

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 8, 2024**

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm in person and via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance were: Regents Weatherly, Prince (via Zoom), Brenkus (via Zoom), Miller, Tyler, Wachs, Underly, and Manydeeds. No Regent declared a conflict of interest regarding any of the items listed on the meeting agenda. Regent Weatherly welcomed interim Provosts Karl Kunkel at UW-La Crosse and Michael Carney at UW-Eau Claire.

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 December 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes of the Education Committee
2. UW-Eau Claire: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies
3. UW-Madison: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Design, Innovation, and Society
4. UW-Stevens Point: Approval of a Master of Social Work
5. UW-Whitewater: Approval of a Master of Science in Education (M.S.E) in Reading Instruction and Dyslexia Intervention

All items remained on the consent agenda. A motion to approve item C was made by Regent Tyler and seconded by Regent Underly. Regent Prince joined the meeting after the vote, and due to technical difficulties, Regent Brenkus could not record his vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Modification of the UW System Undergraduate Application Fee Structure

UW Associate Vice President for Enrollment & Student Success Julie Amon presented a solution to rescind the fee structure of three free applications and \$25 for each subsequent application for all UW universities except UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse and UW-Madison. The approved structure will take effect on August 1, 2024. She cited as factors motivating the resolution the number of students participating in the Direct Admit Wisconsin Program, an expected legislative requirement of Guaranteed Admission, and to further demonstrate a commitment to access and affordability. A motion to approve item D was made by Regent Underly and seconded by Regent Wachs. The motion passed unanimously.

Host Presentation by UW-Madison: “Undergraduate Research: Opportunities And Impact”

UW-Madison provided a host presentation led by Charles L. Isbell, Jr., Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Hilldale Professor of Computer Sciences, Professor Trina McMahon, Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and of Bacteriology, along with student Josh Baston, a Materials Science and Engineering major, Dominique Eliana Gooden, Biomedical Engineering major, and Sophia Schoenfeld a Biology Major. The presentation discussed undergraduate research and mentoring at UW-Madison.

In response to the presentation, Regent Weatherly asked which other campuses had similar mentorship programs. Provost Webber stated that UW-Platteville has mentoring, though not in a formal program, and Provost Rodríguez described a mentor peer program at UW-Stout. Regent Tyler asked about research funding. The presenters stated it can be both private and public or federal funds. Regent Underly asked about what students had learned about themselves in the process, and Regent Prince hoped the program could be scaled for more UW students.

Discussion: The Impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the Educational Mission of the Universities of Wisconsin

UW-Madison’s Provost Charles Isbell and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning John Zumbrennen, along with UW-Stout Provost Glendalí Rodríguez led a discussion on the evolving impact of generative artificial intelligence (AI) on the educational mission of the Universities of Wisconsin.

In response to the presentation, Regent Wachs asked about the dangers of fake information, such as political robocalls. Provost Isbell stated that is a good example of why everyone needs to learn data science, and that the purpose of education is to learn critical thinking to distinguish what is plausible. Regent Prince asked for further updates, recalling how when Cliff Notes emerged, there were similar concerns about impacts on student effort and learning. Provost Isbell also stated that students need to learn how to be writers and editors, and relying only on generative AI would be limiting. Regent Weatherly asked if an analogy would be if AI is a spreadsheet, and if it might replace a person or a tool. Provosts Isbell and Rodríguez stated it is more of a partnership between people and machines, and it begs the question of what we ask of humans.

Regent Weatherly thanked Interim Chancellor Betsy Morgan for her service to UW-La Crosse.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.