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

Thursday, September 17, 2026
1:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Videoconference

-President Weatherly presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: September 17, 2026 Webcast

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

[Recording: 00:00]

PRESENT:	Regents Angela Adams, Lindsay Blumer, Amy Bogost, Haben Goitom, James Kreuser, Edmund Manydeeds, Timothy Nixon, Tom Palzewicz, Joan Prince, Ashok Rai, Linda Terwilliger, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly
UNABLE TO ATTEND:	Regent Noah Fritz and Amy Traynor

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

[Recording: 00:52]

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

To avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, Regent Joan Prince and Regent Ashok Rai recused themselves from voting on Resolution 12516, "Amendments to the Integration Agreement Between UW Hospital and Clinics Authority and the UW Medical Foundation."

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REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[Recording: 01:46]

Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

The September 2026 report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board was provided. There were no comments or questions.

Executive Search Updates

President Weatherly called upon Vice President Rai, chair of the UW Presidential Search Committee, to provide an update.

Vice President Rai said the UW Presidential Search Committee was currently reviewing candidate applications and expects to host separate public listening sessions with finalists on October 26, 2026, at UW-Parkside and October 27, 2026, at UW-Madison.

President Weatherly called upon Regent Bogost, chair of the UW-Madison Chancellor Search Committee, to provide an update.

Regent Bogost said the UW-Madison Chancellor Search Committee had received feedback from recent listening sessions on the UW-Madison campus. She said that in the coming weeks the committee will meet to select candidates for a first round of interviews. Regent Bogost said that finalist interviews are expected to take place in early November, with a new chancellor potentially named before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Budget Request

President Weatherly restated the three promises of the 2027-29 biennial budget request, which was approved by the Board at the August 2026 meeting, which are: to ensure every Wisconsinite has access to an affordable, high-quality UW education; to build Wisconsin's workforce and next generation of businesses; and to advance life-saving discoveries and improve access to healthcare across Wisconsin. He said the request had been submitted to the Governor and the Department of Administration for consideration. President Weatherly called upon Vice President Rai to share more about the advocacy efforts that Board leadership and President Wachter had been involved in.

Vice President Rai said that the 2027-29 biennial budget request represents a shift in perspective to focus on meeting the state's needs, rather than more narrowly on the UW needs. He said it is important to leverage the Universities of Wisconsin as an asset to meet the state's most pressing needs and that the request will benefit students and businesses throughout the state.

President Weatherly said budget advocacy discussions between UWs representatives and legislators and other interested parties will continue in the coming months.

Board Updates

President Weatherly called upon Megan Wasley, Executive Director and Corporate Secretary, to provide an update on the Board's priority to lead the way by modeling continuous learning, experimentation, and improvement.

Ms. Wasley reported that following the August 2026 Executive Committee meeting, committee chairs would be working with their support staff to develop draft committee charter and annual workplan documents for further discussion with their respective committees and ultimately consideration by the full Board later this year. She also reported that at the Executive Committee's request, the Board Office is working to compile additional information about other university system's Board committee structures, meeting frequency, and format to share as general background with Board members.

President Weatherly shared the launch of the "Why UW?" campaign, which encourages students to make a short video, 60 seconds or less, highlighting what makes their campus experience special and posting it to their social media. He said the goal is to hear directly from students about their incredible experiences across the UWs and share them on platforms where students and future students live. Three winners at each of the participating schools will receive a $1,000 scholarship from the Universities of Wisconsin for the next semester. President Weatherly said more information could be found at wisconsin.edu/whyuw.

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REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[Recording: 14:26]

Back to School and Other Updates

President Wachter reported that after three years of consecutive growth, the first-day numbers show a slight decrease of 1%, largely due to declines in the number of international students. She said that first-day enrollment stands at about 163,260 students. President Wachter said the UWs have worked hard to expand access and align programs with student and workforce needs, prioritize student success, and maintain the position as the Midwest leader in affordability. She said the preliminary numbers are a positive sign of the value that Wisconsinites find in a UW degree and that final enrollment counts come later in the fall.

