

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

Thursday, February 9, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Union South
Varsity Hall II
1308 W. Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Walsh presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [February 9, 2023 Webcast](#)

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

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

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

Regent Héctor Colón joined the meeting after roll call at 1:04 p.m.

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Robert Atwell

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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."

No conflicts were declared.

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INTRODUCTION OF REGENT JOAN M. PRINCE

[\[Recording: 00:01:53\]](#)

President Walsh welcomed Regent Joan M. Prince to the Board of Regents, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Tracey Klein. Regent Prince holds four degrees from UW-Milwaukee, where she also served as the Vice Chancellor of Global Inclusion and Engagement and as an associate professor in biomedical sciences from 2000 to 2021. She is a Milwaukee native and the first African-American to hold undergraduate and graduate degrees in clinical laboratory medicine with a specialty in flow cytometry and hematology and a doctorate in medical science education from UW-Milwaukee. In 2012, Regent Prince was nominated by former President Obama to the U.N. General Assembly as a public delegate with the honorary rank of ambassador, where she worked closely with U.N. committees and related organizations. She also delivered policy statements on behalf of the United States regarding the education of women and girls, among other humanitarian issues. President Walsh said Regent Prince brings a wealth of experience and insights to the Board.

Regent Prince said it is a pleasure and honor to serve on the Board of Regents and be able to advocate for the hallmark institution in the state of Wisconsin. She said during discussions and disagreements it is important to remember the University of Wisconsin System gives hope to many, and is the step to education and the equalizer for all that pass through its doors.

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OTHER UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Rothman introduced Dr. Corey King as the incoming 18th Chancellor of UW-Whitewater. He said Dr. King was unanimously approved by the Board of Regents and will start his new role on March 1, 2023. Currently, Dr. King is the Vice Chancellor for Inclusivity and Student Affairs at UW-Green Bay. Prior to coming to Wisconsin, Dr. King served as Vice-President for Enrollment Management & Student Financial Services at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He previously was Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management at Florida Atlantic University and led the Council for Student Affairs of the State University System of Florida. Dr. King also held leadership positions at East Carolina University, Wheeling Jesuit University, and the University of Florida.

Dr. King said he was grateful for the opportunity to become the UW-Whitewater Chancellor and thanked President Rothman, the Board of Regents, and the Whitewater community for giving him the opportunity to serve. He said he is excited to join UW-Whitewater and hopes to continue to advance the Wisconsin Idea in the Whitewater community. Dr. King thanked

UW-Whitewater interim Chancellor John Chenoweth and interim Provost Robin Fox for their work and commitment.

President Rothman echoed Dr. King's thanks to interim Chancellor John Chenoweth for stepping up to lead UW-Whitewater during the transition period. President Rothman noted that interim Chancellor Chenoweth would continue his role as Provost when Dr. King assumes the Chancellor role on March 1, 2023.

President Rothman also acknowledged news from the previous week, that UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford had accepted a new opportunity to serve as the chancellor of Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana and would be leaving UW-Parkside after 13 years. He said Chancellor Ford will remain with UW-Parkside through the spring semester. President Rothman expressed that it is bittersweet to see an such an extraordinary leader leave the UW-System. He noted how articulate, thoughtful, and passionate Chancellor Ford is about her work and that her authenticity allowed her to connect with the UW-Parkside students and community like few others.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS

[\[Recording: 00:10:41\]](#)

Regent Bogost moved for the approval of the records of the June 9, 2022, Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee; December 8-9, 2023, meeting of the UW System Board of Regents; and the January 19, 2023, special meeting of the UW System Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Regent Wachs and approved on a voice vote.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:11:16\]](#)

Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

The January 2023 report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided. There were no comments or questions.

Update on Chancellor Search Processes

President Walsh noted again that Dr. Corey King was selected as the next Chancellor of UW-Whitewater, beginning his position on March 1, 2023. She welcomed him and said the

Board looks forward to working with him. President Walsh asked Vice President Bogost, as chair of the Search & Screen Committee, if she would like to make a comment on the search.

Vice President Bogost thanked her colleagues who served on the Search & Screen Committee for their hard work and gave a special thank you to Professor Lynn Gilbertson, Vice Chair, for her work and service on the committee. She said their decision was difficult, but the committee is very excited for Dr. King to join the UW-Whitewater community.

