

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

Thursday, August 22, 2024  
1:00 p.m.

Room 1820  
Van Hise Hall  
1220 Linden Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Bogost presiding-

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The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [August 22, 2024 Webcast](#)

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## CALLING OF THE ROLL

[\[Recording: 00:00:16\]](#)

PRESENT: Regents Angela Adams, Desmond Adongo, Amy Bogost, Evan Brenkus, Héctor Colón, James Kreuser, Timothy Nixon, Cris Peterson, Joan Prince, Ashok Rai, Amy Traynor, Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Haben Goitom, Edmund Manydeeds, Jack Salzwedel

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## DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

Before considering any items on the open session agenda, President Bogost 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 Karen Walsh recused herself from voting on Resolution 12237, "UW-Parkside Contractual Agreement with CDW Government LLC."

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## **APPROVAL OF THE RECORDS OF THE JUNE 6-7, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND THE JUNE 26, 2024 AND JULY 8, 2024 SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE UW SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS**

[\[Recording: 00:01:17\]](#)

The records of the June 6-7, 2024 regular meeting and the June 26, 2024 and July 8, 2024 special meetings of the UW System Board of Regents were approved as distributed.

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## **UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS**

[\[Recording: 00:01:38\]](#)

President Bogost welcomed and introduced Dr. James Beeby, the 11<sup>th</sup> chancellor of UW-La Crosse, who started his position on July 1, 2024. Chancellor Beeby thanked the UW-La Crosse faculty and staff for his warm welcome to campus and said he looked forward to advancing the mission of the UWs and supporting the students.

President Rothman welcomed and introduced Stephanie Pope, UW-La Crosse Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance; Tracy Drier, UW-Eau Claire Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration; and Matt Cecil, UW-Parkside Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs.

President Rothman welcomed UW-River Falls Chancellor Maria Gallo, retiring in the Fall of 2024, noting that her recognition would take place later in the day's meeting. He also welcomed UWSA Vice President for Finance & Administration, who would also be recognized later in the meeting.

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## **REPORT OF THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD**

The July 2024 report of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board had been provided.

Regent Tyler announced the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) hired Layla Merrifield as the new WTCS president, replacing Dr. Morna K. Foy who announced her retirement after serving 12 years in the position.

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## **REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

[\[Recording: 00:10:04\]](#)

### **Remarks by Incoming President**

President Bogost thanked her fellow Regents and former President Walsh for their trust and guidance. She said the Board has witnessed the transformative power of higher education and noted the commitment to the strategic plan and working collaboratively and diligently with determination and purpose.

### **Universities of Wisconsin Accomplishments**

President Bogost congratulated UW-Stout on its Co-op & Internship Program receiving the AASCU Excellence & Innovation 2024 Stewards of Place Award. She recognized the Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship and its Center for Technology Commercialization for hosting an America's Seed Fund 2024 Road Tour stop in Madison in mid-July.

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## **REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT**

[\[Recording: 00:16:41\]](#)

### **Video Presentation: "Welcome to Opportunity"**

President Rothman shared a brief video from the "Welcome to Opportunity" project, which features a sample of interviews with new UW students' parents to be posted on the UWs' social media Reels in the Fall.

### **Legislative and Other Updates**

President Rothman provided an update on FAFSA, noting Wisconsin FAFSA completions remain 9.7% lower compared to the last academic year, which is slightly better than the national trend of 9.9%. He acknowledged and thanked UWs' financial aid officers for their diligence and commitment under trying circumstances to extending flexibility and reaching out to students directly to offer help in finding solutions.

President Rothman reported that the UWs continue to monitor litigation involving new Title IX regulations nationally. Due to the federal injunction in *Kansas v. United States Department*

*of Education*, the UWs have suspended permanent and emergency rulemaking regarding Title IX at this time – but remain ready to publish the rule and policies should the injunction be lifted.

President Rothman reported he had recently testified before the Legislature’s Study Committee on the Future of the University of Wisconsin System, discussing the UWs strategic plan and some of the challenges faced in the broader higher education landscape, specifically that Wisconsin is currently ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 50 states in public funding support for its four-year universities.

