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

Friday, April 5, 2024
8:00 a.m.

Ullsvik Hall
Velzy Commons
1 University Plaza
Platteville, Wisconsin

-President Walsh presiding-

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

Friday, February 9, 2024
8:30 a.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: April 5, 2024 Webcast

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

[Recording: 00:00:00]

PRESENT: Regents Robert Atwell (virtual), Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, Haben Goitom (virtual), James Kreuser (virtual), Edmund Manydeeds, Cris Peterson, Joan Prince (virtual), Ashok Rai, Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Angela Adams, Evan Brenkus, Mike Jones, Amy Traynor

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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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REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

[Recording: 00:01:18]

President Walsh presented the report of the Audit Committee.

President Walsh said the Audit Committee heard a report from Lori Stortz, Chief Audit Executive, on the progress to date on the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Plan. Ms. Stortz reported that the largest column on the audit status chart is “completed/canceled,” and that she expects to bring more audit reports to the committee when it meets on June 6, 2024. Ms. Stortz confirmed the audit plan will be substantially finished by the end of the fiscal year, with the exception of two audits which were discussed at the committee meeting the day prior.

President Walsh reported that Ms. Stortz provided a high-level summary of the results of audits recently issued by the Office of Internal Audit since the meeting on February 8, 2024. She said the audit results included the Other Affiliated Organizations Executive Summary, which had no audit comments, and the Purchasing Card Bi-Annual Audit Report for the June 24, 2023 to January 5, 2024 testing cycle, which had results consistent with prior periods.

President Walsh reported that Ms. Stortz provided the Audit Committee with an overview of the Institute of Internal Auditors new Global Internal Audit Standards, and that she would bring suggested edits to the Audit Committee Charter before the committee at a subsequent meeting.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BUSINESS & FINANCE COMMITTEE

[Recording: 00:02:45]

President Walsh called upon Regent Rai to present a report of actions taken by the Business & Finance Committee.

Regent Rai reported that the Business & Finance Committee heard a host campus presentation from Chris Patton, UW-Platteville Vice Chancellor of the Division of Administration and Finance, which provided an update on steps taken to address the university's structural deficit, as well as efforts to implement the cultural transformation and budget practices necessary to secure the institution's long-term financial health.
Regent Rai reported the Business & Finance Committee reviewed and approved the 2024-25 tuition and fees proposals for the Universities of Wisconsin, which was discussed and adopted by the full Board later that day.

Regent Rai reported that the Business & Finance Committee approved an agreement on behalf of UW-Stevens Point with Shorelight LLC, which provides services in support of the university’s efforts to increase international student enrollment. Regent Rai said UW-Stevens Point is the eighth campus in recent months to adopt this approach under a new Master Services Agreement, and is one of seven working with Shorelight.

Regent Rai reported the Business & Finance Committee approved an agreement with Compass Group USA for all dining services operations at UW-Whitewater. Under the terms of the agreement, UW-Whitewater will receive an estimated $3 million in commission guarantees over the life of the 7-year contract. Regent Rai noted that the vendor will invest over $3.8 million to support dining program improvements and facility upgrades.

Regent Rai reported that Dan Chanen, Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer at Universities of Wisconsin Administration, and Patrick Sheehan, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer at UW-Madison, presented draft policies on paid parental leave for UW employees to the Business & Finance Committee. Under Regent Policy Document 20-21 they are required to be reviewed by the Board prior to implementation. Regent Rai said the policies would provide six weeks of paid parental leave within a 12-month period for the birth or adoption of a child, which is a benefit similar to that provided by many peer institutions with whom UW campuses compete for employees. The policies will be released to governance groups for comments and questions, with an anticipated implementation date of July 1, 2024.

Regent Rai reported that the Business & Finance Committee received a mid-year report on gifts, grants, and contracts awarded to all universities for the first six months of fiscal year 2023-24. Total awards through December 2023 were approximately $1.1 billion, which is a decrease of $63 million (or 5.3%) from the same period of the prior year, and is largely attributed to differences in both federal and non-federal research awards in aggregate.

