

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

Thursday, April 4, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Ullsvik Hall
Velzy Commons
1 University Plaza
Platteville, Wisconsin

-President Walsh presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [April 4, 2024 Webcast](#)

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CALLING OF THE ROLL

[\[Recording: 00:00:00\]](#)

PRESENT: Regents Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, Haben Goitom (virtual), James Kreuser (virtual), Edmund Manydeeds, Cris Peterson, Joan Prince (virtual), Ashok Rai, Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

Regent Robert Atwell joined the meeting virtually at 1:31 p.m.

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Angela Adams, Evan Brenkus, Mike Jones, and Amy Traynor

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

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

No conflicts were declared.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

[\[Recording: 00:01:00\]](#)

Approval of the February 8-9, 2024 and March 13, 2024 Meeting Records

The records of the February 8-9, 2024 regular meeting and the March 13, 2024 special meeting of the UW System Board of Regents were approved as distributed.

Report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

The March 2024 report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided. There were no comments or questions.

UW-PLATTEVILLE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KARLA SANCHEZ

[\[Recording: 00:01:37\]](#)

President Walsh shared a brief video highlighting UW-Platteville Karla Sanchez, a first-generation student.

In the video, Ms. Sanchez, an industrial studies student with an emphasis in manufacturing, said growing up the idea of higher education did not seem like a possibility for her. She said she felt the campus felt like a perfect fit for her after visiting UW-Platteville and that she liked the small campus and Platteville community. After attending a career fair on campus her sophomore year, she got an internship which has led to her being offered a full-time position. Ms. Sanchez said the skills she learned through her internship have prepared her for her job post-graduation, and she credits UW-Platteville for shaping her into the person she has become.

UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:04:45\]](#)

President Walsh welcomed recently-appointed Regents Haben Goitom and Amy Traynor to the UW System Board of Regents. She noted that more complete introductions would take place at the June 6-7, 2024 meeting in Milwaukee.

President Walsh noted the April meeting would be Regent Bob Atwell and Regent Mike Jones' last regular meeting while serving on the Board of Regents. She also thanked Regent Emeritus John Miller and Dana Wachs for their service on the Board. President Walsh said their service would be formally recognized at a future meeting.

President Walsh announced Dr. James Beeby, who was approved by the Board in March 2024 as the next UW-La Crosse Chancellor, would begin his new role on July 1, 2024 and would be introduced in person at a later meeting. President Walsh offered appreciation and thanks to Dr. Betsy Morgan for serving as interim chancellor of UW-La Crosse and thanked the members of the search committee for their diligence and commitment throughout the process of the search.

President Rothman welcomed Wes Chapin, UW-River Falls interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He also congratulated David Travis, the outgoing UW-River Falls Provost, who has been named the next president of Lake Superior State University in Michigan. President Rothman also welcomed Laura Reynolds, the new UW-Platteville Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, who will begin her role on May 15, 2024.

President Walsh invited Vice President Bogost to share an update about her recent attendance, along with Regent Kreuser, at the National Conference on Trusteeship organized by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Vice President Bogost said the conference was a nice gathering of chancellors, presidents, and board members. She noted UW-Madison Provost Charles Isbell, Jr., served on a plenary panel discussing the effect AI is having on the operations of colleges and universities, and how university leaders can position institutions advantageously in emerging technological environments. Vice President Bogost noted Kevin Reilly, president emeritus of the UW System and now a senior fellow at AGB, also served on multiple panels.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:10:35\]](#)

Regents Business Partner Awards

President Walsh reported that in March 2024, UW-Stout and Phillips-Medisize were presented with Regent Business Partner Awards to recognize their collaborations. She said Phillips-Medisize has worked with UW-Stout faculty on curriculum development and hires UW-Stout students as interns and into full-time professional roles.

Sporting News

President Walsh congratulated UW-River Falls women's ice hockey team for winning their first-ever Division III National Championship, and for finishing the season with a 31-0 overall record, the most single season wins in NCAA Division III women's ice hockey history.

President Walsh recognized the UW-Madison women's ice hockey team for their second-place finish in the NCAA Championship Final.

For a clean sweep of the podium at the Division III National Collegiate Gymnastics Championship, President Walsh congratulated UW Oshkosh for their third straight win, along with UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse for their second and third place finishes.

President Walsh congratulated UW- La Crosse for claiming their second straight title at the Men's Division III Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC), as well as UW-Eau Claire, UW Oshkosh, and UW-Whitewater on their second, third, and fourth place finishes.

