

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**WISCONSIN RETIREMENT BOARD**

**Thursday, December 14, 2006**

**Sheraton Madison Hotel  
706 John Nolen Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin**

<b>DRAFT</b>
--------------

- BOARD PRESENT:** Marilyn Wigdahl, Chair  
John David  
Rick Gale, Secretary  
Wayne Koessler, Vice-Chair  
Herb Stinski  
Mary VonRuden
- BOARD NOT PRESENT:** Jorge Gomez  
Nan Kottke  
Dennis McBride
- PARTICIPATING ETF STAFF:** Eric Stanchfield, Secretary  
Dave Stella, Deputy Secretary  
Sari King, Administrator, Division of Retirement Services  
Diane Poole, Division of Insurance Services  
Linda Esser, Board Liaison
- OTHERS PRESENT:** John Brown, Employee Trust Funds Board  
Bob Conlin, Office of the Secretary  
Rhonda Dunn, Office of the Secretary  
Charlotte Gibson, Department of Justice  
Peg Narloch, Division of Insurance Services  
Linda Owen, Division of Retirement Services  
Dennis Panicucci, Teachers Retirement Board  
Debra Roemer, Division of Insurance Services  
Sharon Walk, Office of the Secretary  
David Wiltgen, Teachers Retirement Board

Marilyn Wigdahl, Chair, called the meeting of the Wisconsin Retirement Board (Board) to order at 1:15 p.m.

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
WR	03/15/07	1

## CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

*Motion: Mr. Gale moved approval of the open and closed session minutes of the September 21, 2006, meeting as submitted by the Board Liaison. Mr. Koessler seconded the motion, which passed without objection on a voice vote.*

## DISABILITY STATISTICS SUMMARY REPORT

**Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Disability Benefit Annuity Statistical Report (September - November 2006)** Diane Poole provided an overview of the report. There is no change in trends for this quarter as compared to the same quarter in the past four years. The number of new disability annuities is fairly constant. The most commonly selected annuity option remains "100% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor) with 180 Payments Guaranteed." Females continue to be the predominant user of the Section 40.63 program. The vast majority of applications are approved and the predominant age group is 50-55 years. The prevalent disability type is orthopedic and multiple medical.

**Staffing, Backlogs and Priorities** Ms. Poole indicated that a total of 5.25 specialists process the applications and maintain the accounts. Fifty-seven percent of specialists are new staff. Workload is heavy and approximately 1½ years is necessary to fully train a Trust Fund Specialist in the complex disability programs. Two of the three experienced specialists are part-time employees. To help with the workload, half of a policy analyst position was converted to a Trust Fund Specialist.

Backlogs continue to occur in such areas as the Section 40.65 program. Review of tax returns for the program is backlogged by three years. This backlog delays the discovery and recovery of overpayments. The Disability Programs Bureau has requested additional staff in the biennial budget to alleviate the backlog and address these issues.

In the meantime, priorities are set to review applications as quickly as possible and to maintain existing disability accounts. Both require extensive follow-up with health care providers, applicants and employers. Ms. Poole added that it can take up to a year to process an application because of the dependency on outside sources to provide documentation.

Ms. Poole will continue to share this information at future Board meetings.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Future Items for Discussion** Ms. King suggested Board members contact her with future items for discussion.

## MOTION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Wigdahl announced that the Wisconsin Retirement Board would convene in closed session, pursuant to the exemptions contained in Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (a) for quasi-judicial deliberations. Ms. Gibson, Ms. Walk, and Ms. Esser were invited to remain for discussion of appeals.

***Motion: Ms. VonRuden moved to convene in closed session, pursuant to the exemptions contained in Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (a) for quasi-judicial deliberations. Mr. Gale seconded the motion, which passed on a roll call vote.***

***Members voting aye: J. David, R. Gale, W. Koessler, H. Stinski, M. VonRuden, M. Wigdahl***

***Members voting nay: none***

The Wisconsin Retirement Board convened in closed session at 1:30 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 1:46 p.m.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN ON BUSINESS DELIBERATED DURING CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Wigdahl announced that the Board took the following action during the closed session:

- **Appeal 2006-016-WR**, the Board adopted the hearing examiner's proposed decision.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion: Mr. David moved adjournment. Mr. Koessler seconded the motion, which passed without objection on a voice vote.***

The meeting of the Wisconsin Retirement Board adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Rick Gale, Secretary  
Wisconsin Retirement Board