President Walsh echoed Vice President Bogost's thanks to those who served on the UW-Whitewater Search & Screen Committee.

President Walsh reported the UW-Platteville Search & Screen Committee recently met to consider applications and would be conducting semifinalist interviews with candidates the following week, on February 13-14, 2023. She said the committee is led by Regent Cris Peterson as chair and Professor Christina Curras as Vice Chair. Finalists in the UW-Platteville chancellor search will be invited to visit the campus in late March and President Walsh said she anticipated the Special Regent Committee, including Regents Beightol, Jones, Manydeeds, and Pasch, would recommend a candidate for the full Board's consideration later in the spring.

President Walsh announced that the Special Regent Committee for the UW-Parkside Chancellor Search would be chaired by Regent Kyle Weatherly, with Regents Héctor Colón, John Miller, Ashok Rai, and Jennifer Staton also serving. She reported President Rothman is working with members of shared governance at UW-Parkside to identify the full Search & Screen Committee to find a successor for Chancellor Ford.

President Walsh again thanked the Regents for their participation in the chancellor searches, noting the significant responsibility of deciding the next leaders of UW System universities.

Research in the Rotunda

President Walsh asked Regents to hold the date of March 9, 2023, for the 18th Annual Research in the Rotunda event. She said it is one of the UW System's signature events and a significant outreach effort. President Walsh said the event reflects a number of the key priorities in the UW System's Strategic Plan, including being a global leader in research, scholarship, and creative activity, as well as ensuring undergraduates get hands-on experience in finding solutions to problems.

President Walsh said the Research in the Rotunda event allows undergraduate student researchers and their faculty advisors the opportunity to share their research findings with

legislators, state leaders, UW alumni, and more. For the second year, President Walsh said, a brief video about the research will be featured on the Research in the Rotunda website.

President Walsh also reported UW-Eau Claire would be hosting the National Conference on Undergraduate Research on April 12-15, 2023. She said this event will bring about 4,000 college students and faculty members from across the country to the Chippewa Valley.

Preview: Regent Diversity Awards

In recognition of Black History Month, President Walsh reiterated the longstanding support of the Board for advancing greater diversity throughout the UW System and noted that the Board would be honoring recipients of the Regents' Diversity Awards the following day, February 10, 2023.

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REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:15:59\]](#)

2023-28 UW System Strategic Plan Updates

President Rothman reported tactical steps for the next six to nine months of the UW System's Strategic Plan have been defined. He highlighted several initiatives led by Johannes Britz, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, regarding dual enrollment, direct admissions, and international students, all of which have been recent topics of discussion by the Education Committee. He also reiterated the UW System's commitment to expanding access to students from underrepresented groups, noting the continued focus on the Wisconsin Tuition Promise. President Rothman said these initiatives will be critical to expanding Wisconsin's workforce and increasing social mobility.

Free Speech Survey & Civil Dialogue

In alignment with a key objective from the UW System's Strategic Plan, to "foster civic engagement and serve the public good," President Rothman commented on results from the UW System's recent survey of student attitudes on free speech and free expression. He said in the Fall of 2022 more than half of the entire UW System student body was invited to participate in the survey, which had an "impressive" response rate of 12.5%. He said the profile of the participating students generally paralleled that of the UW System student body, supporting the belief there was a solid, representative sample.

President Rothman reported that a special panel discussion was held at UW Oshkosh where two members of the legislature and two distinguished professors joined him to discuss the results and share ideas on how the UW System can foster freedom of expression and civil dialogue.

President Rothman noted three observations regarding the results of the survey. The first observation, unsurprisingly he said, is that the results reflected division politically, socially, economically, and culturally. President Rothman emphasized the universities should not widen the pre-existing divides among students but should offer ways to bridge them.

The second observation President Rothman shared was that the data obtained through the survey is invaluable. He said the data gives insight into the thinking of students, providing a roadmap for helping them understand the foundational principles of democracy. He also said this gives the UW universities an opportunity to serve as leaders in helping bridge the political, social, economic, and cultural divides.

President Rothman said the third and final observation was the most important. He reported that the results showed students feel faculty and instructors are doing a good job facilitating robust discussion in the classroom, even if students do not always feel comfortable sharing their own opinions. President Rothman expressed his thanks to the faculty and instructors for facilitating student learning.

