

## **UWL Faculty Representative Report on the Board of Regents Meeting June 4th, 2020**

*Following are some highlights from the June BOR meeting:*

Regent President Peterson and Regent Walsh offered a brief follow up on the "**Blueprint.**" There were over 400 participants in the three listening sessions. It was promised that there will be continued engagement with shared governance representatives. Regent President Peterson said that listening is essential because "we cannot afford to overlook good ideas" and "all things must be on the table." Regent Walsh attended all three sessions and praised the engagement of UW faculty and staff. She stated that they heard our anxieties and the Regents share many of these.

As Search Committee Chair, Regent Grebe gave a report on the **System President Search.** He stated that the committee was unanimous in the decision to advance a sole candidate. He stated that the committee "believes he matches the characteristics that were expressed in the listening sessions," and that "we are fortunate to have him as a candidate." He wanted to explain why there was just one candidate forwarded. The Committee began with a large group of candidates from which they chose a small group of semi-finalists. They then put forward only one candidate as a finalist who they believed could be put forward to the Regents. All other candidates dropped out (because of the "Sunshine" Law that requires them to be publicly named) but one, who was the unanimous favorite of the committee: Johnsen. The Committee did not believe it would be in the best interest of the System to fail the search, nor right to re-open the search to additional candidates, considering the Committee unanimously agreed Johnsen was the strongest candidate. He stated that the feedback on the single finalist will matter and the Committee will vote on whether to forward him to the BOR. The BOR will make the final decision. No questions were asked after his report, but three Regents thanked Regent Grebe for the clarification on why only one candidate was forwarded. I encourage all of you to submit questions to Johnsen [here](#) and to reach out to our Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Bradley Seebach at bseebach@uwlax.edu.

President Cross explained why he did not issue a statement related to **the murder of George Floyd.** He said, "I did not issue a statement because words would be hollow. Remarks seem like token gestures." He stated that, sadly, nothing has changed as a result of previous statements he has made. But, he continued, "things desperately need to change." He stressed that the University can and should help via education, and he said that we need to change our culture.

President Cross reiterated that all UW campuses will be open in the fall, with face-to-face, hybrid, and online courses. He stressed that his team is determined to find solutions to safely deliver courses. The financial impact of **COVID-19** is, of course, grave. He stated that the UW-System faces a \$212 million loss since the beginning of COVID-19 and through the summer. He has made two requests to the Legislature. First, a line of credit to provide a bridge across this

difficult time. And, an exemption to the law that will allow campuses to begin classes prior to September 1st.

The BOR approved all of the **Tenure and Promotion** awards that were approved at the campus levels during the 19-20 academic year. Congratulations to our many UWL faculty who have now officially achieved tenure and/or promotion!

**UWL**  
**UW-LA CRO**

**[Dr. Natalie K. Eschenbaum](#)**

Professor and Chair  
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[Faculty Representative](#) to UW-  
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**Pronouns:**  
**she/her/hers**