Spring Commencements

President Walsh congratulated the approximately 23,000 students graduating in the spring of 2024. She said their degree is a recognition of tremendous dedication and hard work.

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REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:14:54\]](#)

President Rothman offered his congratulations to the new graduates, saying they are poised to do great things and have bright and exciting futures ahead of them.

Strategic Plan Update

President Rothman reported on the launch of a new Universities of Wisconsin website (wisconsin.edu). He shared a video of the website's updates and improvements and said the reimagined site will be a cornerstone of the UW's wide-ranging but focused enrollment initiatives. Visitors to the site can learn about the diverse offerings and value at all of the UWs, as well as how to find further information at individual universities' websites.

President Rothman said the website remodel is a part of the ongoing advocacy and awareness campaign to highlight each of the Universities of Wisconsin and their unique

and diverse programs and opportunities, while also showing the shared values of excellence and service. He said the website and overall campaign are guided by the Strategic Plan and efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of the value of higher education in general and the Universities of Wisconsin specifically.

President Rothman acknowledged the discussion held earlier in the day during the Education Committee meeting regarding the dual enrollment task force's charge to provide recommendations for advancing dual enrollment and thereby expanding access to higher education; increasing participation rates among Wisconsin students, particularly underrepresented groups; and increasing the number of students who take a UW dual enrollment course and subsequently matriculate at a UW university. He said the task force's final report will be presented at a later meeting.

President Rothman reported that The Wisconsin Guarantee, announced in March 2024, automatically admits the state's top-performing students to the state's 13 public universities in accordance with a new law approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Tony Evers. He explained that under The Wisconsin Guarantee, students who rank in the top 5 percent of their class at the end of 11th grade will be eligible for automatic admission to UW-Madison, while students who rank in the top 10 percent of their class at the end of 11th grade will be eligible for automatic admission to any of the state's other 12 public universities. President Rothman said the guarantee will help to keep the best and brightest high school graduates in Wisconsin.

Additionally, President Rothman reported the new direct admissions program will begin during the upcoming summer of 2024. Under the program, eligible students will be automatically admitted to up to 10 UW universities who are participating in the program based on their high school GPA. He said these initiatives – dual enrollment, The Wisconsin Guarantee, and direct admissions – are all consistent with the strategic plan's goals of increasing enrollment and the participation rate in Wisconsin, so that the UWs are positioned to graduate the workforce needed by the state.

As part of another primary focus of the strategic plan, commitment to student success, President Rothman reported that Monica Smith, associate vice president for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging, is leading a Student Success Retention Plan that uses data to identify the root causes of retention and graduation gaps for historically underserved students. The data will be used to determine whether there are themes in attrition; to determine points and targets of intervention; and work with UW universities to develop specific action plans.

President Rothman highlighted another discussion from the Education Committee on the Student Behavioral Health Initiative. He said the funding gap that will come once the one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are expended at the end of the 2024-25 academic year will need to be addressed in the near future in order to continue to provide students with mental health services.

President Rothman announced a new partnership with Lawyers for Learners which will help bring free legal help and services to students at all 13 UW universities. He said legal issues can impede students' ability to attend or succeed at school or obtain employment. Offering this resource to UW students has the potential to positively impact student success, retention, and completion.

President Rothman said after a review, the decision was made to close the UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha branch campus. He said changes are being made to ensure the long-term success of UW-Milwaukee, and that UW-Milwaukee is working with Waukesha County Technical College to ensure future students continue to have quality higher education opportunities in Wisconsin. As the changes are undertaken, President Rothman said the top priority will be the transition of faculty and staff, and that to the extent those actions result in layoffs, a process as prescribed by the board will be followed.

President Rothman noted another priority in the strategic plan: ensuring the Universities of Wisconsin remain competitive with peer schools, including in compensation. He said in 2023 a 4%+2% pay plan was approved for faculty and staff by the state legislature, but that he would also seek approval of a similar pay plan adjustment for UW chancellors. President Rothman said a continued review is needed to ensure the UWs remain competitive with market compensation and that he would address those concerns with the Board at a future meeting.

President Rothman also highlighted a discussion held earlier in the day during the Business & Finance Committee meeting regarding paid parental leave for all UW employees. He indicated that the Universities of Wisconsin and UW-Madison have drafted policies, under their respective personnel systems, to implement six weeks (240 hours) of paid parental leave within a 12-month period for the birth or adoption of a child.

