is very generous to families on what it can provide, but Mr. Rasmussen said often families are not aware of the benefits they are eligible for.

Vice President Bogost asked what is being done in terms of outreach and education on the Wisconsin GI Bill for non-resident veterans to help them understand the benefits they could receive.

Mr. Rasmussen said many veterans do not start to look into their GI benefits in advance. He said earlier communications with military families could help ensure they are taking full advantage of the financial benefits of the GI Bill and other financial aid.

Regent Beightol suggested a legislative fix could help alleviate the complexity of gaining residency for veterans. He said a discussion in the future could be held on how the UW System targets and recruits the veteran population.

President Rothman asked Chancellor Mone to speak about a veteran's program at UW-Milwaukee. Chancellor Mone, who has more than 1,000 student veterans enrolled at UW-Milwaukee, said three factors are key to making campuses veteran-friendly: a focus on onboarding and continued support; developing a campus culture that is supportive of veterans; and helping veterans connect with the employment pipeline.

President Walsh asked Sgt. McKearn if he was ever given more information about college and military benefits during his service in the Marine Corps. Sgt. McKearn said brief information on benefits was given to him at the start of his service, but there was never a follow up. He said touring UW Oshkosh's Veterans Center made him more aware of the GI Bill and benefits available to him.

President Walsh asked about the outreach efforts currently being made to military service members and veterans. Mr. Rasmussen said if veterans are looking for information, it is available, but the UW System does not have a presence on military bases. Mr. Kloss said at

annual mandated trainings there are often recruiters or higher education representatives who talk about benefits. He emphasized the importance and credibility of word-of-mouth referrals from military families and how their satisfaction with UW System universities could bring in more military families.

Regent Weatherly asked for more information on the policies that make gaining residency difficult. He expressed interest in hearing from SCOs on best practices for attracting veterans to the UW System. President Walsh echoed her interest in learning more about those practices.

Chancellor Gow said word of mouth from student veterans about their experiences on campuses, as well as the support services available to veterans on campus, are what can attract more student veterans to the UW System.

Mr. Rasmussen mentioned that five UW System universities are participating in the Veterans Education to Workforce Affinity and Success Study (VETWAYS), an ongoing research study funded by the National Science Foundation, looking at the relationship between veterans' connectivity on campus and their workforce success.

Sgt. McKearn said universities could focus more on the visibility of their veterans services and resources, and ensuring veteran students are aware of them.

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PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: UW SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

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

President Rothman presented a second update on the UW System's strategic planning process. The final plan is expected to be presented for approval at the December 8-9, 2022 Board of Regents meeting.

President Rothman began by reiterating the two primary roles of UW System Administration: support, helping to leverage the strength of the UW System across all 13 universities; and stewardship, helping the Board of Regents maintain oversight of the UW System institutions.

President Rothman shared some results from a recent SWOT analysis. He said the UW System's current strengths are being student-focused and mission driven; having two R1 universities, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, and an internationally recognized flagship

institution; maintaining affordability in comparison to peer public universities; and providing services to business startups and entrepreneurs.

President Rothman noted some of the current challenges the UW System faces: declining enrollment; lack of proportional enrollment from historically underrepresented groups; below market compensation for faculty and staff; aging infrastructure; and a decline in state resources in support of higher education.

President Rothman said he believes the primary issue is that the UW System universities are not producing enough graduates to fill the needs of state employers. Speaking again about the “war for talent,” President Rothman said, “If we do not solve that issue, those jobs that people are looking to fill will be moved out of Wisconsin.”

President Rothman said since the initial presentation of the plan at the September Board of Regents meeting, the foundational elements – the UW System’s purpose and core values – have not changed. President Rothman reported a new major strategic objective had been added to the proposed plan focusing on the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, which ties closely to the university’s core research mission. He said the goal is to focus on the UW System being a global leader in research, scholarship, and creative activity, as well as knowledge dissemination that benefits society.

President Rothman outlined the four strategic objectives of the plan:

1. Enhancing the student experience in social mobility.
2. Fostering civic engagement and the public good.
3. Disseminating knowledge that contributes to innovation and a better understanding of the human condition.
4. Advancing economic prosperity.

President Rothman emphasized this is a Systemwide plan. He said the intent is to work with individual universities to connect the goals of the UW System plan to the goals set forth in each university’s strategic plan. He added that he expects different universities will contribute to the plan’s various objectives at different levels.

President Rothman highlighted a few of the strategies outlined in the plan, beginning with Strategy S1, “enhancing the student experience and social mobility.” He said success for this strategy would mean increasing access and improving rates of success for historically underserved populations, including low-income, first generation, and underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities.

