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## ***CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM***

**DATE:** February 10, 2011

**TO:** Employee Trust Funds Board  
Teachers Retirement Board  
Wisconsin Retirement Board

**FROM:** Bob Conlin, Deputy Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Educational Topics Survey Results

**This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.**

In September 2010 we distributed to you a survey seeking potential topics for educational presentations during the Boards' Joint Informational (JI) sessions. Survey responses were due by December 2, 2010. We asked that members limit responses to four topics to make it easier to prioritize the results.

We received 15 survey responses. The responses were tabulated and entered on the attached document. The number to the left of each topic represents the number of votes each topic received. We have also listed the "Other" topics that members suggested on the survey.

The Department is developing a schedule for presentation of these topics at future JI sessions. The number of votes a topic received, the availability of relevant presenters, and the amount of time available on a particular agenda will all be considerations in determining the timing of future presentations.

I will be available at the JI session to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for participating in the survey and for helping us to provide relevant and meaningful training opportunities for you.

Attachment: Educational Survey Results

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
JI	3.10.11	3A

## Board Educational Topics Survey

### SUMMARY FROM BOARD MEMBERS

<b>1</b>	Accounting Standards: The Government Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) standards	<b>3</b>	Disability Benefits: An overview
<b>3</b>	Actuarial Basics		Federal Law: How it affects WRS benefits
	Annual Financial Report: The basics of reading and understanding ETF's CAFR	<b>4</b>	Fiduciary Training
<b>1</b>	Audits: What are they and why do we do them	<b>4</b>	Health Insurance: The basics of ETF's State and Local Government plans
	Board Self-Assessment: What are they and why they are important	<b>1</b>	How to get basic information about ETF's benefits and programs
<b>1</b>	Constituent Services: How ETF and SWIB keep WRS members informed		Human Resources: A look at ETF's practices and statistics
<b>2</b>	Continuity of Operations: ETF's Plan to operate after an emergency or during a pandemic	<b>1</b>	Information Technology: How ETF and SWIB use technology for the benefit of the WRS
<b>3</b>	WRS Death Benefits: What you need to know		Privacy: Protecting the personal information of WRS members
<b>5</b>	Deferred Compensation: An overview of the Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program	<b>5</b>	Retirement Security: A national perspective
<b>1</b>	Demographic Snapshot: Who participates in the WRS and what you should know about them	<b>4</b>	Social Security: ETF's role in administering Social Security in Wisconsin
<b>3</b>	Department of Employee Trust Funds: An overview of what it does	<b>2</b>	WRS 50-Year Study: Demographic Trends and Funding Requirements

Other:

- I would like to have group look at retirement planning software available on the WDC website and consider making similar tools available on the WRS site (as part of an overall look at WDC).
- Progress towards personalized WRS information being available to WRS participants, e.g., conditional variable swap into, assistance estimating impact of smoothing on their annuity. Many don't know, for example, how to estimate impact of investment gains/losses – especially variable fund participants.
- Voluntary contributions to WRS years of service “buy back” in cases of actives leaving service, and then returning.
- An overview of Wisconsin State Statutes that govern and affect WRS and its members.
- Meaning of EAN, entry age normal, and alternative methods.
- Advantages of DB over DC, decreased costs, intergenerational equity, increased investment, etc., and if possible in dollar amounts.
- Cost of SWIB's external management versus internal 2 + 20 contracts start at 2% and go up index at BGI versus in house, not cherry picked as already was a low cost/\$ indexed.