Lastly, Regent Rai said the Business & Finance Committee received the Q4 report from the UW Office of Trust Funds. As of December 31, 2023, assets in the SWIB-managed portfolios totaled $595 million. For the quarter, the Long Term Fund increased in value by 7.35%, performing in line with its benchmark, while the Income Cash Fund gained 1.36% for the period. In the Intermediate Term Fund, assets totaled $681 million after gains of 5.8% for that quarter, also performing comparably to its benchmark.

Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolutions 12163 and 12164. The motion was seconded by Regent Colón and approved on a voice vote.
UW-Stevens Point Contractual Agreement with Shorelight, LLC

Resolution 12163 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the five-year contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Stevens Point, and Shorelight, LLC.

UW-Whitewater Dining Services Agreement with Compass Group USA, Inc.

Resolution 12164 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW System, and Compass Group USA, Inc by and through its Chartwells Division.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

[Recording: 00:06:10]

President Walsh called upon Regent Weatherly to present a report of actions taken by the Education Committee.

Regent Weatherly reported the Education Committee approved one UW-Madison degree program, one UW-Milwaukee degree program, and five UW-Stout degree programs as part of its consent agenda.

Regent Weatherly reported the Education Committee approved a resolution to continue the test-optional admissions process in Regent Policy Document 7-3, “UW System Freshman Admissions Policy.” He said this extension would allow all UW universities, including UW-Madison, to continue to use test optional admissions through Summer 2027, and would allow UW Administration time to research and understand the impact of the suspension on a full cohort of UW students who applied under a test-optional policy and matriculated through to graduation, and to evaluate the regional and national landscape regarding testing.

Regent Weatherly reported that the Education Committee heard a host campus presentation led by Wayne Weber, UW-Platteville Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, entitled “For All Our Students,” which highlighted how UW-Platteville
creates access to high-impact practices across the curriculum and a commitment to student success. He was joined by UW-Platteville students Katlynn Steffes, Agricultural Education and Dairy Science Major; Carrie LeFeber, Mechanical Engineering major; and Liz Winkler, Environmental Science and Conservation major.

Regent Weatherly said the Education Committee heard a five-year update on the Student Behavioral Health Initiative led by John Achter, Sr. Director of Student Success & Wellbeing for the Universities of Wisconsin. The panel discussed the implementation of suicide prevention training, mental health screening for athletes and others, support for behavior intervention teams, cultural competency training, and the recent addition of third-party telehealth services. The panel also shared pilot projects to address upstream issues, focused on building a culture of care, promoting connectedness, and teaching proactive skills to foster student resilience and well-being, which can reduce the need for more intensive downstream services.

Regent Weatherly said the Education Committee heard an abbreviated overview of the Dual Enrollment Taskforce’s report from Associate Vice President Tracy Davidson.

Regent Weatherly moved for the adoption of Resolutions 12165, 12166, 12167, 12168, 12169, 12170, 12171, and 12172. The motion was seconded by Regent Underly.

President Walsh asked Regent Weatherly about how to inform high school students of the implementation of dual enrollment. Regent Weatherly said the Dual Enrollment Taskforce has been working on how to streamline participation in dual enrollment, including how to better communicate with the intended participants.

Regent Atwell stated his opposition to Resolution 12172, which would approve the continued test optional admissions process in Regent Policy Document 7-3, “UW System Freshman Admissions Policy,” explaining that he felt the rationale for its extension had passed.

The motion to adopt Resolutions 12165, 12166, 12167, 12168, 12169, 12170, 12171, and 12172 was approved on a voice vote.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Dairy and Food Animal Management University of Wisconsin-Madison

Resolution 12165 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Dairy and Food Animal Management program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
New Program Authorization (Implementation) Master of Science in Connected Systems Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Resolution 12166 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Master of Science in Connected Systems Engineering program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.