Next, President Rothman expanded on Strategy S6, “creating and disseminating knowledge that contributes to innovation and a better understanding of the human condition.” He noted that the research mission of the UW System is as important as the teaching mission. President Rothman said, “We cannot separate the fact that we exist to create knowledge as much as to disseminate it through teaching, as well as through the publication of results of our research and scholarship.” He emphasized the importance of supporting UW-Milwaukee as an R1 institution and redoubling efforts in retaining UW-Madison’s status as a world-class institution. President Rothman recognized research is part of the mission of all 13 UW System universities and the research provides students with important high impact practices. He said a key indicator of success of this strategy would be an increase in research expenditures at universities across the UW System.

President Rothman said Strategy S8 focuses on supporting the universities to drive enrollment to meet the needs of the state. The success measure, he said, is an ambitious goal of graduating 41,000 students by the end of the 5-year plan. In order to achieve this, President Rothman said the overall graduation rate on a System-wide basis would need to increase. He noted the intent to better serve those who have started college but did not complete their degree, and to help them complete their academic journey and finish their degree. President Rothman said the initiatives will require the universities to adopt new innovative enrollment strategies, adding that UW System Administration will help them identify which initiatives will most likely meet their prospective students’ needs, and support them with resources and expertise.

President Walsh asked President Rothman to talk more about how the UW System’s strategic plan will work with the universities’ plans. President Rothman said each of the 13 universities’ strategic plans were used to inform the System plan. He said there is a lot of overlap between the university plans and the UW System plan, reiterating that he expects different universities will contribute to the plan’s various objectives at different levels. He emphasized his belief that the UW System is stronger as a collective whole and the plan is intended to drive collective strength while allowing for individual autonomy at the campus level.

Regent Underly asked how President Rothman envisioned meetings with stakeholder groups taking place and in what capacity Regents could participate in the meetings. President Rothman said he welcomed any feedback from Regents during or following the Board’s discussion.

Regent Rai requested more metrics on the expenses, and more guidance in the plan related to stewardship and expense reduction. President Rothman referred Regent Rai to Strategy S5, which went into more detail on measures of financial health, saying each

university would maintain a CFI of 1.1 or greater. He said the financial plan needed to encompass growth on the revenue side, but also be efficient and ensure the UW System is being a good steward of financial resources. President Rothman also mentioned evaluating the sustainability of two-year branch campuses in this regard.

Regent Atwell suggested removing ratios and instead using set target numbers to define success measures throughout the plan. President Rothman agreed with the merits of this suggestion.

Regent Atwell voiced his support for investing in the future of the state by investing in the UW System, but noted the difficulty in the current bipartisan environment. He asked for more definition in the plan about resource allocation. President Rothman acknowledged he did not further breakdown resource allocation within the plan, however he agreed the UW System would need to generate resources in addition to what is provided by the state. He said he hoped the strategic plan was a starting point to conversations as to why further investment in the UW System is essential to the long-term health of the state of Wisconsin.

Regent Weatherly asked whether the strategic plan will address what the System is going to stop doing, in order to prioritize the items highlighted in the plan. As an example, President Rothman said becoming a major online university is not something the UW System will pursue, but being efficient and thoughtful with investments would be the goal.

Regent Peterson expressed her concern for the lack of marketing to recruit prospective students, saying this could be part of the reason for the low enrollments seen recently. She also emphasized the opportunity two-year branch campuses provide to underserved populations and those with low socioeconomic backgrounds. She asked that recruitment efforts also focus on marketing the two-year campuses.

President Rothman said the lack of presence and marketing from the UW System could create the false perception that there is not value in a degree or continuing in higher education. He said the UW System could become more consumer oriented and easier to access for prospective students. President Rothman applauded the courage of students who seek out higher education when they may not be getting guidance or support from family members. He posed the question of how to reach first-generation students with the kind of marketing campaign Regent Peterson advocated for.

Regent Beightol echoed Regent Atwell's request for straightforward numbers, rather than ratios as measures of success. He asked for the inclusion of a metric on recruiting and serving veterans. He complimented President Rothman on the importance and incorporation of internships and other high impact practices in the plan.

Regent Beightol also asked for the plan to be more specific with respect to Strategy S5.9, regarding the future of two-year campuses. President Rothman reported that a task force was currently looking into the two-year branch campuses and noted the uniqueness of each campus. He said UW System Administration is working with the chancellors to identify the best direction for each two-year branch campus.

