

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 7, 2023**

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened from 8:45 am to 10:15 am in person and via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance were: Regents Weatherly, Prince, Brenkus, Miller, Tyler, Wachs, and Manydeeds. No Regent declared a conflict of interest regarding any of the items listed on the meeting agenda.

Item C. Proposed Consent Agenda: Given the number of agenda items to be covered during the meeting, the Chair requested a motion to move the following routine, non-controversial items to a consent agenda. Note: Items on a consent agenda may be acted upon by the committee in a single vote. Any Board Member may remove items from a consent agenda for separate discussion and consideration. The meeting agenda reflected the following three items on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the October 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes of the Education Committee
2. UW-Green Bay: Approval of an Education Doctorate in Applied Leadership
3. UW-La Crosse: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science
4. UW-Milwaukee: Approval of a Bachelor of Arts in General Letters
5. UW-Parkside: Approval of a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology
6. Approval of Appointment to the Oversight and Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Partnership Program

All items remained on the consent agenda. A motion to approve item C was made by Regent Tyler and seconded by Regent Manydeeds. The motion passed unanimously.

UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health: Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP). Presentation of the WPP Fiscal Year 2023 Report 2024-2029 Five-Year Plan. Dr. Amy Kind, the Associate Dean for Social Health Sciences and Programs at the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, presented the report and plan. In response to the presentation, Regent Prince asked about the WPP exploring other areas of the state to provide grants. Dr. Kind cited Marinette as rural region example, and that the grants require an academic partner, which can limit access in some areas. She also noted they have focused on smaller nonprofit partnerships this year. Regent Wachs suggested the program is a strong example of the Wisconsin Idea in action.

Discussion: Strategies and Support to Increase Student Retention

A panel presented including: 1) Ben Passmore, Associate Vice President of Research and Policy Analysis, UW Administration, who provided an overview of student retention across the Universities of Wisconsin compared with national averages, along with the negative impacts of COVID-19 ; 2) UW-Stevens Point Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs La Vonne Cornell-Swanson, Director for Diversity and College Access Dr. Samantha Samreth, and junior, media studies major Jermaine Evans; 3) UW-Milwaukee Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Andrew Daire, Professor, Director of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Nigel Rothfels, and junior, biological sciences major Rachel Kuehn; and 4) UW-Parkside Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Ducoffe, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Communication Dr. Theresa Castor, and student Alejandro Solis.

The discussion focused on student retention and key student success programs that support academic progression and persistence from admission through graduation. UW-Stevens Point described their LEAD bridge program, UW-Milwaukee explained their undergraduate research UR@UWM Program, and UW-Parkside highlighted their Work Based Learning program.

In response to the presentation, Regent Weatherly asked the students about their peers who did not persist and what might have changed outcomes. Students responded that the cost and a feeling of having too many things to do were challenges. UW-Milwaukee also cited a challenge in making advisors accessible during COVID-19, and that increasing capacity for advisors is a good investment because it pays for itself in increased student retention. Provost Ducoffe concurred, stating that efforts to create a sense of belonging are critical for student retention. Regent Weatherly also asked about access to high impact practices (HIPs) and tracking second-year student retention as a leading indicator. Vice President Britz stated that HIPs are a strategic priority, and UW-La Crosse Provost Betsy Morgan added that the kind of HIP that is most impactful will vary over the student experience. Provost Cornell-Swanson added that providing additional financial support so students can participate in HIPs without pressure to pursue outside employment would also help.

UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health: Wisconsin Partnership Program Approval of the WPP 2024-2029 Five-Year Plan.

A motion to approve item C was made by Regent Manydeeds and seconded by Regent Wachs. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.