

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 4, 2024**

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened from 8:45 am to 10:15 am in person and via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance were: Regents Weatherly, Prince (via Zoom), Goitom, Tyler, Underly and Manydeeds. No Regent declared a conflict of interest regarding any of the items listed on the meeting agenda.

Item C. Proposed Consent Agenda: Given the number of agenda items to be covered during the meeting, the Chair requested a motion to move the following routine, non-controversial items to a consent agenda. Note: Items on a consent agenda may be acted upon by the committee in a single vote. Any Board Member may remove items from a consent agenda for separate discussion and consideration. The meeting agenda reflected the following three items on the consent agenda:

1. Education Committee
2. UW-Madison: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Dairy and Food Animal Management
3. UW-Milwaukee: Approval of a Master of Science in Connected Systems Engineering
4. UW-Stout: Approval of a Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) in Design, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainability “
5. UW-Stout: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Physics
6. UW-Stout: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Biology
7. UW-Stout: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
8. UW-Stout: Approval of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration

All items remained on the consent agenda. A motion to approve item C was made by Regent Tyler and seconded by Regent Manydeeds. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Continued UW System Test-optional Admissions Process in Regent Policy Document 7-3: “UW System Freshman Admissions Policy”

UW Associate Vice Presidents (AVPs) for Enrollment & Student Success Julie Amon, and for Policy Analysis & Research Ben Passmore to presented the resolution, which extends the extends the temporary suspension of the requirement for freshman applicants to provide an ACT or SAT score as part of their application through the 2026-27 academic year for all of the Universities of Wisconsin. A motion to approve item D was made by Regent Underly and seconded by Regent Tyler.

In response to the presentation, Regent Prince asked how students are made aware of the test-optional process. AVP Amon responded that websites, communication to parents and guidance counselors, UW brochures and other marketing materials are all part of the strategy. Regent Manydeeds asked what the argument was in favor of the test. AVP Amon

noted that at schools with more low admission rates, the test is a way to differentiate students. AVP Passmore added that there is a perception the test is more merit-based, though noted that it has not been predictive for UW schools. AVP Amon also clarified the policy applies to freshman applications. The motion passed unanimously.

Host Presentation by UW-Platteville: “For All Our Students”

Wayne Weber, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, along with UW-Platteville students, Katlynn Steffes, Carrie LaFeber, and Liz Winkler highlighted examples of high-impact practices on the campus. In response to the presentation, students also explained how they found out about internship opportunities, and their advice to peers who may not have continued

Five-Year Update on the Student Behavioral Health Initiative: Progress and Opportunity

John Achter, UW Senior Director of Student Success & Wellbeing, Randy Barker, Director of Health, Counseling, and Well-Being, UW-Superior, Deirdre Dalsing, Director of Counseling Services, UW-Platteville, and Sandi Scott, Dean of Students and Senior Student Affairs Officer, UW-Stout provided an overview of the first five years of the Student Behavioral Health Initiative, summarized the status of present efforts, and shared what they believe is needed for a sustainable future to support the mental health and well-being of university communities.

In response, Regent Tyler asked how much of the increase in mental health needs might be due to un-masking. Dr. Achter stated that destigmatization and early identification has been a positive, and contributes to increased numbers of students seeking services. Ms. Dalsing added that mental health needs are important for staff in addition to students. Regent Weatherly asked about how to make the case for funding mental health services as an investment to improve student retention.

Dual Enrollment Taskforce Report: Taskforce Report and Recommendations Overview

Regent Underly shared her support for the Dual Enrollment Task Force and the recommendations in its report. She acknowledged the close partnership it involves between UW and K-12 schools, and thanked members of the Department of Public Instruction and UW who were involved in the task force. Regent Tyler asked if the Wisconsin Technical College System model might be applicable to make dual enrollment courses free for students. Regent Underly noted that more than 100 districts have gone to referenda, showing they need additional funding to make it possible, and that dual enrollment is often seen as an additional effort, making it more likely to get cut.

Regent Weatherly noted there was not enough time to discuss the Dual Enrollment Taskforce Report, but encouraged other Regents to read the report and suggested a further discussion at a future meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.