

**State of Wisconsin
Higher Educational Aids Board**

**Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2020**

Board Members Present: Stephen Willett, Jose Delgado, Jeff Cichon, Jennifer Kammerud, Amy Christen, Jeff Neubauer, Nathan Helm-Quest, Brady Coulthard, Timothy Opgenorth and Justin Wesolek

HEAB Staff Present: Connie Hutchison, Sherrie Nelson, Charlene Sime, Peter Zammuto, Peter Noll and Brenda Stoffels.

Others Present: Todd Bailey, Mickie Krall, Sean Nelson and David Specht-Boardman, UW System; Rolf Wegenke and Rebecca Larson, WAICU; Erin Probst, LFB; Jennifer Conway, Marquette University; Brandon Trujillo, WTCS.

Chair Stephen Willett called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Jose Delgado, seconded by Timothy Opgenorth to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2020 meeting; motion carried.

BOARD REPORT #21-01 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES UW SYSTEM

The UW System's 2021-23 biennial budget request includes an increase to the funding of the Wisconsin Grant by \$4.5 million biennially to fully fund the program at 2019-20 academic year levels.

Total state funding for the Wisconsin Grant-UW program is \$61,894,100 annually. In the 2019-21 biennial budget, state funding for the Wisconsin Grant-UW program remained flat at the 2018-19 level. Since 2009-10 the number of students eligible for Wisconsin Grant-UW has increased from 25,624 in 2009-10 to 29,725 in 2018-19, an increase of 16 percent. To provide financial aid through the Wisconsin Grant to the growing population of eligible students, the UW System has been unable to increase award amounts to individual recipients. In addition to the inability to increase award amounts, waitlists on campuses have also increased.

In academic year 2019-20, the UW System needed an additional \$2,275,400 to award to all eligible students. To fill this gap and provide funding for all eligible students, the UW System requests \$2,275,400 ongoing funding in 2021-22, for a biennial increase of \$4,550,800.

Additional rationale for the 2021-23 increased notes that this funding for the Wisconsin Grant program will help more students access and complete a quality higher education program,

producing a more highly skilled and educated workforce. Additional resources for the Wisconsin Grant program will also help address student debt and affordability, two areas of growing concern to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Moved by Stephen Willett, seconded by Jose Delgado to approve the request from the UW System. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORT #21-04 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES TRIBAL COLLEGES

Executive Secretary Connie Hutchison explained the tribal colleges did not provide a request for an increase of funds.

EXTENSION OF FORBEARANCE

Executive Secretary Hutchison asked the Board for approval to extend loan forbearance to borrowers of the following state loan programs until the end of the year which mirrors the federal loan program's action.

- o Minority Teacher Loan
- o Nursing Student Loan
- o Teacher Loan Program
- o Teacher of the Visually Impaired Loan

Moved by Coulthard seconded by Wesolek to approve. Motion carried.

At the request of Board member Delgado, this action of the Board will be shared with the Governor's office and legislature's Committee on Education.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Jose Delgado, seconded by Jennifer Kammerud to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and Chair Stephen Willett adjourned the meeting at 9:22 am.

FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is October 30, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cichon, Secretary