



## Educational Communications Board

3319 West Beltline Highway • Madison, WI 53713-4296 • 608.264.9600 • ECB.org

### EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEETING

ECB Board Room  
3319 West Beltline Highway  
Madison, Wisconsin  
July 26, 2019  
9:30 A.M.

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#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Marta Bechtol, Executive Director

#### State Budget Update

ECB was first in the queue of state agencies to appear before the Joint Committee on Finance on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and followed an animated discussion on Medicaid expansion. The motion to approve an appropriation for ECB's education funding was introduced, discussed and voted down in less than two minutes. I will admit to being disappointed by the denial, but am pleased to report that our agency request was otherwise approved by the legislature and governor. We have not yet received our capital funding letter, but I have confidence that we will get the support we need through the All-Agency funding that was also signed into law earlier this month.

#### Federal Budget Updates

In late June, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a "minibus" appropriations bill that fully funded the public broadcasting requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 including \$495 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in FY 2022, \$30 million for Ready To Learn and \$20 million for public broadcasting interconnection.

However, the appropriations process is still on hold in the Senate, as leadership has reiterated that they prefer to have an overall budget deal in place before moving forward on individual Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations bills. Ongoing talks between the House and Senate leadership and the White House continue, and it is not clear on when such a deal could be reached. These discussions become more intense as the end of the federal fiscal year closes in.

#### Agency Operating Budget

FY20 marks the beginning of a more coordinated and transparent annual budgeting process between Wisconsin Public Media on the University side and ECB. Under a shared philosophy that we are running *networks* and not simply managing select licenses, Gene Purcell and I have instituted a protocol that evaluates operations holistically when allocating resources. This seems to have gone very well; budgets were amicably evaluated, settled and entered before the end of June. We expect to see continued efficiencies as we hone this process in the coming years.



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Aimee and staff are busily wrapping up the end of year reports, which is much easier to do with our talented and fully-staffed accounting team including Dawn Okon, our new Financial Specialist who began working with us in May.

### **UW-Madison Transition Update**

Gene Purcell reports Wisconsin Public Media is now fully integrated into UW-Madison. We acknowledge all the hard work that has gone in on the other side of the partnership over the last 12 months and congratulate them on settling into their new fiscal home.