Regent Beightol also asked for the plan to include challenges the campuses are facing and details on resource allocation. He encouraged efforts to ease the transferability of credits between UW System universities. President Rothman remarked on the collaboration already taking place between UW System universities and applauded the chancellors on their work together.

Regent Beightol said the UW System should request an increase in investments from the state and private sector, including funding from foundations and federal grants and programs. He said the strategic plan should show the need for investment from those areas. Regent Beightol urged the Board of Regents to come together to chart the course for the state and be advocates for investing in its future.

Regent Underly echoed Regent Beightol's request for more collaboration with state government, specifically the Department of Workforce Development. She said this could help identify what areas have specific workforce needs and focus on getting graduates into those jobs. Regent Underly said the collaboration should also be happening with the tech colleges as well as K-12 schools, helping students identify pathways into professions that need to be filled. President Rothman agreed that more collaboration with state agencies and the tech colleges is needed. He said a team within System Administration has started to devise a plan which includes much of what Regent Underly requested. President Rothman also stressed the importance of four-year universities and the critical skills they teach to students.

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Regent Atwell left the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

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Asking what the Wisconsin Idea means in the digital age, Regent Weatherly said he wondered how the UW System can stay relevant and deliver education differently to meet students' needs. President Rothman agreed on the importance of meeting students where they are at and serving all types of students and degree seekers, with an emphasis on

retaining lifelong learners who may return for more knowledge in certain areas, but not seek a degree.

Regen Rai said the strategic plan serves as an advocacy document when rallying for support from state and local officials. He asked for a strong metric on the retention of high school graduates from the state of Wisconsin.

Regent Pasch noted his support of the plan and applauded the metrics included, which he said will help to provide measurable outcomes.

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The Board recessed for lunch from 11:59 a.m. to 1:01 p.m.

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

[\[Recording: 02:48:46\]](#)

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

Regent Beightol reported that the Business & Finance Committee approved a UW-Madison agreement with Transact Campus for its suite of hardware and software for the point-of-sale systems that support campus dining and retail operations. He said the committee also approved the addition of the Transact Campus project to the UW System Report on Strategic Plans for Major IT Projects, which had initially been approved by the Board in February.

Regent Beightol said the committee approved a UW-Milwaukee contract with Verizon Wireless, which allows the addition of equipment to the Kenilworth Building, and increases the license fee paid to UW-Milwaukee by \$2,600 with annual 3% increases.

Regent Beightol reported the Business & Finance Committee approved a proposal to change several Regent Policy Documents. He said the action rescinds RPDs 6-3 and 6-6, and combines the remaining relevant portions of those policies into RPD 20-21, "University Personnel Systems." The proposal also modifies RPD 6-5, and renumbers both that policy and RPD 6-4 to place all policies related to personnel in Section 20. He noted the most substantial change is the elimination of the current requirement that the Board review non-senior executive staff whose pay exceeds 75% of the System President's salary prior to authorizing recruitment, promotion, or pay adjustments. To maintain accountability and

transparency, the approved proposal provides that the approvals of salaries above that threshold will be delegated to the President or respective Chancellor and shall be reported to the System President on a quarterly basis and to the Board on an annual basis.

Regent Beightol said the Business & Finance Committee heard from Vice President Sean Nelson on the UW System Program Revenue Balances Report for fiscal year 2022, which was released publicly during the summer of 2022. Vice President Nelson reported the total unrestricted program revenue balances increased by \$125.6 million primarily as a result of two factors: the allocation of additional federal funding for COVID-19 relief, and the fact that many operation expenses remain below pre-pandemic levels. He said the overall balance represents a reduction of \$8 million since the inception of balance reporting in FY 2013 or, in inflation-adjusted dollars, a 21.2% reduction since that time. Vice President Nelson informed the committee that the balances are expected to continue to decline due to the one-time nature of the federal COVID-19 relief funds. Regent Beightol noted that nearly 86% of the unrestricted balance meets the Legislative Audit Bureau's definition of obligated or designated for a specific project or purpose.

Regent Beightol moved for the adoption of Resolutions 11931, 11932, 11933, 11934, and 11935.

President Walsh had previously recused herself from voting on Resolution 11933, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The motion was seconded by Regent Wachs and approved on a voice vote.

UW-Madison Contractual Agreement with Transact Campus, Inc.

Resolution 11931 That, upon the 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 agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Madison, and Transact Campus, Inc.

Amendment to UW System Report on Strategic Plans for Major Information Technology Projects

Resolution 11932 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the UW System, the Board of Regents approves the amendment to the UW System Report on Strategic Plans for Major Information Technology Projects.

