

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

Thursday, February 5, 2026
1:00 p.m.

Varsity Hall II, 2nd Floor
UW-Madison Union South
1308 W. Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin
& via Zoom Videoconference

-President Bogost presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [February 5, 2026 Webcast](#)

CALLING OF THE ROLL

[\[Recording: 00:00:00\]](#)

PRESENT: Regents Angela Adams, Desmond Adongo, Amy Bogost, Noah Fritz, Haben Goitom, Edmund Manydeeds, Timothy Nixon, Tom Palzewicz, Joan Prince, Ashok Rai, Sara Rogers, Jack Salzwedel, Linda Terwilliger, Amy Traynor, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

UNABLE TO ATTEND: James Kreuser

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

Before considering any items on the open session agenda, President Bogost 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.

APPROVAL OF THE RECORDS OF THE NOVEMBER 6-7, NOVEMBER 19, NOVEMBER 25, AND DECEMBER 4-5, 2025, AND JANUARY 28, 2026, MEETINGS OF THE UW SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

[\[Recording: 00:01:36\]](#)

The record of the November 6-7, November 19, November 25, and December 4-5, 2025, and January 28, 2026, meetings of the UW System Board of Regents were approved as distributed.

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UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:01:52\]](#)

President Bogost thanked Chancellor Mnookin and her team for their hospitality and congratulated her on accepting a new position as the President of Columbia University. President Bogost then called upon Pratima Gandhi, UW-Stevens Point Interim Chancellor, to introduce Marty Loy as the Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UW-Stevens Point.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:04:59\]](#)

Report(s) of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

The January 2026 report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided. There were no comments or questions.

Chancellor Search Updates

With the news of Chancellor Mnookin's departure from UW-Madison to become the 1st President of Columbia University, President Bogost recognized the way Chancellor Mnookin embodies with Wisconsin Idea and highlighted a few of the achievements at UW-Madison during Chancellor Mnookin's leadership, including UW-Madison rising to 5th in the nation in federal research expenditures, championing the Rise Initiative and the Wisconsin Exchange, and supporting campus AI initiatives. President Bogost said an update on the

search process to identify Chancellor Mnookin's successor would be provided at an upcoming meeting.

President Bogost said finalists in the UW-Stevens Point Chancellor search would be visiting the campus later in the month to meet with members of the campus community, hold public forums, and interview with President Rothman and the Special Regent Committee, led by chair Regent Jack Salzwedel.

President Bogost reported that the UW-Eau Claire Chancellor Search and Screen Committee, Chaired by Regent Karen Walsh, was in the process of reviewing applicants in preparation for selectin and interviewing semifinalists in March 2026.

Awards and Other Accolades

President Bogost again highlighted UW-Madison's recent achievement of being ranked 5th in the country for university research expenditures, and congratulated Chancellor Mnookin and the UW-Madison community.

President Bogost called upon three chancellors to share news from their respective campus. UW-Stout Chancellor Katherine Frank said UW-Stout recently had a 10-year comprehensive accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), in which the university received its highest ratings in all categories and has been reaffirmed for another 10 years. UW-River Falls interim Chancellor John Chenoweth shared that the men's football team claimed their first ever NCAA Division III national championship, defeating the defending champion North Central Cardinals. UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Manohar Singh said the women's volleyball team won its first ever NCAA Division III national championship, sweeping the tournament and defeating University of La Verne.

Regent Business Partnership Awards

President Bogost noted that at the end of the afternoon's meeting, a Regent Business Partnership Award would be presented to GE Healthcare and UW-Madison, to recognize their ongoing collaboration.

Artificial Intelligence

President Bogost reported that the Board would hear a presentation providing an overview of how the Universities of Wisconsin are engaging with Artificial Intelligence (AI). She noted that AI, and how it is being integrated across UW universities, is a top priority for the Board, as well as AI literacy for students, faculty, and staff. She said that AI literacy is important in the ever-changing modern workforce.

REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:20:28\]](#)

State, Federal, and Other Updates

President Rothman extended his congratulations to Chancellor Mnookin for accepting her new role as the incoming president of Columbia University. He thanked her thoughtful leadership and support in helping to strengthen UW-Madison's role as a powerful economic engine for the state.

President Rothman reported that he met with the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation in January 2026 and discussed a range of issues impacting the UWs, including agency rulemaking priorities and the importance of full funding in FY26 for several priority accounts.

President Rothman reported that the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) had approved the release of the additional \$53M that was allocated to the Universities of Wisconsin in the '25-27 biennial budget and held in the JFC Supplemental. He also noted that in December 2025 the Joint Committee on Employment Relations (JCOER) had approved three policies that the UWs were required to implement in order to receive the additional GPR as part of Act 15, including merit and market pay; instructional workload; and general education credit transfer. President Rothman said that it marked the final required legislative step for the UWs' '25-27 budget increase.

