

ALVERNO COLLEGE  
BELOIT COLLEGE  
CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY  
CARROLL UNIVERSITY  
CARTHAGE COLLEGE  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE OF NURSING  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE  
LAKELAND COLLEGE  
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY  
MARIAN UNIVERSITY



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY  
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN  
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
MOUNT MARY COLLEGE  
NORTHLAND COLLEGE  
RIPON COLLEGE  
ST. NORBERT COLLEGE  
SILVER LAKE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
VITERBO UNIVERSITY  
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE COLLEGES WORKING TOGETHER TO ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 25, 2012

**To:** Commission on Financial Aid Consolidation and Modernization  
c/o John Reinemann

**From:** Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D., President  
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

**Subject:** IDEAS TO BE CONSIDERED / IDEAS NOT WITHIN THE  
COMMISSION CHARGE – ADDENDUM, May 29, 2012

### Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to suggest ideas for consideration by the Commission. What follows are **suggestions for discussion**. The list is **partial, not exhaustive** and should **not** be read or interpreted as an **endorsement** by or the **official position** of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. I have also attached another copy of the “Concept/Considerations” paper I distributed for our first meeting. The original paper makes four points: (1) means-tested student aid is important; (2) Wisconsin lags its neighbors in means-tested aid, leaving Wisconsin citizens on wait lists and/or losing aid in the middle of their college careers; (3) student need is exploding; (4) the Commission should take care to “do no harm.”

I have sent my calendar/availability under separate cover.

### Ideas to be considered

Rename the state’s four major means-tested student aid programs. The Wisconsin Higher Education Grant-University of Wisconsin (WHEG-UW), Wisconsin Higher Education Grant-Wisconsin Technical College System (WHEG-Tech) Wisconsin Higher Education Grant-Tribal Colleges (WHEG-Tribal) and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG-for independent/private, nonprofit colleges and universities) should be respectively renamed as the Wisconsin Grant-UW, Wisconsin Grant-WTCS, Wisconsin Grant-Tribal and the Wisconsin Grant-WAICU, but separate appropriations should be maintained for each of the four. I make this suggestion to accommodate (do no harm) the concerns raised by the University of Wisconsin representatives on the Commission regarding the distinctive funding structure and governance of each of the sectors. As important, I raise this possibility in the hope that creation of a single name would bring clarity to legislators, news media, students, parents, that these are parallel programs with the same fundamental focus (Wisconsin students) and purpose (expanding educational

opportunity/educational attainment in this state), as well as creating the framework for future coordination and integration of the programs.

Establish a statutory student aid link. Provide a sum sufficient appropriation for [the renamed programs a/k/a] WHEG-UW, WHEG-Tribal and WTG linking percentage increases in the appropriation to the percentage UW Madison's tuition increases. Both the first and the last of these programs' formulas already factor in UW tuition. 2005 Assembly Bill 743, distributed at our first meeting of the Commission, provided for such linkage for all of the major student aid programs, but it is my understanding that the Wisconsin Technical College System would advocate a link for WHEG-Tech to the tuition in the Wisconsin Technical College System. I respect and support their position. I recommend that we propose this link because it would provide predictable increases in aid to students rationally and reasonably related to costs, but, at the same time, protect legislative prerogatives because: (1) the Legislature plays a significant role in setting tuition at UW and WTCS and, therefore, would continue to control (in tandem) the appropriations for student aid and (2) the Legislature can override (and has overridden in the past) such statutory links at the time of the enactment of the biennial state budget.

Authorize the HEAB Board, on the recommendation of each sector, to authorize grants to students who are less than full-time, at such time as the current students in each sector would not be disadvantaged by the change. The separate appropriations suggested above would make it possible for each sector to proceed to support "less than full-time" at different times depending on the make-up of the student body of each sector. Current law provides for the president of the UW System, the president of the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the president of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities annually to recommend allocation formulas for the major grant programs. An addendum to this provision would establish a pathway for remedying a current deficiency affecting less than full-time students, avoid "doing harm," and relieve the need for repeated recurrences to special committees, commissions, and for the Legislature to be burdened with administrative course corrections. This recommendation assumes the continued configuration of an independent Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) in its current form with equal representation of all of the sectors.

Consolidate all of the smaller HEAB student aid programs proportionately into the "big four" aid programs, proportionately based on a three-year average of funding going to UW, WTCS, tribal colleges, and WAICU students. Some of the current small programs may be subject to court challenge; folding them into the larger programs may save them without disadvantaging the targeted student populations.

#### **Ideas not within the Commission charge**

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Higher Educational Aids which led to the creation of this Commission considered, but rejected, inclusion of proprietary, for-profit schools.

Moreover, the statute/chapter law creating this Commission talks of consolidating and modernizing existing aid programs—none of these existing programs include proprietary, for-profit schools. Therefore, I believe for-profit, proprietary schools are not within our charge and are “off the table.” Page 3 of your memorandum of May 18, 2012, inventories other issues which are off the table. I believe your inventory is both accurate and definitive.

ADDENDUM  
May 29, 2012

As I said above, I support the summary you prepared (page 3 of your memorandum of May 18, 2012) of items not within the Commission’s charge. I have given particular attention to the issue of for-profit or proprietary schools. I also want to register that my statement above regarding page 3 includes most especially my total support/endorsement/priority for the following passage in your memorandum: ***“I feel that the 2012 Commission need not examine the aid programs administered by HEAB that result in payments to institutions: the Contract for Dental Education with the Marquette University School of Dentistry (which allows a finite number of Wisconsin residents to attend the Marquette University School of Dentistry at a “resident” tuition rate) and the Medical College of Wisconsin Capitation Program (which provides tuition assistance to a finite number of Wisconsin residents enrolled full-time in the Doctor of Medicine program at the Medical College of Wisconsin).”*** These two programs were never on the table at the Legislative Council Special Committee on Higher Educational Aids and, as you rightly state, are not within the charge of this Commission.

Attachment