

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2026**

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance were Regents Prince (Chair), Adams, Rogers, Terwilliger, Traynor (Vice Chair), and Underly. 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 six (6) items on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 20, 2026 Meeting of the Education Committee
2. Approval of the Annual Request for Funding from the Vilas Trust Fund for UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee
3. UW-Madison: Approval of a Master of Business Administration in Business: Administration and Management
4. UW-Madison: Approval of a Master of Science in Education: Instructional Coaching
5. UW-Madison: Approval of a Master of Science in Special Education Teacher Certification
6. UW-Oshkosh: Approval of a Master of Business Administration in Business Analytics

All items remained on the consent agenda. Senior Vice President Johannes Britz provided an overview of Items C.2. to C.6. A motion to approve Item C was made by Regent Adams and seconded by Regent Underly. The motion unanimously carried on a voice vote.

Item D. Approval of the 2026 Report on Faculty Promotions, Tenure Designations, and Other Changes of Status

Regent Prince reported that UW universities and chancellors recommended more than 430 faculty members for tenure and/or promotion this year and noted that regent approval is the final step in the arduous process by which UW faculty earn tenure. A motion to approve Item D was made by Regent Underly and seconded by Regent Adams. The motion carried on a voice vote. Regent Prince congratulated all the UW faculty members in the report for attaining this milestone.

Item E. Approval of UW-Stout Request to Rename UW-Stout to “University of Wisconsin–Stout Polytechnic”

Chancellor Katherine Frank and Provost Glendalí Rodríguez provided a brief overview of the proposal and highlighted its alignment with the university’s mission, vision, and values, and that the proposed name change amplifies the university’s identity as a polytechnic university. The proposed name change builds on the Board of Regents’ prior approval of the university’s polytechnic designation and the 2024 revision to RPD 1-1 establishing a Polytechnic University Core Mission category. Discussion formally began with the Chancellor’s Advisory Council on October 15, 2025, which includes university leadership and shared governance representation. Shared governance groups reviewed the proposal throughout the fall 2025 semester, with resolutions received from all four governance groups by December 2025. Regent Adams expressed enthusiasm in her observations of the work at UW-Stout and highlighted that the polytechnic designation is powerful and showcases the relevance and rigor of the applied work at UW-Stout. She noted being thrilled to support the name change. Regent Prince commented that the Regents take name change requests very seriously and that, in this case, the change will amplify the university’s identity.

A motion to approve Item E was made by Regent Adams and seconded by Regent Terwilliger. The motion carried on a voice vote. Regent Prince congratulated Chancellor Frank and Provost Rodríguez on this change.

Item F. UW-Milwaukee Host Campus Presentation: Making Waves in Affordability for Student Success

Interim Provost Tina Freiburger, Associate Vice Provost & Library Director Michael Doylen, and Executive Director for the Center for Advancing Student Learning Natasha Jankowski outlined UW-Milwaukee’s work to advance student success by

tackling textbook affordability. The presentation described a university-wide strategy that combines multiple approaches to affordability, including the adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER), expanded use of library-licensed digital resources, and the intentional design of general education courses to minimize student expenses. Their discussion highlighted the cross-functional collaboration among several units across UW-Milwaukee. Regent Prince expressed appreciation for their work to address affordability. Regent Adams was impressed that students were kept at the forefront in this endeavor and the overall impact that the work has. She asked the group how their work to support affordability (low-cost or no-cost resources) is communicated to students to ensure that they understand the opportunity. The group noted the course schedule serves as one mechanism to communicate whether a course is low-cost or no-cost. They also highlighted a strong partnership with student government, noted that advisors are partners in communicating the benefits of OER, library resources, etc, and they also noted that there is a session during new student orientation to educate incoming students on the availability and benefits of these resources. The group also noted that there has been an intentional approach that they've taken toward educating faculty on the benefits/impacts to students and providing professional development on the development and/or use of the resources. Regent Adams inquired about how the usage of these resources is measured. The group noted that they look at the number of students in a course where the resources are being used, and survey the students on use and quality of resources.

Regent Underly noted that affordability involves more than tuition and that the cost of resources is considerable and may be a barrier for student success. She expressed appreciation for UW-Milwaukee's efforts to remove that barrier.

Interim Provost Freiburger also noted that each Regent received a copy of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin's (FCW) annual report and mentioned that the Director for the FCW was available for discussion or questions.

Item G. Opportunities for Open Educational Resources Across the Universities of Wisconsin

Shanna Nifoussi, Director of Academic Student Success Initiatives at UW Administration, led a panel discussion on opportunities to expand Open Educational Resources (OER) across the Universities of Wisconsin. Panelists included Richard Dhyanchand, Professor and Department Chair of Biology at UW-Platteville; Dylan Polkinghorne, Assistant Teaching Professor of Human Resource Management at UW-Green Bay; Kristin Woodward, Teaching and Learning Team Lead for UWM Libraries at UW-Milwaukee; and Graham Thiel, Science Education student at UW-Stevens Point.

The panel provided an overview of OER as a student success and affordability strategy and highlighted work underway through a grant from Driving OER Sustainability for Student Success (DOERS). Panelists shared individual experiences with adopting and developing OER materials, including the use of university supports, stipends, Pressbooks, and AI tools to create or adapt course materials, assessments, and related learning resources. The discussion also highlighted common themes from the grant project, including the need for instructor support, challenges in identifying high-quality OER materials for some disciplines and upper-level courses, the importance of transparency around course material costs, and opportunities for greater collaboration across the Universities of Wisconsin. A student perspective was also shared, emphasizing the impact of course material costs and access on the student experience.

Regent Prince praised the work, noting the importance of finding ways to reduce course costs to enhance student success. She commended the efforts by faculty, staff, and students in this work.

Item H. Academic and Student Affairs Update

Senior Vice President Johannes Britz provided an update on Act 15 implementation related to Teaching Workload and Core General Education Requirements. The update noted that UW universities are developing or implementing teaching workload policies aligned with RPD 20-25, Teaching Workload Policy and Interim

SYS 200-03, Interim: Faculty and Instructional Academic Staff Teaching Responsibilities and Workload while a systemwide Instructional Workload Operations Workgroup is preparing written procedures for data collection and reporting. The Committee also received an update on Core General Education Requirements, including campus implementation work, technical efforts to support credit transfer, and development of a systemwide website to explain the framework, transfer rules, FAQs, and provide campus-specific information.

Vice President Britz expressed appreciation for the provosts' support and collaboration over the past year, noting their important contributions to this work. He recognized several upcoming transitions in provost roles across the UW universities, including Provost Ed Martini and Provost Maria Cuzzo moving into chancellor or interim chancellor roles, interim Provost Wes Chapin and Provost Glendalí Rodríguez returning to faculty roles, and Provost Betsy Morgan retiring after more than 30 years at UW-La Crosse.

Regents Prince and Underly acknowledged the significant work completed related to Act 15 implementation. Regent Prince noted that a dashboard would be helpful to track progress and next steps for each effort. Regent Underly commended the work completed in a short timeframe and noted the substantial time and effort required to support implementation. Both emphasized the importance of clearly communicating the scope of and time commitment for the work involved in meeting these requirements.

The Education Committee meeting was adjourned by Regent Prince at 11:48 a.m.