

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

Thursday, October 5, 2023
1:00 p.m.

UW-River Falls University Center
Riverview Ballroom (Room 260)
501 Wild Rose Avenue
River Falls, Wisconsin

-President Walsh presiding-

CALLING OF THE ROLL..... 2

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS..... 2

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 3

UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS 3

APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS 4

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT 4

 Reports of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board 4

 Update on the UW-Parkside and UW-La Crosse Chancellor Search Processes..... 4

 Regents Business Partnership Award Update 5

 Other Updates and Remarks..... 6

REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT 6

 Strategic Planning Update 6

 Legislative and Other Updates 7

 OpportUWnity Tour 7

HOST-CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-RIVER FALLS CHANCELLOR MARIA GALLO: “UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE: HIGHER EDUCATION’S ROLE ADDRESSING GRAND CHALLENGES FOR THE GREATER GOOD” 7

CLOSED SESSION..... 8

Closed Session Resolution 9

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [October 5, 2023 Webcast](#)

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

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

PRESENT: Regents Angela Adams, Evan Brenkus, Héctor Colón, Mike Jones, Jim Kreuser, Edmund Manydeeds, John Miller, Cris Peterson, Joan Prince (virtual), Ashok Rai, Jennifer Staton (virtual), Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

Regent Amy Bogost joined the meeting at 1:48 p.m. after the roll call vote was conducted.

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Robert Atwell and Dana Wachs

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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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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

[\[Recording: 00:01:36\]](#)

President Walsh thanked UW-River Falls Chancellor Maria Gallo and the entire UW-River Falls team for their hospitality in hosting the October meeting. She then read aloud a land acknowledgement on behalf of UW-River Falls:

“The University of Wisconsin-River Falls sits on the shared ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe and the Dakota Nations and Tribal Communities. Acknowledging our university’s historical contributions to the disenfranchisement of indigenous communities, we declare a standing commitment towards campus-wide education, increased awareness of current indigenous issues, and the development of sustainable partnerships with indigenous nations of the area.”

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UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:03:09\]](#)

Chancellor Gallo expressed sympathies to the family and friends of a UW-River Falls student who passed away earlier in the week.

President Rothman welcomed Charles Lee Isbell Jr., UW-Madison Provost who comes from the Georgia Institute of Technology and has a background in institutional leadership in computer science, research into machine learning and artificial intelligence, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Provost Isbell most recently was the Dean of the College of Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology and has also held prior leadership roles there, including executive associate dean. Noting that Provost Isbell is internationally recognized in his field and has received numerous awards and honors, including being elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2021, President Rothman said his visibility in the field will help to advance UW-Madison’s new School of Computer, Data and Information Sciences.

President Rothman welcomed Christopher Patton, UW-Platteville Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services. Previously, Vice Chancellor Patton has served as deputy secretary for the Wisconsin Department of Administration, administration operations director at Epic Systems, and as policy director for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

President Rothman noted Dr. Lynn Akey, the incoming Chancellor of UW-Parkside, was officially named the previous week and would begin her role in January of 2024. He

thanked Scott Menke for serving as interim Chancellor after the departure of Chancellor Emerita Debbie Ford. President Rothman also thanked Sheronda Glass, UW-Parkside's Associate Chancellor of Human Resources, who has assumed interim Chancellor Menke's Vice Chancellor role on an interim basis during the transition period.

Finally, President Rothman thanked UW-La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow for his 17 years of service as chancellor and for his service to the students. Chancellor Gow announced in September 2023 his decision to step down as chancellor after the 2023-2024 academic year.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING RECORDS

[\[Recording: 00:09:16\]](#)

The records of the August 22, 2023 and the September 26, 2023 special meetings of the UW System Board of Regents were approved as distributed.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:09:51\]](#)

Reports of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

The July 2023 and September 2023 reports of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided. There were no comments or questions.

Update on the UW-Parkside and UW-La Crosse Chancellor Search Processes

President Walsh said the Board met on September 26, 2023 and unanimously approved Dr. Lynn Akey as the incoming 7th chancellor of UW-Parkside. She said Dr. Akey currently serves as the Vice President for Student Success, Analytics, and Integrated Planning at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Dr. Akey will begin her role as chancellor on January 2, 2024. President Walsh thanked Regents Héctor Colón, John Miller, Ashok Rai, Jennifer Staton, and Kyle Weatherly as chair, for their service on the Special Regent Committee for this search. She also thanked members of the UW-Parkside Search & Screen Committee for their time and thoughtful consideration throughout the process.