As a preview to the AI presentation to the Board that afternoon, President Rothman shared a video highlighting a new student internship collaboration, Innovation Lab, between Royal Credit Union and UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, and UW-Stout. He said Innovation lab connects the developing expertise of UW universities and students with the needs of businesses, in this case Royal Credit Union and the use of AI.

HOST-CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-MADISON CHANCELLOR JENNIFER MNOOKIN

[\[Recording: 00:29:35\]](#)

Chancellor Mnookin shared a presentation entitled, "Principled Pragmatism: Reflections on Leading in a Time of Challenge," with the Board. She shared how UW-Madison, one of the nation's leading public universities, has been able to move forward in meaningful ways by

creating new and transformative programs over the past several years, despite facing multiple challenges. She said she called her leadership approach “principled pragmatism,” blending a willingness to listen to critics, to be nimble and creative, and to be open to change, with a strong commitment to core values like academic freedom, research excellence, creating access and opportunity for students, and the Wisconsin Idea.

Chancellor Mnookin noted that UW-Madison’s success is derived from the investment and support from the State and people of Wisconsin. She highlighted several meaningful accomplishments during the course of her tenure, emphasizing that they were shared accomplishments to which many had contributed, including establishing a new Entrepreneurship Hub, Bucky’s Pell Pathway, the Wisconsin Exchange program, the Wisconsin Research, Innovation and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) initiative, and the RISE-AI program.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: PERSPECTIVES ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

[\[Recording: 01:13:24\]](#)

President Bogost called upon President Rothman to share brief remarks to being the cross-campus presentation on Human Centered Artificial Intelligence at the UWs.

Introduction by Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman

President Rothman said AI is shaping how people learn, work, and discover, and is impacting classroom, research labs, healthcare settings, and industry. He said the panel presentation and discussion would help to provide a snapshot of the AI work underway across the Universities of Wisconsin.

President Rothman said the UWs approach to AI would be guided by clear principles that recognize the promise and the limitations of AI. The key priorities include preparing students for an AI-driven workforce through critical thinking, adaptability, and AI literacy; using AI to support student success and advising; providing faculty with training and trusted tools; establishing an AI Hub for coordination and best practices; improving operational efficiency while maintaining human judgment; and expanding AI literacy across Wisconsin through partnerships with industry and workforce groups.

President Rothman said discussions have taken place with students, shared governance, and chancellors about how AI should be integrated into education and the future workforce. He noted that AI usage must be financially, ethically and academically responsible. President Rothman said the presentation from each of the UWs will highlight the AI innovation taking place across the Universities of Wisconsin.

UW-Madison RISE AI Initiative: Faculty Focus

Dr. Kyle Cranmer, Director of the Data Science Institute, Professor of Physics, UW-Madison; Dr. Jeremy Morris, Professor of Media and Cultural Studies, Department of Communication Arts, UW-Madison; Dr. Courtney Bell, Director of the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, Professor, Educational Psychology, UW-Madison; and Dr. Hannah Wayment-Steele, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, UW-Madison presented on the UW-Madison RISE AI initiative. The RISE AI initiative focuses on research on and using AI, how AI impacts teaching and learning, and engagement with industry, government, and how AI fits into the Wisconsin Idea.

Regent Nixon asked how the AI efforts at UW-Madison could impact the lives of citizens who do not attend or work at the university.

Pedagogy & Learning

Dr. Nick Danz, Dean of Academic Affairs, UW-Superior; Dr. Joshua Stangle, Associate Professor, Mathematics & Computer Science, UW-Superior; Alex Suscha, Student, UW-Stevens Point, and Founder, Sourcer AI; Dr. Seon Yoon Chung, Dean of the College of Nursing, Health Professions & STEM, UW-Oshkosh; Megan Waller, Student, UW-Oshkosh; Dr. Brandt Berghuis, Assistant Professor, Crop Science, UW-River Falls; Mekelsy Sundby, Student, UW-River Falls; and Dr. Caitlin Whitaker, Professor, Geography and Anthropology, UW-Parkside, presented to the Board about ongoing AI efforts at each of their universities as it related to pedagogy and learning.

UW-Superior's panelists presented on their Instructional AI Integration Plan for 2025-2027 to ensure that students at UW-Superior, as well as instructors and educational programs, are equipped with AI knowledge.

UW-Stevens Point student Alex Suscha told the Board about the support he received from his professors and the university helped him to create an AI browser extension tool, Sourcer AI, to help evaluate online articles and provide a summary of the article, context, give a reputability score, and a political bias score.

UW-Oshkosh panelists shared about their use of Hey Maggie, a generative AI avatar, in order to enhance clinical learning opportunities for nursing students.

