

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

Thursday, March 30, 2023
1:00 p.m.

UW-Stout Memorial Student Center
Great Hall
302 10th Avenue East
Menomonie, Wisconsin

-President Walsh presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [March 30, 2023 Webcast](#)

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

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

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

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Héctor Colón

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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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UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:01:09\]](#)

President Rothman recognized the March meeting as Dr. Corey King's first Board of Regents meeting as Chancellor of UW-Whitewater, noting he began his role on March 1, 2023.

President Rothman also noted the March Board of Regents meeting would be the last meeting for UW-Madison Provost John Karl Scholz and thanked him for his contributions, which he said will leave a lasting impact at UW-Madison and throughout the UW System. UW-Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin thanked Provost Scholz and echoed President Rothman's praise of his contributions. Chancellor Mnookin noted Provost Scholz's outstanding leadership of the College of Letters & Science, as well as his leadership throughout the pandemic. President Walsh thanked Provost Scholz for the advice and assistance he provided to her. Provost Scholz said it was an honor to be a part of the UW System for 35 years and thanked his fellow provosts, the chancellors, students, staff, and faculty.

President Walsh noted the March meeting would be the final meeting for Regents Scott Beightol and Brianna Tucker, whose terms end on May 1, 2023. She said Regent Tucker would be recognized the following day, Friday, March 31, and Regent Beightol would be recognized at the June 8-9 Board of Regents meeting.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS

[\[Recording: 00:07:14\]](#)

Regent Jones moved for the approval of the records of February 9-10, 2023, meeting of the UW System Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Regent Adams and approved on a voice vote.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:07:35\]](#)

Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

The March 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 thanked outgoing UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford for her service to the students and UW System. She said Chancellor Ford would be formally recognized at the June Board of Regents meeting, before she leaves to become the new Chancellor of Indiana University Southeast.

President Walsh said the UW-Parkside Chancellor Search & Screen Committee met on March 15, 2023 and during the meeting she and President Rothman charged the committee with its mission of finding Chancellor Ford's successor. President Walsh said the Search & Screen Committee, Chaired by Regent Kyle Weatherly with Professor Adrienne Viramontes as Vice Chair, received an overview of the campus profile and provided their input on the position prospectus. She said the final prospectus was approved by the Special Regent Committee on March 27, 2023, which includes Regents Héctor Colón, John Miller, Ashok Rai, and Jennifer Staton, as well as Kyle Weatherly as chair.

President Walsh said the search would officially open on April 3, 2023 and the deadline to submit nominations and applications for full consideration would be May 31, 2023. She said listening sessions would be held in the spring and that the committee is expected to meet throughout the summer to screen applications and interview semifinalists. President Walsh said campus visits for finalists would hopefully take place in September, with UW-Parkside's next chancellor being named shortly after.

Update on the UW-Platteville Chancellor Search Process

President Walsh reported the UW-Platteville campus would be hosting the three finalist candidates during the current week and following week. She noted the candidates were selected by the Special Regent Committee following a recommendation from the Search & Screen Committee, chaired by Regent Cris Peterson with Christina Curras as vice chair.

President Walsh said following the campus visits and reviewing campus feedback the Special Regent Committee, consisting of Regents Scott Beightol, Mike Jones, Edmund Manydeeds, and Rodney Pasch, in addition to Regent Peterson as chair, would recommend its top candidate to the Board of Regents for approval.

New Regents Business Partnership Awards

President Walsh excitedly announced a new initiative to recognize the innovative collaborations happening between UW System universities and the businesses in their communities, the Regents Business Partnership Award. The inaugural award was presented to 3M Menomonie the day before, and President Walsh reiterated Chancellor Frank's remarks that 3M Menomonie has been a consistent presence at UW-Stout's Career

Conference for over 20 years. She noted 3M Menomonie hires interns and provides support to Stout programs, lab equipment, and building campaigns.

Spring Commencements

President Walsh extended an early congratulations to the approximately 23,000 students who would be presented with their University of Wisconsin diplomas in the coming weeks. President Rothman also offered his congratulations to the upcoming graduates.

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REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:12:27\]](#)

Strategic Plan Updates

President Rothman reported on initiatives underway in support of the strategic goal to increase the number of graduates from UW System universities by 10% to 41,000 graduates annually by 2028. President Rothman said the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, led by Dr. Johannes Britz, has assembled a taskforce to consider UW System's dual enrollment practices, direct admissions, online education, and expansion of recruiting efforts targeting international students. The task force is expected to have a report and recommendations completed by September 1, 2023.

