

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

Thursday, December 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Symphony Room, 2nd Floor
Gordon Dining & Event Center
770 W. Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Bogost presiding-

CALLING OF THE ROLL..... 2

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS..... 2

APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF THE NOVEMBER 7-8, 2024 MEETING OF THE UW SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS..... 3

UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS 3

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT 3

 Report(s) of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board3

 Chancellor Search Updates.....3

 Regents Business Partnership Awards.....4

REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT 4

 State, Federal, and Other Updates4

 Winter Commencements5

UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 5

UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATION FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW..... 6

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

Thursday, December 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Symphony Room, 2nd Floor
Gordon Dining & Event Center
770 W. Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin

-President Bogost presiding-

- - -

The recording of this meeting's open session is available at: [December 5, 2024 Webcast](#)

- - -

CALLING OF THE ROLL

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

PRESENT: Regents Angela Adams, Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, Haben Goitom, James Kreuser, Edmund Manydeeds, Timothy Nixon, Cris Peterson, Joan Prince, Ashok Rai, Jack Salzwedel, Jill Underly, Karen Walsh, and Kyle Weatherly

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regents Desmond Adongo, Evan Brenkus, Amy Traynor, and Mark Tyler

- - -

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."

No conflicts were declared.

- - -

APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF THE NOVEMBER 7-8, 2024 MEETING OF THE UW SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

[\[Recording: 00:01:15\]](#)

The record of the November 7-8, 2024 meeting of the UW System Board of Regents was approved as distributed.

UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

[\[Recording: 00:01:35\]](#)

President Rothman welcomed and introduced Chris Patton as UW Administration interim Vice President of University Relations.

President Rothman congratulated Ginger Hintz, UW Administration Associate Vice President for Finance and systemwide Controller, on her retirement and thanked her for almost 32 years of service to the UWs.

President Bogost noted that the December meeting would be the last for Regent Evan Brenkus and thanked him for his service, noting a formal recognition would take place at the meeting the following day.

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:04:46\]](#)

Report(s) of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board

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

Chancellor Search Updates

President Bogost reported that a 14-member search & screen committee was recently appointed to help identify a successor to UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Andy Leavitt. Regent Ashok Rai will chair the committee, with Regents Desmond Adongo, Haben Goitom, Jim Kreuser, Timothy Nixon, and Karen Walsh also serving along with campus community members.

President Bogost reported that the UW-Milwaukee chancellor search officially opened on November 11, following the naming of a 16-member search & screen committee. Regent Joan Prince will chair the committee with Regents Amy Bogost, Héctor Colón, Jack Salzwedel, and Kyle Weatherly also serving in addition to the campus community members.

Regents Business Partnership Awards

President Bogost reported six sets of Regent Business Partnership Awards had been recently awarded to recognize how UW universities are building strong relationships with businesses in support of students and communities. The awards were presented to UW-Superior and Superior Choice Credit Union, UW-River Falls and Interfacial, UW-Platteville and A.Y. McDonald Manufacturing Company, UW-Whitewater and UW Credit Union, UW-Oshkosh and ThedaCare, and UW-Green Bay and Camera Corner Connecting Point.

President Bogost shared a video with interviews from UW alumni employed by this year's business partners about their UW journeys.

- - -

REPORT OF THE SYSTEM PRESIDENT

[\[Recording: 00:14:34\]](#)

State, Federal, and Other Updates

President Rothman reported he had recently attended meetings with the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation in Washington D.C. and discussed the value of the UWs and importance of fully funding federal priorities like the Pell Grant and other student financial aid.

President Rothman reported that the updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was now open for all students following an extremely difficult rollout the prior year.

President Rothman reported that the Legislative Study Committee on the "Future of the University of Wisconsin System" had recently wrapped with members voting on a wide range of proposals related to the future of the UWs. He said a final report with the committee's recommendations would be put out later in the winter.

Winter Commencements

President Rothman congratulated the approximately 10,000 students who would be graduating in the coming weeks. He said the graduates are the workers, the leaders, and the innovators, who will define the economy and culture of Wisconsin moving forward, and the education they received at UW universities has prepared them well.

President Rothman congratulated UW-Madison and Chancellor Mnookin on moving up two spots to place sixth out of 920 public and private universities in the U.S. in university research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation's annual rankings.

