

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

Thursday, June 8, 2023  
1:00 p.m.

UW-Milwaukee  
Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts  
Helen Bader Concert Hall (Room 220)  
2419 E. Kenwood Boulevard  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

-President Walsh presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [June 8, 2023 Webcast](#)

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## **CALLING OF THE ROLL**

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

PRESENT: Regents Angela Adams, Robert Atwell, Amy Bogost, Evan Brenkus, Héctor Colón, Mike Jones, Jim Kreuser, John Miller, Cris Peterson, Joan Prince, Ashok Rai, Jennifer Staton, Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Dana Wachs, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Edmund Manydeeds

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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 NEWLY APPOINTED REGENTS

[\[Recording: 00:01:10\]](#)

President Walsh introduced the new members of the UW System Board of Regents, appointed in May by Governor Tony Evers.

First, President Walsh welcomed Regent Jim Kreuser. She said Regent Kreuser comes to the Board with more than three decades of experience in public service, having served as Kenosha County Executive for 14 years and having represented Kenosha in the Wisconsin State Assembly for 15 years. A first-generation college student, Regent Kreuser earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration from UW-Parkside. While at UW-Parkside he also interned for then-Kenosha County Executive John Collins and was hired as a full-time administrative assistant in the County Executive's Office after earning his master's degree in public administration.

Regent Kreuser thanked Governor Evers for appointing him to the Board, saying it is an honor to serve the state and to serve alongside such a distinguished group of people. He noted the importance of the work the Board does. Regent Kreuser emphasized the impact UW-Parkside had on his life as a first-generation student and the opportunities his education provided.

President Walsh introduced Regent Evan Brenkus, a traditional student from UW-Green Bay pursuing a major in First Nations Studies and a minor in Mathematics. She said Regent Brenkus currently is working under contract at the Oneida Nation's Oneida Language Immersion School and is also involved on the UW-Green Bay campus in the Student Government Association, Intertribal Student Council, and the Mathematics Club.

Regent Brenkus expressed his gratitude for the appointment and thanked everyone for their warm welcome to the Board.

President Walsh noted Regent Rodney Pasch recently completed his term on the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) board and has therefore also stepped down from the UW System Board of Regents. She said WTCS Board Vice President Mark Tyler, who has twice before served on the Board of Regents as the WTCS representative, would attend Board of Regents meetings until the WTCS election takes place in July. President Walsh said in addition to serving on the WTCS Board as a member and past president, Regent Tyler is a founder and chairman of OEM Fabricators, Inc., a contract manufacturer in western Wisconsin.

Regent Tyler thanked everyone for their warm welcome and said he looks forward to working together during the June and July 2023 Board meetings.

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## OTHER UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Rothman welcomed Chancellor Tammy Evetovich, UW-Platteville's 15<sup>th</sup> Chancellor. He said Chancellor Evetovich served as interim Chancellor of UW-Platteville from June 2022 until April 2023, when she was unanimously approved by the Board of Regents as the UW-Platteville Chancellor. President Rothman said previously Chancellor Evetovich served as Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at UW-Platteville.

Chancellor Evetovich said she was grateful for the opportunity to lead UW-Platteville and thanked her colleagues and the Regents for their support while she was serving as interim chancellor.

President Rothman introduced Scott Menke, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, who will serve as interim Chancellor of UW-Parkside following the departure of Chancellor Debbie Ford. He said Vice Chancellor Menke has been a part of UW-Parkside since 2004 and served as Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration since June 2018. President Rothman said Sheronda Glass, UW-Parkside's Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, will assume Vice Chancellor Menke's responsibilities during the transition.

President Rothman noted that Chancellor Ford would formally be recognized by the Board later in the meeting, but said he wanted to express his personal thanks to her for her passion for student success, mentorship, optimism, and friendship.

President Rothman recognized the meeting as the last for UW Oshkosh Provost John Koker, who is retiring after 32 years of service, and thanked him for his service and dedication. President Rothman said Edwin Martini will start as the new UW Oshkosh Provost in July.

President Rothman welcomed Eric Wilcots, UW-Madison interim Provost, who is serving in the position after John Karl Scholz's departure, until incoming Provost Charles Lee Isbell Jr. assumes the position on August 1, 2023.

