Regional News and Updates

Commencement Season Continues

Two down, two to go. Commencements continue to take place at UW campuses across the region. UW-Green Bay held its 97th Commencement ceremony on Sat., May 11 while UW-Marinette students received diplomas on Fri., May 18. Up next:

UW-Manitowoc | Tuesday, May 22, 2018 | 7 - 9:30 p.m.

UW-Sheboygan | Wednesday, May 23, 2018 | 7 - 9 p.m.

Thank you and best of luck to all faculty and staff involved in coordinating these momentous occasions for students on our campuses. Congratulations Class of 2018!
End-of-Semester Student Message

The following message was sent to students, faculty and staff on May 21. It contains some important facts about the current restructuring effort and what students can expect when they return to campus this fall.

Dear UW-Marinette, UW-Manitowoc and UW-Sheboygan Students,

The final days of the semester are upon us...your summer, and a well-earned rest, are right around the corner! As you begin your break, we want to share an update with you regarding the pending approval by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), that will lead to UW Colleges campuses—including Marinette, Manitowoc and Sheboygan—joining the UW System's four-year universities as branch campuses. Under this proposal, these three campuses, will join UW-Green Bay as of July 1, 2018.

All campuses will remain open and continue to offer current courses and degree programs, while expanding access to higher education and increasing the opportunities available to you through the new affiliation with UW-Green Bay. Little will change for students during the 2018-19 academic year. Here are the facts:

- You will continue to register for classes and apply for financial aid at your local campus for 2018-19.
- Tuition levels will remain the same for 2018-19.
- You will have the same passionate and dedicated professors teaching the same courses when you return to campus this fall and in the future.
- You will still be able to complete your degree on-time as you have planned.
- Your local athletic program will continue as a “University” or “College” athletic program organized as club sports. We intend to continue competition in the current league and to retain the local mascots and colors, though ultimately the athletic colors will be different from the University colors of green and white.
- Beginning Fall 2018, the institutional name on your diploma and official transcript will change to UW-Green Bay. The campus name will also evolve to reflect an important and valuable connection with UW-Green Bay.

Work will continue over the summer to bring our institutions together. UW-Green Bay is also working hard to identify and reduce barriers to transferring credits, making it easier for you to continue on to a four-year degree. To learn more, visit www.wisconsin.edu/uw-restructure, check out the Student FAQ page, and submit questions online.

We will share updates and decisions over the summer and when the new academic year begins. On behalf of UW-Marinette, UW-Manitowoc, UW-Sheboygan and UW-Green Bay’s faculty and staff, enjoy your time off, refresh and stay safe. See you in fall!
Regional Team Adjusts Structure; Work Continues Over the Summer

The Project Coastal Steering Committee agreed to change the project management structure by eliminating the Implementation Teams. The change is designed to streamline communication and eliminate confusion regarding decision making. It also puts the Working Groups into closer contact with the Steering Committee. The Org Structure Change Memo notes which Steering Committee member is responsible for which Working Group.

Working Groups that should continue working over the summer have been prioritized. These groups will continue to discuss issues and to meet at least once per month between now and August. Some groups – such as the SIS Working Group, the Admissions Working Group, etc. – will meet much more regularly.

Project Coastal Key Decision Documents Available

Over the last few weeks, key decisions regarding UW-Green Bay’s restructuring with UW-Marinette, UW-Manitowoc and UW-Sheboygan were made. Many of these address questions and important items that need to be addressed in order to move forward successfully as one university with four locations, including:

- UW College Faculty Tenure, Probation, Rank, and Emeritus Status
- Athletics at UW Colleges
- Student Access and Enrollment at UW-Green Bay during the UWCS Restructuring Project
- UW-Green Bay’s Tuition Plan for 2019-2020

Region’s Best Research Projects

Nearly 130 students and their faculty mentors from every UW campus across the state—including 15 from UW-Marinette, UW-Green Bay and UW-Marinette (shown above) — traveled to the State Capitol in Madison in April to showcase their innovative research at the UW System’s 15th Annual Research in the Rotunda event. Students presented their work to the public, state legislators, UW alumni, and other supporters while demonstrating its potential impact on Wisconsin and its economy. For more information: [https://www.wisconsin.edu/research-in-the-rotunda/download/RITR-program-2018-web.pdf](https://www.wisconsin.edu/research-in-the-rotunda/download/RITR-program-2018-web.pdf)

Listening Sessions and Stakeholder Meetings Continue

Listening sessions with students, faculty and staff, alumni and foundations across the region continued in April and into May. The sessions are designed to answer questions and identify items that need to be addressed during the transition to a regional footprint.
Overview

The key objectives of the April 20, 2018, Steering Committee meeting were to share key updates and recommendations from Functional Teams; make decisions and offer guidance on key issues; discuss regional priorities; provide an update on UW Extension planning by UW-Madison and UW System; and provide an overview of the Restructuring Roadmap. Regional and Functional Teams were again encouraged escalate issue items for decisions.

