

Approval of Restructuring of
UW Colleges and UW-Extension

BOARD OF REGENTS

Resolution 7.

WHEREAS since 2005, UW Colleges and UW-Extension have functioned as separate UW System institutions led by a single chancellor with consolidated administrative services; and

WHEREAS demographic trends across Wisconsin indicate the decline in the number of high school graduates currently presents and will continue to pose considerable enrollment challenges for the UW Colleges; and

WHEREAS full-time student equivalent enrollment at UW Colleges campuses has declined 32% in the past seven years, and several UW Colleges campuses currently enroll only 200 FTE students; and

WHEREAS the UW Colleges' administrative and faculty leadership has worked diligently to address financial challenges, including establishing an effective regional and consolidated shared services model; and

WHEREAS the UW Colleges provide educational opportunities for an important and valued segment of the Wisconsin population through their distinct mission of open access and transfer; and

WHEREAS the UW System has long-standing partnerships with counties and municipalities that financially invest in and support the UW Colleges campuses in their communities; and

WHEREAS UW System institutions provide an important economic, civic, and cultural presence in the communities in which UW Colleges campuses are located; and

WHEREAS UW-Extension's Cooperative Extension Division has a visible presence in all seventy-two counties in Wisconsin and close ties to UW-Madison; and

WHEREAS the State benefits when faculty research expertise is tightly linked with county extension agents around the State; and

WHEREAS UW-Extension was previously part of the State's land-grant university at Madison, and integrating the extension service as a component of the state's land-grant university is consistent with other states; and

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WHEREAS the other three divisions of UW-Extension – the Division of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Division of Broadcasting and Media Innovation, and the Division of Continuing Education, Outreach, and E-Learning – and UW Colleges Online can all serve statewide audiences without being connected to a single institution, and can continue providing existing programs and services under UW System Administration; and

WHEREAS the affiliated foundations of the UW Colleges and UW-Extension have contributed significantly to the students, faculty, communities and participants served by these institutions, and the restructuring process should strive to maintain and expand these important relationships; and

WHEREAS, restructuring the UW Colleges and UW-Extension would allow the UW System to maintain affordability for students and families by continuing to provide courses currently taught at UW Colleges institutions, while expanding access to upper-level college courses; and

WHEREAS, students will continue to be able to transfer credits to all institutions within the UW System, and the UW System will continue to identify and reduce barriers to credit transfer; and

WHEREAS, the UW System will further standardize and regionalize administrative operations and services to more efficiently use resources; and

WHEREAS, the UW System aims to leverage resources at UW institutions to move more students through the educational pipeline to better meet Wisconsin's current and projected workforce needs, which is in the economic interest of Wisconsin's citizens; and

WHEREAS, UW Colleges and UW-Extension exemplify the Wisconsin Idea and the UW System's commitment of providing affordable, quality higher education and programs for all Wisconsin residents who seek it, and it is crucial to take action to maintain and strengthen the UW System's connection to citizens, communities, and businesses across the state; and

WHEREAS based on the foregoing, President Cross recommends restructuring the UW Colleges and UW-Extension;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that, effective July 1, 2018, the UW Colleges campuses be joined with UW System universities and operate as units of those universities while maintaining the open access and transfer mission of the UW Colleges campuses and the strong partnerships with counties and municipalities in which the campuses are located; it is expected that these two-year programs will continue to allow open access recruiting and transfer to all UW four-year institutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, effective July 1, 2018, UW-Barron County will be joined with UW-Eau Claire; UW-Manitowoc, UW-Marinette and UW-Sheboygan will be joined with UW-Green Bay; UW-Washington County and UW-Waukesha will be joined with UW-Milwaukee; UW-Fond du Lac and UW-Fox Valley will be joined with UW-Oshkosh; UW-Baraboo/Sauk County and UW-Richland will be joined with UW-Platteville; UW-Marathon

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County and UW-Marshfield/Wood County will be joined with UW-Stevens Point; and UW-Rock County will be joined with UW-Whitewater; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, effective July 1, 2018, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-Milwaukee UW-Oshkosh, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Whitewater are authorized to grant those degrees granted by the UW Colleges and are directed to amend their mission statements accordingly if necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, effective July 1, 2018, the UW-Extension Cooperative Extension Division and the UW-Extension Conference Centers be joined with UW-Madison and operate as a component part of that institution, and that the Division of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Division of Broadcasting and Media Innovation, the Division of Continuing Education, Outreach, and E-Learning, and UW Colleges Online be moved within UW System Administration as an entity that can maintain separate accreditation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Regents anticipates that UW Colleges and UW-Extension employees who become employees of a UW System campus or UW System Administration shall continue to enjoy job security rights and shared governance rights consistent with their current appointment at UW Colleges and UW-Extension, the particulars of which will be developed by campus administration and UW System Administration in consultation with relevant governance bodies, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Cross is authorized to conduct any necessary planning and implementation to effectuate this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Cross shall provide regular updates to the Board of Regents on the progress of the planning and implementation of this restructuring; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to the extent they are inconsistent with this resolution, Regent Policy Documents 18-1, 18-2, and 19-7 are superseded.