Finally, President Rothman introduced Andrew Daire as UW-Milwaukee's new Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He also thanked Scott Gronert for serving as interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs during the transition.

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## **APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS**

[\[Recording: 00:15:58\]](#)

Regent Rai moved for the approval of the records of the March 30-31, 2023 meeting of the UW System Board of Regents, the April 25, 2023 special meeting of the Board of Regents, and the May 1, 2023 meeting of the UW System Board of Regents Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Regent Bogost and approved by general consent.

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## **REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

[\[Recording: 00:15:32\]](#)

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

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

### **Update on the UW-Parkside Chancellor Search Process**

President Walsh said the UW-Parkside Chancellor Search & Screen Committee, led by Regent Kyle Weatherly as Chair and Professor Adrienne Viramontes as Vice Chair, held a series of listening sessions in April for students, faculty, staff, and community members to share input on what qualities and characteristics the committee should consider when reviewing candidates. President Walsh emphasized the importance of the listening sessions and their contribution to a smooth and engaging search process.

President Walsh said the deadline for applications to receive full consideration was May 31, 2023. She said the Search & Screen Committee met on June 7, 2023 to begin their review of applicants, and will hold semifinalist interviews later in the summer. The search is expected to conclude in early Fall of 2023. Other members of the Board involved in the search include Regents Héctor Colón, John Miller, Ashok Rai, and Jennifer Staton.

### **Regents Business Partnership Award Update**

President Walsh said that Regent Business Partnership Awards were presented to UW-Eau Claire and Mayo Clinic Health System in Northwest Wisconsin in April. Since a research collaboration agreement was signed in 2017, UW-Eau Claire students, faculty, and staff have worked on more than 40 collaborative projects with Mayo's physicians and scientists. Students have also had the invaluable opportunity to take part in clinical rotations and observation experiences at Mayo Clinic Health System.

President Walsh said Regents Business Partnership Awards were presented in May to UW-Platteville and Neenah-based Plexus Corp., in recognition of their multiple collaborative ventures. Plexus Corp. is a global leader in complex product design, supply chain, manufacturing and sustaining services. President Walsh said the company is a frequent senior design partner in mechanical engineering and electrical engineering student projects at UW-Platteville and that dozens of UW-Platteville students currently work at Plexus.

President Walsh said the latest Regents Business Partnership Awards presentation took place on June 7, 2023 in Milwaukee and recognized the long-time collaborations between UW-Milwaukee and WEC Group (WE Energies). WE Energies has partnered with UWM for nearly half a century and is the university's top corporate donor with than \$11.4 million in contributions. President Walsh said there are currently 234 UW-Milwaukee graduates working at the company, and noted WE Energies' support of the Moon Shot for Equity initiative, which helps remove barriers to students completing college degrees. President Walsh congratulated Chancellor Mone, the UW-Milwaukee campus community, and WE Energies for working together to build a better Wisconsin.

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## **REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT**

[\[Recording: 00:21:22\]](#)

### **Strategic Plan Updates**

President Rothman said an in-depth update on the progress of the strategic plan would be provided at the next Board meeting, July 6-7, 2023, by Vice Presidents Johannes Britz, Jeff Buhrandt, and Sean Nelson.

President Rothman noted the ambitious goal of increasing by 10% the annual number of graduates from UW System universities by 2028. He said this goal will help aid Wisconsin in winning the war for talent. President Rothman said in order for Wisconsin to be successful, UW universities must play a large role in addressing the talent shortfall and graduate more students to fill jobs.

President Rothman expressed the importance of increased investment in the UW System in order to ensure Wisconsin remains positioned to compete successfully and thrive in a global knowledge economy.

## **Legislative and Other Updates**

President Rothman reported the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance approved several UW System facilities in the capital budget request, including projects at UW-Eau Claire, UW Oshkosh, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Stout. He noted UW-Madison's engineering building, which was the UW System's top priority, was not among the approved requests. President Rothman said investing in the UW-Madison engineering facility will help to address a crucial workforce shortage, and that the UW System will continue to support and promote the project.

