



The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Faculty Representative

Summary of the

April 2, 2020 Meeting of the UW Board of Regents

1. Today's meeting, which is normally a two-day meeting, was a half-day meeting which was expected to end shortly after noon.
2. Highlight of academic program approvals:
 - **The System continues to roll out engineering programs.** The regents are approving an electrical engineering program for UW-Green Bay, and an environmental engineering program for UW-River Falls.
 - UW-Madison is establishing a BS in Global Health. This is a program that will mainly focus on public health, community health, and health policy.
 - UW-Madison is establishing a master of science [MS] in Athletic Training.
 - UW-Whitewater is establishing a new program, in Business Analytics.
3. **The regents revisited its policy on non-academic student misconduct** [a change in Chapter UWS 17 of the WI Administrative Code]. This proposal was first initiated in 2017. The proposal calls for the expulsion of students found to have repeatedly engaged in non-academic misconduct, including disruption of freedom of expression. Standardizing policy on student misconduct so that provisions apply system-wide was originally supported by Governor Scott Walker. However, the UW's legislative liaison staff has indicated opposition by Governor Evers to the original board proposal, and Governor Evers' most recent appointment to the board, Hector Colon, abstained on the proposal at today's meeting.
4. **Reduction in the e-App Application fee.** The regents approved changes to the online application to UW System schools. The application fee will be reduced, from \$50 to \$25. With one application, prospective students will be able to apply to more than one institution. Students transferring from branch campuses will be exempt from the application fee. President Cross estimates that, with this change, we [the System] will lose approximately \$2.5 million annually. The main arguments advanced by the System for proposing a reduction in this fee is that it will improve access and increase the number of applicants to UW System schools.

5. Other Items of Interest

- The impact of Covid-19 Crisis was an important factor of consideration in a number of decisions taken by the board at its April meeting. The regents passed a contingency resolution that gave the System the authority to take actions related to the Covid-19 Crisis.
- The regents approved an update to UW System's strategic framework in light of the Covid-19 Crisis. President Cross reported that the System projects a return to normal operations in Fall, 2020.
- The Regents received reports on the search for UW System President and chancellors at UW-Green Bay and UW-Stevens Point.
- In its close session [the afternoon of April 2], the regents are expected to approve the appointment of a chancellor for UW-Green Bay.