

**UW System Board of Regents
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday August 22, 2024**

Education Committee

The Education Committee convened at 8:00 a.m. in person and via Zoom videoconference. Committee members in attendance were: Regents Prince, Adams, Adongo, Brenkus, Traynor, Tyler, and Underly. 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 four items on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the June 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes of the Education Committee
2. UW-Milwaukee: Approval of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Computer Science
3. UW-Stout: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Game and Media Studies
4. UW-Superior: Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing@Home

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

D. Approval of Academic Unit Realignment Proposal: UW Oshkosh

Edwin Martini, UW Oshkosh Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Josh Garrison, UW Oshkosh Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs; and Caroline Geary, UW Oshkosh Associate Vice Chancellor for Curricular Affairs and Student Academic Achievement, presented an academic unit realignment proposal, which would realign four of UW Oshkosh's existing colleges into three new colleges and six new schools.

The reasons for the realignment include financial benefits, with immediate savings from the consolidation of administrative work, a more balanced distribution of students and staff, the alignment of UWO programs with DPI career clusters, and the potential for greater interdisciplinary connections and guided pathways to support student success. The realignment provides the transformative structural change for a sustainable UWO.

A motion to approve item D. was made by Regent Underly and seconded by Regent Tyler.

Regent Prince asked what effect the realignment would have on students. The UW Oshkosh representatives said the changes would help to enhance student success, there would be no program closures, and it would help in streamlining curriculum array.

Regent Prince asked about the date the realignment would go into effect, which will be on July 1, 2025 and be in full effect for students in fall of 2025. She asked how the effects of the realignment would be evaluated. The UW Oshkosh representatives said forums for feedback, cost saving structure, and student retention rate would be among the ways to evaluate the restructuring. Regent Prince asked for an update after the realignment was completed.

Regent Tyler asked about collaboration among the colleges within the realignment proposal. The presenters stated the schools have identified opportunities for program combinations and research.

Item D. was approved on a voice vote.

E. Approval of Amendments to Regent Policy Document 1-1, "Mission Statements"

Katherine Frank, UW-Stout Chancellor, and Glendalí Rodríguez, UW-Stout Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented proposed amendments to Regent Policy Document (RPD) 1-1, "Mission Statements," which codifies the shared mission of the UW System and its universities, and the core missions of the doctoral cluster and the comprehensive university cluster of institutions within the system. The proposed amendments create a new core mission statement for a third polytechnic university category, which would include UW-Stout as its only member. The revision helps stakeholders, including prospective students, to better understand the unique educational experience provided by UW-Stout.

A motion to approve item E. was made by Regent Tyler and seconded by Regent Traynor.

Regent Tyler said he strongly supported the changes to RPD 1-1, which support and recognizes the value of continuous improvement and the work UW-Stout is already doing.

Regent Prince asked about recertification for the Malcolm Baldrige Award.

Item E. was approved on a voice vote.

F. Approval of Program Discontinuance and Faculty Layoffs at UW-Milwaukee Pursuant to Regent Policy Document 20-24, "Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff and Termination"

Dr. Andrew Daire, UW-Milwaukee Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented UW-Milwaukee's proposal to discontinue a program, specifically the College of General Studies (CGS) and its three academic departments. This proposed program

discontinuance, resulting from the closure of UW-Milwaukee's Washington County and Waukesha locations, would result in faculty layoffs at the CGS and has been advanced per Regent Policy Document (RPD) 20-24, "Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff or Termination."

In planning for and implementing those closures, UW-Milwaukee determined that the declining enrollments and existing market demand cannot sustain the CGS and its academic departments. Among other supporting documents, a letter from Chancellor Mark Mone explains the proposal process and rationale for the decision in detail, including how UW-Milwaukee considered alternatives and provided opportunities for input and feedback. The university has been working closely with the Higher Learning Commission, its accrediting body, on teach-out plans and other support for current CGS students.

A motion to approve Item F. was made by Regent Adams and seconded by Regent Traynor.

Regent Adams emphasized the difficulty of the situation but recognized that based on the data the situation was not sustainable. She said she was thankful for the amount of thought that went into the decision.

Regent Tyler said he appreciated the pathways that were created for students during the transition period.

Regent Underly asked about the alternative options explored for faculty and about long term effects on faculty recruitment and university reputation. In response, Provost Daire stated that degree completion programs did not grow enrollment as hoped, and note that tenure is to protect academic freedom.

Regent Prince expressed frustration at the situation and noted the need for funding control.

Item F. was approved on a voice vote, with Regent Underly opposed.

G. Update: Direct Admit Wisconsin Implementation

Julie Amon, Ed.D., UWSA Associate Vice President for Enrollment & Student Success; Corina Diaz-Suazo, UWSA Strategic Enrollment and Transfer Specialist; and Daniel Younan, UWSA Policy and Planning Analyst, presented an update on Direct Admit Wisconsin implementation including the number of phase I participating high schools, the process of notifying participating high school students of direct admission decisions, just-in-time direct admit data, engagement in national conversations about direct admission, as well as next steps and early observations about the first phase of the initiative.

Regent Underly said direct admission supports the mission of the UWs, expanding opportunities and access to higher education.

Regent Adams expressed her excitement about the initiative and asked for an update at a future meeting on the results and learnings after the first year of implementation.

Regent Traynor asked about tracking and supporting direct admission students who go on to attend a UW university, as well as how high schools were engaged about opting in.

Regent Underly asked what would have made the process of implementing direct admissions easier. Ms. Diaz-Suazo said having a centralized data system with student information would have simplified the process.

Regent Tyler wondered if it would be better to automatically opt high schools in, then give them the option to opt out. Associate Vice President Amon responded that schools with an opt-out did see higher student participation.

Regent Prince noted that Item H. was struck from the August agenda and would be added to the September Education Committee meeting agenda, to ensure ample time for presentation and discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 am.