President Rothman said a direct admissions implementation team is being assembled, following a significant number of UW institutions expressing interest in participating in a direct admissions program. Over the next year, the team will develop a model for new freshmen and ensure the program meets strategic goals for access.

President Rothman reported the Office of Academic and Student Affairs is evaluating how the UW System can support the recruitment of international students and determine how the students might contribute to the Wisconsin workforce post-graduation. He said a strategic framework to support systemwide internationalization activities will be built using input from university international directors and other stakeholders

Following feedback from campus leadership and shared governance, President Rothman said he accepted the Accelerating Online Education recommendations for strategic online growth. The initiative will address workforce development and upskilling/reskilling through

online programming. President Rothman reported the Implementation Team's efforts will be ongoing for the next 12-18 months.

President Rothman said resources are being realigned within the Office of Academic and Student Affairs to provide enrollment strategy support to the universities, consistent with enrollment and graduation goals set out in the strategic plan.

Legislative and Other Updates

President Rothman reported that budget negotiations continue in the State Capitol and said he is grateful to Governor Evers for his continuing support of higher education in the UW System. President Rothman said he spoke to the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities on the UW System's integral role in Wisconsin's workforce and demographic needs. He said he also testified before the State Building Commission on UW System's capital budget request. President Rothman reported that the Joint Finance Committee will hold four listening sessions in April around the state and that UW System is working to have good representation at those hearings.

President Rothman reported that he and Alex Roe, Senior Associate Vice President for Capital Planning and Budget, testified in front of the Higher Education Subcommittee regarding the priority list the Board approved. He said he would continue to advocate for the priority list as the capital budget is submitted to the Joint Finance Committee for consideration.

President Rothman reported the Minnesota-Wisconsin Reciprocity bill was introduced by Senator Stafsholt and Representative Zimmerman, and has bipartisan support. He said the bill ensures remaining funds paid by Minnesota reciprocity students are returned to the universities they attend, instead of the state's general fund. President Rothman also shared that legislation to extend the Merit Scholarship program is being sent to Governor Evers for his signature.

UW System Accomplishments

President Rothman congratulated recipients of the 2022-23 Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Student Program. In the Fulbright Scholar Program 14 UW faculty and administrators, representing six UW universities, received teaching and research grants. In the Fulbright Student Program 16 UW students, representing five UW universities, received grants for study or research programs.

President Rothman congratulated Chancellor Mone and the UW-Milwaukee community on receiving a \$2.1 million donation from a group of donors to go towards the Moon Shot for Equity fund. He said this donation will support an initiative dedicated to ensuring student of color graduate at the same rate as white students, helping to eliminate the long-standing equity gaps.

President Rothman said the UW-Madison School of Education announced receiving a \$5 million gift from Susan and James Patterson to extend its Teacher Pledge program through the 2026-27 academic year. He congratulated Dean Diana Hess, Chancellor Mnookin, and the entire UW-Madison community.

President Rothman congratulated the UW-Madison women's hockey team on their seventh championship at the Women's Frozen Four. He noted the team has won three straight national titles over the past four years, with the championship round in 2020 cancelled due to COVID.

Finally, President Rothman said UW-Stout's Manufacturing Outreach Center was recognized with a Regional Impact Award from Momentum West, which promotes economic development in the region. He congratulated the Center, Chancellor Frank, and the UW-Stout campus community.

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HOST-CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-STOUT CHANCELLOR KATHERINE FRANK: "FUELING THE WORKFORCE THROUGH THE POLYTECHNIC ADVANTAGE"

[\[Recording: 00:26:30\]](#)

President Walsh invited Katherine Frank, UW-Stout Chancellor, to present to the Board.

Chancellor Frank said, as Wisconsin's only polytechnic university, UW-Stout is uniquely positioned to meet the workforce needs of the state. She noted the three educational tenets, applied learning, career focus, and collaboration with business and industry, as the foundation of UW-Stout's workforce readiness approach to higher education. Chancellor Frank said that with the appropriate investment, UW-Stout could produce more graduates to fill the high need workforce areas across the state.

Chancellor Frank highlighted the 99.4% employment rate of UW-Stout graduates and noted that 60% of graduates remain in Wisconsin. She also emphasized the importance of the Heritage Hall project, which will transform a 50-year-old building into a state-of-the-art learning facility, and thanked the Regents for their support in the 2023-25 biennial budget.

