

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 5, 2023**

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened from 10:30 to 12:00 in person and via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance were: Regents Weatherly, Prince (via Zoom), Brenkus, Miller, Tyler, Manydeeds, and Underly. No Regent declared a conflict of interest regarding any of the items listed on the meeting agenda.

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

1. Approval of the July 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes of the Education Committee
2. UW-Green Bay: Approval of a Master of Science in Supply Chain Management
3. UW-Madison: Approval of a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business: Entrepreneurship
4. UW-Madison: Approval of a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business: Human Resources Management
5. UW-Madison: Approval of a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business: Management
6. Approval of an Appointment to the Oversight and Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Partnership Program

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

Host Presentation by UW-River Falls: “Academic Innovation on a Traditional Campus.” Provost David Travis presented, along with Associate Provost Wes Chapin, Professors Rebecca Haley and Kateri Carver explained three examples of academic programs with innovative characteristics that still honor traditional learning at UW-River Falls. Each program is designed to embrace the tradition of personalized, hands-on learning while also utilizing characteristics such as technology, group-level peer-mentorship and/or individualized self-paced learning. In response to the presentation, Regents asked about how to expand high-impact practice access for programs like study abroad and peer-led teaching.

Presenters stated that international education is a focus as part of the UW strategic plan, and that expanding access is a priority. They cited as an example that peer-led teachers can get both credit and a paid stipend.

Update: Direct Admissions Implementation. Julie Amon, Associate Vice President from the UW Office of Enrollment & Student Success and Corina Diaz-Suazo provided an update regarding the University of Wisconsin Direct Admission program. They stated that UW is in the first phase in implementing a direct admissions initiative, which aims to increase access and simplify the admissions process for Wisconsin high school students. The initiative was discussed at previous Education Committee meetings and a feasibility study was shared in February 2023. During Phase I of the program, the UW System will have the potential to reach nearly 80% of Wisconsin high schools. The goal is to bring UW Universities Direct Admission to all Wisconsin high schools in the upcoming years. In Phase I, 10 of 13 UW Universities have opted-in to participate.

In response to the presentation, Regent Underly offered support for the initiative and continued partnership with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Regent Tyler added that he hopes direct admissions might include transfer students at some point. Vice President Britz stated that this will also complement dual enrollment efforts. Regent Brenkus stated that as the Regent closest to the high school experience, he sees this as a meaningful shift in the process. Regent Weatherly acknowledged all the work from both the UW staff, UW faculty advisors, and K-12 partners to move quickly on this initiative and cautioned to consider safeguards as implementation continues.

Discussion: Accreditation And Quality Assurance For Academic Programming.

Provosts Betsy Morgan (UW-Lacrosse), Glendalí Rodríguez (UW-Stout), and Maria Cuzzo (UW-Superior) led a discussion focused on the policies and procedures that guide the review of academic programming. They explained the process by which each UW campus is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on a ten-year cycle. They also focused on the relationship between teacher preparation programs and the standards of the DPI. Associate Vice President Tracy Davidson also explained the role UW System plays in ensuring program quality. In response to the presentation, Regent Manydeeds asked about including student voice in accreditation, and Regent Tyler asked about the role of employers. Presenters stated that students are consulted as part of accreditation site visits, and campuses and programs have advisory groups that often include employers.

Regent Weatherly recognized new UW-Madison Provost Dr. Charles Isabell, and thanked Professor Charles Cornett (UW-Platteville) for his years of service as a faculty representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.