UW-Milwaukee License Agreement with Verizon Wireless

Resolution 11933 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the license agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Milwaukee, and Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless.

Regent Policy Document Review: RPD 6-3, "Delegation of Authority to President for Personnel Actions", RPD 6-5, "Executive Salary Structure", RPD 6-6, "Delegation to System President", and RPD 20-21, "University Personnel Systems"

Resolution 11934 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the UW System Board of Regents rescinds RPD 6-3, "Delegation of Authority to President for Personnel Actions," and RPD 6-6, "Delegation to System President," and amends RPD 20-21, "University Personnel Systems," to retain still-relevant provisions from RPD 6-6. The Board of Regents further approves modification to RPD 6-5 "Executive Salary Structure" and renumbering RPD 6-4, "Selection Process for System President, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, and UW System Senior Leadership Positions," and RPD 6-5, "Executive Salary Structure" to RPD 20-27 and RPD 20-28, respectively.

Report on Program Revenue Balances by University and Level of Commitment Fiscal Year 2021-22

Resolution 11935 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the UW System report on the 2021-22 year-end program revenue balances as categorized by each university and the System as a whole. In so doing, the Board approves: (1) the multi-year spending plans for university balances above 12 percent of total year-end expenditures in Tuition, Auxiliary Operations, General Operations, or Other Unrestricted Program Revenue; and (2) the multi-year spending plan submitted by UW System Administration for the systemwide balances maintained for the System as a whole.

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REGENT COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND MEMORIALS

[\[Recording: 02:54:05\]](#)

President Walsh extended condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Carl Gulbrandsen, who passed away in October 2022. She said Mr. Gulbrandsen received his PhD in physiology and law degree from UW-Madison. President Walsh noted he was a staunch advocate for stem cell research, led the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation at a time when its endowment and research support significantly expanded, and helped grow UW-Madison's international research recognition.

Vice President Bogost congratulated Chancellor Mnookin and UW-Madison for receiving a designation as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University, from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). She said this award was based on UW-Madison's significant sustainable and campus-wide commitment to economic engagement.

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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 Underly and adopted on a roll call vote, with Regents Beightol, Manydeeds, Miller, Pasch, Peterson, Rai, Staton, Tucker, Underly, Wachs, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 11936 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: a) consider potential and pending litigation (*In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*, 4:20-cv-03919 CW in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California), as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats.; b) conduct public business with competitive and bargaining implications, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats.; c) consider a request from UW-Madison to approve a salary range, and to discuss search process and strategies, as permitted by ss. 19.85(1)(c) and (e), Wis. Stats.; d) consider personal histories related to UW-Madison honorary degree nominations, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; e) consider review of a UW-Madison student disciplinary decision, as permitted by ss. 19.85(1)(a), (f), and (g), Wis. Stats.; f) consider a faculty member request for review of a UW-Stout personnel-related decision, as

permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; g) deliberate regarding a recommendation for dismissal with cause of a UW-Stevens Point faculty member, as permitted by ss. 19.85(1)(a) and (b), Wis. Stats.; h) discuss ongoing personnel matters, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c) and (f), Wis. Stats.; and i) consider search process and strategies for a position at UW System Administration, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c) and (e), 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 Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 11937. The motion was seconded by Regent Wachs and approved on a voice vote.

Authorization to Recruit and Approval of a Salary Range for the UW-Madison Head Football Coach

Resolution 11937 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents authorizes the recruitment for the Head Football Coach position with a salary up to a maximum of \$8,000,000, as informed by market conditions.

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Regent Wachs moved for the adoption of Resolution 11938. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai and approved on a voice vote.

Review of a UW-Madison Student Disciplinary Decision

Resolution 11938 That the Board of Regents approves the attached Interim Order in the matter of the Board's review of a UW-Madison student disciplinary decision.

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Regent Beightol moved for the adoption of Resolution 11939. The motion was seconded by Regent Peterson and approved on a voice vote.

Request for Review of a UW-Stout Personnel-Related Decision

Resolution 11939 That the Board of Regents adopts the attached Decision and Order as the Board's final Decision and Order in the matter of a faculty member request for review of a UW-Stout personnel-related decision.

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Regent Beightol moved for the adoption of Resolution 11940. The motion was seconded by Regent Wachs and approved on a voice vote.

Adoption of Decision and Order in the Matter of a Recommendation for Dismissal of a UW-Stevens Point Faculty Member

Resolution 11940 That the Board of Regents adopts the attached Decision and Order as the Board's final decision and order of dismissal in the matter of Dr. Richard Brunson, UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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Submitted by:

/s/_____

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