Regent Weatherly, chair of the Special Regent Committee for the UW-Parkside Chancellor Search, said the UW System is extremely fortunate to welcome Dr. Akey. He said Dr. Akey was the unanimous decision of the Regents, as well as the UW-Parkside Search & Screen

Committee. Regent Weatherly thanked President Walsh for the opportunity to serve on the Special Regent Committee.

President Walsh said a search for Chancellor Gow's successor at UW-La Crosse would begin in the coming weeks. She announced Regent Ashok Rai as chair of the search and screen committee, with Regents Angela Adams, Evan Brenkus, Jim Kreuser, and Joan Prince also serving. President Walsh said President Rothman is working with members of shared governance at UW-La Crosse to identify the full committee and thanked those who are willing to participate in the searches.

Regents Business Partnership Award Update

President Walsh reported that in August, UW-La Crosse and Kwik Trip were presented with a Regent Business Partnership Award to recognize their long, productive, and mutually beneficial relationship. Noting that Kwik Trip is a quintessential example of a business that supports higher education through both its words and actions, she congratulated Chancellor Gow and the UW-La Crosse campus community.

President Walsh said UW-Parkside and HARIBO were also presented with a Regent Business Partnership Award in August. She said UW-Parkside and HARIBO have a strong partnership and HARIBO has been a generous supporter of UW-Parkside's Future Focus Fund, the university's main scholarship fund for students with high financial need. President Walsh congratulated interim Chancellor Menke and the UW-Parkside campus community.

President Walsh reported that in September, UW-Superior and Essentia Health were presented with a Regent Business Partnership Award for their work together on partnerships across all levels of the university for several years. President Walsh said Essentia Health's partnerships are valuable for developing a talent pipeline for their own workforce needs, but also support UW-Superior students as they prepare for their future careers. She congratulated Chancellor Wachter and the UW-Superior campus community.

President Walsh said UW-River Falls and WinField United were presented with a Regent Business Partnership Award the day prior to the October Board meeting. She said the collaboration between UW-River Falls and WinField United has resulted in numerous high-impact experiences for undergraduates, clearly enhancing the UW-River Falls education experience. She also highlighted the robust internship program, scholarship support, and collaboration on research that takes place due to the partnership. She congratulated Chancellor Gallo and the UW-River Falls community.

Other Updates and Remarks

President Walsh reported that on September 13, 2023, she and several Regents had a “Superior Day” visiting UW-Superior. She remarked on the quality presentation the Regents received and thanked the UW-Superior campus community for hosting them.

Finally, President Walsh reported 11 Regents went before the Senate Committee on Universities and Revenue the previous week, on September 26, 2023, in a public hearing on their appointments to the UW System Board of Regents. She said it was an important step forward in the confirmation process for the Regents.

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REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:18:16\]](#)

Strategic Planning Update

President Rothman restated the Strategic Plan's goal of increasing the annual number of UW graduates to 41,000 by 2028. He reported preliminary fall 2023 enrollment numbers across the UW System are up compared to fall 2022 numbers, for the first time since 2014. New freshman enrollment increased by 3 percent overall, excluding UW-Madison, which he noted had deliberately sought to reduce the number of incoming first-year students after last year's class was slightly larger than anticipated. He said five universities show overall enrollment increases: UW-Madison, UW-Green Bay, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Whitewater, while several others showed modest decreases.

However, President Rothman said the branch campuses continue to deal with some challenging enrollment numbers and that most branch campus enrollments are lower for fall 2023 than the previous year, with the exception of increases at UW-Green Bay Manitowoc, UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County, and UW-Whitewater Rock County.

To maintain the focus on driving enrollment, President Rothman said the UW System is moving forward with the launch of a new enrollment initiative, Direct Admissions, at many UW universities. He said Direct Admissions bypasses and accelerates the typical college admissions process and proactively guarantees students a place in college. President Rothman noted that admission is based on existing high school data including high school GPA and courses students have taken. He said rising senior high school students will be matched with UW universities based on pre-determined admissions criteria.