President Rothman said it is important to acknowledge some students at UW System universities do not feel comfortable sharing their views in class or on campus, and that the UW System needs to create a culture that more openly values free expression. In addition, President Rothman said the UW System needs to make sure students understand their rights under the First Amendment. President Rothman said he has asked the new Wisconsin Institute for Citizenship and Civil Dialogue to identify best practices across universities and share them across the UW System, and has also asked university leaders to review their institution's public engagement around the issues of free speech and free expression.

Finally, President Rothman shared he has begun meeting with students on campus in order to facilitate civil dialogue as part of the "It's Just Coffee" events being held across the UW System. He said this series was inspired by an initiative of the same name organized by a UW-Madison student. President Rothman noted the engagement of the students who participated in the first event at UW Oshkosh, saying it is clear they have empathy for their fellow classmates.

Legislative Updates

President Rothman said as part of the UW System's commitment to building strong relationships with key stakeholders, including the legislature and business community, a series of meetings with state legislators from both sides of the aisle has been initiated.

In anticipation of Governor Evers' budget address the following week, President Rothman said he had been meeting with state legislators to discuss how the UW System's five-year strategic plan supports the Board of Regents' budget request. He also noted that he recently had opportunities to meet with Amy Pechacek, the Department of Workforce Development Secretary-designee and the Waukesha County Business Alliance, focusing on workforce development; Senator Tammy Baldwin, to discuss the CHIPS Act; and Congressman Derrick Van Orden, whose district encompasses six of the UW System universities.

UW-Platteville Richland Update

President Rothman reported the university is continuing to follow the process laid out in his letter to the Chair of the Richland County Board of Supervisors . He said UW-Platteville has presented a thoughtful plan to transition the in-person academic instruction at Richland, with financial support for the students impacted by the decision. President Rothman the UW System is engaging Richland County on use of the campus facilities moving forward, which may include reskilling and upskilling for adult learners as well as other academic opportunities.

Other Updates

President Rothman congratulated UW-Stevens Point and Chancellor Gibson on receiving a \$10 million gift from Sentry Insurance Foundation. He said this gift will significantly expand opportunities for the business students and have an impact that will affect the entire region. President Rothman also noted the change in the name of the School of Business & Economics to the Sentry School of Business & Economics, to recognize the support of Sentry Insurance Foundation.

President Rothman said Mai See Thao, Hmong Studies Director at UW Oshkosh, was recently named an emerging scholar by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. In creating and expanding the Hmong Studies program, President Rothman said Dr. Thao is providing much needed curriculum to serve the region as well as positioning UWO as a national leader in the field of Hmong Studies. He congratulated Dr. Thao and Chancellor Leavitt on the significant recognition.

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HOST-CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-MADISON CHANCELLOR JENNIFER MNOOKIN: “UW-MADISON: ENHANCING EXCELLENCE, OVERCOMING OBSTACLES, AND PURSUING PARTNERSHIPS”

[\[Recording: 00:32:25\]](#)

President Walsh invited Jennifer Mnookin, UW-Madison Chancellor, to present to the Board.

Chancellor Mnookin highlighted some of UW-Madison’s recent successes. She said UW-Madison’s freshman class of 2022-23 was the largest and most racially diverse freshman class in UW-Madison history. In addition, the total number of applicants for the Fall 2023 freshman class exceeded 60,000, a record high. Chancellor Mnookin said in the last year UW-Madison has welcomed 168 new faculty members, the second highest amount in more than a decade.

Chancellor Mnookin noted UW-Madison’s work in research and their partnerships with industry, government, and other academic institutions. Specifically, Chancellor Mnookin highlighted the \$10 million grant from the Department of Defense for the Physics-based Neutralization of Threats to Human Tissues and Organs (PANTHER) project.

Chancellor Mnookin said UW-Madison faces obstacles in five key areas that need to be overcome to maintain, and build on, its excellence, including modernizing aging facilities; ensuring students can thrive as learners and community members; growing research further through more expansive partnerships and greater engagement with industry; and advocating for increased state investment and flexibilities that will allow the state’s flagship university to operate more efficiently and effectively.

