All members present with the following exceptions:

EXCUSED ABSENT: C. Lundey (113), M. Polk McGiveron (124), B. Wettstein (133), T. Roach (134), S. Baxter (154), L. Raney (161), K. O'Connor (193), K. Martin (188), J. Taubel (189), S. Li (192), J. Lesniak (201)

ABSENT: R. Fisher (104), P. Jones (126), J. Keller (129), J. Linden (131), L. Martinez (142), M. Kenyon (171), M. Fennessy (177), A. Weiss (181), L. Ketterhagen (202)

In addition, 5 Alternates were present.

At 2:35PM, Vice Chancellor Heller called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum was present.

Vice Chancellor Heller directed the attention of the Congress to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was heard to approve the Minutes, as was a second. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chancellor Heller paused for public comments. None sought recognition in this regard.

Vice Chancellor Heller recognized Chancellor Rebecca Blank for the purpose of providing a report to the Congress.

Chancellor Blank welcomed the new members of the Central Committee, thanked the returning members, and congratulated the Congress on record setting levels of participation.

Chancellor Blank reminded the Congress that this year was the 150th anniversary of the first six women being awarded Bachelor’s degrees on campus.

Chancellor Blank informed the Congress that this year’s freshman class is the largest in history and its members come from 46 states.

Chancellor Blank stated that the STARS rating for campus would be released next month.

Chancellor Blank reviewed the results in the State Budget process which will include a 2% raise for employees in both 2020 and 2021. Chancellor Blank also noted that all five campus capital projects were approved.

Chancellor Blank informed the Congress that over 800 students are now enrolled under ‘Bucky’s Tuition Promise’.

Chancellor Blank also referenced the Title and Total Compensation Project as an important process, and noted that more employee forums were planned on the subject.

Chancellor Blank called Ms. Karen Stephens to the podium and presented her with the 2019 Elizabeth S. Pringle Award.

Applause heard in the hall.
Chancellor Blank opened the floor to questions.

Representative of District 123 asked the Chancellor to comment on her recent China trip and why the relationship between the campus and China is so strategic.

Reply came that the Chancellor spent 10 days in China and reported that there are more alums in China than in any other foreign nation. Chancellor Blank called the relationship with China one of an equal partnership and noted that ties go back over 100 years.

Representative of District 152 expressed concern over planned 1 to 10% percent performance increases, stating his belief that it contributes to a 'caste system' on campus, and recommended a stated minimum floor of 50 cents for increases.

Vice Chancellor Heller replied that he has discussed this issue with the Central Committee and has identified it as a shared governance top priority and noted that he would be discussing both with the Chancellor and with the Office of Human Resources.

Representative of District 152 spoke in favor of instituting a plan that would allow for early retirement.

Reply came that in the past the Office of Legal Affairs has expressed concern if such a plan were to be offered across the board, but the Chancellor noted she might be receptive to focusing on particular units where it can be demonstrated that it would be beneficial.

Representative of District 130 noted that her constituents were concerned about wage compression.

Reply came that it is hoped the TTC Project will be of use in addressing the issue in the long term and the discretionary increase will be helpful in the short term.

Representative of District 130 inquired as to the possibility of splitting cost of benefits payments between two checks, as has been advocated for years by certain shared governance representatives.

Vice Chancellor Heller noted that the UW System is examining the possibility of moving the entire campus community to a two week payroll, and there is a possibility that this could be implemented in the next fiscal year.

Chancellor Blank concluded her appearance before the Congress. Applause heard in the hall.

Vice Chancellor Heller resumed his report to Congress, thanking Representative Luis Alberto Martinez, of District 142, for recording a Mexican Independence Day greeting on behalf of shared governance.

Vice Chancellor Heller noted the start of the new semester and the arrival of the students and thanked the staff for the response to it, particularly as it related to Housing and the move ins. Vice Chancellor Heller reminded the Congress that on 8 October, an employee benefits fair would take place.

Representative of District 152 expressed concern about language used in the Return to Work policy and asked for clarification in regard to the statement made during a committee meeting that it had been approved by the Vice Chancellor's Office.

Reply came that the Vice Chancellor is open to feedback regarding the policy, noting that it had already been presented to Congress at a previous meeting, but that nothing in it is set in stone.
Representative of District 147 commended the leadership of the Wisconsin Union Staff during the move in period of the incoming students this semester.

Applause heard in the hall.

Vice Chancellor Heller recognized Vice Chancellor Reesor for the purpose of providing a report on the Department of Student Affairs.

Vice Chancellor Reesor provided background in regard to the organization of the office and how it was re-designed last year, noting students have been expressing their appreciation for the themes around which the new organization took place.

Vice Chancellor Reesor introduced Jake Baggot, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Health Services. Mr. Baggot highlighted his work regarding mental health issues and noted that there have been 210 new health professionals brought on in this regard. Applause heard in the hall.

Vice Chancellor Reesor introduced Dean of Students Crista Olstad, who described her role in student advocacy. Dean Olstad noted her view that parents are partners in student affairs. Applause heard in the hall.

Vice Chancellor Reesor introduced Mr. Mark Guthier, Associate Vice Chancellor of Community Engagement. Mr. Guthier noted he would be responding to an external review of campus sorority and fraternity life. Mr. Guthier also noted the celebration of 100 years of a classical music series on campus.

Vice Chancellor Reesor concluded her report noting that it is the staff that makes a daily difference in the lives of the students. Applause heard in the hall.

Representative of District 179 requested an electronic copy of the organizational chart.

Representative of District 167 asked for clarification regarding student collaboration on the re-organization plan.

Reply came that plans were presented to the leadership of the Associated Students of Madison for feedback.

Vice Chancellor Heller recognized Mr. Terry Fritter for the purpose of soliciting feedback on future Agenda items.

Mr. Fritter thanked the various Vice Chancellors who had appeared on the Agenda for the meeting and also pointed out that Associate Vice Chancellor David Darling of FP&M was present in the audience. Mr. Fritter reviewed potential upcoming items that may appear on future Congressional Agendas, and noted that there would be a Central Committee meeting on Thursday. Mr. Fritter also commented that the last week of September was ‘Banned Books Week’ and quoted General Eisenhower in regard to his encouragement to utilize the library and not be afraid to “read every book”. Mr. Fritter also encouraged members to forward questions they may have in regard to TTC, as he and Mr. Erik Geiger would be attending meetings on behalf of University Staff.

At 3:30PM, a motion to adjourn was heard, as was a second. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.