Resolution 12167 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Master of Professional Studies in Design, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainability program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Physics, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Resolution 12168 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Physics program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Biology, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Resolution 12169 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Biology program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Resolution 12170 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.
**New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration, University of Wisconsin-Stout**

Resolution 12171 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

**Continued Test Optional Admissions Process in Regent Policy Document 7-3, “UW System Freshman Admissions Policy”**

Resolution 12172 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents extends the temporary suspension of the requirement for freshman applicants to provide an ACT or SAT score as part of their application referenced in Regent Policy Document 7-3, Sections I. C. and II. B. This action extends the suspension through the 2026-27 academic year for all of the Universities of Wisconsin.

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**REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CAPITAL PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE**

[Recording: 00:12:15]

President Walsh called upon Regent Manydeeds to present the report of actions taken by the Capital Planning & Budget Committee.

Regent Manydeeds reported that the consent agenda was approved by the Capital Planning & Budget Committee, including construction of a storage garage at Schmeeckle Reserve at UW-Stevens Point, sale of a former dormitory parcel at UW-Milwaukee, and seven All Agency projects located at the Universities of Wisconsin in Madison, Milwaukee, Stevens Point, Stout, and Whitewater.

Regent Manydeeds reported the Capital Planning & Budget Committee reviewed a proposed update to Regent Policy Document (RPD) 19-5, “Delegation of Authority to Remove Unneeded Structures,” to define the UW-Managed process as a second option for removing structures. He said the proposed revision reflects the Board's authority to manage capital projects fully funded with gifts or grant funds. The recommended changes would define the method for removing structures through the UW-Managed program and the approvals necessary to do so, in addition to listing the basic process for building removals through the State Department of Administration. Regent Manydeeds said a final
proposal for revisions to RPD 19-5 will be brought back to the committee for a vote later in the year.

Regent Manydeeds reported that the Capital Planning & Budget Committee heard a host campus presentation from a panel of UW-Platteville speakers, entitled “Pioneer Blueprint: A Vision to Support Collaboration for the Pioneers of Today and Tomorrow.” Chancellor Evetovich provided an overview of the guiding principles around capital investment and planning that support core curricular strengths, bolster student success, and decrease operational and maintenance costs at UW-Platteville.

Regent Manydeeds reported that Senior Associate Vice President Alex Roe gave an update on the 2025-31 Capital Budget process to the Capital Planning & Budget Committee, which will culminate in a recommendation to the Board in August 2024. She also provided an overview of the Board’s physical holdings, including the types of buildings, their size and current value.

Regent Manydeeds moved for the adoption of Resolutions 12173, 12174, and 12175. The motion was seconded by Regent Peterson and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Allow Friends of Schmeckle Reserve to Construct a Storage Garage, UW-Stevens Point

Resolution 12173 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Stevens Point and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents authorizes the Friends of Schmeckle Reserve to construct a storage garage on Schmeckle Reserve and allow UW-Stevens Point to accept the gift-in-kind of the completed structure at an estimate value of $60,000.

Authority to Sell a Parcel of Improved Land, UW-Milwaukee

Resolution 12174 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents grants authority to sell a 0.22-acre parcel of land with improvements located at 2600 East Kenwood Boulevard, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Authority to Construct All Agency Maintenance and Repair Projects, UW System

Resolution 12175 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents grants authority to construct various maintenance and repair projects at an estimated total cost of $14,228,800 ($1,824,400 General Fund Supported Borrowing;
VIDEO PRESENTATION: RESEARCH IN THE ROTUNDA
[Recording: 00:15:58]

President Rothman said the February 2024 Research in the Rotunda was the 20th anniversary of the event, which gives undergraduate student researchers the kind of experience, knowledge, and skills that will make them sought after by employers. He emphasized the commitment of the Universities of Wisconsin to give more students the opportunity to participate in research experiences. President Rothman thanked the students and faculty advisers for their notable research and for serving as great ambassadors of the Universities of Wisconsin to state elected officials and agency heads who attended the event. He also thanked the UW Government Relations team and Communications team for their work on the event.

