

**State of Wisconsin  
Higher Educational Aids Board**

**Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2006**

**Board Members Present:** Mary Jo Green, Debra McKinney, Kevin Ingram, Thomas Shields, Elizabeth Tucker, Dr. Betty Womack, Dr. Verna Fowler, Ann Neviaser, Milton McPike, Ann Greenheck.

**HEAB Staff Present:** Connie Hutchison, Sherrie Nelson, Mary Lou Kuzdas, Cassie Weisensel.

**Others Present:** Paul Nelson, WAICU; Sharon Wilhelm, UW System Administration; Margaret Zitzer, Marquette University; Dan Goyette, Marquette University; Tom Heffron, WTCS; Rolf Wegenke, WAICU; RJ Binau, DOA; Morna Foy, WTCS.

Chair Mary Jo Green called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Chair Mary Jo Green welcomed new Board member, Ann Greenheck, Wisconsin Technical College System Board representative.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Moved by Ann Neviaser, seconded by Tom Sheilds to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2006 Board Meeting.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

**Update on Legislation:** 1) The WHEG Maximum Legislation increased the maximum WHEG to \$3000 from \$2500, and was passed and signed by Governor Doyle. This is a statutory maximum; the maximum grant per student is actually set by the board when formulas are approved at the February meeting. 2) The Academic Excellence Scholarship – Vocational Technical Diploma bill, which extends AES eligibility for a scholar enrolled in a two-year, full-time vocational diploma program approved and designed by the WTCS Board, also passed and was signed by Governor Doyle. 3) The Student Nursing Loan bill passed and expands student eligibility to people seeking master’s degrees and PhDs. Forgiveness was expanded to include persons teaching nursing in Wisconsin.

**UPDATE OF REWRITE OF HEAB COMPUTER SYSTEM:** The HEAB computer system re-write is right on target for the timeline of having it tested and running by 2007-2008 school year. HEAB is having some improvements made on the SSL (Secure Socket Layer) which provides a secure environment for HEAB’s exchange of information and data with schools.

Connie thanked the HEAB staff for being so great to work with and doing a wonderful job.

**BOARD REPORT #07-01 MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN RECIPROCITY PROGRAM  
APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Annually the Joint Committee on Finance reviews the Administrative Memorandum for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Program. The Minnesota Higher Education Services Office and the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee have approved the 2006-2007 memorandum. The only change in this year's agreement was an update stating that Winona State now charges all students, including reciprocity students, a tuition surcharge.

**BOARD REPORT #07-02 STATUS OF 2005-06 AND 2006-07 APPLICANTS AND PROGRAMS**

In 2005-06 WHEG-UW has committed 135.17% (\$54,720,520) of its appropriation with 29,074 awards. This is 2,197 fewer awards and .64% more committed than at this time last year. The final commitment for 2004-05 was 134.52%. WHEG-WTC has committed 170.17% (\$26,828,938) of its appropriation with 33,910 awards. This is 776 more awards and .16% less committed than at this time last year. The final commitment for 2004-05 was 170.01%. WTG has committed 108.28% (\$25,369,379) of its appropriation with 10,293 awards. This is 296 fewer awards and 6.24% more committed than at this time last year. The final commitment for 2004-05 was 101.78%. WHEG-TRIBAL has committed 94.13% (\$380,299) of its appropriation with 280 awards. This is 7 more awards and 1.68% less committed than at this time last year. The final commitment for 2004-2005 was 95.81%. The number of applicants through June 13, 2006, for the 2005-06 academic year is 246,975.