### **Strategic Plan Updates**

President Rothman reported that the first Direct Admit Wisconsin offers of admission started going out the week of July 29 and would continue to roll out through early October 2024. He said the offers would also note that students who come from families with an adjusted gross income of \$55,000 or less will qualify for having their tuition and fees covered through the Wisconsin Tuition Promise. President Rothman reported that the 2025 Wisconsin Tuition Promise was being made possible through a grant by Ascendium Education Group, a Madison-based non-profit organization.

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### **REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

[\[Recording: 00:36:43\]](#)

President Bogost called upon Regent Prince to present a report of actions taken by the Education Committee. Regent Prince said the Education Committee heard an update on Direct Admit Wisconsin implementation and noted that the discussion on UW Continuing Education Opportunities would be moved to the September Education Committee meeting.

Regent Prince moved for the adoption of Resolutions 12226, 12227, 12228, 12229, and 12230. The motion was seconded by Regent Tyler and approved on a voice vote.

#### New Program Authorization (Implementation) Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Resolution 12226      That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Doctor of

Philosophy in Computer Science program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Game and Media Studies, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Resolution 12227 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Game and Media Studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

New Program Authorization (Implementation) Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing@Home University of Wisconsin-Superior

Resolution 12228 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Chancellor is authorized to implement the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and Bachelor of Science in Nursing@Home at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Academic Unit Realignment Proposal: UW Oshkosh

Resolution 12229 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of UW Oshkosh and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents authorizes the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to establish the College of Business, Arts, and Communication, the College of Public Affairs and Education, the College of Nursing, Health Professions, and STEM, and the School of Business, the School of Media, Arts, and Communication, the School of Public Affairs and Global Engagement, the School of Education and Human Services, the School of Nursing and Health Professions, and the School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Amendments to Regent Policy Document 1-1, "Mission Statements"

Resolution 12230 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the attached amendments to Regent Policy Document 1-1, "Mission Statements."

Regent Prince separately moved for the adoption of Resolution 12231. The motion was seconded by Regent Rai.

Regent Underly went on record saying she would oppose the resolution and that she was concerned about the precedent being set as well as the impact on the universities' ability to recruit and retain faculty.

Vice President Weatherly said he would vote in favor of the resolution, as he saw it to be the best decision given the circumstances. He said Wisconsin is lacking in the political will to invest in students, businesses, and the state's future, noting that Wisconsin is 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 50 states in public funding.

Regent Walsh said she would vote in favor of the resolution but hoped it would be a learning experience and encourage better planning in the future.

Regent Nixon said he would vote in favor of the resolution. He emphasized the importance of the two-year universities and the affordable and accessible access to education they provide to the people of Wisconsin, but said the UWs need to adapt and look forward.

Program Discontinuance and Faculty Layoffs at UW-Milwaukee Pursuant to Regent Policy Document 20-24

Resolution 12231      That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the UW System Board of Regents approves discontinuance of the UW-Milwaukee College of General Studies and its three academic departments (Arts & Humanities, Math & Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences & Business) and authorizes the President of the University of Wisconsin System and the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to lay off the College's faculty per Regent Policy Document 20-24, "Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff or Termination."

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**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

[\[Recording: 00:53:08\]](#)

President Bogost called upon Regent Adams to present a report from the Audit Committee. Regent Adams said the Audit Committee heard an Audit Plan Progress Report for Fiscal Year 2025 and heard a summary of results for audits recently issued. Regent Adams said the Audit Committee agreed that the Emergency Preparedness Audit highlighted the need for more refined direction from the Board related to expectations, as well as a lack of



resources being directed to the area across the UWs, and would work with President Rothman to address those concerns.

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

[\[Recording: 00:55:04\]](#)

President Bogost called upon Regent Rai to present a report of actions taken by the Business & Finance Committee. Regent Rai said the Business & Finance Committee received the year-end Budget-to-Actuals Report and a report on gifts, grants, and contracts awarded to the Universities of Wisconsin in fiscal year 2024.

Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolutions 12232, 12233, 12234, 12235, and 12236. The motion was seconded by Regent Colón and approved on a voice vote.

### UW System Status Report on Large/High-Risk Information Technology Projects

Resolution 12232 That, upon the recommendation the President of the UW System, the UW System Board of Regents approves: (1) the UW System Status Report on Large/High-Risk Information Technology Projects dated August 22, 2024; and (2) UW System Administration's submittal of the report on the Board's behalf to the legislative Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology, as required by s. 36.59(7), Wis. Stats.

### UW-Milwaukee Graduate Application Fee

Resolution 12233 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves UW-Milwaukee's request to assess a graduate application fee of \$75.

### UW-Milwaukee Contractual Agreement with Collegiate Licensing Company, LLC

Resolution 12234 That, upon recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as UW-Milwaukee, and Collegiate Licensing Company, LLC.

UW System Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Council of South-Central Wisconsin

Resolution 12235 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Regents and the Building and Construction Trades Council of South-Central Wisconsin (BTC).

UW-Madison Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Council of South-Central Wisconsin

Resolution 12236 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the UW System, the Board of Regents approves the collective bargaining agreement between UW-Madison and the Building and Construction Trades Council of South-Central Wisconsin (BTC).

Regent Rai separately moved for the adoption of Resolution 12237. The motion was seconded by Regent Nixon and approved on a voice vote, with Regent Walsh abstaining to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

UW-Parkside Contractual Agreement with CDW Government LLC

Resolution 12237 That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the President of the UW System, the Board of Regents approves the contractual agreement between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and CDW Government LLC.

**Approval of 2025-27 UW System Biennial Operating Budget and Financial Aid Request**

[\[Recording: 01:00:59\]](#)

Regent Rai reported that the Business & Finance Committee approved the UW System Biennial Operating Budget and Financial Aid Request of \$855 million for the 2025-27 biennium. The budget request would allow the Universities of Wisconsin to keep resident undergraduate tuition flat throughout the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years, as well as move up from 43<sup>rd</sup> of 50 states in public funding and reach the national median.

Regent Rai said the proposed budget request includes funding for standard budget adjustments and initiatives that support increasing affordability, preserving accessibility,

developing talent, ensuring quality, and investing in innovation. The request also includes items for the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) which requires Board approval as it is administratively attached to UW-Madison. The budget also includes forwarding a request to the state's Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) to increase Wisconsin Grant funding to recognize federal legislation that will result in more students being eligible for the grant and to allow for a maximum award to increase up to approximately 50% of the average tuition and fees at a UW comprehensive university.

Regent Rai moved for the adoption of Resolution 12238. The motion was seconded by Regent Adongo.

President Rothman emphasized the importance of the budget request and that an investment in the Universities of Wisconsin is an investment in Wisconsin. He said the proposed budget request would spur innovation in research and teaching, make a degree more affordable for students most in need, develop talent by focusing on student success, preserve accessibility, and ensure quality. President Rothman noted that under the proposed budget, he would not recommend tuition increases over the period covered by the biennial budget.

Regent Walsh thanked Vice President Nelson for linking elements of the proposed budget request to the strategic plan.

Regent Nixon asked how President Rothman would answer potential concerns that the proposed request might result in unnecessary duplication of services across the universities. President Rothman said that this request is an investment in the future, and the Universities of Wisconsin have a responsibility as good stewards to use funds wisely – a commitment that is included in the UWs strategic plan. He pointed to shared services as one of the areas where additional investment could lead to greater efficiencies.

Regent Rai commented on the expense-saving efforts of the UWs in recent years and how the strategic plan has informed the proposed budget request.