Legislative and Other Updates

President Rothman reported that the state's legislative session recently concluded, and UW Administration is well into planning efforts to engage with legislative candidates during the

summer and fall of 2024. He said the next biennial budget request is also being developed and will be brought before the Board at the August 22-23, 2024, meeting.

Regent Atwell joined the meeting virtually at 1:31 p.m.

HOST-CAMPUS PRESENTATION BY UW-PLATTEVILLE CHANCELLOR TAMMY EVETOVICH: "PIONEERING FORWARD TOGETHER: UW-PLATTEVILLE STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY"

[\[Recording: 00:28:31\]](#)

President Walsh invited Tammy Evetovich, Chancellor of UW-Platteville, to present to the Board.

Chancellor Evetovich reiterated UW-Platteville's 150-plus year history as an educational leader in Southwest Wisconsin. She noted UW-Platteville's role in enriching the region, while providing a critical access point to education for generations of families. Chancellor Evetovich described UW-Platteville as a teaching-focused, broad-access university that places value on student support, very strong career outcomes, and a solid foundation in the liberal arts. She noted the university's commitment to meeting students where they are and adapting to their needs.

Chancellor Evetovich invited a panel of UW-Platteville students – Abigail Spilde, Mollie Johnson, John Phelps, and Austin Cooper – to provide insight into the diverse experiences that shape the educational journey at UW-Platteville. The students shared their stories of how UW-Platteville's focus on access, support, and fostering high-impact, meaningful opportunities for engagement, has led them to success. Additionally, Ted Richards, Chairman of Strand Associates, and Matt Richards, President and CEO of Strand Associates, who both attended UW-Platteville, spoke highly of how well-prepared UW-Platteville students are for jobs post-graduation. Chancellor Evetovich thanked them for the support Strand Associates provides to UW-Platteville in the form of financial contributions, but also providing high-impact practice opportunities to students.

Chancellor Evetovich reaffirmed the university's commitment to being responsive to new students' needs as they arise, adapting to changing workforce needs, keeping costs low for students, and ensuring a high return on their investment into the future.

The Board recessed from 2:17 p.m. to 2:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF 2024-25 TUITION & AUXILIARY RATES

[\[Recording: 01:16:57\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Regent Rai, chair of the Business & Finance Committee, to present the committee's recommendation on the 2024-25 tuition and fee proposals brought to the committee earlier in the day.

Regent Rai said the Business & Finance Committee reviewed, discussed, and voted to recommend the Board adopt the Universities of Wisconsin's proposal for tuition and auxiliary rates for the 2024-25 academic year. He said Sean Nelson, Universities of Wisconsin Vice President for Finance and Administration, outlined the key factors that were considered in developing the proposal and shared an overview of the recommendations.

Regent Rai reported that the proposal provides for a base tuition increase of 3.75% for resident undergraduates. Accounting for a combined tuition and segregated fee increase averaging 4.4%, and an increase in room and board rates averaging 3.1%, the proposed average increase in the cost of attendance for Wisconsin resident undergraduate students at the four-year campuses would be 3.8%. He said the proposal also provides for increases to graduate tuition and nonresident undergraduate tuition, which vary by university, but the dollar amount of the increases charged to nonresidents is equal to or greater than the amount assessed to Wisconsin resident students.

Regent Rai reported that in addition to the base tuition adjustment, most of the universities propose an increase to program-specific tuition in one or more fields of study, which can help to offset the expenses of certain high-cost programs, maintain their high quality, and expand their capacity to graduate more students into high-demand fields to help meet Wisconsin's workforce needs.

Regent Rai said the Business & Finance Committee found the proposal to be reasonable and responsible, noting the 3.8% average increase in cost of attendance for resident students is in line with recent levels of inflation and that inflation continues to reduce purchasing power at the universities for goods and services necessary to meet the needs of students. He noted that in addition to inflation, the pay plan enacted in the state budget adds additional expenses to the universities.

Regent Rai emphasized that a UW education needs to be accessible and affordable, offering life-changing educational opportunities delivered by exceptional faculty and staff at a financially strong university. He said these goals are inherent throughout the Strategic Plan, and the proposal has been developed with that commitment in mind.

Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 12155. The motion was seconded by Regent Colón.

Regent Weatherly noted a concern he has heard from students regarding fees charged on top of their tuition fees, for example technology charges. He said while these fees are not under the purview of the Board, he would like the Board to discuss this topic further at a later meeting.