In the current academic year WHEG-UW has committed 100.07% (\$43,375,174) of its appropriation with 22,172 awards. This is 59 more awards and 3.2% less committed than at this time last year. In 2005-06 the program had committed 103.27% of its appropriation at this time. Note: The appropriation recommended by the Joint Finance Committee, plus \$4,064,684 of the \$8,000,000 the Governor restored to WHEG-UW, was used to calculate the committed percentage. WHEG-WTC has committed 106.25% (\$17,729,496) of its appropriation with 20,923 awards. This is 995 fewer awards and 3.27% less committed than at this time last year. In 2005-06 the program had committed 109.52% of its appropriation at this time. WTG has committed 93.93% (\$21,358,477) of its appropriation with 7729 awards. This is 1,638 fewer awards and 14.40% less committed than at this time last year. WHEG-TRIBAL has committed 107.57% (\$434,618) of its appropriation with 273 awards. This is 7 fewer awards and 23.44% more committed than at this time last year. In 2005-06 the program had committed 94.13% of its appropriation at this time. The number of applicants through July 11, 2006 for the 2006-07 academic year is 178,116. Last year at this time there were 172,167 applicants.

**BOARD REPORT #07-03 2007-09 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES**

The biennial budget instructions indicate that opportunities for additional program funds are limited. Governor Doyle has indicated that education is a top priority. Keeping in mind HEAB's mission statement and goals, and given the importance of the HEAB programs and the current state budget situation, it is important that the Higher Educational Aids Board establish clear priorities about where additional funds would be most effective.

## **Tuition Grant**

The following two recommendations were presented:

1. Increase the Tuition Grant Appropriation 7.32% in year one of the biennium and 7.32% in year two of the biennium.

Moved by Debra McKinney, seconded by Kevin Ingram to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Propose statutory language that ties the biennial appropriation to a percent increase. This language would mirror language already in the statute for the UW-WHEG appropriation, except that language allowing carry-forward or carry-back of funds would be included.

Moved by Tom Shields, seconded by Betty Womack to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

## **WHEG - Tribal**

Increase WHEG – Tribal to \$450,000 in 2007-2008 and to \$500,000 in 2008-2009.

Moved by Dr. Betty Womack, seconded by Ann Neviasser to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Talent Incentive Program (TIP)**

The Talent Incentive Program targets the very neediest of students. 50% of the students are nominated to receive this grant by the Wisconsin Educational Opportunities Program (WEOP) counselors, and the other 50% by individual college/university financial aid professionals.

Moved by Debra McKinney, seconded by Kevin Ingram, to work for an increase in TIP Grant funding, since there has been no increase in the grant since 2001 and this program serves the very neediest students. The motion which passed unanimously.

## **WHEG-UW**

The following two recommendations were presented.

1. Using a 50% formula multiplier, determine how much money would have been needed to cover all eligible 06-07 students using the current formula with the 50% multiplier. Calculate the projected amount to cover all eligible students in 07-09. Covering 50% of tuition has been an unofficial goal for several years.

Moved by Milton McPike, seconded by Tom Shields to table the issue until the August meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Propose statutory language that would allow an indexed increase in the Maximum WHEG. Finding a legislatively approved maximum that is tied to, for example, 50% of UW-Madison tuition would allow the maximum available dollars awarded to increase without going through the legislative process every few years. This would allow formula development to continue each year in time for the schools to begin packaging their awards.  
Moved by Ann Neviasher, seconded by Kevin Ingram to accept the recommendation.  
The motion passed unanimously.

#### **OTHER**

HEAB Executive Secretary, Connie Hutchison, recommended a biennial budget item that would restore staff positions eliminated in the 05-07 biennial budget. Moved by Liz Tucker, seconded by Deb McKinney to have an additional staff position reinstated at HEAB. The motion passed unanimously.

10 minute break.

#### **WHEG-TECH**

Morna Foy made a presentation for the Wisconsin Technical College System.  
Moved by Ann Greenheck to table this issue until August, seconded by Milton McPike.  
The motion passed unanimously.

#### **OTHER ISSUES:**

Connie has no new details on the Wisconsin Covenant. She will let the Board know when any new information comes in.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Setting of the meeting dates will take place at the meeting in August.

There will be a public hearing at the start of the October Board meeting concerning the Nursing Student Loan Rules.

The NASGAP Annual Report summary will be on the October meeting agenda.

Moved by Tom Sheilds, seconded by Milton McPike to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and Chair Mary Jo Green adjourned the meeting at 12:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Debra McKinney, Secretary