Resolution 12238 was approved on a voice vote. There were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

#### Approval of the 2025-27 Universities of Wisconsin Biennial Operating Budget and Financial Aid Request

Resolution 12238 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the Universities of Wisconsin, the Board of Regents approves the submission of: (1)

the Board's 2025-27 Biennial Operating Budget request, totaling \$457,279,000 in ongoing funds and \$855,143,000 biennially in General Purpose Revenue (GPR) for key initiatives; (2) the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab's request for additional positions and equity salary adjustments totaling approximately \$785,800 in ongoing funds and \$1,571,600 biennially; (3) the Wisconsin Grant-UW request to the Higher Educational Aids Board for inclusion in its 2025-27 biennial budget request totaling \$13,500,000 in ongoing funds and \$27,500,000 biennially; and (4) statutorily required performance measures for 2023-25. In addition, the Board of Regents delegates authority to the UW President to approve and submit a 0% and 5% biennial budget reduction plan, as required by 2015 WI Act 201, and standard budget adjustments for items such as fringe benefits should it be determined they are necessary.

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

[\[Recording: 01:21:30\]](#)

### **Approval of 2025-27 UW System Biennial Capital Budget Request**

President Bogost 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 the 2025-27 Biennial Capital Budget request of \$1,760,804,000. He said the proposed Capital Plan reflects the core values of the Universities of Wisconsin by ensuring that projects include measures such as innovation (by promoting flexibility and adapting to changing conditions), sustainability (ensuring fiscally prudent and environmentally friendly projects), and accountability (ensuring that universities implement projects in a timely fashion within established budgets). Regent Kreuser highlighted key strategic elements of the Capital Budget including repairing aging facilities, replacing obsolete facilities, and expanding STEM and health sciences education.

Regent Kreuser moved for the adoption of Resolution 12239. The motion was seconded by Regent Nixon.

Regent Walsh emphasized the decaying state of many UW buildings and the need for the proposed biennial capital budget request to be funded.

Regent Prince said she was concerned about structural risks if the proposed budget request was not funded.

Regent Nixon asked about the quantity of buildings the UWs own, as well as space efficiency on the UW campuses.

Resolution 12239 was approved on a voice vote.

### Approval of 2025-27 UW System Biennial Capital Budget Request

Resolution 12239 That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves the 2025-27 Capital Budget request and that it be submitted to the Department of Administration and the State Building Commission.

The 2025-27 Capital Budget recommendations align with the Universities of Wisconsin 2023-28 Strategic Plan through a commitment to stewardship of existing assets by addressing deferred maintenance; removing obsolete facilities; maintaining affordable, accessible, and high-quality educational environments for our students; and advancing Wisconsin's workforce needs. The University of Wisconsin System (UWS) staff evaluates and prioritizes these submissions based upon Board of Regent-approved criteria that include a strong emphasis on plan consistency, physical development and programmatic impacts, support for academic degrees and programs, and demonstration of the ability to implement previous capital budgets and projects.

The proposed 2025-27 Capital Budget Request of \$1,760,804,000 (\$1,171,462,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing; \$444,502,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing; \$35,601,000 UW Cash; and \$109,239,000 Non-UW Cash) includes the following:

1. Authorization to submit the list of recently received capital project program requests to repair, renovate, and/or replace the facilities (buildings, site improvements, and site utilities) infrastructure systemwide to the Department of Administration and the State Building Commission.
2. Three categorical enumerations of \$312,802,000 (\$281,625,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing, \$28,451,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing, \$2,226,000 UW Cash, and \$500,000 Non-UW Cash) for the Instructional Space Projects

Program, the Minor Facilities Renewal Projects Program Group 1, and the Minor Facilities Renewal Projects Program Group 2.

3. Twelve individual project enumerations of \$1,367,186,000 (\$889,837,000 General Fund Supported Borrowing; \$416,051,000 Program Revenue Supported Borrowing; \$7,500,000 UW Cash; and \$53,798,000 Non-UW Cash).
4. Six individual planning and design funding enumerations of \$80,816,000 (\$25,875,000 UW Cash and \$54,941,000 Non-UW Cash).
5. Approval of segregated fee increases for the UW-Stout Recreation Complex Addition and Renovation at the following: 2025/26 - \$150 and 2026/27 - \$60.30, for a total fee of \$338.70 per year to cover the project until the bond is closed out. Previous actions of the board approved a \$128.40 fee commencing in 2023 for design activities on the proposed project.
6. Authorization for the UW System President or designee to adjust individual project budgets as necessary in the development of the final 2025-27 Capital Budget recommendation with the Department of Administration.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Regents recommends that the University of Wisconsin System 2025-31 Six-Year Capital Plan be submitted to the Department of Administration in accordance with Wis. Stats. § 13.48(1), related to the long-range public building program.