Chancellor Frank invited a group of business and industry experts, whose sectors are served by the graduates of many programs based in Heritage Hall, to join her for a panel discussion. Panelists included Jeff Bzdawka, CEO of Knowland Group, UW-Stout B.S. in Hospitality and Tourism Management; Clint Moses, Representative of State Assembly District 29, UW-Stout B.A. in Psychology; Amy Sheehan, Director of Talent Acquisition, Hormel Foods Corporate Services, UW-Stout B.S. Hospitality and Tourism Management; Toni Simonson, Executive Director, Behavior Health, Western Wisconsin—Hospital Sisters Health System and Prevea Health, UW-Stout M.S. in Guidance and Counseling; and Mark Tyler, Founder and Chairman, OEM Fabricators, Manufacturing and Childcare and Regent Emeritus, UW System Board of Regents.

The panel discussed challenges in their industries; how a polytechnic like UW-Stout helps the state address workforce needs; how well UW-Stout prepares graduates for the workforce; why investment in infrastructure, like Heritage Hall, is necessary for the success of its graduates in meeting workforce needs; and how their industry sector is changing and what institutions like UW-Stout can do best to prepare students to work within those sectors.

Regent Rai commented on the importance of mental healthcare and having facilities that enhance the services being provided. He said UW-Stout is unique in how the school-based programs are structured and should have the proper facilities to support the education and social services offered.

Regent Weatherly asked how the UW System can be more helpful in attracting and recruiting students to UW universities. Mr. Tyler suggested making the transition experience from other educational institutions more seamless, such as creating a stronger pipeline between the technical colleges and UW-Stout. Ms. Sheehan agreed with Mr. Tyler and added that having programs for students starting at a two-year university and finishing their degree at a four-year university could help retain students more. Representative Moses said it is important for people to recognize the uniqueness of each UW institution and the areas they specialize in.

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The Board took a brief recess from 2:28 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.

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PRESENTATION: WISCONSIN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

[\[Recording: 01:27:08\]](#)

President Walsh said the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) is widely considered the premier Division III conference in the country, by the number of NCAA championships captured annually by WIAC teams.

President Walsh congratulated UW-La Crosse men's and women's indoor track and field teams, who had each claimed national titles at the championship meet earlier in the month. She also congratulated the UW Oshkosh gymnastics team on winning the national championship at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association, as well as UW-La Crosse and UW-Stout who finished second and third.

President Walsh invited Danielle Harris, WIAC Commissioner, to present to the Board.

Ms. Harris said student participation in athletics should be considered a strong enrollment tool, with WIAC student-athletes earning higher GPAs than the overall student body, higher retention rates, and higher graduation rates. She said employers appreciate student athletes because they tend to be self-confident, natural leaders, with emotional regulation skills. Ms. Harris also said student athletes tend to be disciplined and have great time management skills, which translates well to a work environment.

Ms. Harris invited Duey Naatz, UW-Stout Athletic Director, to moderate a panel of former and current student athletes. Panelists included Erin Knosela, UW-Stout Athletic Development Officer; Luke Rykal, UW-Stout Alumnus; Amanda Giesen, UW-Stout Women's Basketball; and Matt Ryan, UW-Stout Men's Cross Country.

The panelists spoke of the important role athletics played in their educational experience and how it helped them find a community on campus. Their testimonials showcased the need for continued investment in WIAC's institutional athletic facilities in order to keep recruiting potential student athletes.

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APPROVAL OF THE 2023-24 TUITION AND AUXILIARY RATES

[\[Recording: 01:56:11\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Regent Scott Beightol, Chair of the Business & Finance Committee, to present the UW System's recommendation on 2023-24 tuition and fee proposals.

Regent Beightol said the proposal presented to the Business & Finance Committee by President Rothman and Vice President for Finance and Administration Sean Nelson provided an overview of the deliberate and thoughtful process by which the universities balanced their resource needs with the needs of student accessibility and affordability when developing their requests.

While adjustments in tuition and segregated fees vary by university, Regent Beightol said the average is 4.9% for resident undergraduate students. When accounting for an average 3.5% increase in the cost of room and board, the average increase to the overall total cost of attendance for Wisconsin resident undergraduate students at the four-year campuses would be 4.2%.