Acknowledging the critical role of faculty and staff in the UWs' success, President Wachter announced the launch of the fourth round of the UWs' "Shout-outs" campaign, which gives students the opportunity to offer a shout-out to a faculty or staff member who has made a real difference to them in their college experience. She said the current campaign underway would start to be posted to social media in the spring, with a sneak peek at a future Board meeting.

President Wachter shared the story of the new Grazier's Daughter cheese company as a real-life example of how the UWs help Wisconsin businesses. The father and daughter partnership of Joe Tomandl and Abby Brandner, both UW-River Falls graduates, actively engaged with the UWs' Food Finance Institute (FFI) to support the product development and launch, financial planning, and address a myriad of logistical challenges to successfully bring a new cheese product to market.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
[Recording: 21:32]

President Weatherly called upon Regent Prince to present a report of actions taken by the Education Committee.

Regent Prince reported that the Education Committee received the first readings of proposed revisions to two Regent Policy Documents (RPDs), which addressed the transfer and awarding of credit and undergraduate admission. Dr. Julie Amon, Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success presented on the proposed revisions to RPD 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning." The revisions would create a singular focus on the awarding of credit and remove any reference to the admission of transfer students. As such, it is proposed to renumber the policy and move it from RPD Section 7, "Admissions Policy" to RPD Section 4, "Academic Policies and Programs" to better align with the focus. Revisions to the policy would also incorporate the statutory transferability of Core General Education Requirement credits between UW universities, update and clarify statutory and policy references, and clarify and restructure policy language related to the awarding and application of credit as well as transfer agreements.

Regent Prince reported that Dr. Julie Amon also presented on the proposed revisions to RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy." The proposed revisions include renaming the policy "University of Wisconsin System Undergraduate Admission Policy." Additionally, the proposed revisions would add definitions to clarify terms; replace the term "freshman" with "first-year student" and update other admissions

terminology; describe the three admission pathways currently available to first-year students who are Wisconsin residents (Direct Admit Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Guarantee, and the traditional admission pathway); reimagine the existing guaranteed transfer admission option for transfer students who earn an approved associate degree from a Wisconsin institution of higher education; and make the current test-optional admission policy permanent.

Regent Prince reported that the Education Committee would have the second reading and approval of the proposed revisions to RPD 7-1 and RPD 7-3 at a future meeting.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

[Recording: 25:00]

President Weatherly called upon Regent Walsh to present a report from the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee.

Regent Walsh reported that the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee received the first reading of proposed revisions to Regent Policy Document (RPD) 20-19, "UW System Criminal Background Check Policy." The proposed revisions are designed to expand the definition of Vulnerable Population under Positions of Trust to include incarcerated students participating in the Prison-Eligible Pell program and standardize the criminal background check process by clarifying the required databases and adding a required global sanctions check for all applicants for employment, current employees, and volunteers.

President Walsh reported that the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee also received the first reading of proposed revisions to RPD 20-22, " Code of Ethics." The proposed revisions are designed to align the definition of "immediate family member" for university staff with the same definition used within Wisconsin Administrative Code UWS 8.02(9) and make consistent the standards for a conflict of interest for university staff with the description in Wisconsin Administrative Code UWS 8.03(1)(a) for faculty, academic staff, and limited employees who are not State Public Officials. Proposals also extend access to consultation and advice from the institutional ethics committee established under Wisconsin Administrative Code UWS 8.035 to university staff.

President Walsh reported that the Audit, Risk, and Compliance committee would have the second reading and approval of both RPD 20-19 and RPD 20-22 at a future meeting.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BUSINESS & FINANCE COMMITTEE

[Recording: 26:13]

President Weatherly called upon Regent Palzewicz to present a report of actions taken by the Business & Finance Committee.

Regent Palzewicz reported that the Business & Finance Committee approved an amendment to the Integration Agreement between the UW Hospital and Clinics Authority and UW Medical Foundation. He said the proposal follows a review launched in 2024 by the leadership of UW-Madison and its academic health system partner, which identified opportunities to strengthen the alignment of the collective enterprise and streamline the financial model supporting the School of Medicine and Public Health. The amendment will enable modifications to be made to the financial model that align incentives and support strategic decision-making to elevate the School of Medicine and Public Health and uphold UW Health's tripartite mission of healthcare delivery, education, and research.