President Rothman reported 10 out of 13 UW universities have opted in to participate in phase 1 of the Direct Admissions program. He said it is anticipated that the first offer letters will be sent to students in July of 2024, for admission in Fall of 2025.

President Rothman highlighted another enrollment initiative connected to the Strategic Plan, the UW universities' commitment to the nationwide College Cost Transparency (CCT) Initiative, which is designed to make modifications to improve the clarity, accuracy, and understanding of student financial aid offers. He said 12 of the 13 UW universities have committed to making modifications in line with the initiative. President Rothman recognized Derek Kindle, UW-Madison Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, who serves on the CCT Initiative Task Force as a subject matter expert.

Legislative and Other Updates

President Rothman said the UW System continues to reach out to and have productive discussions with legislative leadership to find a path forward on stalled pay plan discussions, adding that the UW System will continue to be a relentless advocate on behalf of its faculty and staff.

OpportUWnity Tour

President Rothman reported that the OpportUWnity Tour was recently launched to celebrate the wide-ranging opportunities that are part of the UW experience and which help build a vibrant economic future for all Wisconsinites. President Rothman said throughout the tour he will share success stories, engage with community leaders, and communicate the importance of the work the UW universities do. As of October 5, 2023, the OpportUWnity Tour has made stops at UW-La Crosse, UW Oshkosh, and UW-Superior. President Rothman shared that while on the tour he introduced Idella Kangas, Director of Economic and Employer Engagement, who will focus on making connections between employers in Wisconsin and UW faculty, staff, and students.

HOST-CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-RIVER FALLS CHANCELLOR MARIA GALLO: "UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE: HIGHER EDUCATION'S ROLE ADDRESSING GRAND CHALLENGES FOR THE GREATER GOOD"

[\[Recording: 00:28:27\]](#)

President Walsh invited Maria Gallo, UW-River Falls Chancellor, to present to the Board.

Chancellor Gallo described how UW-River Falls is positioned to lead a future that combines student learning and building a regional and state economy. She said UW-River Falls' commitment to students, its relative affordability, its strong outcomes in student success, and its proximity to the Twin Cities position the university as a leader in growing jobs.

Chancellor Gallo noted numerous national rankings list UW-River Falls as among the most affordable universities in the Midwest and survey results show that 99.3% of UW-River Falls graduates are either employed or in graduate school, with 86% in a job related to their major. Being close to Minneapolis and St. Paul, and with almost half of its students from Minnesota, UW-River Falls is geographically positioned to attract and retain students while adding to the workforce and increasing economic development, Chancellor Gallo said. She highlighted two new buildings, the Wuethrich Family/Grassland Dairy Center of Excellence, where students, faculty and businesses will collaborate to produce dairy products, and the Science and Technology Innovation Center (SciTech), scheduled to open in 2026. She explained how both buildings represent opportunities for more hands-on learning that will involve businesses and grow the regional and state economy.

Chancellor Gallo introduced three panelists who shared their experiences creating high-impact and innovative programs at UW-River Falls. Dr. Kateri Carver, Assistant Professor, Director of Ed. D. in Montessori Studies, and Director of Montessori Teacher Education Programs, oversees the nation's only doctoral Montessori program. Dr. Kurt Vogel, a Professor of Animal Science, Director of the Animal Welfare Lab, and Director of the Humane Handling Institute, directs the nation's only Humane Handling Institute that trains meat processors to butcher animals humanely. Dr. Karl Peterson, a chemistry professor and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, described the SciTech building and business partnerships with the university.

Chancellor Gallo said, "Students at UW-River Falls get a small, private school experience at a public-school price." She continued, "It is clear that our price point, plus our student career success rate, translates into an astounding value of a UW-River Falls education."

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CLOSED SESSION

[\[Recording: 01:32:08\]](#)

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, Bogost, Brenkus, Colón, Jones, Kreuser, Manydeeds, Miller, Peterson,

Prince, Rai, Staton, Tyler, Underly, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 12077 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to: a) consider personnel evaluations of UW System chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.; and b) deliberate and negotiate UW System contracts that require a closed session for competitive or bargaining reasons, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats., and confer with legal counsel regarding potential litigation in which it is likely to become involved regarding those contracts, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(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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The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 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