Chancellor Mnookin announced Bucky’s Pell Pathway, a new program to provide UW-Madison’s Pell-eligible, Wisconsin resident students a pathway to complete their four-year degree without needing to take on debt. Explaining that Bucky’s Pell Pathway builds on Bucky’s Tuition Promise by covering all remaining expenses and fees, she noted the program will be funded by institutional, private, and external sources, and that no state or tax dollars will be used. She said the university expects more than 800 incoming students will be eligible in the upcoming year. Chancellor Mnookin said Bucky’s Pell Pathway is an important additional step in creating opportunities and access for students all across Wisconsin. Chancellor Mnookin also announced the eligibility threshold for household

income for Bucky's Tuition Promise will be raised from \$60,000 to \$65,000, helping more Wisconsin students qualify.

Regent Beightol thanked Chancellor Mnookin for her vision and positive approach to finding solutions. He said a great deal of gratitude was owed to those who put together Bucky's Pell Pathway and that the program will help open the door for many students.

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STRATEGIC FOCUS: UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF WISCONSIN AND HOW THE UW SYSTEM CAN PROVIDE A STRONG TALENT PIPELINE

[\[Recording: 01:25:22\]](#)

President Walsh asked Ben Passmore, Associate Vice President of Policy Analysis and Research, to present on the success of UW students after graduation, the future workforce needs of Wisconsin, and how the UW System can provide a strong talent pipeline.

Dr. Passmore said data indicates UW students are generally satisfied with their educational experience and how it has prepared them for the workforce. He said UW System bachelor's degree-holders consistently have post-graduation earnings that outpace Wisconsin's median annual earnings, even one year after graduation, and that the data also shows regular career progression.

Dr. Passmore said data shows almost 87% of UW graduates have full-time employment since earning their degree and about 73% of UW System graduates say their bachelor's degree helped prepare them for their career. That number is slightly ahead of the national average, which is 72%. Dr. Passmore said according to about 56% of UW graduates, one area universities could provide more help is understanding career opportunities. While the UW System institutions are not doing worse than anyone else in that area, Dr. Passmore said he thinks there is still room for improvement.

Dr. Passmore said the UW System is making education more affordable, providing proactive student support and high-impact practices, and developing academic programs that meet the interests and demands of both students and employers. He also highlighted an important statistic: nearly 90% of Wisconsin resident UW graduates remain in Wisconsin five years after graduation.

Dr. Passmore said one focus for the UW System is developing academic programs that will help students get into careers where they can be successful and also meet workforce

needs in the state. He provided data showing the gap between demand and supply of engineers in Wisconsin as one example, explaining that the UW System universities have access to labor market analytics which help predict the demand of jobs in specified regions. Dr. Passmore noted that all jobs in the state of Wisconsin that require a bachelor's degree now have data available to analyze through the statistics database developed by UW System for the benefit of the UW System universities.

President Walsh asked Dr. Passmore about the drop in demand for engineers in Wisconsin after 2019, as shown on one slide. Dr. Passmore said the pandemic caused the drop in demand, which has since started to recover.

Regent Wachs said the data showed the functional value of education. He also noted the apparent growth in local economies where engineering or other science schools are present. Dr. Passmore noted the expansion of engineering programs over the last decade has led to a substantial increase in the number of graduates in the state.

President Walsh asked if statistical information was available comparing the retention rate of graduates in areas where high demand programs such as engineering colleges are present. Dr. Passmore said it is not available at this time, but that working with recent Census data will allow the UW System to see if more graduates from specific universities are being retained in the state.

Remarking on one of Dr. Passmore's slides about graduate's career preparation, Regent Bogost asked whether there is information to help understand why only 56% of UW graduates agreed that their institution helped them understand career opportunities. Dr. Passmore said it is not clear from survey data and may be something that Career Services divisions may want to further explore. Asked whether a lack of resources might be contributing to the issue, Dr. Passmore noted that student services staff have been stretched thin across the UW System.

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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR REGENT EMERITUS ANDREW S. PETERSEN'S SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

[\[Recording: 01:52:34\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Regent Beightol to introduce the resolution of appreciation for Regent Emeritus Andrew S. Peterson's service on the UW System Board of Regents.

Regent Beightol remarked on how Regent Petersen's career in state government contributed to his great leadership as Board President and Vice President. He said Regent Petersen has always loved the Wisconsin Idea and believes strongly in the transformational public education experience.

Regent Beightol also conveyed remarks on behalf of former Governor and former UW-System President Tommy Thompson, who said he treasured Regent Petersen's wisdom and counsel when they worked together in Washington D.C. as well as during their time working together in the UW System.