Regent Palzewicz moved for the adoption of Resolution 12516. The motion was seconded by Regent Adams and approved on a voice vote, with Regents Prince and Rai abstaining.

Amendments to the Integration Agreement Between UW Hospital and Clinics Authority and the UW Medical Foundation

Resolution 12516 That, upon the recommendation of the Interim Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Interim President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the amendments to the Integration Agreement between UW Hospital and Clinics Authority and UW Medical Foundation.

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REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CAPITAL PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE

[Recording: 28:00]

President Weatherly called upon Regent Kreuser to present the report of actions taken by the Capital Planning & Budget Committee.

Regent Kreuser reported that the Capital Planning & Budget Committee approved five Classroom Renovation and Instructional Technology Improvement projects, fourteen All

Agency Maintenance and Repair projects, and three Minor Facilities Renewal projects as part of its consent agenda.

Regent Prince reported that the Capital Planning & Budget Committee approved a UW-La Crosse request for authority to construct the Residence Halls Elevator Tower Additions Project and UW-Madison's requests for authority to demolish the Extension Building at UW-Madison and for authority to increase the budget for the Health Sciences Renovation Project at UW-Milwaukee.

Regent Prince Reported that the Capital Planning & Budget Committee heard a report from Deej Lundgren, Associate Vice President for Capital Planning & Budget, on the pending sale of the Pigeon Lake Field Station and a construction update on Sentry Hall at UW-Stevens Point.

Regent Kreuser moved for the adoption of Resolutions 12517, 12518, 12519, 12520, 12521 and 12522. The motion was seconded by Regent Bogost and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Construct 2025-27 Classroom Renovation/Instructional Technology Improvement Program Projects, UW System

Resolution 12517 That, upon the recommendation of the Interim President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents approves the allocation of 2025-27 Classroom Renovation/Instructional Technology Improvement Program funds; authorizes construction of the related project at an estimated total cost of $30,114,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing of the originally enumerated $48,674,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing; and allows the Division of Facilities Development to transfer balances, adjust an individual project budget, and add/or substitute other high-priority Classroom Renovation/Instructional Technology projects within the authorized funding.

Authority to Construct All Agency Maintenance and Repair Projects, UW System

Resolution 12518 That, upon the recommendation of the Interim President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents grants authority to construct various maintenance and repair projects at an estimated total cost of $41,621,200 ($26,260,500 State of Wisconsin Segregated Revenues; $12,315,700 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing; and $3,045,000 Cash).

Authority to Construct Minor Facilities Renewal Projects, UW System

Resolution 12519 That, upon the recommendation of the Interim President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents grants authority to construct various minor facilities renewal projects at an estimated total cost of $23,439,000 ($19,244,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing and $4,195,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing).

Authority to Construct the Residence Halls Elevator Tower Additions, UW-La Crosse

Resolution 12520 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-La Crosse and the Interim President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents authorizes the construction of the Residence Halls Elevator Tower Addition project for an estimated total project cost of $9,642,000 ($9,642,000 PRSB).

Authority to Demolish the Extension Building at UW-Madison

Resolution 12521 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison and the Interim President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents authorizes $4,773,500 State of Wisconsin Segregated Revenues for the demolition of the Extension Building at UW-Madison.

Authority to Increase the Budget to Accept Bids and Construct the Health Sciences Renovation Project, UW-Milwaukee

Resolution 12522 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee and the Interim President of the UW System, the Board of Regents approves increasing the project budget by $11,100,000 EX-GFSB to accept bids received for the Health Sciences Renovation project for a revised estimated total cost of $200,425,000 ($181,825,000 GFSB, $11,100,000, EX-GFSB $2,500,000 PR-CASH, $5,000,000 EX-SEG REV).

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

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Submitted by:

/s/ _____

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