## **UW System Accomplishments**

President Rothman said celebrations for 23,000 new graduates took place during the last several weeks. He noted that one in three freshmen at UW universities are first-generation students.

President Rothman congratulated UW-River Falls on recent victories in national agriculture competitions. The UW-River Falls team won the agricultural economics event at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Student Judging Contest and UW-River Falls also claimed the top four individual spots. Additionally, UW-River Falls' soil judging team competing at the same event also took first in both the team and individual contests. President Rothman said UW-River Falls earned top national honors at the annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. He congratulated Chancellor Gallo and the entire UW-River Falls campus community.

President Rothman congratulated Alex Roe, Senior Associate Vice President for Capital Planning & Budget, for earning the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Director's Award for 2023 for making the advancement of sustainability a priority at UW universities. He shared a quote from the letter announcing her award: "We are grateful to have you as a leader in Wisconsin and an example to higher education authorities across the country."

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## **HOST-CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-MILWAUKEE CHANCELLOR MARK MONE: "PROVIDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS"**

[\[Recording: 00:36:32\]](#)

President Walsh invited Mark Mone, UW-Milwaukee Chancellor, to present to the Board.

Chancellor Mone shared how UW-Milwaukee's community partnerships are producing powerful results. He said the key goals of the partnerships include addressing the state's



workforce shortage and boosting the economy while closing the gaps in educational attainment.

Chancellor Mone highlighted the need to produce enough graduates to fill the 100,000-plus jobs that will require a college degree in the coming years. He said part of the solution is reducing the graduation rate gap between students who are white and students who are Black or Hispanic. Chancellor Mone added that accomplishing the set goals will not only lift people out of poverty, but also dramatically extend their life expectancies.

The Board heard from a panel of representatives from five area organizations with which UW-Milwaukee is engaged: M<sup>3</sup>, the Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA), Moon Shot for Equity, the Hispanic Collaborative, and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce. The panelists included Dr. Keith Posley, superintendent for Milwaukee Public Schools; Dr. Mohammad Dakwar, Milwaukee Area Technical College Vice President of Learning; Dr. Debbie Ford, UW-Parkside Chancellor; Nancy Hernandez, Hispanic Collaborative President; and Tim Sheehy, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce President.

Chancellor Mone said the groups the panelists represent collaborate on providing resources and conducting research into best practices that remove obstacles and close the racial achievement gaps in education at various levels. The panelists shared how they are better preparing students of color for higher education, improving college retention of students, and diversifying the workforce. They said the efforts not only improve the economic prospects of students, but also help fuel the talent pipeline that Wisconsin employers rely upon.

Regent Colón asked about the measures used to determine the elimination of the equity gap. Dr. Dakwar said his hope would be for an inability to compare the socioeconomics of group populations.

Regent Prince thanked the panelists for the work they have done in their communities. She asked if there was work being done focusing on Pre-K children, ages 2-5. Dr. Posley said there is an initiative looking at trends and tracking progress for children from birth to third grade, and looking to ensure their success.

Regent Jones asked if the recent growth in the Milwaukee area over the last five to ten years has helped create opportunities for the middle class. Mr. Sheehy said the companies who have invested in development in the Milwaukee area invest because they can locally develop, grow, and recruit the talent they need and believe in the universities in the area.

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The Board took a brief recess from 2:42 p.m. to 2:54 p.m.

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## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR FORMER STATE SENATOR ALBERTA DARLING'S SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM**

[\[Recording: 01:41:02\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Regent Cris Peterson to introduce the resolution of appreciation for former State Senator Alberta Darling's service and support of the University of Wisconsin System. Regent Peterson read aloud the Board's resolution of appreciation, which was adopted by acclamation.