PRESENTATION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS 2024 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
[Recording: 00:19:45]

President Walsh called upon Regent Cris Peterson, Chair of the awards selection committee, to introduce the 2024 Regent Teaching Excellence Awards.

Regent Peterson welcomed the recipients and their families, friends, and colleagues to the 32nd presentation of the Regent Teaching Excellence Awards, which recognize and honor some of the Universities of Wisconsin’s most outstanding teachers, departments, and programs. Regent Peterson thanked Regents Mike Jones and Jill Underly, as well as Regent Emeritus Dana Wachs, for their service on the selection committee, and recognized all nominees for their time and efforts.

Individual Award: Dr. Donald F. Hones, Professor of English as a Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual Education, College of Education and Human Services, UW Oshkosh

Regent Peterson presented the first Regent Teaching Excellence Award in the individual category to Dr. Donald F Hones, UW Oshkosh professor of ESL and Bilingual Education in the College of Education and Human Services.
Regent Peterson said Dr. Hones has published studies about ESL teachers in the field, papers on how university faculty and public-school teachers can collaborate to create better outcomes for ESL students, and guidance for educators to meet state standards for the K-12 curriculum. She said he also studies how immigrants and refugees in northeastern Wisconsin acquire English language skills. Currently, he leads an intern supervision program he created for English learners in Oshkosh and Menasha, called the New Voices Summer English Project.

Regent Peterson said Dr. Hones has taught more than 5,000 students during his career at UW Oshkosh, the majority of whom have gone on to be teachers. Recently, he earned a substitute-teaching license to substitute teach in high-need areas in Oshkosh-area public schools.

Dr. Hones thanked the Board for the award and added that he was thankful for the 27 years he has spent teaching ESL at UW Oshkosh. He shared that he comes from a family of teachers, although he did not set out to become one himself, and that he was attracted to teaching because every day he gets to learn something new.

Dr. Hones said he enjoys engaging with people of different experiences and is grateful for his students, many of whom are first-generation college students: “Teaching is not an easy career to go into... but these students have a real interest in serving others.”

Individual Award: Dr. Rebecca Stephens, Professor of English, Department of English, UW-Stevens Point

Regent Underly presented the second Regent Teaching Excellence Award in the individual category to Dr. Rebecca Stephens, UW-Stevens Point professor of English and the Chair of the English Department.

Regent Underly said Dr. Stephens is head of the English Education program, which has a long-standing reputation for excellence. The program’s graduates have a 100 percent placement rate. In addition, over the last decade, five graduates have been awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English. Dr. Stephens teaches a Technologies for English Education class, which is now part of the senior English Methods course block and will soon be expanded to serve History and World Language teaching majors.

Regent Underly said Dr. Stephens led the effort to transform Women’s Studies at UW-Stevens Point into “Women’s and Gender Studies.” She participated in workshops and
conversations concerning key themes and pedagogical strategies for the courses. In 2015, she presented to the National Women's Studies Association Conference on threshold concepts in Women's and Gender Studies for teaching and assessment.

Dr. Stephens thanked the Board and the awards committee for the recognition of her work. She said her love for reading led her to teaching because it taught her how to consider multiple perspectives. Dr. Stephens said that focus also guides her approach with students, encouraging them to engage with multiple perspectives and different experiences, especially when those differ from their own.

Dr. Stephens added that she “couldn’t be a good teacher without the students...and their willingness to engage with different ideas. It gives me immense hope for all of our futures.”

**Program Award: Department of Special Education, UW-Whitewater**

Regent Underly presented the Regent Teaching Excellence Award in the program category to the UW-Whitewater Department of Special Education.

Regent Underly said the Special Education Department has prepared special educators for more than 50 years, responding to continually changing needs. It is the only department of its kind in the university system, providing services for students with disabilities and supporting their families.

Regent Underly said the department is chaired by Dr. Amy Stevens and offers high-impact practices including community-based learning, internships, international field experiences, student research, and writing. The recruitment, retention, and graduation rates are exceptionally high, and the post-graduation employment rate is 100% for both undergraduate and graduate students who report working in their field after graduation.