UW-River Falls panelists presented on how they are preparing students for emerging industry technologies by using integrated artificial intelligence in field evaluations.

Dr. Whitaker shared how she is using AI podcasts to help aid her students in reading engagement.

Regent Terwilliger asked UW-Stevens Point student Alex Suscha about criteria used to inform Sourcer AI.

Regent Walsh asked Dr. Whitaker about AI use and student engagement in the classroom and emphasized the importance of AI education and professional development opportunities for faculty.

Regent Underly asked how the UWs could leverage AI tutoring to assist students in remedial courses.

Industry & Workforce Integration

Joe Hamann, Executive Director, Connected Systems Institute, UW-Milwaukee; Matt Adamczyk, Director and Technologist, Microsoft; Xuedong “David” Ding, Interim Dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math & Management, UW-Stout; Buckley Brinkman, Advisor, Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity; and Harry Chenghao Qian, Student, UW-Stout, shared about ongoing partnerships with the UWs and the integration of AI in the workplace.

Mr. Hamann and Mr. Adamczyk discussed UW-Milwaukee and Microsoft’s collaborative efforts, including opening a data center in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin. The partnership has also led to the opening of a Microsoft AI Co-Innovation Lab, which has a focus on manufacturing.

The UW-Stout panelists shared how the increased embrace of AI has impacted the Wisconsin Manufacturing Partnership.

Regent Nixon asked about business & industry’s embrace of AI and how the embrace can help create jobs and keep businesses competitive.

Regent Rogers asked a follow-up question regarding jobs and upskilling workers.

Regent Rai asked about barriers, from the UWs or the state, to a broader embrace of AI.

Regent Weatherly asked the panel for advice on benchmarking the UWs embrace of AI in relation to other higher education peers and industry.

Regent Underly commented how well the panel showed that the embrace and use of AI can be an expression of the Wisconsin Idea.

Research & Development

Dr. Rahul Gomes, Associate Professor, Computer Science, UW-Eau Claire; Mykle Jolie Buhrow, Student, UW-Eau Claire; Brayden Mau, Student, UW-Eau Claire; Dr. Joseph R Sanford, Assistant Professor, School of Agriculture, UW-Platteville; and Dr. Stewart Eskew, Assistant Teaching Professor, Philosophy, UW-La Crosse presented to the Board about AI research and development efforts taking place on UW campuses.

The UW-Eau Claire panelists shared how AI technology has impacted their medical research and student experience, and the ways AI can help people work more effectively.

Dr. Sanford presented on the involvement of AI in research innovation at Pioneer Farm, part of the Dairy Innovation Hub.

Dr. Eskew offered insight into how the humanities can help strengthen ethical AI development, and how ethical AI use is being integrated into teaching and learning at UW-La Crosse.

Regent Goitom asked about AI innovation and monetizing intellectual property created in AI research and development.

Regent Palzewicz asked if ethics should be a required course as AI becomes more integrated in classrooms and in research and development.

Administrative Applications

Mike Bubolz, Chief Information Officer, UW-Green Bay; Jon Spike, Special Assistant for AI Integration, Provost Office, UW-Whitewater; Wes Enterline, Sustainability Coordinator, Department of Facilities Planning and Management, UW-Whitewater; and Tress Dorfler, Student, UW-Whitewater, presented a few ways AI has been embraced at the UWs for administrative applications.

Mr. Bubolz demonstrated an AI powered procurement agent used at UW-Green Bay, which helps to be a first point of contact for staff on procurement related questions in order to save time for staff on repeat questions.

The UW-Whitewater panelists shared how AI has been used for plant identification and plant care in the campus greenhouse.

Regent Rai wondered about costs related to AI use and development, and noted that future budgets would need to consider these costs.

Regent Fritz, Regent Adongo, Regent Prince, and Regent Salzwedel remarked on the need for more development on guidelines surrounding AI use on campus and in classrooms while navigating the new and changing AI landscape.

PRESENTATION OF REGENTS BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP AWARD TO UW-MADISON AND GE HEALTHCARE

[\[Recording: 03:52:56\]](#)

President Bogost presented UW-Madison and GE Healthcare with the latest Regents Business Partnership Awards. She noted that the partnership between UW-Madison and GE Healthcare goes back 60 years.

Chancellor Mnookin said the partnership is a two-way superhighway of talent and innovation between the company and the campus, and added that sustaining UW-Madison's efforts in medical research, cures, and treatments, requires partners who believe in UW-Madison's mission and are willing to invest in and innovate for the public good.

President Rothman said the partnership reflects the power of the collaboration between a world-class business and a world-class university.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ _____

Megan Wasley
Executive Director & Corporate Secretary
Office of the Board of Regents
University of Wisconsin System