UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2026

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance via Zoom were Regents Prince (Chair), Blumer, Goitom, and Manydeeds. Regents Terwilliger and Underly joined after the calling of the roll. 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 August 20, 2026 Meeting of the Education Committee

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

Item E. Regent Policy Document Review: Proposal to Amend and Renumber RPD 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning" to RPD 4-X, "Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning" (First Read)

Dr. Julie L. Amon, Associate Vice President for Enrollment & Student Success at UW Administration noted that the policy revision work began in Spring 2025 in an effort to make improvements to the overall transfer student experience and noted that additional work ensued following Act 15 in Summer 2025. She then provided an overview of the goals for the proposed revisions to RPD 7-1 and RPD 7-3. The goals included aligning with statutory language, administrative policies, and current university practices and programs; integrating Core General Education Requirements in all appropriate policies; and giving policies clear areas of focus, specifically separating credit transfer and admissions processes.

She then gave a first reading of proposed revisions to RPD 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-institutional Learning". The proposed revisions would create a singular focus on the awarding of transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning and remove reference to the admission of transfer students. As such, the policy would be renamed to "Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional

Learning" and renumbered and moved from RPD Section 7, "Admissions Policy" to RPD Section 4, "Academic Policies and Programs" to better align with the focus. Additional proposed revisions would 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.

Item F. Regent Policy Document Review: Proposal to Amend RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy" (First Read)

Dr. Amon presented a first reading of proposed revisions to RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy". The proposed revisions 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; update the existing guaranteed transfer admission option for transfer students who earn an AA or AS associate degree from any Wisconsin institute of higher education; and make the current test-optional policy permanent, noting that Direct Admit and the Wisconsin Guarantee do not require test scores for admission. The proposed revisions would create a comprehensive undergraduate admission policy that addresses both first-year and transfer students. As such, the policy would be renamed to "University of Wisconsin System Undergraduate Admission Policy".

Regent Manydeeds noted the three pathways for admissions outlined in the policy; however, he indicated that there are actually four pathways since UW-La Crosse will be the only UW university not included in Direct Admit Wisconsin following UW-Eau Claire's decision to participate in Direct Admit. He posited that as a system, there should be only three pathways to limit confusion. He raised the question of whether a policy requiring comprehensive participation in Direct Admit was necessary. Regent Prince noted that while it's important for universities to maintain individuality, it's important that a comprehensive admission policy be comprehensive for the system and highlighted the importance of a future discussion on Direct Admit and comprehensives. She thanked Regent Manydeeds for raising the question.

Regent Blumer raised the question about what, if any, reconciliation process may take place to ensure consistency across all policies. Dr. Amon noted the transfer policy workgroup, which is comprised of people on the front lines of transfer work across all UW universities, has been instrumental in reviewing all transfer-related policies and highlighted that the proposed revisions aim to drive consistency, making sure

references are consistent and aligning with statute as well as ensuring that the policies are more easily understood.

Regent Bogost asked for clarification on the 90% of schools that have test optional admissions requirements and whether they are permanent. Dr. Amon noted that over 2,000 institutions nationally are either test optional or test “blind,” including most of the institutions in our surrounding region as well as nearly every Big 10 university. The Ivy League and a few other selective institutions have reverted to a test-required process.

Regent Manydeeds thanked Senior Vice President Britz and team on the work done over the last year to comply with statute as well as the extra work that also ensued to align policies.

Regent Prince also expressed appreciation for the work of the team as well as the academic leaders from across the UW universities, recognizing the difficulty of the work and the amount of time it took to accomplish the tasks.

The Education Committee meeting was adjourned by Regent Prince at 8:24 a.m.