- - -

UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

[\[Recording: 00:25:10\]](#)

President Rothman, interim Senior Vice President Britz, interim Vice President Gordon, interim Vice President Patton, and Associate Vice President Jablonski provided the Board with a comprehensive update on the implementation of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Key objectives included in the update were increasing enrollment, retention, and graduation rates to address Wisconsin's talent needs; maintaining academic excellence; achieving long-term financial sustainability; driving research; and ensuring freedom of expression and civil dialogue.

Senior Vice President Britz, Vice President Gordon, Vice President Patton, and Associate Vice President Jablonski each highlighted select tactics assigned to their respective units which will help to advance the objectives.

President Bogost asked about the ratio of counselors to students. Vice President Britz said that to be at the ideal ratio, 57 counselors would need to be added in order to be at the recommended national average.

Regent Underly asked how re-recruited students are being engaged and how the length of time since enrollment informs the re-recruiting efforts.

Regent Walsh also asked about the UWs' targeted efforts to recruit back students who opted out.

Regent Adams noted that breaking down the category of "students of color" by community, population, and ethnicity could help to create more targeted tactics to aid in achieving strategies. She also emphasized how faculty diversity can help increase the retention of underrepresented students.

President Bogost asked President Rothman about the potential impact to the UWs' ability to meet targets if there is not an increase in state funding support. President Rothman said that while many strategies are currently on track to be met by 2028, those could easily be at risk if state funding is not increased.

Regent Rai asked about the revenue generated from the last tuition increase and how much of an increase would be needed to supplement state funding if that does not come through. President Rothman said an increase to fully supplement state funding would make the UWs incredibly unaffordable.

Regent Goitom emphasized the need to balance short term needs with long term goals within the strategic plan.

In relation to the UW's rebranding efforts, Regent Walsh asked Associate Vice President Jablonski to comment on the reported 12% increase in parents who would consider a UW university for their child to attend.

Regent Nixon asked President Rothman to begin preparing a preliminary outline of what issues the Board might need to consider if the UWs do not receive the requested state funding.

Vice President Weatherly noted that Pay Plan increases may not be sufficient enough to close the market compensation pay gap. Additionally, he asked if the goal to increase Pell eligible students to 10,000 was on track. When responding to Vice President Weatherly's comments, President Rothman emphasized the importance of an increase in state funding to pay faculty and staff fairly, as well as to ensure the UWs remain an affordable option for the students of Wisconsin.

The Board recessed from 3:19 p.m. to 3:41 p.m.

UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATION FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

[\[Recording: 02:19:40\]](#)

President Bogost invited President Rothman Senior Vice President Britz, Vice President Gordon, and representatives from Deloitte Consulting to present on the Universities of Wisconsin Administration Financial Assessment.

After Vice President Gordon provided an overview of UW Administration's structure, functions, and budget, representatives from Deloitte Consulting presented a financial assessment to help aid in financial planning, forecasting, benchmarking, and addressing revenue diversification opportunities for UW Administration.

In response to the review from Deloitte Consulting, President Rothman said UW Administration would take a more active role in supporting universities in enrollment management, including enrollment forecasting; provide more effective, customer-focused shared services and expand use of those services by the universities; continue to leverage technologies and improve administrative processes to facilitate increased data-informed decision-making; and enhance financial accountability standards, including the implementation of university realignment plans focused on eliminating structural deficits and the commencement of formal mid-year financial reviews of the universities. He also said he would charge a work group with representation from the universities to develop recommendations and metrics for low-enrollment program evaluation.

In response to a question by Regent Salzwedel about the Board's role in program array management, Regent Prince noted that a workgroup had been identified through the Education Committee which will take a closer look at program array and provide recommendations for potential changes.

Regent Rai asked about situations within other university systems where shared services are provided by a campus, similar to how within the UWs there are some shared services coming from UW-Madison.

Regent Goitom asked about shared services as an opt-in versus opt-out model.

Regent Rai said he would like the Board to have a more in-depth discussion about the shared services initiative, rather than just receiving a recommendation.

Vice President Weatherly asked how to identify programs that may be low enrolling and seem to have high cost but are actually specialized, focused programs, and what the Board should focus on in conversations around these types of programs.

Regent Walsh acknowledged the extensive work each university does regarding program array and new degree implementation, but said that she would like the Board to take a more active role in overseeing program array and development.

- - -

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

- - -

Submitted by:

/s/ _____

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