### Resolution of Appreciation for Former State Senator Alberta Darling's Service to the University of Wisconsin System

Resolution 12023      Whereas, Alberta Darling has been a tireless advocate and partner for the University of Wisconsin System for more than 30 years; and

Whereas, her passion for education led to her obtaining a degree in secondary education from UW-Madison and beginning her professional career as a teacher; and

Whereas, she was first elected to the State Assembly in 1990 and to the State Senate in 1992; and

Whereas, Alberta has served in numerous leadership capacities in the legislature, including as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, as a member of the Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges, and as the state's longest-serving woman to co-chair the Joint Committee on Finance; and

Whereas, her commitment to providing all Wisconsin students with the opportunity to pursue higher education motivated her co-authorship of legislation creating the state's successful college savings program, which she continued to guide in her role as a Board member and past Chair; and

Whereas, her record of bipartisanship is well known and appreciated in both parties and both houses of the legislature;

Be it therefore resolved that the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents offers its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Alberta Darling for her service, advocacy, and leadership on higher education policy; and

Be it further resolved that the Board of Regents wishes Alberta Darling continued success and happiness in the next chapter of her life as she devotes more time with her loving family and friends.

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## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR REGENT EMERITUS SCOTT BEIGHTOL'S SERVICE ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS**

[\[Recording: 01:43:57\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Regent Bob Atwell to introduce the resolution of appreciation for Regent Scott Beightol's service on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents.

Regent Atwell said Regent Beightol listens to, respects, and is influenced by the diversity of the people he encounters, adding that Regent Beightol's diligence and judicious temperament will be missed by the members of the Board. He noted Regent Beightol's knowledge and understanding of the large volume of material that comes through the Board, and recognized Regent Beightol's ability to see the human side of the work. Regent Atwell thanked Regent Beightol for his time and contributions to the UW System.

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

### Resolution of Appreciation for Regent Emeritus Scott Beightol's Service on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents

Resolution 12024      WHEREAS, Scott Beightol has served the citizens of Wisconsin with distinguished leadership during his four-and-a-half years on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents from 2018 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, Scott was a staunch supporter of President Rothman's 2023-28 Strategic Plan and championed advancing excellence, affordability, and accessibility for UW students while retaining faculty

and staff talent and enabling the UW System to use taxpayer dollars and other resources as efficiently as possible for an excellent return on investment for UW students and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Scott showed his commitment to the UW System's tradition of sound stewardship and financial preparedness through his service as chair and vice chair of the Business and Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, Scott served on numerous other standing committees, including Capital Planning and Budget; Personnel Matters Review (serving four years as chair); Student Discipline and Other Student Appeals; and the Special Regent Committee on Governance Issues, and additionally served as the Regent member of the Hospital Authority Board and the liaison to the Association of Governing Boards; and

WHEREAS, Scott chaired the chancellor search committee for UW-River Falls, served on chancellor search committees for UW-Green Bay and UW-Platteville, and served on the Special Regent Committee for the 2021–22 UW System Presidential Search; and

WHEREAS, Scott served on the Academic Staff Excellence Awards Committee to shine a spotlight on the exceptional contributions academic staff make to student success and served two years on the University Staff Excellence Awards Committee to recognize exceptional performance among the UW System's more than 8,000 university staff in support of student success; and

WHEREAS, Scott can personally attest to the quality of a UW education, having earned his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, which prepared him for an accomplished career as an attorney complemented by a lifetime of civic engagement, as he generously donates his time and skills through serving on community boards and as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce National Public Affairs Committee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents commends Regent Scott Beightol for his achievements as a member of the UW Board of Regents.

Regent Beightol thanked Governor Walked for appointing him to the Board and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity. He said the collegial manner in which Board members

worked together despite often different perspectives is very unique, and urged them to “honor it, foster it, and protect it.”

Regent Beightol urged the Regents, System leadership, and Chancellors to address revenue streams, grow enrollment, and increase partnerships with businesses and industry who want access to UW System facilities and students. He also called for enhanced support for both of the UW System’s R-1 universities, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, and asked for continued advocacy for bonding authority and support for the Wisconsin Tuition Promise. Regent Beightol said, “Let’s ensure access to public education and all that it unlocks for anyone in Wisconsin that wants the opportunity.”

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## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR UW-PARKSIDE CHANCELLOR DEBORAH FORD’S SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM**

[\[Recording: 02:08:03\]](#)

President Walsh announced that the Board voted in April to confer the status of Chancellor Emeritus on Debbie Ford, in recognition of her many contributions to UW-Parkside and the UW System. She then invited former interim UW System President and Regent Emeritus Mike Falbo to speak.