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The Board recessed from 2:36 p.m. to 2:48 p.m.

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## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR REGENT EMERITUS DANA WACHS' SERVICE ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS**

[\[Recording: 01:35:03\]](#)

President Bogost called upon Regent Adams to read the Resolution of Appreciation for Regent Emeritus Dana Wachs' Service on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, which was adopted by acclamation. Regent Emeritus Wachs then shared his farewell remarks with the Board.

### Resolution of Appreciation for Regent Emeritus Dana Wachs' Service on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents

Resolution 12240      WHEREAS, Dana Wachs has dedicated two years of exemplary service as a Regent of the University of Wisconsin System from May 2022 to March 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dana, a lifelong resident of Eau Claire, faithfully represented the 91<sup>st</sup> Assembly District in the Wisconsin State Assembly, serving on the State Building Commission and the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities before his appointment as a UW Regent; and

WHEREAS, Dana demonstrated his leadership as chair and vice chair of the Capital Planning & Budget Committee, while also serving as an engaged member of the Business & Finance Committee and Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure on the Board, Dana ensured equitable review practices as chair of the Committee on Student Discipline and Other Student Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Dana continued his commitment to advancing medical research, health education, and workforce development, serving as the UW Board of Regents Liaison to the Wisconsin Partnership Program, which oversaw 20 grants awarded totaling \$10.6 million in fiscal year 2023; and

WHEREAS, Dana was steadfast in his support of publicly recognizing those who greatly impact our students and university communities throughout the state, serving on the Regents Teaching Excellence Awards Committee and the University Staff Excellence Awards Committee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System hereby offers heartfelt thanks and commendation to Dana Wachs for his dedicated service to the citizens of Wisconsin and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

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Regent Adams and Regent Prince left the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

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### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR UW-RIVER FALLS CHANCELLOR MARIA GALLO'S SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN**

[\[Recording: 01:46:56\]](#)

President Bogost called upon Regent Tyler to read the Resolution of Appreciation for UW-River Falls Chancellor Maria Gallo's Service to the Universities of Wisconsin, which was adopted by acclamation. Chancellor Gallo then shared her farewell remarks with the Board.

#### Resolution of Appreciation for UW-River Falls Chancellor Maria Gallo's Service to the Universities of Wisconsin

Resolution 12241      WHEREAS, Maria Gallo served as the 20<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–River Falls from 2021–2024, culminating a decades-long career in which she helped undergraduate and graduate students achieve their educational and professional goals through formal advising, teaching, and research; and

WHEREAS, Maria is a champion of women in higher education, serving as chair of the American Council on Education Women's Network Executive Council (WNEC) from 2022-2024, and has been honored to mentor future leaders in higher education through her leadership in professional societies across the country; and

WHEREAS, under Maria's leadership, the campus implemented its "Soaring to New Heights" strategic plan focusing on Success, Belonging, Sustainability, and Vitality—aligned with UWRF's mission, renewed vision, and newly adopted core values—and launched the university's first strategic enrollment management plan; and



WHEREAS, Maria's tenure as Chancellor was highlighted by a series of significant accomplishments, including creating the College of Education, Business and Allied Health to facilitate interdisciplinary program development; completing the modernization of the Dairy Pilot Plant now known as the Wuethrich Family/Grassland Dairy Center of Excellence; and working with university faculty and others to support the Humane Handling Institute, recently awarded the largest endowment in the university's history; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, UW-River Falls began constructing the Science and Technology Innovation Center, the largest building project in the university's history, which will transform the student academic experience and will position UW-River Falls to further contribute to the economic development of the thriving St. Croix Valley region and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Maria advocated tirelessly to receive Minnesota tuition reciprocity funds at UW-River Falls, returning millions of dollars to the campus, and supported sustainability efforts at the university, helping UW-River Falls receive its highest-ever Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) rating; and

