

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2026**

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance via Zoom were Regents Prince (Chair), Adams, Adongo, Manydeeds, 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

The meeting agenda reflected the following item on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2026 Meeting of the Education Committee

A motion to approve Item C was made by Regent Underly and seconded by Regent Adams. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Item D. Second Read and Approval: Revisions to Regent Policy Document: RPD 4-12, "Academic Program Planning, Review, and Approval in the University of Wisconsin System"

Senior Vice President Britz provided a second reading of proposed revisions to Regent Policy Document 4-12, "Academic Program Planning, Review, and Approval in the University of Wisconsin System"; a first read was presented to the Education Committee for information and discussion at the February 5, 2026 meeting. He noted that the revised policy was distributed broadly for comment, and no concerns were raised. The proposed revisions to RPD 4-12 incorporate commonly accepted minimum credit-hour requirements for degree types (e.g., 60 credit hours for associate's degrees, 120 credit hours for bachelor's degrees, and 30 credit hours beyond a bachelor's degree for master's degrees) conferred by UW universities and permit deviation from the credit hour minimum when appropriate justification is provided. The proposed revisions align with the Higher Learning Commission's revised assumed practices effective September 1, 2025, and would allow UW institutions to develop bachelor's degree programs having fewer than 120 credit hours (reduced credit bachelor's degree). He also indicated that should the revised

policy be approved by the Regents that System Administrative Policy (SYS) 102, "Policy on University of Wisconsin System Array Management: Program Planning, Delivery, Review, and Reporting" will be revised to operationalize the processes for developing reduced credit bachelor's degree programs.

Following VP Britz's overview, Regent Underly asked for clarification related to the vote on this policy and wanted to confirm that the Regents were not approving reduced credit bachelor's degrees with this vote but were approving revisions to the policy that would permit universities to pursue/develop reduced credit bachelor's degree programs. VP Britz confirmed. Regent Underly questioned whether universities could pursue two pathways for reduced credit bachelor's degrees – development of new programs and modification to existing programs. Regent Rogers also requested clarification on this process. VP Britz confirmed that universities may develop a new reduced credit bachelor's degree or modify an existing bachelor's degree to reduce the number of required credits (minimum of 90 credits for bachelor's degree). He also noted that HLC approval is required and that it's a rigorous process. Additionally, he highlighted that HLC criteria require that reduction of an existing bachelor's degree program cannot impact learning outcomes of the existing degree program and cannot remove general education requirements. Concerns were raised that only newly developed reduced credit bachelor's degrees would be presented to the Regents for authorization and not reduced credit degrees originating from existing programs (which will go through the UW Administration's Office of Academic Affairs prior to submission of HLC's dedicated substantive change application process for degree programs having fewer than 120 credits). A suggestion was raised that the Committee should have some involvement with reduced credit bachelor's degree programs that originate from existing programs (e.g., notification or approval). Further discussion between Regent Prince and VP Britz about this process was requested.

A motion to approve Item D was made by Regent Adams and seconded by Regent Adongo. The motion unanimously carried on a voice vote.

The Education Committee meeting was adjourned by Regent Prince at 10:40 a.m.