Regent Emeritus Falbo said Chancellor Ford positively impacted UW-Parkside and the entire UW System through her community engagement and partnership as well as her interactions with students. He thanked her for all of her contributions to the UW System and Wisconsin.

President Walsh called upon Regent Jennifer Staton to introduce the resolution of appreciation for Chancellor Debbie Ford’s service to the University of Wisconsin System.

Regent Staton thanked Chancellor Ford for her guidance and support as a Regent and on campus as a student. She then read aloud the Board’s resolution of appreciation, which was adopted by acclamation.

### Resolution of Appreciation for UW-Parkside Chancellor Deborah Ford’s Service to the University of Wisconsin System

Resolution 12025      WHEREAS, Deborah L. “Debbie” Ford dedicated more than 13 years of service as the sixth Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, from 2009 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, Debbie emphasized all that makes UW-Parkside an inclusive learning community that inspires achievement, as she championed UW-Parkside's vision to be a premier regional university transforming lives, achieving sustainable growth, and advancing economic strength through community engagement and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Debbie led the university's strategic efforts to generate student success and increase the number of graduates, and, as a first-generation college student herself, Debbie was proud that UW-Parkside traditionally serves a majority of first-generation university students, with close to 60 percent of graduates each year being the first in their families to earn a university degree; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of UW-Parkside, Debbie accepted the 2022 Excellence in Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in recognition of the significant improvement in student completion rates under her tenure for one of the most diverse UW universities; and

WHEREAS, Debbie was esteemed for being an articulate, thoughtful, and passionate leader whose personal touch connected her with the community and students, and she was especially honored to receive the prestigious Salute to Catholic School Alumni Award in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2022, an award presented by the Catholic Education Foundation to recognize individuals for their leadership and dedication to community service; and

WHEREAS, Debbie actively engaged with the wider community, including the Kenosha Area Business Alliance and the Racine County Economic Development Corporation, and was selected by the Kenosha mayor to serve as the founding president of the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood to transform more than 100 acres into an Innovation District; and

WHEREAS, Debbie was recognized in 2014 by the Network for Change and Continuous Innovation as one of three recipients of the inaugural Leaders of Change Recognition Program Award, and in 2015, the Milwaukee Business Journal honored Debbie with its Women of Influence Award;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System hereby offers thanks and commendation to Chancellor Emerita Debbie Ford for her achievements as Chancellor of UW-Parkside and wishes her well as she prepares to lead Indiana University Southeast.

Chancellor Ford thanked her colleagues for their recognition and said it was an honor to have served as Chancellor of UW-Parkside. She urged her colleagues to be loud and proud supporters of the UW System and to continue to ask for ideas, support, and funding. She noted the great value of UW-Parkside, and the other UW universities, to the state of Wisconsin. Chancellor Ford said to embrace learning and emphasized the importance of listening to and interacting with students and members of the learning community.

"It's not work when you love what you do and you get to see learning in action every day. It's easy when you place students at the center of your decision-making," Chancellor Ford said.

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## **CLOSED SESSION**

[\[Recording: 02:28:34\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Vice President Bogost to read the motion to move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Regent Weatherly and adopted on a roll call vote, with Regents Adams, Atwell, Bogost, Brenkus, Colón, Jones, Kreuser, Miller, Peterson, Prince, Rai, Staton, Tyler, Underly, Wachs, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

### Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 12026      That the Board of Regents move into closed session to consider a student request for review of a UW-Whitewater decision, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(a), (f), and (g), 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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During closed session Regent Wachs moved for the adoption of Resolution 12027. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai and approved on a roll call vote with Regents Adams, Atwell, Bogost, Brenkus, Colón, Jones, Kreuser, Miller, Peterson, Prince, Rai, Staton, Tyler, Underly, Wachs, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

Decision and Order in the Review of a UW-Whitewater Student Disciplinary Decision

Resolution 12027     That the Board of Regents adopts the attached Proposed Decision and Order as the Board's Final Decision and Order in the matter of a student request for review of a UW-Whitewater disciplinary decision.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 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