

UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 18, 2025

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened at 8:45 a.m. in person and via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance in person were Regents Prince, Adams, Manydeeds, Rogers, and Terwilliger. No Regent declared a conflict of interest regarding any of the items on the meeting agenda.

Item C. Proposed Consent Agenda

Given the number of agenda items to be covered during the meeting, the Chair recommended that the committee consider the following routine, non-controversial items on 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 two items on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the July 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes of the Education Committee
2. UW-La Crosse: Approval of a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology

Senior Vice President Britz provided a brief overview of Item C.2. Both items remained on the consent agenda. A motion to approve Item C was made by Regent Manydeeds and seconded by Regent Adams. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Item D. ACT 15 Implementation: Instructional Employee Workload & General Education Credit Transfer

Universities of Wisconsin Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Johannes Britz affirmed that the Universities of Wisconsin are on track to meet 2025 Act 15 compliance deadlines. UW compliance specifically pertains to Instructional Employee Teaching Workload and General Education transfer. Regent Prince affirmed that both she and Senior Vice President Britz have had many conversations on these topics with stakeholders.

Item E. Hessen-Wisconsin Partnership: Incentive Grants

In 2026, Wisconsin and Hessen (Germany) will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their partnership and nearly 30 years of higher education exchanges. The Chair emphasized the strength of this long-standing collaboration. Provost Ed Martini highlighted a project by UW-Oshkosh professors Ryan Skiver and Michael Godfrey, who partnered with Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences to offer a fully Immersive Virtual Reality (IVR) class. Their published research compared IVR with online and in-person courses, finding overall positive student feedback and improved experiences compared to online classes, despite challenges such as heavy headsets and note-taking difficulties. UWM Economics professor

Kundan Kishor reported on two joint graduate economics workshops that fostered active collaboration between UWM students and Justus Liebig University Giessen faculty. The Chair asked about 50th anniversary celebrations, noted the partnership's growth over five decades, and inquired about student costs to participate.

Item F. Fostering Success Overview

The Chair noted that foster youth are often overlooked in discussions of supporting children from birth to independence and expressed appreciation for the committee's presentation on the topic. Eleven UW campuses now offer Fostering Success (FS) programs. Senior Director John Achter introduced UW-Stout FS Advisor Jessica Brooks, UWM FS Coordinator and consultant Tawney Latona, and FS alum Abbie Aasen. Brooks and Latona outlined FS services, student needs, and outcomes, noting the program supports students beyond foster care services, aligns with system priorities, has rapidly expanded, and contributes graduates to Wisconsin's workforce. They added that greater investment would enable further growth. Aasen shared how FS shaped her journey before, during, and after college, providing support, community, and the foundation for her to blossom. The Chair thanked presenters, paused to allow everyone to read a student quote, and asked about student numbers: UWM reported nearly 300 students (almost all eligible), UW-Stout about 70, with UWM adding that FS enrollment rose with its larger freshman class. Provost Cornell-Swanson asked about direct admit impacts. UWM shared that with the larger freshmen class this year, the number of FS students had also gone up. Regent Rogers emphasized barriers faced as students age out and praised UW-technical college collaboration in supporting this population. The Chair closed by commending the work and recommending a future update on progress and challenges.

A motion to adjourn was made. The motion passed on a voice vote. The Education Committee meeting was adjourned by Regent Prince at 9:41 a.m.