Regent Tyler asked if certain cost of living increases are considered when also looking at tuition and segregated fee pricing. Vice President Nelson said financial aid officers do consider cost of living factors like transportation, housing, or food costs, but that the proposal before the Board only includes the primary cost of attendance.

Regent Manydeeds emphasized the importance of listening to the students' feedback. He noted the Board's decision to forgo a tuition increase the first year there was an opportunity to do so following the end of the tuition freeze, in order to consider all factors necessary to make an informed decision that supported the basis for an increase. Regent Manydeeds said the proposal was backed up by facts that allow an increase in an appropriate way.

Regent Rai noted the effort on UW campuses to reduce expenses and said a good portion of the tuition increase will help support the pay plan, which is necessary to keep campuses staffed. He reiterated that many increases are also in line with inflationary pressures.

President Walsh said tuition at UW universities is fair and competitive in comparison to peer schools. She said considering both costs to students and needs of UW campuses has been key to a responsible and practical tuition and segregated fees increase.

Regent Underly noted that the state legislature has a \$4 billion budget surplus but has neglected to put those investments back into the Wisconsin school system, and remarked on the large decrease in monetary support from the state that the Universities of Wisconsin have endured over the last approximately 50 years.

Resolution 12155 was approved on a voice vote.

Approval of 2024-25 Tuition and Auxiliary Rates

Resolution 12155 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves rates for academic tuition, segregated fees, room and board, and textbook rental rates as attached in the document, "2024-25 Tuition and Auxiliary Rates, April 2024".

The Board also authorizes the President of the University of Wisconsin System to approve any reductions to academic tuition, segregated fees, room and board, and textbook rental rates.

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CLOSED SESSION

[\[Recording: 01:32:36\]](#)

President Walsh called upon Vice President Bogost to read the motion to move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Regent Manydeeds and adopted on a roll call vote, with Regents Atwell, Bogost, Colón, Goitom, Kreuser, Manydeeds, Peterson, Prince, Rai, Tyler, Underly, Walsh, and Weatherly voting in the affirmative. There were no dissenting votes and no abstentions.

Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 12156 That the Board of Regents move into closed session to a) consider personal histories related to the naming of facilities at UW-Madison and UW-La Crosse, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; b) consider personal histories related to UW-Stout honorary degree nominations, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats.; c) consider performance evaluations for chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.; and d) consider pay plan/compensation adjustments for the UW System President and chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.

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Before considering items on the closed session agenda, President Walsh 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."

No conflicts were declared.

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During the closed session, Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 12157. The motion was seconded by Vice President Bogost and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Name the New Computer, Data and Information Sciences (CDIS) Building, UW-Madison

Resolution 12157 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents authorizes that the new Computer, Data and Information Sciences building be named "Morgridge Hall".

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During the closed session, Vice President Bogost moved for the adoption of Resolution 12158. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Name the New College of Engineering Academic and Research Building, UW-Madison

Resolution 12158 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-Madison, and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents authorizes that the new College of Engineering Academic and Research Building be named "The Phillip A. Levy Engineering Center".

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During the closed session, Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 12159. The motion was seconded by Regent Colón and approved on a voice vote.

Authority to Name the New Fieldhouse, UW-La Crosse

Resolution 12159 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW-La Crosse and the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents approves an exception to Regent Policy Document 19-14 and authorizes that the new Fieldhouse be named, "Bob Hetzel Fieldhouse".

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During the closed session, Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 12160. The motion was seconded by Regent Peterson and approved on a voice vote.

Amendment to Employment Agreement for UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Mark Mone

Resolution 12160 That, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the attached Amendment to Employment Agreement for UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Mark Mone, effective April 5, 2024.

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During the closed session, Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 12161. The motion was seconded by Regent Underly and approved on a voice vote.

Approval of Pay Plan Adjustments for Chancellors

Resolution 12161 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves a 4% pay plan increase for Chancellors effective July 2, 2023, and a 2% pay plan increase effective June 30, 2024, as set forth in Attachment A.

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During the closed session, Vice President Bogost moved for the adoption of Resolution 12162. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai and approved on a voice vote.

Approval of Pay Plan Adjustments for the UW System President

Resolution 12162 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves a 4% pay plan increase for the UW System President effective July 2, 2023, and a 2% pay plan increase effective June 30, 2024, as set forth in Attachment A.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 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