

WisTech Open Steering Committee Meeting Notes

February 3, 2026 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm | Virtual

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1. Welcome & Context (Vince)

- Attendees introduced themselves.
- WisTech Open overview was provided.
- It was shared that managing WisTech Open is becoming difficult for one institution alone, and support from a consortium would help with long-term management and sustainability.

2. Consortium Purpose, Scope, and Goals (Vince)

- Challenges related to inclusion and ensuring multiple voices are heard were discussed.
- The group expressed interest in having a representative voice from each college to support consortium work.
- Proposed consortium goals included:
 - Sustaining WisTech Open long-term.
 - Advocating for students.
 - Seeking funding opportunities.
 - Providing feedback on current and future projects.
Identifying additional areas/opportunities to incorporate OER (beyond general education courses).
 - Increasing awareness of OER among students and faculty.
- Financial sustainability was emphasized as a priority.
- Current consortium goals were described as draft/flexible and subject to revision.

3. Governance Approach – Initial Framework (Holly)

- Multiple governance structure options were presented for discussion.
- A hybrid steering committee model was unanimously preferred.
 - Suggestions included a rotating committee structure and establishing clear communication channels.
- The WisPals Steering Committee was shared as an example of an effective governance model.

- Communication needs were strongly emphasized:
 - Therese: Recommended establishing a team responsible for communication.
 - Holly: Noted WisTech staff could help reduce communication barriers.
 - Gary: Suggested an executive committee report be provided at each quarterly meeting.
 - Rachel: Suggested a centralized communication platform.
- Holly clarified:
 - Colleges would not be asked to supply funds to sustain WisTech Open at this time.
 - The committee would not make financial decisions outside the scope of WisTech Open (i.e. not decisions regarding institutional OER funds, policies, or processes).
- Amy asked how decisions are made regarding what is published as WisTech Open textbooks.
 - Vince shared that defining a publication decision process is a goal of the committee, but historically materials have been peer-reviewed by WTCS faculty.

4. General WisTech Open Updates (Vince)

- Project status updates were shared:
 - 14 active projects and 1 exploratory project underway.
 - Wisc-Online successfully migrated to WisTech Open.
 - WTCS OER Repository is functioning and being updated.
 - OER 101 curriculum review is in progress.
 - MOU and payment process were revised to be more equitable.
 - Two new FTE team members recruited:
 - Instructional Design Librarian (Ashley McHose)
 - Production Assistant (Dalton Gamroth)
 - Website and content are undergoing an accessibility review.

5. Next Steps & Closing

- Next steps identified:
 - Establish a central communication location (WisTech Project Team).
 - Send a questionnaire to the steering committee to gather feedback on governance structure and consortium goals (WisTech Project Team).
 - Develop quarterly meeting schedule (WisTech Project Team).