UW System Board of Regents
Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee

Overture Room, 2nd Floor
Gordon Dining & Event Center
770 W. Dayton Street, Madison, Wisconsin
& Virtual via Zoom Videoconference
August 20, 2026

MEETING OF THE AUDIT, RISK, and COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Regent Karen Walsh.

A. Calling of the Roll

Roll call was taken. Regents Bogost, Nixon, Palzewicz, Traynor, and Walsh were present. Regents Adams and Goitom were absent.

B. Declaration of Conflicts

Regent Walsh asked if anyone had a conflict of interest regarding the items on the agenda: none were stated.

C. Proposed Consent Agenda

Next, Regent Walsh read the items on the proposed consent agenda, which consisted of the minutes of the July 16, 2026, Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee Meeting and the Office of Internal Audit Fiscal Year 2027 Audit Plan Progress Report. The materials were approved as distributed.

D. Office of Internal Audit

1. Results of Reports Recently Issued

Chief Audit Executive Lori Stortz provided a high-level results summary of the reports issued since the July meeting, which included the Office of Internal Audit's Annual Report for fiscal year 2026 and the executive summary for the Segregated Fees audit.

Ms. Stortz began with the Office of Internal Audit's Annual Report, the purpose of which was to provide stewardship and accountability to the Committee. She highlighted office performance metrics, resource utilization, survey results, and strategic goals. There were no comments.

The Segregated Fees audit found that universities generally administer segregated fees in accordance with Regent policy and state statutes and that existing oversight controls are functioning effectively. One recommendation was issued, noted Ms. Stortz, to improve transparency regarding segregated fee revenue disclosures.

Committee discussion focused on statutory requirements governing segregated fees, the use of segregated fee balances, and controls ensuring fees are used only for their intended purposes. Associate Vice President for Finance Josh Smith explained that per Wisconsin Statutes segregated fees are maintained in separate accounts and monitored through established budget and financial review processes. The Regents were pleased to hear the audit found that in general, the universities are doing an excellent job of managing segregated fees.

2. Integrity Hotline Activity Report

Ms. Stortz presented a Summary Report of the UW's Integrity Hotline Activity, stating that 54 hotline reports were received between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, with 43 cases closed. Most reports involved employee or student relations matters. The majority of cases required no additional work, stated Ms. Stortz, 12 cases resulted in corrective action, and two were referred. She said the hotline remains an effective tool for the Universities of Wisconsin.

The Committee discussed campus outreach efforts, hotline reporting procedures, and the NAVEX case management system. Regents emphasized the importance of directing concerns through the hotline to ensure appropriate review, documentation, and follow-up.

E. Office of Compliance and Risk Management

1. Proposed UW Enterprise Risk Management Framework for Fiscal Year 2027

Chief Compliance and Risk Officer Paige Smith and Director of Risk Management Joseph Rayzor presented a proposed UW Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework for fiscal year 2027.

Ms. Smith stated the proposal responds to the Committee's request from previous meetings to enhance the Universities of Wisconsin's ERM program. She said the framework builds upon the existing Risk, Compliance, and Audit (RCA) pilot program and includes an ERM Community of Practice and an executive committee responsible for evaluating enterprise-level risks and mitigation strategies. The presentation described how institutional risks would be assessed, aggregated, and reported to support systemwide decision-making.

Next, Mr. Rayzor described the methodology used during the RCA pilot process, with the focus on integrating risk management into existing campus operations across the UW universities, identifying emerging risks, measuring mitigation effectiveness, and ensuring risks are connected to strategic planning and budget decisions.

The Committee discussed the integration of risk management responsibilities into existing campus workflows, participation expectations, identification of emerging risks, treatment of unknowns, and methods for measuring the effectiveness of mitigation strategies. Mr. Rayzor discussed examples related to cybersecurity, third-party vendors, deferred maintenance, aging infrastructure, and operational disruptions. Ms. Smith explained that enterprise risk assessments would help inform resource allocation and strategic planning, and that mitigation plans would include designated risk owners, action steps, timelines, and ongoing monitoring.

Regent Walsh emphasized the importance of being nimble enough to reset priorities to respond as needs change. Ms. Smith indicated that they would report back to the Committee likely in December. They plan to meet with the campuses next and the kick-off is expected in the fall of 2027.

2. Office of Compliance and Integrity's Data Collection: Update on Title IX

Afterwards the Committee heard from Ms. Smith, Title IX Compliance Specialist Dany Thompson, and UW-Stout Polytechnic Dean of Students Sandi Scott, who gave an update on Title IX.

The presenters reviewed systemwide reporting efforts and noted that universities currently comply with multiple reporting requirements, including UW System, legislative, and Clery Act reports. All 13 universities maintain Title IX reporting infrastructure and participate in regular collaboration and training activities.

The report identified sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking as the most frequently reported forms of misconduct. Students represented the majority of complainants and respondents. Presenters emphasized the importance of supportive measures, including academic accommodations, no-contact directives, counseling referrals, and other resources designed to support affected students.

Ms. Scott reported that approximately 91 percent of reported incidents resulted in some type of institutional response, including supportive measures, informal resolutions, or formal investigations. Most reports that did not result in action involved anonymous complaints lacking sufficient information for follow-up.

Committee discussion focused on student support, prevention efforts, program effectiveness, and the value of consistent practices across institutions.

F. Move into closed session

After Regent Walsh thanked the participants, the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee moved into closed session at 10:00 a.m. by a motion from Regent Nixon and seconded by Regent Palzewicz. The motion was approved unanimously; there were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Laabs
Recording Secretary