

John Zumbrunnen Named UW–Madison Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

MADISON, WI - March 9, 2026 - John Zumbrunnen has been named the University of Wisconsin–Madison's provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin announced today.

The provost is the university's chief academic officer and second-ranking official, supporting its teaching, research and outreach mission.

Zumbrunnen has served as interim provost since June 2025 following Charles Isbell Jr.'s departure to become chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign.

“John Zumbrunnen is an exceptional academic leader and has earned broad trust from our students, faculty and staff through his thoughtful engagement on a wide range of complex issues and for his strong commitments to the Wisconsin Idea, shared governance, student success and excellence in research and teaching,” says Mnookin.

Mnookin also expressed sincere appreciation to English Professor Russ Castronovo, who chaired the provost search committee, and to all committee members and the many faculty, staff and students who participated in interviews, public presentations and offered feedback.

During his nearly 18 years at UW–Madison, Zumbrunnen has held a variety of academic and administrative leadership positions. Prior to serving as interim provost, he served as senior vice provost for academic affairs. Before that, he was vice provost for teaching and learning, overseeing and helping to found the Division for Teaching and Learning. Zumbrunnen also previously served as chair of the Department of Political Science.

Zumbrunnen was selected from three finalists for the position after a [national search](#).

“I am incredibly honored to serve as provost of this amazing university,” Zumbrunnen says. “Even after nearly two decades on campus, I continue to learn about and to stand in awe of all that UW–Madison is and does.”

“I am excited to continue the valuable work of the Wisconsin Idea, which will guide me not only as a foundational value, but as a perennial challenge to create a positive impact in the world through excellence in research, education and service.”

The provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs is the deputy to the chancellor in the overall academic leadership and administrative management of the university.

Full version: <https://news.wisc.edu/john-zumbrunnen-named-uw-madison-provost-and-executive-vice-chancellor-for-academic-affairs/>

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