Regent Beightol then read aloud the Board's resolution of appreciation, which was adopted by acclamation.

Resolution of Appreciation for Regent Andrew S. Petersen's Service to the University of Wisconsin System

Resolution 11976 WHEREAS, Andrew S. "Drew" Petersen has served the citizens of Wisconsin with distinguished leadership during his nine years on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, serving as an ex officio member from 2013 to 2015 – while president of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board of Directors – and then as a gubernatorial appointment for a seven-year term, including two years as Board of Regents president (2019 to 2021) and two years as vice president (2017 to 2019); and

WHEREAS, Drew vice chaired and served on numerous standing committees, including the Education Committee; the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee; and the Audit Committee, and additionally chaired the Administrative Hiring Practices Work Group in 2017 and served on the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority Board; and

WHEREAS, Drew has recognized the important role played by UW educators, academic staff, and university staff in supporting student success for all student populations as a member of the Academic Staff Excellence Awards Committee, the Diversity Awards Committee, and the inaugural University Staff Excellence Committee; and

WHEREAS, Drew served on three chancellor search committees, serving twice on a UW-Whitewater Special Regent Committee and chairing the 2014 UW-Stout Special Regent Committee; and

WHEREAS, Drew served on the 2019-20 UW System Presidential Search Committee and appointed Interim System President Tommy Thompson, whom the Board recognized in February 2022 for his outstanding leadership and service throughout the pandemic by voting unanimously to remove the interim designation for the final month of President Thompson's service; and

WHEREAS, Drew is a proud alumnus of UW-Madison's School of Business, where he earned his Master of Business Administration, and his professional and community leadership includes serving as an at-large member of the American Cable Association Board of Directors and Director for Park Bank, the longest-serving community bank and financial institution in Madison, as well as serving as past president of the Madison Club and the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Drew focused on three priorities leading the Board – advocating for private and public investment in the UW System, increasing student internship opportunities, and enhancing mental and behavioral health services for students – to support what he called “one of the most impressive institutions of higher education in the nation and the world,” with world-class faculty and staff making groundbreaking research, remarkable discoveries, and changing lives every day;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that on behalf of the citizens of the state and a grateful university community, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents highly commends Andrew S. Petersen for his leadership and achievements as president, as vice president, and as a member of the UW System Board of Regents.

Regent Petersen said the UW System is one of the most important economic engines in the state of Wisconsin. He said he was proud of how the UW System and its universities successfully navigated the pandemic with significant help from federal dollars, while also making the case for investing more aggressively in supporting student mental health. Regent Petersen said the Board responded actively and swiftly to address those challenges.

Regent Petersen said, “Looking back at the last three years and what we’ve done as a board and as a leading higher education institution, it has been remarkable.” He highlighted

prioritizing high impact practices for students, such as internships, co-ops, undergraduate research, and studying abroad in order to ensure they are more career ready. Regent Petersen urged the Regents to continue advocating for more support for the UW System and to work with the business community to convince legislators to demand meaningful investments in the university. He said, "The UW System is one of the best investments policymakers can make."

Regent Petersen thanked former Governor Scott Walker for his appointment to the Board of Regents, as well as current Governor Tony Evers for his commitment to education. He also thanked Chancellors and Provosts for their innovative leadership and commitment, as well as various UW System Administration staff for their work in support of the Board and the UW System.

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CLOSED SESSION

[\[Recording: 02:14:08\]](#)

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, Bogost, Colón, Jones, Miller, Pasch, Peterson, Prince, Rai, Tucker, Underly, Wachs, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 11977 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: a) consider personal histories related to a UW-Madison honorary degree nomination and policy waiver request, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; and b) consider personal histories related to UW-Milwaukee honorary degree nominations, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.

Regents Adams, Manydeeds, and Staton, who had each briefly stepped away from the meeting, rejoined following the roll call vote.

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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 Manydeeds moved for the adoption of Resolution 11978. The motion was seconded by Regent Peterson and approved on a voice vote.

UW-Madison Request for an Exception to RPD 4-20, "Honorary Doctorate Degrees"

Resolution 11978 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System and the Chancellor of UW-Madison, the Board of Regents approves an exception to RPD 4-20 to allow for the presentation of an honorary doctorate degree remotely or *in absentia* to a prospective recipient at UW-Madison's Spring 2023 commencement.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 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