Regent Beightol said that several universities proposed to increase program specific differentials in certain fields of study. He said the programs are often of a high cost to deliver; in high demand by prospective students but lack the resources to expand capacity; and produce graduates that are in high demand from employers that typically pay higher salaries. Regent Beightol emphasized the differential tuition dollars will stay within their programs and will allow students to maintain and improve the quality of their education, and also help to educate and graduate more students into careers that help meet the state's workforce demands.

Regent Beightol noted resident tuition rates have been held flat for the past 10 years, while inflation has increased a cumulative 26%. He said GPR tuition and auxiliary fund balances are still projected to decrease under the proposal and UW System will continue to address operational expenses and drive efficiencies. Regent Beightol emphasized that the University of Wisconsin still remains the best value of any public university system in the Midwest. He said the tuition increase is critical in order to continue providing students with a high quality education and fulfilling college experience, and noted the increase was being made with advance notice in order for impacted students and families to plan and make the best choices for themselves.

Regent Beightol moved for the adoption of Resolution 11997. The motion was seconded by Regent Jones.

Regent Underly voiced her support for the proposal. She agreed with Regent Beightol that there needs to be a balance between increasing revenue and the commitment to students,

including resources available on campus to help students efficiently complete their programs. Regent Underly said it is apparent that the tuition freeze put many UW institutions in a tough position and in order to remain competitive when hiring staff and providing students with a high-quality education an increase in revenue is necessary, in part due to dwindling state support.

Regent Manydeeds said if tuition was going to be raised, it should be done in a way that was well thought out, based upon facts, and in a way that cared for students. He said he saw that in the proposal and is in support of it.

Regent Rai said as part of the fiduciary duties of the Board, it is important to look at sustainability and improvement of the UW System. He voiced his support of the proposal and appreciated the timing of the consideration of raising tuition and auxiliary fees, as it gives families time to prepare for the increase.

Regent Pasch said while he can recognize an increase in tuition is needed, he did not support the amount in the proposal. His concern was for the students, and where they were going to find the extra money to pay for the increases.

Regent Wachs voiced his support of the proposal and noted how critical the UW System is to the state economy. He said there is high competition for talent between similar institutions and an important step needs to be taken in order to preserve the UW System into the future.

Regent Atwell said he fully supported the tuition proposal. He said the proposal is important to help address faculty and staff pay and is a rational investment for students and families. Regent Atwell emphasized the tremendous value UW System institutions are to Wisconsin residents.

After speaking with numerous students groups from various UW universities, Regent Weatherly said he would be supporting the proposed increases. He said while the students do not want an increase in tuition and auxiliary fees, they understand the reasoning for why it needs to happen. Regent Weatherly said the students supported the increase once they learned much of the money would help fund pay plan increases for faculty and staff, which reiterates the important role and impact faculty and staff have on students.

President Walsh said maintaining the quality education UW System institutions provide and continuing to provide support and resources to students drive her support for the proposed tuition and auxiliary fee increases.

Resolution 11997 was approved on a roll call vote with Regents Adams, Atwell, Beightol, Bogost, Jones, Manydeeds, Miller, Peterson, Prince, Rai, Tucker, Underly, Wachs, Walsh, and

Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There was one dissenting vote by Regent Pasch, and no abstentions.

Approval of 2023-24 Tuition and Auxiliary Rates

Resolution 11997 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves rates for academic tuition, segregated fees, room and board, and textbook rental rates as attached in the document, "2023-24 Tuition and Auxiliary Rates, March 2023".

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CLOSED SESSION

[\[Recording: 02:20:31\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Vice President Bogost to read the motion to move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai and adopted on a roll call vote, with Regents Adams, Atwell, Beightol, Bogost, Jones, Manydeeds, 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 11998 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: a) consider personal histories related to a UW-Green Bay honorary degree nomination, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; b) consider personal histories related to a UW-Eau Claire honorary degree nomination, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; c) conduct public business with competitive and bargaining implications, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats.; d) discuss search process and strategies for a UW-Madison position, as permitted by ss. 19.85(1)(c) and (e), Wis. Stats.; e) consider a UW-Eau Claire student appeal, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(a), (f), and (g), Wis. Stats; and f) consider a UW-Madison student appeal, 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 11999. The motion was seconded by Regent Jones and approved on a voice vote.

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

Resolution 11999 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-Eau Claire disciplinary decision.

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During closed session Regent Wachs moved for the adoption of Resolution 12000. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai and approved on a voice vote.

Decision and Order in the Mandatory Review of a UW-Madison Decision

Resolution 12000 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-Madison decision.

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 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