WHEREAS, Maria's leadership brought the development and execution of a new UWRF brand identity, followed by a refreshed website and vital recruitment investments, including the addition of Esports and men's soccer as well as the return of the Marching Falcons marching band and men's baseball; and during her tenure, UW-River Falls graduates reached the highest outcomes rate in the university's history with over 99% reporting they were employed or were continuing their education within six months of graduation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System hereby offers thanks to Maria Gallo for her outstanding service as Chancellor of UW-River Falls and wishes her and her family well during her retirement.

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## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION SEAN NELSON'S SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN**

[\[Recording: 01:58:50\]](#)

President Bogost called upon Regent Rai to read the Resolution of Appreciation for Vice President for Finance & Administration Sean Nelson's Service to the Universities of Wisconsin, which was adopted by acclamation. Vice President Nelson then shared his farewell remarks with the Board.

### Resolution of Appreciation for Vice President for Finance & Administration Sean Nelson's Service to the Universities of Wisconsin

Resolution 12242      WHEREAS, Sean Nelson has provided exemplary service to the Universities of Wisconsin for more than seven years, beginning in May 2017 as Vice President for Finance and then under the expanded role of Vice President for Finance and Administration from September 2022 through the present; and

WHEREAS, as chief financial officer for the Universities of Wisconsin, Sean oversaw financial policy and planning; worked with the UWs chief business officers; and assured the fiscal integrity of the systemwide budget planning process, while also serving as trust officer for the Board of Regents and working with the Board's Business and Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, Sean served in a leadership role to transition UWs Trust Funds to the State of Wisconsin Investment Board and create the Intermediate Fund for investment, thereby creating greater stability for these funds, while his interest in sustainability, part of President Jay Rothman's Strategic Plan, has furthered these efforts, including through issuing a request for proposal for utility-tracking software and filling two sustainability coordinator project positions to assist with energy conservation initiatives that include identifying projects for tax credits; and

WHEREAS, Sean, who has more than 23 years of experience in administration and finance, served on the Wisconsin College Savings Board and attended meetings of the state's Higher Educational Aids Board to ensure a continued focus on financial aid for UW students, in addition to working with the Board of Regents to accelerate the

timeline to approve tuition and fee rates from June/July to April to help students and families plan; and

WHEREAS, Sean led the effort to create a revolving capital fund to help campuses pay for design work, which has allowed campuses to move more quickly to get projects enumerated—freeing up campus funds for more student-focused initiatives—and Sean’s student focus also included obtaining additional funding for campus mental health counseling services through his collaboration with the Division of Academic and Student Affairs to secure UW and grant resources;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System hereby offers thanks and commendation to Sean Nelson for his unwavering service to the Universities of Wisconsin as a strong fiscal steward and dedicated leader as he prepares to move back to his home state of Massachusetts upon his retirement.

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## **ELECTION OF TRUST OFFICER TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

[\[Recording: 02:13:38\]](#)

With Vice President Nelson’s retirement, President Bogost offered a nomination to elect Julie Gordon, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and soon-to-be Interim Vice President for Finance & Administration, to succeed Sean Nelson as Trust Officer effective September 9, 2024, through the remainder of his one-year term.

With no further nominations, Senior AVP Gordon was elected as trust officer by a voice vote.

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## **REGENT COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND MEMORIALS**

There were no communications, petitions, or memorials.

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## CLOSED SESSION

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

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

### Closed Session Resolution

Resolution 12243      That the Board of Regents move into closed session to a) deliberate and negotiate contracts that require a closed session for competitive or bargaining reasons, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats; b) consider strategies for crime detection and prevention, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(d), Wis. Stats.; and c) consider performance evaluations for chancellors, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.

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Before considering items on the closed session agenda, President Bogost 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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Regent Prince returned to the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

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Submitted by:

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