

ACTION ITEM #2

Proposed Revisions to Board of Regents Bylaws -- Future Action Item Requirement (Kirk Schulz/Danielle Hess)

April 19, 2024

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to Board of Regents Bylaws -- Future Action Item Requirement

PROPOSED: That the Board approve proposed revisions to the Board of Regents Bylaws eliminating the future action item requirement for agenda items, except for certain enumerated items and others as designated by the Board Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Kirk Schulz, President

**SUPPORTING
INFORMATION:**

The current Board of Regents [Bylaws](#) require that agenda items requesting Board action be submitted to the Board and discussed by the appropriate committee at least one committee meeting prior to the meeting at which action is requested. This is referred to as the “future action item” requirement. The only two exceptions are (1) items of a routine nature, and (2) items for which the Board Chair has suspended the requirement.

The future action item requirement was intended to ensure the Board had sufficient time to discuss and consider requests for action; however, it has become apparent that the requirement is not necessary or beneficial for many agenda items. Eliminating the requirement for non-controversial, less complex agenda items would improve Board meeting efficiency, shorten agendas, and expedite University decision-making. It would not, however, change the Board’s purview or authority over the matter.

The proposed revisions would allow agenda items to be brought to the Board for action immediately, except those pertaining to the following:

- tuition and fees
- housing and dining rates

- changes to university retirement programs
- sale or lease of real estate
- capital projects
- system or campus strategic plans
- athletics budget
- operating or capital budget requests for submission to the legislature
- issuance of debt
- adding or abolishing an academic college, department, or school

The Board Chair would retain authority to suspend the future action item requirement, or apply the requirement, for any agenda item.

Examples of agenda items that would go straight to action under the proposal, absent action by the Board Chair, include:

- Election of Board officers and other Board business, such as approval of meeting schedules, bylaws changes, or BOR policies
- Approval of Washington Administrative Code rules
- Approval of new degree programs or requests to discontinue degree programs
- Honorary doctoral degree and distinguished alumni nominations
- Naming of major facilities and academic units

ATTACHMENT: BOR Bylaws Section 12 – Proposed Redline