Regent Underly highlighted a unique program called LIFE (Learning is for Everyone), which provides a two-year college experience for young adults between the ages of 18-25 with an intellectual disability. The LIFE program is recognized as a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program by the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Stevens accepted the award on behalf of the program. She thanked those who nominated the program as well as the Board and the awards committee for their recognition and said the Special Education Program was honored to represent UW-Whitewater.
Dr. Stevens said the department has a wonderful group of colleagues who work well as a team and that the department focuses on developing professionals who actively work to improve their profession by using evidence-based practices and drawing on innovative research in the field. She said the Special Education Department “seeks to prepare professionals to be agents of change... to help individuals with disabilities and families.”

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**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO UW-PLATTEVILLE FOR HOSTING THE APRIL 2024 MEETING**

[Recording: 00:52:18]

President Walsh called upon Regent Underly to read the Resolution of Appreciation to UW-Platteville for hosting the April 2024 Board of Regents meeting. The resolution was accepted by acclamation.

Resolution of Appreciation to UW-Platteville for Hosting the April 2024 Meeting

Resolution 12176 WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Regents are pleased to recognize the University of Wisconsin–Platteville as the official host campus for the Board’s April 2024 meeting and are grateful for the generous hospitality extended this month by Chancellor Tammy Evetovich and the entire Pioneer community; and

WHEREAS, the Board appreciated hearing Chancellor Evetovich’s presentation about “Pioneering Forward Together: UW-Platteville students’ educational journey,” highlighting the university’s role for the past 150 years enriching this rural region and providing a critical access point to education for generations of families; and

WHEREAS, the Education Committee thanks interim Provost Wayne Weber and all the students who gave testimonials about the benefits of UW-Platteville’s commitment to hands-on learning opportunities and student success; and

WHEREAS, Business and Finance Committee members heard from Chris Patton, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, about how UW-Platteville is charting a sustainable financial future, discussing the financial turnaround and cultural transformation occurring through implementing sound financial and budget practices, increased accountability, and a renewed commitment to “rowing together;” and
WHEREAS, the members of the Capital Planning and Budget Committee learned how UW-Platteville is following the “Pioneer Blueprint,” a vision to support collaboration for the Pioneers of today and tomorrow as part of the campus master plan responding to workforce needs and supporting statewide centers of excellence to build a stronger Wisconsin and tri-state economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board was delighted to receive student-led tours of UW-Platteville’s new Sesquicentennial Hall, seeing up close the impressive Innovation Center, accessible green roof, exposed building infrastructure, and several teaching laboratories that are transforming education for Pioneer students;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents hereby commends UW-Platteville for its informative presentations, forward-thinking spirit, and many continued contributions to the Universities of Wisconsin and to the entire state.

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REGENT COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND MEMORIALS

[Recording: 00:55:46]

President Walsh acknowledged the recent passing of Linda Bunnel, UW-Stevens Point Chancellor from 2004-2009. She shared condolences on behalf of the Board to the friends and family of former Chancellor Bunnel.

President Walsh also recognized Morna Foy, President of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) for more than a decade, who recently announced her retirement. During her tenure, the Universities of Wisconsin and WTCS signed new transfer agreements that have changed the landscape for college students in Wisconsin, providing additional opportunities and pathways to a college degree. President Walsh thanked President Foy for her service and offered her best wishes in retirement.

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CLOSED SESSION
[Recording: 00:57:07]

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 Atwell, Bogost, Colón, Goitom, Kreuser, Manydeeds, Peterson, Prince, Rai, Tyler, Underly, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 12177 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to a) consider personal histories related to the naming of facilities at UW-Madison and UW-La Crosse, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; b) consider personal histories related to UW-Stout honorary degree nominations, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; c) consider performance evaluations for chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.; and d) consider pay plan/compensation adjustments for the UW System President and chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), 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 12:28 p.m.