Major Areas of Discussion

Financial Aid

Tim Opgenorth, Financial Team Lead for financial aid, provided an update on financial aid planning and activities, as well as outlined issues and recommendations for the Steering Committee and Receiving Institutions. Key updates included:

- Will hold June 5 meeting to go over financial aid requirements for EApp submissions
- Each Receiving Institution will submit its financial aid recertification application to the U.S. Department of Education near the end of June
- Receiving Institutions have 10 days after HLC approval to submit their application
- Communications planning will take place with collaboration between the Project Communications Office, Financial Aid Functional Team, and Receiving Institutions to ensure clear and timely communication to students on financial aid processes for 2019-20
- UW Colleges school code for the 2019-20 FAFSA will remain open until the EApp review process is completed
- Students should input Receiving Institution federal school code, not branch campus federal school code, on 2019-20 FAFSA
- Monitor 2019-20 FAFSAs with any branch campus school code and advise students to resubmit with Receiving Institution code

Student Recruitment – EApp

The EApp platform is undergoing a needed version update which will allow work to move forward with the redesign for 2019-20 applications

- Testing of EApp functionality is occurring at UW institutions through May 22
- Applications to two-year institutions for 2019-20 will be “pushed” to Receiving Institutions beginning August 1, 2018
- Goals of the redesign include:
  - Students will be able to apply to multiple UW Institutions using one set of application materials
  - Denied applications from one UW Institution can be considered by other UW Institutions
  - UW institutions reached 24 core agreements regarding application standardization, fees, and materials
Student Information Systems (SIS)
- SIS team is working on a data conversion plan
- SIS needs to be ready for implementation by September 1
- SIS needs to be fully-tested with third party integrations at each Receiving Institution to ensure all pieces are connected
- SIS team will be visiting Receiving Institutions over the next couple weeks and bring additional resources, including PeopleSoft experts, to assist the Receiving Institutions with testing.

Human Resources (HR)
The main focus has been, and continues to be, employee communications and setting clear expectations. HR is also continuing work on exploring alternative delivery models for HR services consistent with the CORE framework. Completed Worksteps:

- Continued biweekly distribution of employee transition lists to Regional Leadership ensuring alignment with Restructuring Assumptions
- Hosted 14 Town Hall Meetings with transitioning employees
- Facilitated biweekly calls and led two-day meeting with HR Directors in Madison
- Drafted HR organizational chart
- Outlined strategy and objectives for HR Operational Team and held initial meetings
- Structured HR Transformational Team and outlined strategy roadmap to align with CORE principles

The policies of the Receiving Institutions will apply to transitioning employees from UW Colleges and UW-Extension and will work with shared governance on this transition. UW-Madison has determined that UW-Extension policies will apply for Cooperative Extension.

Application Fees
- In order to streamline the EApp and standardize the process across institutions, a decision needs to be made on the application fee structure.
- The majority of students are only applying to one UW institution, while the national average is three to five applications. How do we incentivize students to apply to more than one UW institution?
- UW System applications are more time-intensive and expensive than other university systems and do not offer a sliding scale to incentivize applying to more than one institution.
- Current application fee structure is a barrier to entry for first generation, low-income, and underserved students. Need to maintain UW Colleges important mission of access.

Regional Priorities Discussion
- Tenure Transfer Discussion
  - Faculty need to be assigned a home unit
  - Two-stage tenure process at June Board of Regent meeting
1. The board will consider faculty that are up for tenure at UW Colleges
2. Next the Board will approve the transfer of tenure from UW Colleges to the Receiving Institutions
   - UW-Madison is working with UW-Extension and a recommendation is expected this fall

Restructuring Roadmap Overview
A brief overview of the Restructuring Roadmap was given. The starting point was the HLC submission which provided the framework for the roadmap. Additional dates, decisions, and deliverables were determined by the Functional and Regional Teams, with collaboration from the Receiving Institutions, UWSA, and UWCX. The roadmap provides a single resource to guide activities from now until July 1, 2018. It is a living document that continues to evolve and is underpinned by a highly detailed project plan.

The Project Management Office will be reaching out to the Receiving Institutions in the coming weeks to go over the Restructuring Roadmap in detail.

KEY UPDATES

NEW Project Decisions
Three new project decisions, including Transfer of Faculty Tenure, Institutional Name on Diplomas and Transcripts, and UW Colleges Transfer Agreements for 2018-19 are now posted to the Restructuring Project Decisions page on the UW Restructuring website

Updated Faculty & Staff FAQs
The Faculty & Staff FAQ page on the Restructuring website has been updated to reflect the employee questions from the Town Hall videoconferences held in April. Please share and direct employees to this resource. Employees are also encouraged to submit questions about the Restructuring to the Submit a Question form online.

HLC Guidelines on Communications
As institutions prepare for student and employee transitions on July 1, 2018, it is important that all communications continue to clearly state “Pending approval by the Higher Learning Commission.” We understand there is eagerness to communicate to students and employees in advance of HLC approval in order to prepare for the future transition, but it is important that communications and marketing efforts do not get ahead of HLC’s decision.

If you have questions about whether a planned communication or marketing strategy violates the HLC process, please contact UWRestructuringInfo@uwsa.edu. The Project Communications Office is happy to review materials and escalate items that may warrant further consideration.
## Upcoming Milestones

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<td>5/7</td>
<td>Final Memoranda of Understanding</td>
<td>Project Sponsor/Regions</td>
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<td>Finalize support policy for AAS online students</td>
<td>Registrar Functional Team</td>
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<td>Determine regional academic structure</td>
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<td>Determine SIS reconfiguration models</td>
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<td>Distribute budget transfer schedule</td>
<td>Finance Functional Team</td>
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<td>Report on current student services/support and usage at branch campus(es)</td>
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